



Mr. Saml. Stevens.  
North Andover  
Mass.

Big Spring Mich 19<sup>th</sup>  
[1893]

My dear Amy

I certainly would  
be a ungrateful brute if I left  
this Sunday so by without at  
least acknowledging and thanking you  
for this last splendid letter. There  
have been so many prison over  
unanswered that I am hopelessly  
in debt to you. Each week that  
goes by without writing makes  
it harder to undertake. How I  
wonder this year? and afraid not  
not even to tell you how much  
we have enjoyed the books  
and magazines that come from  
the East at Christmas. Of course  
you know that my not writing  
is not to be considered as evidence  
that I and my are not interested

and daily thinking of you all  
at home. it is the one strong  
and only tie to modern civilization  
that we have. for as our town  
grows in number (not just a year)  
it seems to be less & less congenial  
and if it were not for being very  
busy it would be unbearable.  
Our children, the letter for home,  
business, our stock, books & magazine  
are all, excepting of course Hope

We can hardly realize that you  
have been home such a seven  
months. we have not had more  
than two weeks all together this  
winter of anything but pleasant fall  
weather hardly any snow and  
has not been cold enough to  
make us so that we will have  
to go through next summer without  
any. The bad weather seems to have  
been all about us but each storm  
has missed us. What a glorious  
time you had at Washington

with the Democrats. ~~that~~ you  
surely could command a big  
salary as a correspondent for  
none of the new paper letters from  
give me no good a description  
of the management and of our  
pictures of the notables are  
very interesting. We noticed  
some very complimentary notices  
of Gov Russell in some of our  
Western Republic paper which would  
we feel proud, even if we do owe  
allegiance to Nebraska and of course  
as Nebraskians we are proud of our  
Governor altho he has been unsuccessful  
for about every office in the State  
since it has become a State as before  
or he is one of the ablest inhabitants  
However I don't know of a more worthy  
Democrat in the State or one more  
capable of filling the office than he  
He ran for Gov. last Fall and has  
speakers were the speak of the  
three candidates that ran for Gov.

although Gov. Crowe the Rep.  
and successful candidate is a  
bold man and was until  
elected Gov. of Ia. Treasurer of  
Washington the position that Munroe  
has just been appointed to fill  
and the other candidate the Populist  
was your old friend Van Hook  
When I lived in Omaha I used to  
know J. Sterling Moots and joy  
but could not be there.

Moots is not at all popular in this  
State with his party but aside  
from politics is well thought of as  
a good honest man.

Carey Cleveland and her cabinet  
will make a creditable administration  
and the beauty of its democracy is  
that it is so largely diluted that  
it becomes quite pleasant to us  
I may write back to any Republican  
still I am not sorry that I voted for  
Harris and thus endorsed a clean  
able and honorable President

We were pleased to get the photon you  
sent over the age we then remembered  
good of you all Abba in June  
make me realize a good hour  
over run on me will be good  
parents before me know its date look  
just about as we remembered his supposed  
he would look but Abba has changed  
make the parts & about his account for  
I pray. We were glad to hear of Agnes  
and that you had got track of her again  
you speak of Murine's children being  
sick they must be pretty old children  
are they not? are there any younger than  
15? We are glad to know that the  
matters are progressing favorably at  
Melrose as far, and hope they will continue  
so. How relieved we shall all be  
when it is happily over with. We can  
easily imagine the tension of the Syn-  
novo for this our special with  
Julia & Mr R. I have great faith  
in Aggie's philosophy and good sense  
and they will have the benefit of

of modern medical skill to help them  
through with the all.

Wesleyan could see what a  
fine boy we have now. He has grown  
to be very good looking and will soon  
be handsome but the best of it is he  
has been remarkable well and  
free from any trouble little or big  
has had only one little sick spell  
with treated about a week and  
just when we ask for a doctor  
(who could not come) he got well  
Harrett & Amy have been very well  
all winter. Amy I don't think has been  
going to school a day.

The good weather has been a fine  
thing for our horses for when we job  
them they were so poor and weak we  
hardly thought it possible to get many  
of them through the winter. We have  
stabled about sixty all winter and  
have broken twenty or thirty well  
over the harness & saddle. I  
find it very interesting and exciting

wrote me how some exceptionally  
 good horse men to work for us  
 and are having good success so far  
 We have something over two hundred  
 head colts and all and wish  
 your colts crop from us well,  
 as over our 130 acres of Rye  
 and winter wheat. if this is a  
 good season I do hope some  
 of you can come out here  
~~to~~ this summer some time.

