

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. Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear Sister

This the first letter  
of the New Year will be a very  
short and uninteresting one. more  
so than usual first as I have only  
a few minutes before tea time  
and secondly because my head is  
full of figures as we have been  
"taking stock" and I have been adding  
up columns all the forenoon.

Your very interesting letter of the  
last week containing the Program of  
the Fair & appearance of the "Stevens  
& family" was much enjoyed.

Hope to hear soon that your  
are all in better health, is it all  
with the exception of Mrs Stevens.

"La Grippe" We all supposed  
we had had colds but I guess  
it must be the same  
disease that we are suffering from.

Now It would be indeed too bad  
if we could not be on an  
equal with the rest of the world  
in respect. We are very much  
pleased with the selection of presents  
you made in our behalf. It  
were better than we should have  
sent you too much money than  
not enough in regard to the  
balance you can hold it  
subject to General order as  
she may have some shopping to  
ask you to do for her.

We shall write again before  
long Glad she got over in time  
for Christmas as for all account  
It must be a very desirable  
Holiday to spend in England  
Hope Mrs Storm and Sam are  
better or rather well by this time  
It seems a shame for them to have  
been sick just at the time  
you had planned so much for  
the Family reunion.



ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. 18

Our children are still in the midst  
of the excitement of them & Mary & Frank  
John has got to be quite expert  
as a marksmen and has given  
some shooting me all. and one of  
his favorite marks is the Photo  
of Aunt Amy & Abbot. "Hook Aunt Am  
abby" Amy has committed about  
all of Mother's book in a rather  
disappointed way which is quite an  
interesting as the original. The  
January Century came last Friday  
which gives promise of a year  
of enjoyment for their sakes  
This last there been our first  
winter weather having been quite  
cold and some snow and wind  
but nothing bad as yet.

Hope to have more time and  
clearer ideas next week so with  
much love to you all  
Most sincerely yours Father John



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass.

Big Spring Jan 19 1890

My dear sister

The name of your letter this week think likely it has gone by and possibly been destroyed and there as a wreck near Sidney and all the mail destroyed a few days ago.

It is ~~two~~ weeks since I last wrote. Suppose Jane wrote last week that I was away from home from Friday until Monday. During the time I was "on a track" which resulted in our buying out a small stock of General Merchandise from an old chap who had probably got sick of business and probably also a little "shred up" we paid for this with horses & colts and a small amount of Cash. The conclusion we drew a pretty good bargain.



The hour has hardly come cold weather since the  
first of January although it was quite bleak on Friday  
when I drove out (30 miles) and the about zero on Saturday  
and Sunday and then on Monday when I drove back it was  
nice and pleasant again. There has only been two mornings  
this winter that I have had to wear an overcoat.

Yesterday was as warm and pleasant that the children were out  
all the afternoon playing without extra raps. Amy was a little  
under the weather the first of last week but is well again now.  
John has just developed an ailment in the shape of a swelling  
throat and says he wants the Dr. Amy & John can have her  
medicine as she is all well now. Amy gives indication of being  
one of the class of mortals that are always ailing and wanting  
medical treatment. Abby Dun (Amy's age) has been spending the last  
week or so with us and the three children have gotten into a  
wonderful well it makes an interesting  
trio. Our town seems to be remarkably fortunate in regard  
to the vaccination of La Grippe as there has hardly been a  
single case whereas Julia Mary West of us and Elizabeth  
Evans have had lots of it. Hope to hear from you with letters  
of a general improve of the sick ones at Andover.

We hear through Johnnie Kimball that Judge Morton is very  
sick and that the chances are unfavorable to his getting out  
again. We are all in the midst of our Christmas books.  
I am about half through with the first set of Boyer  
American Commonwealth which I am enjoying mightily but complain  
that it is rather heavy but full of instruction then certainly  
is a book that every American should read.

While writing this letter all three of the children have been interrupting  
me by getting me to draw pictures for their cover boards  
and have now put them off by getting them all to write a letter  
to Aunt Amy. We have been quite busy at the store  
since the first of January as we have been taking stock.



and then together with getting in the  
goods from down south she made  
lots of extra work. He finds that  
business has not been so good these  
years as last, but we are still  
ahead and like every body in the  
west look for an improvement this year  
one or two good seasons will be the  
making of this country and also consequently  
of us. What news have you got from  
Oregon. By the way have you got the Big  
Spring paper? Not much in it to be sure  
but I read it over and wonder if it  
has been. Nothing going on here the winter  
except a muddy Country dance and an occa-  
sional Eating match.

I expect soon to have the state on a political  
trip through our County to work up a scheme  
to vote bonds to build a bridge across  
North River. This would secure to our town  
a large trade for the north which is impossible  
without it. All kinds of news with the  
all as ever Yours affectionately B. B. D.  
John



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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens

North Andover

Mass.

Big Spring, Neb. Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear Sister.

Have been wondering why I have not had a letter for the past two weeks although I plead guilty for not writing last week. Had a short note however from Susan. I can hardly offer the excuse now that we are very busy so about the only excuse is (and excuse) are hardly any of much account lack of anything interesting to stimulate one to work. My evening hours have been taken up almost entirely in catching up with the Magazine. There have accumulated while I was away and also with the Unity & Register. Jessie writes almost every day and keeps me pretty well posted on her whereabouts and doings and they now expect to get home in about two weeks which will be a very great relief to me. Mr & Mrs Summell are still with her and they will all come home together. The baby had quite a severe cold while at Lancaster but at least account was made with Jessie send me a sample of the Lawrence Publishing which I think are very good indeed don't you?

Have been very much interested in some letter Mr  
Morse (The young John Ward teacher) he told you about. Then  
been writing to the Kinnaman one in particular in which  
the comments of John, death which I shall try and get from  
for Mr K to send to you. I have long wanted to write  
to him and this letter gave me the chance I wanted  
so I wrote him a long letter and am now waiting  
rather anxiously to see what his reply will be.

I find it very pleasant and convenient with the father  
away. As I enjoy the evening after I get absorbed in  
my reading I find that Christian Night gown very comfortable  
indeed and you hardly realize how I enjoy them.

Have not as yet written to Cousin Olivia but mean  
to soon. What do you hear from her? Has she made  
any new plans yet? The house has having the most  
perfect weather since I got back. I am out a good  
deal and have not worn an over coat since  
I got home except when I have been on a long  
ride after sundown. Mattie drove to Grunk yesterday  
morning 30 miles south east of here will be home  
tomorrow coming. a very unusual thing for her to  
do. Business is very dull indeed but it is and here  
is no a very favorable weather for our stock and  
our early calves are arriving (in good order) daily  
and all the stock doing finely. Suppose the boys Abner  
& Dale are developing daily. How is Aggie? How are the other  
how they much trouble Love to all Affectionately  
John



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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1890

My dear Sister

This has been a very  
quiet and uneven fall week with  
no beautiful weather however—  
which we all especially the children  
have enjoyed ever so much there  
has not been a day or night for  
over a week that it has been  
cold enough to freeze the least  
bit of ice. That last evening we  
drove home from the Gunnell  
Ranche in the evening after sun-  
set and came all the way home  
in my short sleeves and was  
plenty warm enough.

We were glad to hear that Gen  
burien is no taking him out of  
the office hope he will have  
more of the running about to do  
it will be just the thing for him  
Jessie and the children are  
quite well again but strange

as it may seem that in down  
sack with the "La brett" (sapper  
it is that) but is a good deal  
better than morning spent yesterday  
even at our home on the lounge  
sooey to hear of the condition of Mr. Sten  
but undoubtedly all he made is rich and a  
change from business.

We had expected to have back of  
week of some decided move at Andover  
but just as like as not everything will  
calm a peaceful for some months  
before there is another eruption  
of the family volcano.

