

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. July 7th 1889.

My dear Sister.

Was delighted with the size and tone of your last letter. The full description of Miss Phelps' adventure in Egypt I read to Walter and then he explained some of the character-interests of the lady. Glad to know that you like the picture of Amy & Jane. I like Amy's very much indeed and they are perfect likenesses of her. But I can't enclose them of Jane they do not do her justice. She never had but one picture that I liked and that was the tin type she had taken in Decolo years ago with a broom in her hand. I only wish we could get some good one of John for he is really better looking than Amy or rather a very different type. You say that you

think Jane looks straight. She is
not however or was not when she
started for Mexico she weighed about
140. and at one time she weighed
over 150. Yes that is the Jordan
V. Marsh dress which she has on in
the photo. Am rather surprised
at Barton desire to learn a trade
as I would have supposed a clerk-
ship would have suited him far
better although there is a far greater
surplus of clerks in the country
than any other kind of help a
trade is always useful but the
association while learning it
are not so desirable.

Do you think the only thing for
Bessie is matrimony well there are
lots of just such girls growing up
nowadays. Lill is one of them and
the only hope for them is that they
"catch" the right kind of a husband
if such a thing is feasible for
really such girls are the least
suitable for wives of any. Work
is what they need and the right
kind of companionship to

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GRAIN AND COAL.

2

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

lead them to a realizing sense
of the earnestness of life.

Rather say nothing as to when
Johnny is to be married but
I wrote he sent him a ck &
supper as a wedding present.

You seem to ridicule the idea
of taking Abbot to Europe. Why not
I would like to know is there not
enough of sailor element of his
grandmother in him to enjoy it
I'll bet there is, and that he
would enjoy every minute of it
and that it would do him good
and you too, try him on a harbor
trip and see how he stands.

Hope you will find the right
kind of a cottage on the shore
since then and get into it
soon. How I would like to
have you & the children on
the New England coast the hot
weather. Such a hot week on

This has been your never saw
in comparison with that summer
your spark in October would
be as nothing in comparison
just like a furnace and a strong
hot wind that scorches you
and every thing that it strikes. The
last two days have ruined the
oak crop and damaged the
wheat a good deal and if we
do not get rain soon the
corn will be burned up.

It is cooler today however and
some indication of rain in the
west. Jennie was to leave Moline
yesterday for Canada and arriving
at O the morning she will probably
remain there with Walter several
days possibly a week and home
so by next Sunday we will all be
together again. Mr. Gummel and
John came down to the lower
Ranch on the morning of the 4th
to spend the day and Walter & I
went over to Olmstead. John is
still well and happy and and

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GRAIN AND COAL.

3

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

of the best natured children you
ever saw. It was so awful hot
and windy that we all had to
stay indoors all day which was a
great disappointment for the children.

Mrs. Doen was here and had
a very elaborate dinner prepared
which we all enjoyed greatly as
we have been "living on" satch chick
hog and hog oil soap coffee and flour
at the hotel. By the way Calla is a
most remarkable woman with all
her trouble and anxiety she is an
cheerful and ambitious as ever
does the most remarkable amount
of work (as she has no help) keep
the children all day clean and neat
(four of them) do all the cooking
washing and house work for the
ranch and there are five men
to cook and wash for look after
the young chickens & turkeys and
the house is a neat and clean

as can be, and then you never
hear her complain of her lot
or work. Arthur has gone to the
docks and she hardly ever hears
from him. What a contrast in
comparison with Nell who has
nothing what even to do but some
little mowing to spend which is all
way spent on dress. No work to
do at home to speak of and always
finding fault because she has to work
at all. I never realized there was
so much discontent to Edwin as there
is in Nell. Just got a letter from
Jane written on the 4th saying that
it was cool and pleasant there
and that she had been to the doctor
and had given teeth out and that
she should leave Molins Saturday
evening, and that she and Amy were
well and anxious to get home.

It seems an age since they went
away but I rather dread to have
them come home until then a warm
hot weather is on as I am afraid
it will be too much for them as it
has been so cool and pleasant at
Molins and plenty of shade

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

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Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

While out here there is nothing to do but to keep indoors during the day and try and not rough

I shall be interested to hear how Agnes and Cousin Ann enjoyed their vacation. Just take Agnes to the "let it all out" Glad to hear that you are still gaining in strength and have gotten out again you will pick up fast now. I wish to ride out to the ranch sometime today to see John but it is so terrible hot and nine miles in the sun on horse back is not very inviting but perhaps I will wait until after supper when it will be cooler.

With love to you all as ever
your affectionate brother

John

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. July 5th 1889.

My dear Amy

Only time this afternoon
for a few words. Your letter came
Thursday in the same mail with one
from Jean saying she would come
O for home Saturday morning so I
have been very busy ever since
Jean & Amy arrived here Saturday
night at 10⁵⁰ all will have
a comfortable and pleasant trip
from Omaha as the train has
a chair & dining car attached
which makes it for pleasant
that the old way of getting out
at meal stations. Amy seemed
glad to get home and was very
of interest to see "her little brother"
as she calls John so yesterday
morning we started out right
after breakfast for the Ranch.
The folks did not expect Jean
home for some days yet so
I was the only one expected.

as soon as we drove into the
yard John started on the run
to see me but when he saw
Jeanne and Amy he started
back again as he did not seem
to know what to make of the
for 10 or 15 minutes he was
a little shy of his mother and
Amy but soon he knew Amy
first and then he appeared to
draw upon him who Jeanne was
and he seemed glad the two
to him and by the time we got
back to town he hardly seemed
to realize that they had been
away. It is delightful to
have them all at home again.