Monday-

John has left this for me to  
 finish as will do so before getting  
 dinner. We all enjoyed your letter  
 as much and had a better idea  
 of a good many things than we  
 had gotten from papers, you must  
 have had an exciting time and  
 know you enjoyed it all.

Suppose you have gotten my last  
 horrid letter, but we never have any  
 thing interesting to write. I dread  
 to commence a letter any more  
 Hope you got the pine all right



thought it best to have it registered  
for I remembered its being a favorite  
pin of yours. I forgot to say any  
thing about the photographs we  
got some time ago. They are very  
good of all but you, and I guess  
it is because your hair is parted  
and so low on your neck you  
look so old. Abbot and Dale look  
awful cute standing together. Dale  
looks like a girl.

Mother and Father took dinner  
with us yesterday and heard your  
letter too. I will send Agnes back  
as she requested.

Good to hear Aggie is still feeling  
well and do hope everything will  
come out all right. The time seems  
very short now. How does she look?  
Still growing fleshy? What will  
George do? I am afraid it will  
use him up.

Our boy is getting awful nice  
has just found his hands today

his eyes have been a little sore  
a couple of days but guess it is  
only from a cold in the head.

Hope you will see him some  
day.

Must close now and try and  
sew a little while he is asleep  
Love to all from all.

Lovingly Jessie.—

ABBOT & KIMBALL, +  
+ GENERAL MERCHANTS.

{ JOHN H. ABBOT.  
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. August 22<sup>nd</sup>. 1893

My dear Amy

Am not going away again without writing to tell you how much we have enjoyed your letter you know I have had the benefit of this even if I did not desire it. It must have been several months since I wrote last, anyway it was before I went on my trip west. In July I went to Chicago with a car load of hore so in that way I unexpectedly saw a little of the Fair. Spent three half days and three evenings in the grounds. was surprised to find how cheap it was possible to live close to the grounds and how much there was to see and hear. I was not so much pleased with the Midway Palace as I expected to be but the Fair proper was so much beyond my comprehension of what was possible for men and women to do in so short a time that I could not bear to spend an hour of my limited time any where but in the main grounds and buildings only had about two hours for the "ark palace" One evening on the "Court of Honor" during the illumination of the buildings and ground and the electric fountain is worth

a trip to Chicago if one has to walk. It is a right  
name to be forgotten. I am very anxious to have  
Jessie go, but am afraid it will not be possible as  
we hardly see how we can spare the money. We were  
were so hard pressed for money and it does not  
look now as though many matters would be any  
easier with us until another crop. This season  
crop is a very light one and the prices are so  
unreasonable low that there will be hardly anything  
for the farmers not near enough for them to pay their  
old bills. It will not be possible for us to collect  
much from them for a year yet. We sold so far two car  
loads of hogs in Iowa but most of them we had to  
sell and six months time and it is impossible to  
sell the notes. I expect to start south tomorrow or  
next day with a bunch of hogs to go over land to  
Indiana Territory where we surrendered them in a demand  
for the claim of hogs we want to sell. When we dispose  
of this bunch we will have nothing left but good desirable  
hogs. I don't like this being away from home so much  
but it can't be helped. Will probably be gone six weeks or  
two months. We take a camp with us along so will be independent  
of towns or civilization. There will be five in the party.

Am so sorry that we are not any of us to meet this  
year as we had been looking forward to this year as  
the one when we would be most likely to come together.  
George writes that he intends to be in Chicago next month  
for a few days. Wish he could extend his trip this far  
but it would be too bad to take the time from the Fair and  
I should not advise him to. ~~But~~ The Melrose baby of course  
is a wonder we are expecting a photograph of him which Geo  
has promised. We can't realize that there is one there  
and will not until we see it. of course a photo will help. How I wish  
you could see our children as they are so much more interesting and  
handsome than any other you have ever seen. Harriett has got  
to be a beauty and our bright and full of the D.C. as she can

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which just wicked enough to suit Agnes "to a t"  
George is fat, lumpy, and good natured never has the  
colic or croup and is always good if well fed. Amy is  
quite a young lady. The girls A & H are out to an afternoon  
party today given by the daughter of the section foreman  
a swick. Mrs Chubbuck has been with us for a week or so  
but a week ago yesterday she and Keller went to Salt Lake  
to visit relatives for two weeks we expect Mrs C to be  
with us two or three weeks more after her winter trip  
Joe runs out from Omaha once a week while she is  
here. Little Joe and Harvett have high times together have  
two or three fights every day but think lots of each other  
and will play by the hour by themselves. I wish we could have  
a good long visit from Agnes but it is too much to expect  
and I doubt if it would be agreeable to her for more than  
a few days or weeks.

