

Longing for your kind news & the
news we expect to receive very soon
from you every moment I am with us
wishes you many & good health & happiness

Madison Co Ky
July 16. 63

My Dearest Friends

I received your kind letter which came
to hand this morning & answer you
now truly. I had thought I had one forward
in my yours letter has been one week
on the road & have looked for a letter
every day for 3 weeks & had finally
come to the conclusion that D. had left,
no friends are the establishment
I suppose you understand. Father gift along
since dont you miss the children
Hannie and Elsie have both been sick &
dare tell at least last Sunday he
said when was sick till Monday his
it bands kept David looking very well
but he cant walk yet but I hope
he will soon Great Misfortune can health
with a scratch & have a ^{time} hard time
in them Cousin Bob is the most foolish
thing in the world. Tell him I am very
much obliged to you for writing to me the
next week after I left and for sending
me those books very much I need
tell Mollie my sweet heart is making
15 Dollars a month in Lexington Ky

he is Major Master since where he gets
rich off of the Government him and
I will marry and come to me this
fall because how is Mrs. Whiting and
Sister Hickman making it tell Mrs. Bell
that Miss Parker sends her very best love
to her and myself two fine my love
to Mrs. Whiting and the Captain tell
Betty Waller allie was looking very well
yesterday i do not feel in too
well with this bell illness i think i shall
come out in the fall and go
with her to Phippsburg fine way to
Uncle Terrell's family my compliments
to Mrs. Dolan and the Dr and tell him
to write to me and i will pass immediately
my compliment to Cousin Garrison Garrison
and Sister Jessie just present my
compliments to everyone in town
tell Mrs. Whiting he ought to be out here
in time to teach my school i came
home last sunday with the sick
head cold very bad and i have it slightly this evening this is
such bad paper & i can't hardly read it
i don't expect you can read it but
Garrison Garrison says tell Father Joseph
that Garrison Garrison has been
prisoner at Camp Chase but has been
set free to tell. Dick i should like very
much to see him in May right soon tell him
i take his Po he was making more money
than all the of people in now it ^{him very} pleased much
so i will close i remain your friend I...

Sunday night

January 21st / 65

Dear cousin I have taken my pen in hand
to inform you that we are all well at the present time and do truly
hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing

Oh Cousin Nannie I cant think of anything to
write only Mother and Father and George and Oscar have gone
to meeting and the rest of the children have gone to bed and have
left me all alone and I dont like to sit here a lone for I am
afraid. Dear Nannie I do wish you was here to go to meeting
with my self and the Boys for the ground is white with snow
and it is still snowing more snow and Oh what nice times we
would have going to meeting in the sleds and we have such
good meetings here we had 10 persons up to the alter to be

^{last night} prayed for and I bles the name of god the people are working
with all of their minds & hearts and souls for the salvation
of a lost and errant people, we have had about 30
persons that have got tired of the way of sin and have
started on the road to heaven with in about a week
there is none of our family that belongs to church

but Mary Ann and my self Oh how happy I would
be if the joyful news would reach my ears this night that
my Dear Father and mother had joined the the church and
are trying to get to heaven. I think they had ought
to for there is a heaven for everyone Oh yes there is,
and there is a glittering crown there for each of us
and I intend to wear that crown, that is there for
me I dont intend for any one ~~to~~ to scratch that
crown away from me I tell you Nannie it shines Bright

them crowns shine brighter than the little stars
of heaven. I amie I consider my self in the arms
and when Old Satan comes up like fell Davi's rebels
I intend to fight him and gain the victory every time.
Well I will have to quit writing this
Father said he was situated so that he could not
come down this fall nor this winter, but he said for you
ma and you to sell your stock and either short 3000
house up or rent it and move your furniture up here and
he would see that you were both ~~to~~
off of till Perry and Marshall came home. taken care

Eggs are 25cts per Doz Butter 40cts per lb Corn 70cts
Sheep are selling at 7 and 8 dollars per head
We have 13 head of sheep, 3 horses 3 milk cows
and 100 chickens and 4 1/2 acres of land with plenty
of timber on it it is about 400 yards from the school
house. Oh Aunt do more up here Nannie if you take
the measles before you get my minature I will send you some
yellow saffron and some sheep gall - to make you strong
Sea of to bring them out on you
So no more good to write soon
From Eliza Gardner to Nannie & Freathy

Breckenridge. Missouri

Dec the 28th, 1865

Dear William, your most welcome letter is just received by me and I hasten to answer it. I was very glad to hear that Mollie and your brother was all well, I ~~wish~~ you are well too, though we never said we still live ~~the~~ well.