Amy is looking much better
than when she was away and the
trip undoubtedly has done her lots
of good and she & Jeanne have
enjoyed every minute of it and
now seem glad to get home.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
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GRAIN AND COAL.

- 2 -

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

We shall be anxious to see the picture of Sam & Abbot more particularly now after your description of the photographer you had in getting the taken

It seems strange that Abbot should be particular as to the friends he makes at the city. Our children go to the other extreme and are always ready to go to any strange shore especially John. It must look strange to see a lot of modern houses on Hobson St. but I don't wonder that people find them as the location surrounding view as so forth are equal to any in C. Walter said last Thursday in the most matter of fact way that he "supposed John" was married "yesterday" but not commit one way or the other. I shall not write to John or notice the wedding on such matter I hear for John in some way, would you?

To see an intelligent strong expression
I consider that Curran Black has
made a regular "Chump" of John.

I feel sure that Walter is not
satisfied about John's marriage
but why I do not know as he
never talks about it. I hardly
think he would be pleased if
John had married the best woman
in the world. And I hardly think he
considers Curran as such.

You warn me as to John's food
I wonder which way we are supposed
to take it. If it is quality then it hardly
comes for anxiety as all we have
at the season is Dead Egg Butter
& milk and occasionally a Jack rabbit
or chicken. John however is a "hurry-jut"
and is at it more or less while awake
Any in very much like her Aunt Amy
or at least as you were when a little
girl, very particular about new things,
stuck to a very fine dish which she
liked and ate very little indeed.

The Advice we are glad of and
I don't wonder that you think it
necessary for I will remember

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

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GRAIN AND COAL.

- 3 -

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

which Father & Mother thought about
what was proper for children to eat
And it shocked me at first to see
Mrs G give the small children
Rhubarb sauce with cream on it
Miner Pie to babies Omelette to infants
&c. But some how they run to them
on it all and perhaps Arsenic &
Strichnine should be made up in
pie and served with cream they
would turn out as harmful as
the rest to the family. You say
that you only ask in return advise
me in regard to Abbot. Well
as to that I thought I heaped on
much of that upon you when
Enak last fall that you would
hardly need more such as I am
able to give so ever again. but I
feel that it is quite a honor to
be asked and give a change
I perfectly agree with what you
say about our not being

Oh to see our children as
other do. But I find with our
children that it is not easy
or in fact possible to have
our children just exactly up
to our standard for I find
that they are individuals that
it is possible to do a great deal
with but still they are individuals
after all. How I would enjoy
having a full and critical
sizing up of our two children
by you and George and Edwin
as well.

John says for me to close this
as he is busy. You see I am
at home again and glad to see
my baby and husband, and John
is glad his lonely days are over. I
have been trying to get the house in
running order today and find it
quite a job but shall not rush but
take it easy as the heat soon
makes my head ache. I will close
with love to all from all. Lovingly
John & Jessie.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

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GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. July 23rd 1889.

My dear Sister

Sunday Jesus and I
started over the river early with
the children and staid over
there all day and as it was
late when I got back had no
chance to write Sunday and
Yesterday was very busy
Am afraid this letter will
be a brief and uninteresting as
possible. We had a tremendous
rain here last evening which
washed out the track for $\frac{1}{2}$ a
mile west of the station and
this morning we have a town
full of strangers as the men
found passenger train is side
tracked here. This big rain is
worth thousands of dollars to
the County and will make all the
farmers feel happy. It was
amusing last evening during

The shower. The lightning was very sharp indeed and the children were tickled to death with it. Amy call the Thunder Mouse and John would say "Pa fu rain", "Rain Pa fu" and almost cried because I would not take him out into it.

The other day, a couple of wandering Frenchmen and performing Bear came into town. I could not get Amy to go out to see the Bear but John was only too anxious and was a pleased and interested as could be and not the least bit afraid. When he went into the house you would laugh to see how hard he tried to tell Amy what the Bear did.

We were delighted with the tone of Dams letter and I shall answer it in full next Sunday. Isaac has promised to furnish the letter for me with love to all as ever John

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. July 25th 1889.

My dear Sister

This has been rather an uninteresting week warm and muggy almost no business. Farmers all busy harvesting their wheat & oats expect to commence buying week tomorrow which will liven up business for a while at least. The weather however has been favorable for the growing corn crop.