We would like to be present  
at your club if for no other reason  
than to hear your paper on Emerson  
why not send it on? so that we  
can enjoy and profit by it.

Do you really think there is a likelihood  
of Marguerite wanting to take Carrie &  
Hathor? it is my opinion that she will  
not. They are trying hard now to  
devise some scheme by which we can  
get an irrigation ditch or rather  
a canal of this in the vicinity



ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. \_\_\_\_\_ 18

It will cost lots of money and is a big undertaking but we ~~the~~ now have some moneyed men from Denver interested in it and we may possibly get it through. If we do it will be a great thing for us of far more importance than County Seat.

I may have to make a trip to Denver in a week or so in connection with the business.

Hope to have a report this week of better health all round in your family and that matters are still calm at A with home to all or even your affectionate brother

John

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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
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General Merchandise,  
GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. Feb. 9th 1890

My dear Amy

I wish you people in the East could realize what beautiful weather we are enjoying out here warm, bright, still & clear to day and has been all winter with the exception of about two week of moderately cold nights and some little snow. There had no mud or slush or rain since last June. The children are out every day and then afternoon Amy is going with her Aunt Lill over to the Ranch to spend a day or two with Grandma. It will I think be her first experience away from home over night or rather away from her Mother. John has heard the talk and wants to go to and I have bought him off by promising to take him up to see the Colts and while we are at it Amy & Lill will start. There will we avoid



a rummage they have both been  
pretty well this past week  
We are much amused at the  
size of Abba's "bell of fun" and  
the frequency of his meal time  
But are mighty glad to know that  
he is up to it. Let me note down  
that of Amy & John Breakfast at  
7.30 @ M Tea ( $\frac{1}{3}$  Milk  $\frac{1}{3}$  Cream  $\frac{1}{3}$  Coffee & Water)  
about  $\frac{1}{2}$  teacup each. about  $\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoon  
ful of Crust which with Cream. They each  
look at a small piece of toast, never  
eat it. The above is sometimes about  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  eaten by each. After noon tea  
by each. For dinner Amy will eat  
(pretty much) raw steak small piece  
if we have it. John seldom a little  
mashed potato by each. and wind  
up with playing with a piece of pie  
For supper a cracker and a little water  
but they generally renounce the cracker  
In fact the two children do not  
eat in a week ~~as~~ as much as  
either of the three children will  
eat in one meal.

They are both very much as you  
were and perhaps are now  
And each particular children

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. 18

about what they eat you never saw  
any more so than John. looks and  
feeling so a great ways towards  
~~determining~~ whether or not they  
will eat a certain thing or not.  
Still they are not unhealthily looking  
fat enough and strong enough  
but ~~not~~ no doubt too high strung

The ~~men~~ glad to hear of the  
improvement in the old church  
supper there is no likelihood of  
any change to take place inside  
the pulpit is there? Jessie has gotten  
nearly over her ill turn "La Grippe"  
we think it was. Mattie is still  
feeling badly but is about all the  
time but keeps as still as possible  
and is slowly getting better

From what you say about Abbie  
not being one of the slungy vine  
kind of children. He must be like  
Amy & John neither of which will  
admit to being overreared or



tugged. the work they will allow in  
to be rocked to sleep in the evening  
when they are tired out.

You ask for my criticisms on the other  
bill of fare. The quantity seem to be abundant  
and the quality excellent and the  
only thing now is a prayer for an  
appetite to demand it and a digestion  
to take care of it. You may remember  
that when I was a child I thought  
you were half starving him. It seems  
now as if you were making amends  
for it now. And as I suppose he has  
an appetite to back up or demand  
what you give him. I judge from  
your experience and ours that  
your plan in better in the result  
than ours for we feed our children  
perhaps to excess when they were  
young and now they will not eat  
at all. John weighs 27<sup>lbs</sup> and Amy 38.

Hope this week to hear from Mr E. is  
much better. It does seem strange to  
think of him as peacefully as well.

The Father is certainly against you  
in regard to the children. Hope Abbot  
will not take the ~~the~~ hooping cough  
now he is two young girls Amy had



ABBOT & KIMBALL,

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GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. 18

It is about the age and it was  
distressing to see her and was pretty  
hard on her when they are there or from  
your old it is easier for the to help  
the action and I don't anticipate  
a very hard time for Carver & Hattie.  
I was certainly best not to have  
this stay with you and I expect  
Affick. Best assured that you did the  
right thing in sending them home under  
the circumstances. You must not  
get so dreadfully tired no matter  
whether you do any thing or not that  
is not the question. Do everything else  
and get rested at least until after  
next July gather strength for  
that and make that one point  
the sole end of all plans for  
now as it is your only hope I  
would suggest your coming out  
here and making in a visit if  
we were not so far away

that I know Sam could not hope  
to stay with you and then there is  
no do within in 360 miles that I  
know and have confidence in  
otherwise we could take care of  
you in precisely the way you  
ought be taking care of for the  
next four months. No care,  
rather to do good climate and plenty  
of out door living. However I do  
think it would be perfectly safe  
and practicable for you to make me  
a week day in April for then the weather  
East will be settled (it is always good  
enough here) and traveling with a  
child easier. All this may seem out  
of the question and perhaps it is  
but it is nice to dream of it anyway.

Love and the children send  
love with me to you all

Yours affectionately

John

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Mr Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass.



ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. ~~Feb~~ Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear Sam -

Enclosed Ck for \$70<sup>00</sup>  
which will pay the interest on our  
note due I think tomorrow (the 15<sup>th</sup>)

Would you like to have us take  
up the note. Though perhaps as Amy  
had had so much expense in taking  
care of Egon affair that she might  
need. if so let us know and I will  
try and bring matters about as  
as to do it. It would however be  
inconvenient for us to do so on short  
notice. Let me know at all events  
just how it is. Business is duller  
now than it has been since we came  
out here. The home an irrigation  
scheme on foot that there is a lot  
of money in if we only had about  
10000. capital to put into it. I really  
think we could make a fortune  
out of it if we could only carry  
the thing along to a successful

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. 18

Friend. Money is as scarce out here  
as "him teeth." Live stock was never  
so low. The farmers all want lots  
of goods "on time" and we can get  
Wheat & Chattle mortgages by the basket  
full. Jesse is to answer Amys letter  
in full. Sunday we are anxious as  
ask. Can't you keep the girl still  
for several months. It is her only  
salvage. Send her with Abbot  
out here or what is far better  
bring them and leave them here for  
two or three months. The offer then  
as an inducement to you as a man  
of keeping her from our doing herself  
Any one to understand that Abbot has the  
Whooping Cough. if so perhaps its not so  
bad for Amy (our A) but it is when only  
about half as old. Hope to hear favorable  
reports from your Father next week.

The Grippes has not been very hard upon  
me out here it has killed about as hard  
as any body out here.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

**General Merchandise,**

**GRAIN AND COAL.**

Big Springs, Neb. .... 18

I have been running about the country  
for the last two weeks trying to work  
up the irrigating ditch business but  
with little success so far.

With love to all I am much  
sincerely  
Yours John



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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass.

## GRAIN AND COAL.

My dear Amy,

John has not seemed to be lame  
in the least for several weeks and  
we had hoped he had gotten entirely  
over the weakness. But last night  
about 12 o'clock he awoke crying  
terribly saying "God hurt me" and then  
"God an ankle sure or some that the  
slightest touch hurt him in passing  
he has cried constantly ever since  
his ankle is somewhat swollen and  
looks inflamed and feverish and  
these pains have made him feverish

ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. \_\_\_\_\_ 18

all over we can not lay him down  
a minute for he holds his constantly  
We expect the Dr. every minute but  
hardly expect him to give us any  
relief. We can't imagine what can  
be the matter. It seems something like  
Rheumatism but can't understand why  
it should develop so quickly as he  
showed no signs whatever of any  
trouble last night at bed time.