At home now ~~at home~~ and Perry yours, he has gotten to be quite a man since you seen him he is six feet two inches high. Perry hasn't growed much. Every thing is changed a great deal since you left here. Some have moved away and strangers come in their place some ~~are~~ is dead and some is married. Give my best respect to Mollie and tell her that it wouldn't be oppresive if she would drop me a few lines at some leisure time, if she would deem it worth while. You said you thought it wouldn't be safe for you to live here. I am sure it wouldn't be safe for you to come back here on no terms it wouldn't be safe for you to be there and stay up there is a dreadful set around here. I would be perfectly willing to live out in some

country if it is any better than it is here
per I am sick and tired at this place
this has been a lonesome dreary place for me
for the last four years. Lib is ~~still~~ talking about
going and to see Pa in a few days.

Please excuse a

Tr. 3

for Lib

is Hanning

Wrote so much news that I can't
scarcely write, well I will close hoping to
hear from you soon and often write again
letter your letters aren't half long enough
from your best friend

Hannie Hanning

P.S. Direct to Rockbridge as he
lives

I would wait the time patiently
but I believe that I would rather
not wait ~~so~~ so long to see
you. Oh you dont no how bad

I want to see ~~you~~ and have a good
old chat with ~~you~~ tell mother
that I will write to her soon. I
cant think of any thing more of interest
to write except those poorly scribbled
lines leaves us all well and I hope
they may find you the same
well I guess that I havent any
excuse that I can think for not writing
a longer letter and havent
room to make it if I could,
and as I am afraid that ~~your~~ letter
make one to suit you. I will not
make any written son and long
letter for the time will seem
long from your friend,
Sam'l. Gibson,

To Rockcreek station

Breckenridge, Missouri
February 1st 1860.

Ever loved Billie, I received ~~your~~ your
kind letter yesterday and I hasten to answer
we also gotten a letter from Pa. yesterday
it was the first that we had heard from
him since Nov 8th he says that he has
had every bad cold for some time and
hasnt been able to write. He is to stand
out to see him to morrow or next day
he had thought of going some time ago
but the weather has been so bad that
he couldnt go Frank Brown talks of
going nothing to look at the country &
I expect that they will be gone about two
weeks. and oh my wont mother see a long
time. for we have school at the schoolhouse
and Jerry and I is going. Oh yes our
school house has a new name it is
call radic union schoolhouse

I tell you aint that a black name I
almost hate to go to school on account of
it, but I think the teacher is all right
he appears to be a very nice man,
well I believe that is ~~an~~ aught of
that subject unless it was better
I was sorry to hear that ~~so~~ was so boorish
and dident enjoy your self ~~and~~ better
I have been to three parties this winter
but to say that I enjoyed my self
I can not for ~~the~~ they alway reminded
me of other parties when I did
enjoy my self and that made them
seem like dull times for me. I
would a gretal rather been out to your
partie so I could deneed ^a set with
you just for your sake and besides
you no that I always ^{was} very fond of
dancing but I am going to quit it
for I think that I have ~~been~~ done my
sheer of dancing, there is going to be
an other party in this settle ment

but I am not going to it
Billie you must never think that
I want prove true to you for
if I had ever intend any such thing
I would never of answered your
letters I have often thought of you
be fore I ever gotter a letter from
you and I didnt no whether you
would ever be spaired to ever write
to me or not, but I did earnestly
hope ~~but~~ I did that you would I
put all confidence in you.
I was shur that if you was spaired
to live and ever had an opportunity
that some day I would hear from
you, It is to bad to think of
all them nice times that we once
have seen together al tho them times
is all past and ^{you} but it is dreadful
hard for me not to think of
them and if I was not to see
you for a dozen years longer

Breckenridge Colo.

April, 9th 1866

Dear Billie,

I received your

a go and was very glad to hear from you
I would of wrote sooner, but I didn't have an opportunity of going to the post office, I don't like to mail a letter at any other post office away Breckenridge, and the boys have been so busy using the horses that I couldnt have time to ride to the office, I don't think that I didn't want to write sooner for I would write every week if could go to S.C, that often now please don't write back that you expect I didn't went to write sooner, well Billie I must tell you I seen Wash. Wethers, last wednesday at Kingston, and had a hearty shake hands with him and past a few minits very plesently chatting over old times he told me that haath the boys got home safe his family lives Richfield, he dont look like the same man I scarcely knew

I drinks a great deal, he got in to a littl row I will get out of the old B and send it a long end then you can see your self, William Wethers dont live on the Wash. H. farm nor is not going to his Brothers in law Mr Adams is going more on it, he is building a rite nice fram house on it, and is refencing the field Wash, told me that his brother said that he would like to own that farm of yours and he wanted to know much you would ask and acre for it Wash Filson