John was a little under the weather yesterday morning and for a while we were quite anxious about his equitation but by noon he seemed much better and by supper time seemed all right except that he was lame in one leg and it was too funny to see limp about the room for all the world like some old man with Chronic rheumatism. This morning he is entirely over it much amazing what it could have been. Amy has been very

will ever since she got back and has
a much better appetite than ever before

We have been having quite comfortable
weather for the last two weeks and it has
made us all feel better

We expect to have some more
pictures of John in a few days taken
however by the same man but a different
expression it makes a rather better picture
but the expression is not one that you
very often see in John a little too much
on the goody goody order which is not by
any means one of his prominent traits
But on the whole I will back John
disposition and character so far as
developed a great deal of his age

There is now only about six weeks of
summer weather which is likely to affect
the children's health and as they have
done so well so far I don't anticipate
any trouble. About much to be very
difficult for our children in regard
to strangers as ours are very ready to
go to meet any one more particularly
John. One thing I have noticed lately
is that as the children grow older they
fight more. I suppose John and Amy
have at least twenty "set to's" a day
and it is about nip & tuck between
them

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
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- 2 -

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

Yesterday they were fussing over a doll when all at once Amy began the cry with all her might and when Jesse investigated found that John had bitten her. He seemed to feel badly about it and was ready to do anything for Amy to make up. But with it all they think everything of each other. I guess the fighting is all right any way. It is the natural thing to do and when they are not sulky and vicious I don't blame it in a bad indication of character. Do you?

We were glad to hear that you are still growing stronger and feeling better and hope it will continue.

Have been thinking of you all a good deal lately with Aggie & Geo with you. We have not read the story Little Lord Fauntleroy nor have I seen the play. It was being played at the Museum last fall when I was East and Geo and I

came pretty near doing one every
the wonder if Agner succeeded in making
you a visit while Geo & Agner were
with you. Sorry to hear of Mary's
reckless hope she is better by showing
how in Mary's baby. Now a little
surprised at what you say about
Cousin Olivia comments on Cousin Ann
I am sure I think she was crushed
in what she says but I hardly
^{thought} should have expected her to say
it. I would have enjoyed helping
out the boys with their fish fry
how I would enjoy a good sym-
meal of fresh fish

Was interested in the Dorchester
news as reported by Flora Bailey. Who
is this "Jack" that Luther has married
I bloom I am sure know but have
forgotten. Perhaps you will find
time to add something to the letter but
as we are still without a girl and
desire to get & get rid of it is
doubtful if she does

With lots of love to you all
from us all Most affectionately

John

Return to ABBOT & KIMBALL,
BIG SPRING, Deuel County, 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. Aug 5th 1889.

My dear Sister

This has been a very uninteresting week with us. Weather has been unpleasantly warm and the atmosphere smoky said to be caused by huge fires which are raging in the woods of Idaho. Corn however has been growing splendidly and if we could only have ~~more~~ one more good rain the crop would be assured.

We have all of us been quite well and lately the children are eating better and I can see a marked improvement in Amy's looks since she got back. John is always well and always looks well. I think he has a much stronger constitution than Amy and not such a high strung nervous organization.

We stayed at home all day yesterday would have taken a drive but as

The flies & mosquitoes are so thick
and ferocious and our driving pony
Colts and a little wild it is more
trouble under such circumstances
than the trip is worth.

George sent me a Sunday Herald
containing an account of the Plymouth
celebration which was very interesting
and as the same paper contained
an article on the failure of
Mr F Johnson & Co (the firm with
which Walter was connected with
in the leather business) it was of
great interest to him. The town
not been reading much this
summer keeping up with the
Popular Science & Century is about
all. I am reading now a life
of Carlyle by Froude which I
like a great deal better than I had
expected it has given me a
much better opinion of C than
I ever had. This is a mighty
good excuse for a letter but
I shall skip a week even if there
is so little to say with love to all
from us all as ever John

Return to ABBOT & KIMBALL,
BIG SPRING, Deuel County, 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. Aug 11th 1889.

My dear Sister:-

This has been a comfortable week with us as far as pleasant weather and cool days and nights can help out in August when flies and mosquitoes are so plenty. Home had severe thunder storm water spouts and hail storm all about. Each of us but none here abouts. Only one pleasant little shower which has done lots of good but we need more. I wish we might have some of your clouds and rain in exchange for our sunshine especially during the growing season. The children have been very well indeed the last week with nothing the matter and good appetites. John has shown no symptoms of his lameness lately. They are out clover mow all the time and the only fire I have for the white oak

is that John will pick up a rattlesnake for there are plenty of them about the summer several hony buns killed in town as far as any is big enough or rather old enough to know what they are and keep a way from them. Last Thursday took the train and went down the road to Plum Creek ~~after~~ about 150 miles stopped at Paptin (where Coonan Lamm lived having been recently married and settled there) also at Ogululu and North Platte getting home Friday night. Lilla is still at Green River Wyo. with Frank and I think her trip there has had the desired effect and has put a stop to her love affair (love is not the proper term however as I don't believe it even had any thing to do with it) But it has bridged her over a very dangerous and critical period of her experience. She is none other to blame and will not undertake the risk she has run until she lived longer and had more experience in life. The whole thing can be laid to the western or Country custom

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

-2-

Big Springs, Neb.

1889.

of "having a girl" she is my girl
for "He is my feller" But by riding
cartage which I detest the more
I am of it and then again the
mistaken custom of keeping such things
a secret the idea of a girl not
talking freely and openly with her
mother or father about her love
affairs as if even the having of a
really true lover was something
to keep from your family.