Will write again tomorrow or next day  
how he is getting along.

It is now declared openly that  
Lill and Mr Vinton are engaged.  
Lill seems to be very happy and Vinton  
triumphant. The family are not  
so pleased over it as might be wished  
although it was the only feasible  
outcome of the affair that I could  
see as probable. He is some six or  
seven or more years older than she and  
has a divorced wife and thirteen  
year old girl. The family know



ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. \_\_\_\_\_ 18

say little of him before he came  
here. However what here he has  
been perfectly honorable and upright  
to me he is the most uninteresting  
of men. But as he is fairly well  
to do. and in our "tunker" the only  
one in town that you know counts  
of something in the West.

Lill would be highly pleased  
with a letter from you in the nature  
of congratulation. Perhaps what I have  
written will make it hard for you  
to write such a letter.

I should have answered your letter  
in detail had it been over here at  
the store. But will do so Sunday

With much love to you all

Most affectionately,  
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 9<sup>th</sup> 1890.

My dear Amy:-

Your letter came yesterday in time you are to be answered today. What a time you are continually having with unpleasant weather. Our weather has been delightful for the last week or so - but of course unreasonable as it has been more like May than March. Have had no snow to speak of this whole winter only two little flurries. What we might have a good big snow storm or rain. I drove a green colt to Julietburg (12 miles) yesterday in a sulky without robe or blanket and only a light overcoat which was uncomfortable and without gloves. Have been busy all last week on this irrigation business and am likely to be for a month or more with what success is still doubtful. Shall be driving about over the country most of the time this week.



ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Feb. 18

Mrs Emmet came over Tuesday to help with John and is still with us and is a great help John has to be held continually. The swelling in his ankle has gone down a little and it does not run quite so soon. The Dr. thinks now that it will "come to a head" and break before he can get it better. I don't think so. He (the Dr.) and Mrs G want to draw his "blood out of order" need a "spring cleaning" &c I have however keep all sorts of hope and shake out of his stomach so far. On the whole I think he is better and that the inflammation and swelling will subside. Otherwise than his lameness he is in his usual health and good spirits. Cross to be sure for he has to keep so still and as he has always been so active it is unusually hard for him to be contented and to be amused and interested.

**General Merchandise,  
GRAIN AND COAL.**

Big Springs, Neb. \_\_\_\_\_ 18

Amey is very well indeed and in I think even more interesting than ever before. She is beginning to speculate on the cause of things. This morning she remarked that she wished "God would come on the cure and bring some flowers and trees for our yard like he did to Aunt Saddle's yard." It is amusing to see how much she enjoys home we read "Her Magazine" to her and now she wants to go to school. She is very proud to be able to "hold the table" and "pour the water" which she does well and carefully. Both she and John are very much taken with Mr Vinton both calling him "Vint" which by the way is what Lill calls him. Since Mrs L has been over with us we have had great fun "guying" Lill which she takes in good part and in fact seems to enjoy it.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

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General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. 18

We were interested in your ask of  
meeting the Nbr. Farmer Mr. Cowles  
his story certainly proves that he  
is a western man. Shall ask  
Walrath about him.

I think I agree with Ransom that  
it is not proper <sup>for</sup> you to have  
the extra care of C & H now  
better let the reins at home or  
with Geo & Agnes until you are  
stronger. Glad to hear that  
Abba has not been taken by the  
whooping cough. and that Weston  
is better

With love to all as ever

Your affectionate brother

John



Big Spring March 24<sup>th</sup> 90

My dear Amy Only succeeded yesterday  
in getting a letter off to George but even  
interrupted so many times that your  
letter had to be put off until today

Johns ankle is no worse and possibly  
some better not so sore and painful  
but he is not able to use it in the least  
can not bear the least bit of weight  
upon it. But it is surprising to see  
how well and quickly he can get about  
by creeping. He never was in better  
health than now and both he & Amy  
have improved wonderfully in the  
former appetite. It would be a great  
satisfaction to me to be able to have  
Johns ankle examined by an expert  
physician. We are just rubbing it  
twice a day with a mild liniment in  
doors he only wears a stocking when  
we take him out put on one of  
Amys shoes. The swelling does not

aim to go down to any extent. The more interested in  
your story of the four gymnasts at Cambridge I hardly  
believe we can break it but we hate to be out done by the  
East and we shall push in to hear some of our profane  
neighbours try to break the Cambridge record I can make  
ask which Roger was of Museum friends. I think if I were  
still in the Parish I would be in for having a younger man  
with more snap but the trouble is as it seems to me the  
lack of young people with pack and energy and then the  
members are too widely separated by distance and taste  
to make an ideal progressive society. The more we  
surprised at all with the news you send from Egypt & the  
it is the only result that can be expected from the folly  
off of the inevitable climax much much soon come and  
the sooner the better for then we shall know just  
what is to be done. Now Any try at all this affair  
trouble you as little as possible your first duty is  
to yourself and your own family. With this you are  
not directly responsible but you are to yourself and  
you're keep this in mind your strength is limited and  
must be carefully husbanded I wish we could make helpful  
suggestions as to Egypt & the Children. Egypt we have always known  
and we are getting pretty well acquainted with a case of sex  
of one and half a dozen of the other she must have known which he  
was and knowingly run the risk. He did not and could see no  
risk and they both now suffer, one from the want of good practical  
sense, and the other for breaking a law of common sense which  
she must have known of by experience, but enough of this  
Hope to hear more favorably report from Mr. Storr than  
this. I have been away from home about three fourths of the  
last July, August & September last week. Our sketch scheme is  
progressing favorably we think With love to all affectionately  
John

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If not delivered within 10 days.



Mrs Sum. Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass



ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in

General Merchandise,  
GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. March 30<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear Amy

I we have been so careless in our letters to you lately that I hope to commence another with exuberance. Can hardly find much of time on a lot of business for really business is dull, but there seems to be so many little matters that are always put off until Sunday that it is about the business of the week.

Your letter came Friday being and interesting in spite of the fact that we have done so little. There is not much to be said in regard to John's ankle. He gets about a little now but does not attempt to walk. He will stand on his well foot and just take his lame one to the floor and then feign he is very proud of it. He takes a little pleasure lately and Amy takes lots of care of him does lots of little favors for him.

Other wear than his ankle trouble he  
never was in such good health and  
spirits. Amy is at first the adage that  
she would be particularly interesting to  
Agnes. For she is continually asking  
questions about God which I think were  
suggested by a days visit with Abby  
(Adams) she wanted to know if there were  
ever where God lived. and if he knew  
when he made angels out of little girls

I find we have to be very careful  
what we tell her for she never  
forgets anything that is told her.  
Recently when I am reading to her  
out of "The Magazine" I will add or  
change the matter and make it  
more local and personal but  
she always debates and reasons  
which is different for the first she  
has. She is continually correcting  
Johns manner of speech. Yesterday  
she fell and hurt her and began to  
cry. "Pearl" called to her to know  
what was the matter. John said  
"Amy hurt" then Amy put in and said  
John you must say Amy is hurt

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

- 2 -

Big Springs, Neb. \_\_\_\_\_ 18

She always notices when he does  
not say please and you know  
etc etc but to tell the truth she  
forgets just as often as John  
again in getting along nicely  
will as always be here no  
girl yet. Lillian is to be  
married about June 1<sup>st</sup> and  
they are to take a trip  
West Colorado Spring Denver  
for a week or two. We shall  
have to get a domestic before  
then in fact are trying now to  
get one. Jean says to tell you  
that the flannel etc home not as  
yet arrived. how did you send  
them? Glad to know that mother  
at Dr. Scheeter home come to a  
decision in regard to Dover  
I guess it has been a good thing that  
E & O have been there this winter  
Glad to know that Cousin Anna  
still has so much spirit



Belknap of course has had much  
opportunity to know just how Eg  
affairs have been. I have no faith  
in Egore filling any position in Havre  
Tull or any where else where it would  
have to be depended upon. That can  
run to me out of the question. But  
what can I add on this matter  
think we could have some of your  
with weather we continue to have  
the most beautiful sunny day &  
no rain or snow. We have just  
launched out in a new extruder  
for the have just got a new "Jury  
Leak" Buggy that is a buggy which  
can be transformed into a very  
comfortable two (or four) seat carriage  
that is something new & the children  
have long wished for

Shall send some paper showing how  
they are in expected to "boom" we have  
and also some. Our irrigation ditch  
business is progressing slowly but we  
think surely. Love to all and all  
Yours affectionately  
John

BIG SPRING,

If not delivered within



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in

General Merchandise,  
GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. May 26<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear Sister =

Your last week letter  
much have gone astray as it has  
not shown up yet.