Dear Amy - Mother has been over today the first for  
a month or more so did not have time to add to  
this. I hate awfully to have Joe go again. Will  
write more in a few days.  
Loveingly Jessie.

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



World wide apart, and yet akin  
As showing that the human heart  
Keeps true forever and a day.

Mr Sam L Stevens

North Andover  
Mass

ABBOT & KIMBALL, +  
+ GENERAL MERCHANTS.

JOHN H. ABBOT.  
WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 1893

My dear Sam

Your of the 25<sup>th</sup> received  
The July "Eaton Coupon" came while  
I was away but summer  
Eaton is hard up this season  
did not raise much of a crop  
and had some payments that had  
to be made on his mill & windmill  
The town however got the July payment  
secured and that with interest at  
10% to go with the January payment  
will be in all probably forthcoming  
early in January as we presumed  
that would be satisfactory to you  
we did not press the matter and  
indeed I doubt if it would have been  
much more. The interest and principle  
are perfectly safe as he has

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— 3 —

We have been wondering if your Democrats in the East are aware of the change of feeling in regard to the young party which has taken place in the West within the last six months. Particularly the recent election in Kansas & Nebraska & Iowa have demonstrated it in a way.

Cleveland who had boasts of admitting our side of his party only a year ago is a very much hated man today, as for myself I have more admiration for him than ever.

The dull thin are looking at the door of the Democratic party or rather Cleveland's branch of it.

The tariff is so imperfectly understood that the



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opinion of the leading news papers  
which are "Republican" would be the  
certain to work completely to their  
view of it. Even the democrats of  
this state refuse to endorse the  
suggestion of our Congress  
Prize Dr Recty Morton who is  
an out and out free trader.

We are still having fine weather  
strange to say Jimmie is sick has been  
for two days... had cold and nothing  
severe he says Harrett & Geo both  
both had what we think were the measles  
Geo is all well & improving rapidly

Yours truly  
John

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Mr Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover

Mass.

ABBOT & KIMBALL, +  
+ GENERAL MERCHANTS.

{ JOHN H. ABBOT.  
{ WALTER KIMBALL.

Big Spring, Neb. Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1893

My dear Amy,

Your last letter was dated I think Dec 10<sup>th</sup> and should have been answered last Sunday but up that day Jessie and I left all hands at home (under Lillian's eye) and took the 7 a.m. train for Lodge Pole 38 miles south of here. to be away all day getting home at 9-30 p.m. we had some calls we having been trying to make up some good up the for the last three years. We had a lovely day for it and a nice time all around and found the children all nicely abed and a sleep when we got home. This trip of course prevented my writing on Sunday. Monday I had to be away out in the country all day and Tuesday I went to a State Foregather Convention which was held at North Platte getting home early this morning (2.30 a.m.) Your advice in regard to "fooling away money" this year for Xmas presents is timely to be sure and I hope you will heed it. As for ourselves we have none to fool away. We certainly wish to be remembered by you all at home on that day in particular at the time when we shall be more than ever thinking of you. Your magnificent present to me all in Jessie's trip to Chicago will be the crowning pleasure as long as the memory of it lasts. Now that the 2 are

is over how we all should have regretted it if she had not  
seen it. Jessie send out several Cards for greeting  
to our friends and has fixed up several of the children  
dolls that have been tucked away for a long time and  
been forgotten so that they will be as good or new or  
perhaps better. several books have been brought to  
light that she put away as the dolls went there with some  
little tinny and plenty of Candy Pop corn & nuts orange &c  
The children will be as happy as it is possible to make them  
now.