She (Lillian) is now trying to get
a situation in the Post Office at
Rock Spring not the best place for
a girl to be sure but far better
than nothing. You say nothing about
what Geo & Aggie proposed to do with
the remainder of their vacation. He
said something about a trip to Maine
You and Aggie must have had a
delightful time together with you
talking and reading How much
interest in your conversation

The Pure Coupled Line as I very much
want to know what Agassiz & Miller
thought of it. I saw a very favorable
criticism of it in Unity so sent and
got it. Am still at a loss to see
what the moral is that it supposed
to teach. It is interesting in the flesh
the comparisons are bright. I certainly
is not realistic for surely such
mortal woman could be stubborn
enough if willful enough to
treat her husband as Christ did
for certainly there was no good
reason for it after they had made
their home in Paris. It surely is not
ideal from any standpoint it
is tragedy however ~~and~~ But
what on Earth is the author's excuse
for writing it? Does it ^{only} prove just
the opposite from what the title would
lead one to expect the book was
written to prove. If not is surely
a failure, if so it may be
in a degree a success. Has
Miller read it and what are his
comments? Christina Lee helped
a recalc to escape & just fancy
made Herrick and herself (the two

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

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GRAIN AND COAL.

— 3 —

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

best character in the book) miserable
for life and certainly did not
help Vida. The attack on Chick
had for Vida is nonsense and
of fiction. The two are water in
reaching the book and what's more
thinking about it afterwards is more
the water. They were interested
in your account of Virginia trip
to Alaska I wonder if she has
read Kate Field's article on
Alaska in the May or June or July
North American it is more factual
than picturesque however but
very interesting as is everything that
she writes. The Gail Hamilton
and Kate Gannett Welds are my favorite
woman writers. Glad you have met
Ledy's sister at lunch and to know that
you like her. Walter has told me
a good deal about her he thinks her
by far the brightest and best one
of the family

They rot seem to have taken
possession of the N A Church just
what the Regent is always preaching
against. I don't wonder at it.
That parish need a young bright
minister with an equally young bright
wife and then it needs about twenty
fine young bright families to move
into the parish and join the society
and perhaps a few more families
all of which (except the families)
they are not likely to have. Before
there will be much hope for improvement
I mean though Mr Noye was the right
man for that Church and I don't know
as the right man lives.

How I wish I could write as you
do. as it seems like getting something
for nothing answering your letter
with these scribbles of mine
With love to all from me all
I remain an ever your sincere friend
both John

Return to ABBOT & KIMBALL,
BIG SPRING, Deuel County, 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. Aug 17th 1889

My dear Sister:

Nothing to offer that
will at all answer for an expense
for not worthing as I ought to have
done yesterday. Do not want to
write to you however without
a word to you. It has been
awfully hot all the last week
with one good rain to refresh
the up a little last Saturday
night but the rain was a little
too late to do much good and
I found our corn crop will only
be about half what we had
expected. We were delighted
as usual only perhaps more than
usual with your last letter and
it surely deserves a good one in
return. We had quite a luxury
yesterday which it would be a hard
matter for me to describe to you
how much we enjoyed it. Give
the first and only piece we have

had this season, a lump about
as large as a water pail. It was a
pleasure to just look at it. Jean
made some Tea which we had for
dinner. Iced. Then we had some
Lime juice iced. a thin pink
thick of it Ice water. If you folks
do have lots of ice you never
have had so much enjoyment
out of a little piece as we did
yesterday. Amy & John are
nicely Jean and I always
are. The load and end of
our first car load of the
year when tomorrow. Commence
haying in a fine day.

How a lot I want to write
to you about soon in reply
to a book we have been reading
together every day.

With lots of love to you
all from all our hearts
Your loving brother
John

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BIG SPRING, Deuel County, Nebraska,
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Mr Sam Dale Stevens
North Andover
Mass.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. Aug 25th 1889

My dear Sister -

Another uneventful week has passed with nothing to record that would interest you except that we are in our usual very good health. Amy has not been so well and rugged for two years as she is now and has been for the last few weeks. She will eat almost a whole chicken at a meal ~~and~~ the greater part of a jack rabbit. John also is very well but his appetite is not so good as Amy's. A jack asked me if I was going to write to Aunt Amy. She said, tell Aunt Amy I am a big girl like Mamma, and can help Mamma at the table. They have a little woolly pup which they are having lots of fun with to day. A caller is a "Punk" and John called it a "Ord". We are still without a girl and enjoy it.

probably shall not have one
again until there are prospects
of a still larger family which
at present there are none.

The children have got old enough
now so they are not half the trouble
and care to look after. Amy
is almost big enough or rather old
enough to keep John out of mischief
although she succeeds
in getting him into some. but they
are lots of company for each
other and play in the yard
about all day. Have been doing
hardly any reading the summer
Carlyle & Frederick Shumley being
the only books and we manage
to keep along with the Century and
Popular Science, Register & Unity
except all the sermons.

We are very busy at the store
at this season as wheat is coming
in fast and it is just in the midst
of haying. Last Friday we caught
up one of our Brood Cattle

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

— 2 —
Big Springs, Neb. 18

Three year old, and this morning I gave it its first lesson as a saddle horse rode it over to the Ranch and back it promised to be a wonder in its way. Mother has just started out on it for the afternoon.