We have been having splendid  
weather lately plenty of rain and crops  
all looking nicely. Jason is still  
well and quite comfortable as yet  
but we are without a girl and it  
seems as though it was impossible  
to get one. Amy is well and John  
is pretty well also we think his foot  
is getting better slowly although it may  
have to be opened again on the other  
side. The swelling on the side (outside)  
that was open has about all gone and  
the ankle is not so painful and he  
makes no pain whatever when we  
draw it off corn. He can not use  
his foot the least bit. We are  
giving him Cod Liver Oil and Eucalypti  
of St. Louis which I have mighty little



ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. \_\_\_\_\_ 18

faith in both of the Church M.D.  
advised it and it is a satisfaction to  
his Mother & Grand Mother to have him "take  
medicine". He is in the best of spirits  
and never complains and the expression  
of thankfulness on his face when  
any body takes him to ride or walk  
is really pathetic. The little fellow  
makes lots of friends and therefore  
has lots of attention. The other day  
while over to the Gummell ranch  
all the children were playing in the  
yard getting in and out of the wagon  
& Buggy and before we noticed  
John had crawled out to where they  
were. Amy, Abby & Grace, were in a  
buggy and John on his knees between  
the shafts trying to pull them, and being  
just as much fun as any of the  
rest. Amy has taken quite a fancy  
for going to Church so for the last  
several Sunday. She and I go together  
being the only and excepting something

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

- 3 -

Big Springs, Neb. 18

Lilly in our household who care to go  
By the way we have a "new preacher"  
a young fellow from Chicago and  
a red hot Calverish Presbyterian  
but I think honest and sincere  
and bright and interesting and a  
good fighter. You may remember that  
Mrs Kinman the sta wife is an old  
fashioned Unitarian or thought she  
was and the first thing I knew that  
Mr Morse had got her worked up  
to a point where she was about  
ready to renounce her old faith  
and grasp Orthodoxy I went for him  
with the Mr Loverin recent article  
in the North American and followed  
it up with that little book of sermons  
called "Show us the Father" by J. L. Jones. W. C. Canning  
J. H. Chaddock Mr Eslinger &c which  
has set her to thinking but with the  
result of how the preacher in  
my hair and to night we the Preacher  
and I are to have a "night session"

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. 18

in his room. I wanted him to come  
to our house but he seems to think  
we might come nearer to an under-  
standing alone. I am looking forward  
to the controversy thinking it well from  
interesting and possibly profitable.  
I like the fellow first rate but Walter  
has taken the strangest dislike to him  
you can imagine.

Suppose Sam & George have got  
back from the wilderness of Minnesota  
this time with a bag a pipette and  
renewed energy shall be interested  
to hear about their trip and how they  
found Uncle Levi.

The cabin at Andover still  
continues I presume on the strength  
of the Mesquim in Iowa situation.

Little me expect will be married  
in a week or so but she does  
not say. Their house is about done  
and they are getting in the furniture.



ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

- 5 -

Big Springs, Neb. \_\_\_\_\_ 18.

Our ditch on the north table land is still moving along that is the planer and being slowly perfected and it seems to be now only a matter of time. Our horse & colts are all sick with "distemper" which keeps me pretty busy going back and forth to the Ranch.

Jessie is kept very busy indeed as Lillian of course is busy with her own affairs and John now requires more attention than usual and it seems utterly impossible to get a girl dark skin what we will do and something will have to be done soon. She expected or rather wanted to write to you this week but is too tired coming and really has not the time in the day time.

We all send love to them and

Affectionately John

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If not delivered within 10 days.



Mrs Sam Dale Stearn  
North Andover  
Mass

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. April 27<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear Sister,

You will understand from ~~John's~~ last letter that I have been very busy and running about up and down Eastern Colorado looking up the irrigation business. Spent a week in and about Denver and since I got home have been out in the country talking it up with the Farmers. Have now got the scheme in shape and are now selling stock. The survey is well along and work upon the ditch will probably commence by the first of June. Got home last night or rather this morning at a little after two o'clock riding 12 miles in about an hour. Shall start out again in the morning and may not get home again until the last of the week.

We have decided to take John to Canada soon and have in fact properly examined. Shall look to Dr. Conklin for advice.



He does not practice now but 2 hours,  
confident in his opinion and never  
thinks who ever he would recommend  
would be the best to be had in Omaha  
think I shall go and ask Mrs. Lunnell  
to go with me just think she could  
not go And I think it would be fall  
as well to have Mrs. Lunnell

Lillian's love affair has assumed very  
unpleasant features. Frank it seems  
has only just heard of the engagement  
and had until now supposed Lillian had  
given up all idea of marrying Victor  
Pharm <sup>(Frank)</sup> he knows a part of Mr V  
history which Lillian in the family had  
not dreamed of this development has  
stirred up a regular cyclone poor Lillian  
she is to be pitied as it is not all  
together her fault. Hard to tell now  
how it will all turn out, but hope  
for the best But can hardly see how a  
girl of Lillian's character can maintain  
up the will power to make a decided  
stand. I feel sure that if she  
marries this man, she will never be  
happy. Only think how thankful we ought  
to be when we see all this unhappiness  
around us and so near us

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. 18

We are much relieved to hear  
of Mr. Stone's improvement and also  
of Abbot's development. I suppose by  
this time that you have seen Agnes  
and had a good long talk how  
you will enjoy her description  
of her travels. We were in hope  
that a new order of internal man-  
agement would be established at  
Dorchester before she returned for  
it would relieve her of that  
responsibility and make it much  
easier for this in the future.

We are hoping to be able to write  
a good long letter to day for this  
is late I want to write about but  
I must write several letters this after-  
noon & evening as I start early in the  
morning. I am sure she will  
write more fully in a day or two.

With love to all Affectionately

John

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

[1 June, 1890]

Big Springs, Neb. June 1<sup>st</sup> 1898

My dear Rich<sup>d</sup>

Your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> came Wednesday and the first one we have had from you for two weeks. We do not understand why you have been without a letter from us for so long. The Monday (12<sup>th</sup>) you speak of was the day the Drs were to decide whether to perform another operation similar to the first but on the other side of this fork. They decided not to do and said we might safely go home with him Tuesday which we did.

Essie said she wrote you the next day Wednesday telling of our return and John cancelled the letter she says was in answer to the one from you in which you sent Art's photograph. On the 19<sup>th</sup> I wrote you a short letter from Julesburg not much in it to be sure only explaining why I had not written the day before (Sunday). We are not surprised however



When you say you have not the remotest  
idea what has been or in the matter with  
John took only I had suppose we  
had written all we know about it  
which is mighty little. But I will begin  
at the beginning. You will remember that  
even since he was so sick when a little  
baby (now we don't know what was the  
mother then only suppose it was Mannington)  
he has at times been a little lame  
something quite noticeably so and at  
other times for months not showing any  
signs at all of it. One afternoon about  
five months ago he and Amy were  
playing together out <sup>of</sup> doors with a box  
getting in and out Amy says. John was trying  
to stand up on the edge of the box and it tipped  
over throwing John down. John heard him  
crying and called them both in and  
Amy then told the above story.