You write that George was going back to Melrose we did  
not know they had been away. Glad to hear that Agnes is  
better and hope she will continue to improve. glad also to  
know that the baby is perfect this must be a good year  
for perfect babies. for ours certainly is one. we  
could not say as much for Harriett who she was a baby  
but George is a boy. "He's all right" The children have  
all got about over those colds Harriett being longer  
than the others. It is a pleasure to know that Mr Thompson  
keeps the place looking nice, and that the neighbors like  
the surroundings and of the improvements on the street. Walter had  
been kept posted about Mr Churchly, writes by Johnnie  
we had not heard before of that success had a son. I  
Glad to hear that all the old friends at Andover are getting  
along so nicely. We have still having the snow delightfully  
weather and it is a great blessing Jessie and the children  
join me in love and Xmas greetings and happy new year

Most sincerely

John

Big Spring Jew 14<sup>th</sup> 94

My dear Amy

It seems a little late to  
acknowledge Christmas - presents or even  
to answer your last two letters. We generally  
put off writing until Sunday, and the last  
two Sundays we were busy going over to the  
Gemmill Ranch as Tom & I was not well  
having had a severe attack of the La Grippe  
which he was several weeks getting over. Amy  
& Harriet have both been ill with colds that  
kept them with swollen tonsils Amy staying out  
of school all of this last week we are  
giving them throat both inside and outside  
with Iodine and giving them an iron tonic  
but I know little faith in either and don't  
see much improvement. Neither of the children are  
however more than half sick & in particular seem  
perfectly well except for the swelling Amy complains  
a little and has very little appetite. The baby  
and Jess are in their usual robust health as well  
as my self. We had seen the account of Mr  
Be good's death in the Townsman as well as the

account of the murder - before getting your  
letter and were originally looking for your  
account of their road and expedition affairs

If Rome lived out here we would elect  
him Sheriff at the next election and expect  
him to risk the country of its desperadoes  
forbids. We had a very quick Christmas  
forenoon. We had a very quick Christmas  
expected some fourteen of family to take  
dinner with us but there were so many  
of them expected sick on that day, only  
about half that many were on hand we  
had a smashing good dinner of Roast  
turkey duck. Your box came the day before  
Christmas and brought delight to the children  
and us as well but it seems to me that  
you broke faith with us as we understood  
that there was to be no elaborate or expensive  
present given this year in view of the hard  
times I had proposed my self to give up the luxury  
of the Revue of Oliver and I feel that also ought to  
give up cigars but Rome's temptation was too much  
for me. And when I am in mind of the cigars I make  
me think how easy it would be to beat Sam  
at a game of billiard up there in his billiard room  
when I have smoked just such cigars while

trying to show him how to play. Harriet is very fond  
of his fork and uses it very well. Any time very  
hard to take to me his manner ask my day

Come Olive sent her a box of coffee water  
collor pink which she is using with considerable  
enthusiasm and doing quite well. We had a  
nice letter from Corine. O from New Orleans which  
was very interesting and much brighter in tone  
than any we have had from her lately. She  
evidently is enjoying herself down there and  
is taken with the people and the climate  
We don't understand who the people are she  
is visiting with or whether she is boarding

George sent me some beautiful Wolds Park  
views which we judged were some of his  
best work and also several photos of the  
baby which we were glad to get. We can hardly  
realize yet the reality of that little chap  
If Aggie could only have good health there  
happiness would be nearly complete. Nellie told  
Joan that her ill health was mostly her own  
fault at times Nellie called it. In such allowing  
herself to be taken the proper care of.

We have had some extremely cold weather  
since Christmas morning had many days that

The thermometer was frozen to 18 below and  
has also had what is unusual here about  
a foot of snow on the level. For the last  
few days however it has been warm  
and the snow is melting fast today.

We are having a terrible dull winter of it  
in a business way. The farmers have nothing  
to sell except hogs and they are very limited  
to raise any money. If we had had as good  
crops here last season as in '91 we would  
not have felt the effect of the famine to any  
extent for it seems to me that the hard  
time affects the farmers less of any  
class of people in the whole country.

I hope Mr. Stearns Wray & his Committee  
and their Democratic majorities will settle  
their tariff business my own one way or the  
other and not keep this thing a boomer all summer  
like here it down with. Callahan was not  
so badly hurt after all as she expected to  
be by the report of the silver clause and majority  
of the people now think Gov. Wacht a crank  
I'm sorry that Will Stearns could not have arranged to  
go home via the U.P. so we could have seen him  
and pumped him in regard to Rowther, Callahan  
and Mexican Texas. John has left this  
for me to finish but haven't time now so  
will mail it - and write again.  
Love from all to all, Yours, Jessie