We had a note from Dr. Cunkling saying that he would stop off and see the flock of lake musk. Byk yesterday got a letter from him a Omaha saying that the train he was on went through without stopping in the middle of the night so we lost his visit he has been to Calafornia, Oregon & Montana on quite a trip with his wife. We were very sorry to hear that the milk is for a few days. They are very polite and attentive when we call on them at Omaha. By the way the Doctor has got

to be one of the richest men
in Omaha now when I knew
him then he had only ten fourteen
a 2 or 3 thousand dollar has been
very fortunate in some investments
in Omaha Real Estate which made
him a very rich man almost
before he knew it.

We had a letter from Frank (Summit)
last Monday saying they had been blessed
with another boy the day before (The week
was not expected to take place until
October however) which was a greater
surprise to them as well as us.
And then in the next mail we got
a letter saying that it had died
only being about twenty four
hours. Lill is still out there but was
not at home when the child came from
being out on a Ranch some twenty
miles for a few days.

Jessie is rather in hope Lill will
come home pretty soon so she can
have her with us for company
and when we are without a girl
Lill is mighty handy to take care
of the children & the Jessie is handy
with household affairs.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

- 3 -

Big Springs, Neb. 18

Had a short ~~letter~~ and characteristic letter from Ezra a few days ago. Said he was not in an "angelic mood" that day as they were clearing house but hinted that when he was in an angelic mood he would write a long letter. I presume he is still waiting for said mood.

Had a nice rain yesterday which was very much needed and has helped to make this a beautiful day.

Give my love to
you all as ever from
Affectionate brother
John

Return to ABBOT & KIMBALL,
BIG SPRING, Deuel County, 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. Sept 15th 1897

My dear Sister -

Hardly know where
best to send this after you but
will venture it to No Anderson yet
where it can be forwarded if you
are not then the reverse it.

We have been thinking of you all
as enjoying your what? outing
I guess. Hope you have all been
together that Aggie, George, Lena & Jimmy
and that Abbot has been having
a high time at home "running things"
and having it all his own way free
from paternal & maternal rule

We have often in the last week or
so wished that we might
drop in upon you. How ~~close~~
were you treated by the "big
storm" we read so much about
We certainly have the better of
you in the way of good weather
and climate. This has been
a lovely week here, sunny

at the stone lots of wheat
coming in Haying and fodder
cutting on the farm. at last the
gitting up of an old sitters peckin
which took place yesterday and
would have been a tremendous
success if the weather had been
better for it was so cold and
cloudy that many did not come
as it was the town was full
and the ~~school~~ school hour when
the speaking took place was
jammed. It lasted all day speaking
ready singing & a country brass
band and a big dinner taken
up all the time during the day
and a dance and ice cream
in the evening. It would have
been mighty interesting for some
of you Yankees to have seen

The town has very slowly ready
the Life of Carlyle by Pounds 2 Vols
which we have been mighty interested
in. We find it the really about

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb.

18

the most instructive and profitable
reading and give me or me
a far better opinion of Carlyle
than I ever had and I think
that the growth reason why he
has not more admirers in the
country than he has is an account
of prejudice from only knowing
of his faults and grossness.
Certainly there is no class
of people who need the lesson
which Carlyle has to teach us
so much as we Americans especially
we Westerners. Read the book when
you have time and by all means
read the letter to his brother
John if not time for the whole book,
our only disappointment with the book
is that it only takes Carlyle to his
40th birthday and leaves off just
at the height of his fame when
you naturally want to go farther

Shall now start to read him
French, Remondin, & Olive Crainwill
have read King of Norway & John King
Hope to do lots of reading this winter
Matter will start work in a week
or so going to Cheyenne, Denver,
& finally to be doing a week or
two. Little we expect home
from Ben Rens next Friday

Children will expect that John
is lame caused by the cellar
trap door falling on his foot
a few days ago we think.

Hoping to soon hear an account
of your trip and how you all
enjoyed yourself and with lots
of love on ever yours
Affectionate Father John

Return to ABBOT & KIMBALL,
BIG SPRING, Deuel County, 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. Sept 24th 1889

My dear Sister

We were over to the
Ranch all day Sunday and yesterday
was ~~the~~ busy day and I quite
forgot that I had not written on
Sunday. You for Marblehead
came Friday and we were glad
to hear that you were at the
beach. Hope to hear this week
that your stay at the shore has
been a benefit to you I wish
we could have you here & look
out here with us for a month or
so. I think we could build you
up so that you could stand
a year or two of the worst kind
of New England weather in good shape.
We mighty glad to hear through
you for Geo & Aggie. Lillian came
home from Green River last
Saturday and is staying with us
for a while. She did not like

Myo. at all and were mighty glad
to get back here. Amy & John
are in their usual good health
except that John is a little lame
in one of his ankles but he seems
to be improving every day. Amy
tells Aunt Amy that "I can help
Mamma wash the dishes" She gets
a little stool and stands upon it by
the sink and wipes some of the dishes
a few she is very proud of.

John only seems to be to drive
or ride a horse. has been strung tight
to churn to drive and will straddle
any thing that is small enough and
call it a horse.