John seemed to be all over his hurt in  
a fine minute and was playing again  
as if nothing had happened. Three nights  
about midnight he ~~was~~ began to  
cry terribly we got up and worked  
until morning with him and then discovered  
that his ankle was swollen and inflamed  
called the Dr. who said it was probably

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. 18

a sprain it kept growing worse for several weeks and then for a few days seems to get better and one day John began to walk again after having not used it for a month or more. We did not however let him walk as much as he wanted to. The next day it seemed worse and he could not use it and has not since for then it gradually grew worse. The Dr. calling it all sorts of things finally to him until we took him to Omaha. The Drs there (Dr. Cunkley & Dr. Peabody) seemed to favor the sprain theory and said they would have to cut into the bone and find out just what was the trouble. After doing so they said there was a necrosis of the bone at the ankle joint. They cut in from the outside. Considerable matter came out and the swelling and inflammation has subsided almost entirely but it is still running from that opening.



the Dr. thought that perhaps it would  
not be necessary to make an opening  
on the other side. but it now looks  
as though it would be necessary  
as there is still some swelling and  
inflammation on that side although  
the foot looks every so much better  
and seems to be steadily improving  
the Drs at Q gave me very little  
encouragement to hope that the ankle  
could be saved from becoming  
stiff. but so far it has not  
become so as John can work his  
foot up and down quite a lot but of  
course it is pain full but we get  
him to do it each time when we dress  
his foot. We are giving him Cod Liver  
oil and Hypophosphite of Lime Soda  
& also Iodide Potassium upon Dr. P  
prescription. He is the best child in  
the world to treat for he will take any  
thing and every thing you ask him to and will  
stand the greatest amount of pain without  
a fuss and with it all he is a cheerful  
and happy as a child can be. You can  
imagine the delight which his face will  
express when I offer to take him up to  
the Crook in the evening in his carriage  
or even over to the Stern



ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. 18

Am in very good to him and done all sorts  
of errands for him other than his  
food he never was in better health Am  
in also very well pleased I am  
always well only that she is over  
doing as we can not find a  
girl she does not expect to  
be sick until the last of the  
month but I rather expect  
a development any day. Lilla  
is still undecided as to who she  
will be married to I expect  
within a week or two. I am having  
my hands full trying to keep Mrs  
Kusman inside of the medicine  
food so far it seems to be up and  
tick whether Mr Moor or I will  
be successful in the endeavor have  
had several long sessions with  
Moor and expect another soon  
Wm and the Regeneration help me  
and the day just in the week of  
this comes "Open Court"

a moral surely (its coming I mean)  
with an article on Revelation just  
what I wanted, to fight the with  
Horne I like the young man and  
enjoy having someone to talk to  
only wish I could ask Agner or  
him for one evening, or Clifford  
I have promised to read Mark  
Hapkins evidence of Christianity and  
conclusion think he must read it  
W J Romagn

travels in come June

With Love June

Please return after reading -  
Very truly Yours  
W J Romagn

JT & KIMBALL,  
Deuel Co., Nebraska,  
livered within 10 days.



Mrs Sam Dale Stearns  
North Andover  
Mass



ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. June 7<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear Sister,

Jessie Cullen & the two children ~~have~~ just started over the River to the Gemmell Ranch with Mr Vinton. This is the last Sunday of Little Gemmell's existence for on Wednesday she is to be married.

The plan is, as we (Jesse & I) have just heard from Mrs L (for Cullen has no confidante except perhaps V.) to be married in the forenoon early go to Julesburg and then take noon train for Omaha where they will probably stay a few days and then return to housekeeping. If the match does not turn out very unhappily I shall be happily disappointed. John Cook is in about the same condition as he was last week - no worse, but except that it is no better. Think there is some chance of taking him again to Omaha otherwise we are all

in exceptionally good health.  
We are still without a girl and which  
is far worse there seem to be no  
possibility of getting one. and Ellen  
leaves me Tuesday as you see we  
are in a serious condition of uncertainty.  
We expect of course to have Mrs. Sumner  
with us soon to remain until Jesse is  
well enough to be up and about.

We have been very busy at the  
stone with so much business both lots  
of running about. I have been over to  
our Ranch about every day for the past  
week looking after the work, going on there  
and to the Cattle & Horse. we now have  
about 100 head and there is always  
something to do over there.

Have had two long talks  
with Ben Moore this week which resulted  
in my agreeing to read two books of his  
saying that if he would read two of mine  
he gave me Mark Hopkins Escondido of  
Christianity & St. Augustine's Confessions and  
a tract on the Inspiration of the Bible by  
Hartung. I gave him John Parker's Idea  
of God. & Mr. Barrow's Babes in the  
Hood. & Robert Collyer's Article on the  
Bible which appeared in No. American

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. 18

Reveries some time ago. I gave him  
one evening to asking me direct  
questions which I agreed to answer  
with out comment he commencing on  
my answer. Now I am to have  
one evening of asking him direct  
questions he to answer without  
comment. The great trouble in  
me both want to do all the talking.  
He is no fool by a long ways and  
I confess to being tangled up  
at times but it all seems plain enough  
to me when the smoke of the argument  
clears off. But really they in little if  
any thing to be gained by this kind of  
controversy. He seems willfully blind to  
me and I undoubtedly seem equally so  
to him. I trust his friend a woman on  
Friday gave him morning, and liked it  
here than any he has had so far  
I like the fellow and perhaps I can  
help a little towards his something  
seeing a larger world and



concerning of a larger God and  
a more hopefull humanity and  
a more reasonableness in life  
than his. Fall of man. and ~~other~~  
of salvation. and such answer  
to prayer. and what he calls the  
"naturalness of the Biblical miracle"  
all of which seem so unimportant  
to me. I flood him with Union &  
Rejection. and shall keep at him  
as long as he worth the fight.  
He is a mighty good young fellow  
courageous and sincere and full of his  
mission. I know that I shock him but  
what of it. he is young yet. He has taken  
a great liking to the children and taken  
John to ride in his baby carriage about  
every afternoon. Any going along  
He shocked him when I told him that as an  
account would I allow Any & John to go  
to his Sunday school when they were old enough  
to understand what he taught. He <sup>looked</sup> as if he expected  
the "wrath of God" to fall upon me then & there.

Jessie says she wrote you yesterday and  
ask John Phetters so she probably has written  
about all this in the be quick of an  
letter love to you all as soon  
John

ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
FG, Deuel Co., Nebraska,  
delivered within 10 days.