We have had several scores
for freeman fire lately one
came quite near town and burned
up about 400 tons of hay before we
could get the best of it. Home has
busy burning fire squads this week
to protect our pasture and hay land
and home then pretty well protected
now. With love to all as ever

Your affectionate brother
John

Return to ABBOT & KIMBALL,
BIG SPRING, Deuel County, 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. Oct 1st 1859

My dear Sister

Another week finds me
two days late with my letter to you -
So as usual will start off with excuse
Friday evening me (myself and four other
delegates to the County Convention at Chappell)
went to Chappell so as to be there in time for the
Convention on Saturday and did not
get home until late Sunday, and
yesterday was a busy day. Hope this will
reach you by Sunday. We have been
having the most beautiful weather lately
and Jess and the children have been
enjoying it as they have been out
to ride about every day for the
past week or so. John is perfectly
happy when in a buggy or when playing
with a whip he will set him out
at times in an old lumber wagon
with a whip driving his imaginary
horses. Or when I rig up our
saddle on a horse ^{or} improvised out
of an old box he will set upon

It was one meal time to the next
He has got about over his lumping
think it must have been caused by
shoes that were too tight. He is improving
in his talking very fast putting words
into short sentences Amy is getting
really quite fat and better of the
the picture of health. Nephew Henry
I go to Hunting as one of the delegates
to the State Convention, probably shall
be away several days.

Walton will not go week until I get
back. Jesain will add something to
the letter and I will answer your
letter in detail

Dear Amy:-

It is just about time for
me to set the table for dinner so
while the things are cooking, I will
try and write a little and John has
brought his letter in and wants me
to finish it. We have been having
the use of Mr. Kussner's horse and
buggy while they are away for a
couple of weeks so I may take the
children a ride this afternoon

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

I seem so nice to have a horse to go where we please but I expect they will be home any day now. so we will try and use it all we can for Ray and John both love to ride and enjoy being out so much.

We received your welcome letter on time last week and with it one from Sadie Barker, She is at home again teaching school. I guess she is bound to be the old maid school teacher and she is liked very much as a teacher.

Hope you are all settled at home by this time. It must be awful to break in three girls, one is all I should care for. I think it is the most trying thing about house keeping. We are getting along quite nicely now without any by having the washing done out of the house. Lillie is at home now she stayed with me last week, has gone home to stay a few weeks to

help Lalla a few weeks till she can
get some of her winter sewing done, then
she will come over and stay with me
this winter if nothing happens. I am
so glad she came back for the children
think so much of her and I am
~~so much~~ better satisfied when she
is with me, for you know there are
not many in town that I care to
visit with. I hope you will have better
success ^{with Abbot} than I have had with John
I have been working with him just
about a year and no drawn on him
yet, but I am feeling very much en-
couraged the last two weeks and
think I can soon put them on.

Amy is marking on a piece of paper
and says she is writing to "Aunt
Amy". She did not feel well yesterday
but seems allright today.

How much older is Mary Mardock's
baby than Abbot? Does Abbot try to walk
any? What did Mary name her baby?

Frank's wife is getting along nicely
now. Lalla is still with Mother. She

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

has heard nothing from A. Drew. since
very early in the Spring. But he ought

to think that he should act so with
a family of four very nice bright children
but he seems to have lost all love for
them, if he ever had any.

I have intended to send the photos
to Margaret and Agnes every day
for a week but have not done so yet.
I am sorry to say that I have no
more of the pictures of Amy and I
together. hardly any one liked them as
I was not as saving of those as the
others.

I will be obliged to stop now and
see to my dinner. Read it the best
you can for I have written in such
a hurry it is all mixed I guess.

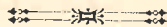
Love to all from all.

Lovingly yours.
Jessie.



THE PALMER,

ENO & MOULTON, PROPRIETORS.



Grand Island, Neb., Oct 9th 1889

My dear Sister

Late again, fate seems to be determined that I shall not write any weekly letters on Sunday as I would like to. Late Sunday I took the early train from home to go to Hastings to attend the State Republican Convention as Chairman of the delegation from Deuel County. Got to Hastings Monday forenoon having spent the night at this town on our way. Monday Evening was the annual meeting of the Republican State League which I attended. Tuesday night our Convention night we got to business about 9 P.M. and had it hot until 3 A.M. today. Then back to the Hotel had a few hours sleep and then took the 8.20 A.M. train for here shall leave here on the 2.30 P.M. and get home late tonight have a few minutes to gain over what

I shall use as much propriety by
making excuse for not writing
"on time". At 12 o'clock (noon) I am
to take dinner with the Ex Gov.
Abbott[≡] much his luck might for
the first time at the Convention. He wants
to have a talk about "the family"
He (A) is one of the leading lawyers
of Central Nebraska has been in the
State twenty five years and has
become rich and respected
He came home from Ill his Father
coming from Canada and Grandfather
from Vermont. He has an Abbott
family name and what me to give
him some light upon it. What am
I to do. I never could find some
father name in it. A book of half an
hour and never understood the
arrangement of it. The we must
interest in your luck letter
and surely I am as a look as to what
the say about Gov Lincoln. That
surely can be no possible question
but what you did the noble and right
thing by him. And your active ^{two} and treatment
of him must surely be of benefit to



THE PALMER,

ENO & MOULTON, PROPRIETORS.



— 2 —

Grand Island, Neb., 18

time if anything in the world can. You
say criticism you accept. We can
only be thankful for the new manifi-
festations of the nobleness of our Nation.