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear Sister =

Another dry week passed  
and no rain for our suffering  
crops which is very discouraging to  
the farmers and town people as  
well. to day the wind is blowing a  
gale from the south which is  
sucking out the last drop of moisture  
which may be left in the ground or  
grain. With the great extent of the wheat  
of course there has been little harvest  
which came off as "Adventures" on  
Wednesday. As last Monday Lilla was  
taken sick was worse on Tuesday and  
Wednesday was only just able to stand  
up alone but the crowning blow passed  
off at the Ranches at about noon  
Lilla looking more like a corpse than  
a bride. Thursday she was very  
sick "out of her head" most of the  
time. Dr. Cook does seem to know  
what is the matter unless it is



My dear friends. Thursday she  
was historical all day & evening  
will eat nothing. Thy (Lillian & Walter)  
are with us their house not being  
ready and the hotel not suitable.  
Mrs. Gamwell came over Thursday and  
helped Jane until last evening  
when she had to go home. Cath  
found a girl any where except  
that we have of our that can be  
home conclusively at \$500 week.  
Jane seems equal to any thing  
and looks and feels pretty well  
but we expect her to be  
sick any minute our affairs  
are somewhat critical just  
now. Hope Mrs. E. will be over  
again in the morning tomorrow which  
will be a relief. John & Amy are  
well and good as can be. I am  
sore about the same as last week  
perhaps a bit better but really no worse.  
Jane says she will try and answer  
your letter sometime this week.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in

General Merchandise,  
GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. \_\_\_\_\_ 18

but I doubt if she will find  
time to do so before she is sick

We were very much interested  
in your description of the working  
of your Roundabout Club like  
the idea which we were  
so located that we might  
enjoy something of the kind  
Have had only one talk with  
Mr Moore this last week. find  
him to be a literal "John Ward"  
and have got him to promise to  
read the "book"

Tell me of Sam & Geo  
traps to Muriel and what about  
our Uncle

With love to all  
Affectionately

John

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Mrs Sum Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass



ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in

General Merchandise,  
GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. June 24<sup>th</sup> 1890  
My Dear Sister

Thirty five years old  
a little young somewhat wrinkled weigh  
one hundred and fifty three pounds  
married seven years still  
happy in it and handsome daughter  
and one little son. and — ?

Any minute or hour may answer  
expected to write you Sunday  
but had Mr Van Custer on my  
hands. He is our engineer on the  
big ditch. Still we are without  
a girl. Jeanne thinks she has  
secured one at \$4.00 per week  
for all summer but she has  
not put in her appearance yet.  
Jeanne is still doing about all the  
work as Lillian is more than half  
sick even since her wedding.  
John seems to be getting along nicely  
with his ankle although he does not  
attempt to stand or walk.  
We had a most disastrous accident

happen here on the R.R. crossing by the  
depot a description of which you will  
see in the paper sorry to say I am  
now a witness to the whole affair.  
This season which started out so  
favorably is turning out to be the  
most unfavorable one for us since  
we came here the continual very  
dry weather has completely ruined  
our wheat crop, oak crop, and  
cut our hay crop very short. we  
may possibly have some corn  
and potatoes but that is all we  
can hope for this season.

The dry weather may be a good thing  
for us indirectly, as it will help us  
to push our irrigation scheme  
through. I wish you would ask  
Sam or Geo to send me if not  
too much trouble, some of the speeches  
of Phelps Brook, President Ellish,  
Proff Phyzer & other against the  
Prohibition Amendment. They were all  
published in the Boston Daily at the  
time of the election. Perhaps there  
is some publishing house in Boston

ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. 18

which had charge of the anti  
Proprietor literature. I want  
to convert Mr. Moore and hope  
that the arguments of Brook & Elliot  
& c might have the desired effect  
Jessie says she will try and  
answer your letter in detail  
before she is out. Your question  
as to names for the ones to come  
is a puzzle. I like your idea  
of family names first rate but  
I should think it would be hard  
to arrange in the Stearns family  
so as to avoid duplicates  
Jessie is the name our next  
without a suggestion from me  
that is I want her to, as we have  
two Abbott names already I think  
then one should have a name  
from the other side of the house  
I have not your last letter  
over here at the store so may  
have left some questions unanswered



We interested in your account of  
your anniversary how fresh  
they fly round.

Gladd to hear that Mr. Sturges  
is well enough to take a trip to  
the Mountains there undoubtedly he  
will pick much faster than an  
Andromeda

With love to all and hoping  
that the coming winter will turn  
out to be all that we hope for

Affectionately  
John

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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. June 27<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear Sister

We have a bouncing girl  
1 1/2<sup>tos</sup> fat and good natured.

Jason got me up this morning about  
1.15 started Vinton over the River  
after Mr. Lammell and I for the  
Dr who now lives in town. Ellen  
was of little help at the time but  
took Amy & John in charge. The Dr. had  
not been in the house more than 15  
minutes before it was all over

Mrs. L. getting in about 1/2 hour later  
Jason got along nicely. We lots  
of move at such time. In spite  
of all plans and offers we were  
unable to get a girl and Jason did  
the work up to bed time last evening

As yet we have no prospect of  
getting any help so Mrs. L. & Ellen  
will have to stay with us

The daughter is awfully homely  
"Decidedly plain" or "or drawing looking"



as Ezra would say but Mrs  
he says it is a "nice baby" it is  
fat. red. big faced. dark hair  
& eyes and looks ~~no more~~ <sup>as</sup> ~~unlike~~  
Amy & John as possible. You  
never saw a child so delighted in  
all your life as Amy. in you can  
hardly get her to leave the bedside  
long enough to eat. John likes  
it too but does not seem to be  
as enthusiastic over her as Amy.

I think every thing considered that  
we are more pleased over it being  
a girl than we would had it been  
a boy. Jeram was very anxious that  
it should be a girl. As for names  
Margaret & Agnes seem to be  
favorites. M. Jeram likes both  
and Amy is set on having it named  
M. The name would have been  
decided upon had it not been  
unpleasantly associated. Agnes  
comes next in favor. But mother  
is decided upon. The book "The  
Barker" by Mr. John Clifford  
came this morning.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

2

Big Springs, Neb. June 27<sup>th</sup> 1880

and of course as yet have had only  
time to look at it and recall  
Mr C's introduction. Just the book  
I wanted and only last Sunday  
was talking with Jim about sending  
for it as we had seen it advertised  
in "Unity". Shall insist on Mr  
Moore sending it.

Hope you will have as easy and  
satisfactory time as James has and  
that it will be a girl also.

Does it not seem as though Ezra  
had robbed us of money for our  
girls. Hope you make out the  
Code words, as we presumed you  
still had the Bow Bow Code.

We are still without rain corn  
and grain suffering and Wheat &  
Oats ruined beyond all hope  
have been extremely hot for the last  
four or five days with strong hot  
winds from the south.

We all send love and  
wishes

Affectionately

General Alexander  
John

ABOT & KIMBALL

PRINTED

My dear General,  
I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter of the  
10th inst. and in reply to inform  
you that the same has been  
forwarded to the proper authorities  
for their consideration. I am  
very sorry that I cannot give  
you a more definite answer at  
this time, but I am sure that  
the authorities will be able to  
give you a satisfactory answer  
in due season. I am, Sir,  
very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
John



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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. June 29<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear Amy =

Only a few lines today  
as we are all busy as usual on  
Sunday. Jessie & the baby are doing  
finely only that Jessie does not have  
any where near enough milk for him  
and today we have called a cow into  
service to help Jessie out. The young  
lady has improved wonderfully in  
looks in the last day or so seem to be  
pretty good natured and a great  
favorite with the children especially  
with Amy. We are still without a  
girl and no prospect of getting one  
Lillian & Mrs G. doing the work. I have  
had Amy & John out to read with  
me today which they enjoyed mightily  
Have read Mr Johnsons lecture on  
Theodore Parker and have enjoyed  
it hugely shall read it over again  
I like and the way it is arranged  
so as to be easy for reference

I hardly think however it will be  
such the book for our Mr Moore  
as pleasant as it would be a  
little too heavy for his digestion  
as pleasant. Think Channing, Clark,  
Burrows & Hall fresh and then  
Potter, Parker, Clifford & Savage  
or possibly Jones & Burnett  
before Potter Clifford &c

We shall be anxiously expecting  
to hear from you from now on  
and only wish that you will get along  
as nicely as Jessie has

With love to you all

Affectingly John



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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. July 7<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear Sister

One day late this week but really yesterday was too hot to undertake anything even writing a letter. I for one only partly dressed. Jennie got up for the first time and seem to feel quite well. It seem good to have her up again and was a relief to the children who were delighted. She stayed up most all day lying on the sofa but not going back to bed. The baby is doing finely has only lost  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. in the first week more or less. Any thing nearly loose a found weighed yesterday a trap over 11 lbs. She is still an fall home by and without a name. Jack being undecided between Harriet Margank & Agnes. and in

The main thing John & I call  
her Hannah much to the  
disgust of Amy & Jennie  
We are still without a girl  
Billie & Mrs G with us to  
help out. Some prospect  
however of getting one in a  
few days. John Remmick  
about the same can see no  
change one way or the other  
in regard to his foot but  
otherwise he is in first rate  
health. Walter started for  
Cheyenne this morning to be  
away probably two or three weeks  
We have been having some very  
hot dry weather which has  
cooked everything that was  
green and ruined our prospects  
for any crops this season



ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

- 2 -

Big Springs, Neb. 18

Yesterday we received your letter of May 19<sup>th</sup> which you directed to Captain Homer Curran appear it has been at the Hotel for the last 6 weeks. This letter contains the account of Sam & Geo trip to Me. We had wondered why you had not written about it.