I pity much Augustus & Aunt Sarah
and hope the the expense and hardship
Gen has had to go through with the you
advise to him may make a man
of him yet. It was very kindly
thoughtful of you to speak the promise
you did give him in regard to
his going to Gen. for help which
he has always been altogether too
revel of to do.

Jessie has lately had a delightful
letter from Agnes. Your (or rather Agnes)
news in regard to the Author of both
a far. is what? News at least.

Shall surely try and make
out a letter next Sunday
With love to all
Yours affectionately both John

Return to ABBOT & KIMBALL,
BIG SPRING, Deuel County, 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. Oct. 29th 1888

My dear Sister

Hope this will reach
you before Sunday so that you
may realize that we ought to write
the regular letter on Sunday. For it
I don't think it is new. Sunday
was a beautiful day and I was
driving all day about the country
not on religious grounds but
on political matters it is now
just one week before election
and as we have several candi-
dates in the field for County office
that we are interested in I am
unusually busy. The best I can
promise you now is that
the very first Sunday after
election shall try and answer
some of your very interesting
letters. In regard to Geo
commence on one of my recent
letters to you. All I have to say
is that it was not worth the

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. 18

Wish to read. Have been interested
in the circular you sent me of
"Grapto" but am inclined to think
he is a humbug but a clever one

Think I shall write to him in regard
to his experience with "Mammaries"

John and the children are in
their usual very good health and the
children are as interesting as possible

With love to all from all
as ever

Your affectionate father

John

Big Spring, N.H. Nov. 28th 89

My dear Sister

Your letter of last Sunday came this afternoon and I shall not wait until Sunday to answer it but as I am alone for an hour or two this evening shall devote the time to this letter. We have had quite a successful Thanksgiving - "Gastronomically" considered and also as far as numbers as the "Menu" was prepared for twenty-one Mr & Mrs Sumner, Lillian & four children Frank, Lill, Walter Mr & Mrs Ryburn three daughters & two sons and there was enough and to spare for all Lill & Jess doing all the work alone and now Lill, Jess & Mrs Sumner have gone over to the School House for a sociable & dinner

I am very at home to "mind the
fabric" and as I write am thinking
of the group collected with you
at No. Anderson, and can't help
wondering how long it will be
before we can all be together
again on Thanksgiving.

Two of "Our Little One's" came the
other day and it is really a shame
that you can not see how ~~much~~ ^{pleasure}
the children derive from
the especially Amy Jean Latta
and I have read this over again
to Amy Grace & Howard and John
seem almost as interested.

You shall have a picture of John
as soon as it is possible to have
some good one taken.

I have been thinking ever since
you last letter about what was
possible and practical to suggest
in regard to Ezra & M.

I must say that I am not
much surprised at the way
things have been going with
them. As to Ezra getting work
that seem to me to be almost hope
less as ~~there~~ in so little that he
can do that any one could
pay for, and then again he could
hardly get along at all by his self
especially among strangers. He needs
someone to look after him as much
as a child, and then he is so dispirited
and moody, it is awful, but too true.
He is really the great question Margaret
and the older children can get along
probably fairly well and the younger
children can be cared for far more
easily than E. All this however
you know and realize as well as I.

I can hardly make up my mind
that the cause of the shortage of
funds is due to any scheme of

Mr. of buying it by for other men
of it would some please that
it is gross mismanagement and
extravagance on the part of both
of course if they are owing such
large bills about town it is known
by all the dealers ~~at least by them~~
and they have had to pay cash
for what they have needed and
undoubtedly what they did need
and with such extravagance and
getting mismanagement it would not
make much difference what the
income was, it would all go.

You can never make I realize
that he does not get something for
nothing when he gets it "on time"

However I hope as I told you last
Fall little if any confidence in
Mr. her letter to Eg when he was
out here did so much harm and
~~was~~ so unaccountable

As I understand it now the plan is
that Egou is to mortgage the place for
3900. This will take up the old mortgage
and leave the balance to settle up
his bills. Now it seems to me important
that it be seen to that this balance
is so applied, and that the bill are
paid and then to have Egou
sell his equity in the place to
you of course it would not be
worth much above the mortgage
and there is no likelihood of Egou
even being able to make the
yearly payment of \$224. interest

I am glad that I can be able
to help to some extent at least
financially. Shall you need to
know you have let me if you
don't hesitate for a minute to say
as the interest of 70. is due in Feb
and that will be for the coming and
I think I can raise the principal

If you want it. But count on me
for all we can possibly do in any
way. If it could be arranged
among the dealers at Andover so that
they would not under any circumstances
touch this for more than a week at
a time. get the bill all settled up
the place out of their hands to mortgage
(or in other word sell it to you) let the
Contractor to live there and keep board
as they now do. Keep the family together
let them have the house free of rent.
If all this is possible and practical

I will agree for a while at least
(or as long as I am as able to as I
now am) to pay the interest for it
would not cost the half what I now
get as rent for the Horn place and
would gladly put it to that use.