We had quite a lovely time here on the fourth lots of people in town. foot racing, pony racing, fair lemonade and the ladies gave a big dinner at 25¢ a meal and 10¢ for ice cream the day cool and pleasant and every body seem to have a good time.

John had some fire cracker which he enjoyed throwing them at Amy who was very much afraid of the noise.

and find John with the letter  
for a parcel of anything.

Hope soon to hear favorable  
reports from you. Jessie will  
write in a day or two

With love to all for all.

Affectionately John

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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens

North Andover

Mass



ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in

General Merchandise,  
GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. July 21<sup>st</sup> 1890

My dear Sister

It seems to be right to  
impossible to get at your letter on Sunday.  
There always is so much to do that we  
been put off all the week waiting  
for Sunday. Your letter was gladly  
received tell us more particulars  
of the baby and how nicely you  
were both getting along. We are  
very much pleased with the news.  
Sam said for you had not  
mentioned that as a possible one  
there for we were some what sur-  
prised. Hope you are still getting  
along nicely and probably up by this  
time. John mentioned this morning  
that today would be likely to be  
your first one up. He and  
all well. Harriet still sleep and  
eats all the time and is a very  
good baby only sometimes a little  
wakeful about our bed time.

She will nurse every drop of milk  
that Jesse has (and she has as much  
as she did when John or Amy were babies)  
and she will take a nursing bottle full  
and something more before she is  
satisfied. Her nurse yet got enough  
to make her vomit. They had lunch

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>. They are now almost as  
Lillian has gone to housekeeping we have  
a little girl to help with the children  
and a prospect ~~now~~ of a regular  
good girl for general work next  
week. Jesse now looked better and  
she felt as well as she ever done  
in extremely hot weather.

We have been trying to think out  
some good practical plans to adopt  
in regard what we shall do about  
John's case. The plan of going East  
with him so that he can have the advantage  
of treatment at the Children's Hospital in  
Boston seems fresh rather as far as treatment  
goes but it is a big undertaking.  
One plan is for Jesse to go alone and  
take Amy & John leaving the baby here  
with Mrs. Jones who will come over here  
with Howard and Abby. Jesse going  
to her Aunt Lillian and Edward

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

- 2 -

Big Springs, Neb. \_\_\_\_\_ 18

staying with his grandmother at the Ranch. in that way the same children could go to school here in town and Lalla keeping house for me.

Another plan is for Jane to take all three of the children with her than of course would be quite an undertaking but not so impossible as it might seem as there would be only one change of care be necessary as she can take care here and not change until reaching Chicago and then the change is made in the same depot. How do you suppose it would suit her and Aggie to have Jane and all of the children come there as a head woman and would it be practicable for Jane to have a nurse girl while there and would there be room if convenient for them and agreeable it would seem best for them to go to George then to you



as it would be near the Boat  
and even for Jane to get back  
and forth with John and then you  
will have your hands full  
Let me know what you think about  
it of course if Jane decides to go  
she will not probably start before  
summer in September when it is  
cooler and more agreeable to travel  
I don't think Jane would be as  
contented if she left the baby home  
as she would be if she had her with  
her. But the great bug-bear is how  
to get there with so many young children  
Unless I go with her and then would  
double the expense and the expense  
is something to be considered especially  
the revenue with us.

We all fine send love but  
wishes  
Affectionately  
John

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Mrs Sam Dale Stearns  
North Andover  
Mass.

**THE PHOENIX INSURANCE CO.**

—OF—

**HARTFORD, CONN.**Big Spring Lake Aug 11<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear Sister

Another dry week will in  
 ruin again out here in the irrigation. Last  
 Tuesday we had our bond election at which  
 the southern half of the County voted bonds to the  
 sum of \$60000. to be donated to our ditch Co  
 to aid them in building the irrigation Canal.  
 The vote was 353 for and 8 against. We  
 now expect to have work begun on the Canal  
 within 6 weeks and may have 1000 men  
 at work through the Fall & Winter.

We have been buying for the flock two weeks  
 and I have been in the field most of the  
 time. James is very busy sewing and  
 getting ready for her trip East. He likes  
 our girl or rather girls for me have  
 two now: "a French or a German" as usual



For the last few days it has been cloudy and cooler which looks a little like rain but it is too late now to do any good in this section of the Country but would help the farmers in the Eastern part of the State wonderfully

What do you think of the plan of having Mrs. Samwell go East with Jennie and then for them to take all the children. That seems to me the most practical as it may be necessary for Jennie to stay there with John through the winter and that would be too long a time for her to be away from Harriet. It will be comparatively easy for them to make the trip as they will only have to change cars once or twice. It is possible to take a sleeper here and not change until you get to Chicago - but if you do it will be necessary to drive across the City. by changing cars at Omaha one can take another sleep at Chicago for the same deposit which probably would be the most desirable plan for our pocket. Amy is beginning to look forward to the trip and talks about it

**THE PHOENIX INSURANCE CO.**

—OF—

**HARTFORD, CONN.**

18

Continually. John too is beginning to realize something about the trip but he insists that I am going too as he looks upon it as another Omaha trip. The children are all remarkably well John has grown wonderfully within the last few months. Now that we have decided to have him take in the Hoaxwell I am very anxious to get him off as soon as possible as time is precious in such matters.

Wonder why we did not get a letter from you folks last week carried by more than likely. With love to you all for us all  
Affectionately Yours

John

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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass



Big Spring, Neb. Oct 11<sup>th</sup> 1890

My dear Amy

Have been trying to get off a  
letter to you ever since the journey  
started but something has always happened  
to prevent it. Started to write last Sunday  
but did not finish. Have been anxious  
about the baby and have generally written  
to Jimmie when there was a chance to  
write. Was very much pleased to know  
that you and Aggie with the folks at  
the Depot in Boston gave them a pretty  
time and was a little worried before  
getting to their journey and sorry that  
the baby is so unpacked it must have  
been owing to the change from cover milk  
to the condensed. Hope she will come  
around all right. John surely is in  
good hands and is likely to improve  
under the treatment. Hope the  
climate will agree with him.

was just interrupted in my letter by  
Walter calling to me from down cellar  
to come down quick with a lamp and  
poker as he had a big rattlesnake  
at bay behind the vinegar barrel.

If the folks can only keep well I have  
no doubt but what they will be contented  
and all hands enjoying the trip mightily.  
I am getting along nicely here. our  
man at the Ranch likes us and we 2  
are staying over three nights going  
back and forth morning & evening get  
my own breakfast & supper and find  
it a great improvement over hotel fare  
a neighbor poker friend for me and  
I get along first rate with the cooking.

When Mrs. Sumrell is with you try and  
have a talk with her on religion and  
try and have Eggen & Mrs. K. also would  
like to have her see that I am not the  
only person that hold to such nonsense  
as she considers Unitarianism.

We notice that Mr. Stevens has  
received the nomination for Congress.  
It is not rather unfortunate to have this  
extra care put upon him just as he  
is picking up? What do you think of it by  
the family? I should think he had  
enough on his hands for a sick man.

- 2 -

Big Spring, Neb. \_\_\_\_\_ 189

but perhaps if he let business alone  
and ~~work~~ enter politics the change  
of work would be beneficial for  
it would surely kill such a man  
to be compelled to do nothing.

I shall write as often as possible  
but may sleep a week once in  
a while until Jason and the children  
get back but I really don't  
expect them before Spring for as  
long as John is improving under the  
treatment it would be full time to  
come home. Write as often as convenient  
and after the rush of fall work I  
shall have more time to answer  
your letters as they should be.  
With love to all most sincerely

James John

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Mrs Sum Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass



Big Spring, Oct 19<sup>th</sup> 1898

My dear Sister.

It is most grateful  
of you to be so patient with  
me in keeping up the weekly  
letter. I am always at fault  
and neglect to show up. I always  
look forward to Thursdays as a  
bright day. for I generally have  
messages from home and friends  
that is always inspiring and  
keeps me from "getting the blues"  
especially this year. which is  
so dread full hard upon  
this locality and people no  
crop and no money and  
nothing to feed themselves or  
their stock. The photographs

of Sam Jr came the other day and I like the  
look of the little chap very much he look  
as though it would only be a very short time  
before he would be big enough to hold Abbot  
level. He look to me very much as I remember  
Abbot looking when comparing the picture I air  
there is quite a difference Don't you after think  
what a petty it is that Mother could not have  
lived to enjoy their grand children of her. How  
proud we would be to show them off to her

I think it is a shame that there is no baby  
at Melrose in there any good reason for it that  
you know of. What is life worth without the  
just think of Corrie Egan & Oliver. What an  
amiable expectation. "Egan & I, Oliver & me" Hope it  
will always be just Egan & Aggie. Was much relieved  
by Jean's last letter telling of the baby's improvement  
from the thing the condensed milk was a bad store for  
her. Perhaps the nursing again Jean had something to  
do with it. Guess it will go on nicely now. Jean says  
the children are mightily pleased with their new  
surrounding how glad I am that we are so  
fortunate as to have such a good chance to have  
John's work trusted as it ought to be hope soon  
to hear reports of an improvement in his case

I should think it would be lots of work to  
get up a paper even on an interesting a  
subject as Russia for your Club meeting. Would  
you mind sending it out to me to read



My reading is confined almost  
entirely to the Magazine. Do  
you take "Unity" still? I enjoy  
that very much just about  
enough of it. Have you read  
"Black Beauty" if not do so the  
first chance you have.

Am anxious to know what  
what you think of Amy & John  
after you have seen something  
of them I mean critically just as  
if they were the children of somebody  
you were not interested in.  
Amy you will find a little harder  
to understand than John and not  
so easy to get acquainted with  
either here to all, for me  
alone this time

Yours affectionately both  
John

"Old Kim" Rancho Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 98.

My dear George

Your letter and also  
one from Jessie came in this  
morning. Was particularly pleased  
with your comments on my  
family. It is really a greater  
pleasure to me to have them  
than when you all can get  
acquainted with them and then  
a father is always proud of his  
children and I can see no reason  
why I should not. Of course it  
is too soon yet for a verdict  
from Dr. Coburn but if John is  
eating heartily (which he never has  
done) and can sleep soundly  
that of its self will do wonders.

The stiff badger treatment  
is not at all what I expected



as I had presumed that a surgical  
operation would have been an  
absolute necessity as the  
Omaha Dr said that in those  
a firm there was no doubt  
but that there was recovery  
of the bone. and so I had supposed  
that would have to be treated  
mechanically so to speak. and  
not constitutionally as Dr. Cabot  
is seeing. But it is all the better  
for John and the rest of us as  
the knife always has its horror

It must have set you "taper-  
turning" at Melrose having such  
a flock of children all at once  
out its mother when you once  
get used to it. Am sure you  
and Aggie made them all very  
happy and comfortable as  
Jessie Litten are full of  
your kindness and attention

You could not help but be  
pleased with Mr. Sumner and  
this trip will be a great treat  
to her. an experience which  
I am very glad she has had  
the advantage of. Hope that  
it can be so planned that  
she can meet Cousin Ann  
and see considerable of  
Agnes for Agnes in the  
eyes of Jessie & Litten is  
the most remarkable of  
women (as she is to all of us for  
that matter) but to the she  
was. as the miniature says a  
revelation and Mr. L. has  
heard so much about him  
from them. that it would be  
a pity if she did not see  
considerable of her.

It would also be interesting  
to have her see a good

fly or two. and hear one  
of the grand concerts at  
Munich Hall and above all  
a good (Unitarian) sermon  
say by Mr Savage.

I realize however how hard  
it is to manage to carry out  
such a program especially with  
all the children as "a disturbing  
factor"

Whatever balance there is  
from the Thomas rent turn  
over to Jessie as she undoubtedly  
will have plenty of way for it.  
She is a very frugal wife  
however and does not dip often  
or deep into the family purse  
and has a way of making a dollar  
go farther than anyone I know.

This has been a mighty  
hard season with the farmers  
of this locality as this is the  
second year with almost a



total failure of crops and  
most of them have now exhausted  
all their resources. First it  
was the money they brought with  
them. Then the little reserves they  
had left behind. Then they  
draw upon their Eastern friends.  
Then come the pawning up  
upon these lands and getting  
a loan upon it. Then getting  
a loan from the Bank secured  
by Chutler Mortgages on the Stock  
and now they are at the end  
of the rope. But with all this  
our trade holds remarkably  
well one reason is that about  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  of our competitors have  
failed and gone out of business  
and then we now know our

men and we are in shape to  
make our own terms. With all  
the depression we have increased  
our number of live stock rather  
we now have 106 Cattle and  
16 horses having bought this  
season some fifty young cattle  
and selling 15 old ones. Have  
also bought about 80 tons of  
S. Hay and I think our stock  
of goods in the store is a full  
as usual and our bills & note  
receivable about the same  
as last year except that  
we have kept a more conservative  
watch upon our credits.

The hard time have made it  
possible for me to buy <sup>live</sup> stock cheap  
and as our Ranch is ~~all~~ well if  
not better equipped to take proper  
care of the stock than any of  
our neighbors we feel on  
the whole pretty well satisfied.  
Have found it necessary to take

Real Estate Mortgage of an one or  
two new farms to secure ourselves  
one for 400. and another for about  
200. so that we now have no  
outstanding accounts of any sign  
that are shaky. Our big ditch  
scheme is still simmering the  
unusual high price of grain &  
hay and the scarcity of men  
and time for construction work  
renders it next to impossible  
to get the thing under way at  
present.

Our man (Charley Sullivan) who  
has been with us for some time  
left us the first of the month  
and as the fall work was all finished  
hay all up and stock about the  
corrals and the family going I  
moved over to our old homestead  
and am now running the Ranch  
work alone going over to  
town every day I like it and  
save not only my board bill



at the Hotel Feb<sup>23</sup> 30. a month  
which we pay one man. and  
also being where I can watch  
the stock a break the colts a  
job which I rather like. I wish  
I pay I broke three and now  
we have five more coming  
three years old which I am  
"branding" I get my own supper  
and breakfast and frequently  
have company from town for  
supper and the spend the evening  
of course it is lonely with all the  
family away but then it is not  
so bad as one might expect  
and our well-meaning the all  
the more when they come  
back especially if they bring  
back my boy with two round  
legs and the happy experience  
of a trip to the Eastern Union  
& Auntie all of which is the same  
with of you rather John  
I can write that Aggie is under the weather  
Long to hear it from her very love