I realize that it is a mighty hard
matter to know just what is best
to do. But some thing can be done.
1st All the bills must be paid in

some way. 2nd The possibility of Egan
Contracting now on limited as much
as possible 3rd Keeping the family
together (for Egan sake) as long as
possible. Shall write to Geo any way
probably we shall hear from him
soon. It seems to me that if Mr
Egan get board - that will bring
him in an income of \$60 or even \$30
per week & he ought to be able to
get along fairly well. With such rent
too far and be able to keep help
enough to take most of the work off
his shoulders. Is Burton self supporting?
and how he been at all since he began
work? Enough of all this for this
time but you must write fully
and frankly regarding it and call
on me of anything and we will do
our best. You ask for a "list of
things small & great" think both children
want. I will partly comply on
condition that you will do the
same in regard to your household

and also if you ~~can~~ can not
suggest some thing that would
be nice for Geo & Agnes, and
further may I implore upon you
the task send a few dollars for
Egon & the children for Xmas.

John wants are numerous about
all a horse any simple toyish
toy will please him Howard has an
Air Gun which has great attraction for
him but it is too large a little toy gun
with a tin barrel would please him
mightily and I can fix it so that it
will not shoot which will be desirable
for house use. A Doll is always a
delight to Amy or Priscilla Book

Jessie wants Moline I want Whisk
to go up in Chicago. A real estate
book is Chyeman. And good Crop in
the County next year. In fact Jane
enjoye Century as much as I do. "Populism
Lies" Now Amy I want you to show
good faith and send me a list of
suggestions.

Friday PM Left your letter - unfortunately
last night thinking that perhaps
Jesus might want to add something
but as she wants to write a
letter to Sunday I shall hurriedly
close & send this on the mail
With much love from me all
Your affectionate brother

John

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



Mr. Saml. Stevens,
North Andover,
Massachusetts

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. Dec. 29th 1879

My dear Amy

I wish the children could write the letter instead of myself or rather "a letter" so that you could more fully realize how much pleasure they have received and are enjoying from the presents which have been the prominent feature of Xmas day to them. The two little boys so much about Santa Claus that she were worked up to the highest pitch of expectation and expecting and I seem that the story had been so real to them that it is now hard for her to understand that Aunt Amy & Uncle Geo. stay such her the beautiful thing but what is the difference the enjoyment to them is the same. John strutted round proud in the possession of his thing horse & gun above all other. Taken the both to bed with him and shown them

with great affect to Ellen
Amy is delighted with doll and carriage
and also the book for Carrie & Father
and on the holiday number (Jan) of our
Little Ones came just at & more it also
was looked upon as a Santa Claus gift
the silk basket we all vote very handsome
and now hangs one one corner of our
book case. The coffee button were
very acceptable as the only one I had
was a pair of brass ones such as I
used to sell at. Cecelia shall wear the
one state occurrence. That is when among
fun home. I like the style of the very
much indeed. Geo & Aggie sent John
a "Sun Amy, Mary" bond vol. illustrated the
pretty little dressed doll a little beautiful
silk "thing" for Jessie also The Vicar of
Wakefield in Knickerbocker Magazine
series and to me the 2 Vols Boy in
American Commonwealth. He also was
delighted with silk handkerchief and
Tremendous green Japanese Fan for Frank
Gunnell and Susan Barker and Amy &
John each a handsome book and a wall
ornament for Jessie & Mary also was
a beautiful one worn bright and
pleased the all drove over to the Ranch

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

- 2 -

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. _____ 18

to spend the day and eat a tremendous dinner. Walter & Mr. Vinton were also there as was the Ryerson family. Had a good time and got home before dark. Geo & Aggie they did not arrive until yesterday so the children had what to them was another Christmas. It is strange but a fact that the children are still well notwithstanding the fact that they have been eating actually nothing but candy since Christmas morning although Amy and Cora complain of the "body ache" last evening.

John has asked me to finish this letter, while he has gone to the store - am afraid I won't be able to do much as Amy and John are playing around me and asking question after question. They are still excited over Santa Claus especially Amy as John is not quite old enough to understand it all.

any thinks "Santa ~~has~~ flower" as
she calls it. (I don't know how she
happens to say flower instead of claus
but she always says it.) brought
them lots of pretty things. She would
keep some one reading to her all the
time and never tired of hearing the
magazines read over and over again
she can tell the story about every
picture. Did you see the little doll
Aggie sent her? It is too cute for
any thing and dressed so sweet.
she also sent a dolls comb & brush
which takes her eye. She is up at
the table now looking at her last
magazine and telling about the pictures.

We think we were well remem-
bered this year by our friends and
want to thank you for the basket
and other remembrances. Aggie sent
me a handsome handkerchief case
made of the china silk and Sadie
Barker sent John a head rest-
made of the same but is most too
delicate for common use.

We had quite a blizzard yesterday
it snowed and the wind blew

**General Merchandise,
GRAIN AND COAL.**

Big Springs, Neb. _____ 18

but today is sunny and pleasant again. We are all invited to eat New Year dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Ryburn, they are a very nice family five children and all so well behaved.

If you have any money left after getting something for Agnes don't think of sending it back, unless you have already, as I may send to you for something soon.

Does Abbot walk alone yet? What did he think of Xmas?

The children are playing and making so much noise, I can't think of anything to write so will close with love and a happy New Year to Sam, Carrie, Harriet, Abbot and yourself from all.

Love
Jessie.