had it up for trial again this last court I will send you
the advertisement, now you can see for your self, but I am mis-
led to ashy for that want do any good now, I
think that a federal officer does or has done is
well I will drop this subject for I no that it wont prove to
a very plesent one for you Billie I am glad that you
left it to me to say when it would be safe for you to come
Billie if I was your I would not come here att all, for I think that
it would make you feel bad it would ~~not~~ fill your mind with
scenes of other days, and besides there is such set of blackys around
here and we are the only family around here except Mr Browns
but what I call blackys and there is nothings to bad for them to do
Billie I am here and hear them talk they dont care to talk and make
threats be fore me, I would be glad oh so glad if I knew there was no
danger for you to come, I would rather never see you than have you
come back here and any thing would happen you, I would give
any thing in ^{the} world ~~if~~ I could be ~~with~~ with you this evening I am here
all alone and I do fell so lonsome, I could tell you more than I can
write in one week and it would be so much plesenter, I wish you
wouldnt go on the plains this summer, for if you don't get
untill you come back and that will be to bad,
about coming back here, but let me come to you
say when you write please ^{say} which you are
wasent offensive at all I will send you something in return if you
think of any thing nice enough, but please tell me what you want
me to do with them, but tho I would like to have your photographs
or ambrotypes, if you will be so kind as to send it to a little scamp gr.
like me, this one of mine was taken last June, and I dont want
you to let my body see, and dont look at it more than one month
your self and that must by moon shine I would write more if I
had space and room from your best friend
(and also that pretty Cadell)

for ever, Donie,

April 20th 1866

My dear wife and daughter I now drop a few
lines to let you know that I am well excepting the rheumatism
I received your kind letter last munday and I under-
stood that had not got the letter of rote last & directed
it to Beaufortridge as I told you and I believe
your letter is there well I understand that you want
me to come home and help you about building
and I would like to come if I could I have not
sold my place yet I am trying ^{to} sell it all years
as soon as I can sell it I will come home and
help you about building I have some hopes of
selling to Bulles ~~connection~~ that is the dutch
man that I told you to see he looks favor-
able this spring they want to buy land as
near bulk as they can and they want a house
to go in four there is a large family of them
and they will have the money and that is
what I want so I think I will hold on a little
longer & will ^{try} about the size I want the house built
15 by 25 a porch on the south side a cellar the hole length
of the house I think I will be more in time to due the
heading and make the shingles so we can get it
to winter in I think I will bring all my house hold utensils
with me name or like my I want them but the table I will

please write to me same as you get this letter
write what ^{the} price of flour is and what the
price of bacon is I don't think of writing anything
more at present - best remain your old
father as ever Wm Gibson

the ground that cost thee scales will hold 2 gallons

Well Nannie I must tell you something about our country it is very pleasant in the summer except windig but cold in the winter. it is lonesome untill one gets acquainted & used to the country the people here is very dressy they will dress fine if they starve to death it is not very thickly settled yet But is setting up fast

We are never troubled with uncivilized Indians there are some civilized ones but none in our country

I have been thinking of visiting Mo. this fall but I guess I will have to put it off until spring if I had a photograph or ambrotype I would send it to you but I have none at this time I will be so glad to get yours you dont know how glad I feel when I even see a stranger that says he is from Mo. They are most all gone here I must bring my letter to a close excuse last writing my hand trembles to day write soon & give me all the news. Oh if I forgot to say John says he dont care if the pancake Baker is married he dont like pancakes as well as he used too. Good By I would venture to say

Nannie here is a ^{Kiss}
from your true friend Nellie
Baker

but I am afraid
you will say
confound Mall
Baker pile whip him

Little Blue

Apr. 29. 1866

My Well Remembered friend Nannie

I this place

day take my pen in hand to answer your kind & most welcome letter which com to hand not long since. I can assure you it was gladly received by me.

We are all latterly well I am not very well my self but that is most strange for me I do not enjoy good health nor has not for the last few years. I sincerely hope this will find you all well. I have nothing of importance to write to you however I must try to study up something

I am very lonesome to day I will tell

you what we are all doing to day if it is Sunday. Mr. Baker started to Marysville this morning to get some Blacksmithing done it is 40 miles. William & Joe. started to the River last Monday to go over the plains. it appears lonesome without them felt bad to see them start. ~~wouldnt you if you had been~~
John has gone to the post office. Henry is hunting a cow. Andy is staying with me reading a novel.

Now I must begin to make some apologies about not writing sooner. the Boys had there house ~~to~~ raising last week & you know that I had a heap to do & no one to help me. Only the Boys. I can say I think I have the best husband & brother in law in the world. Hattie you thought I might of written to you long ago. I will be honest & tell you the truth. do you remember the time your

8 Mrs. Click's think it was come to Georges & I spoke & asked you is that Nannie & you would not speak to me nor Bettie perhaps you had same reasons but I do not know them. I thought if you was mad at me of course you was not my friend & I would not do to write to but just in now until this cruel was was over I do not think far once that I think heard of you far & do not. I would give anything if you was here to day we could talk over all our old times that is past & gone never more to return. Hattie do you remember the time you fell behind the bed & broke the little wheel & hurt your arm. & do you remember the night I was at your house Mr. Baker & me & William & you & Joe & Julia had that little spark. I was head over heels in love them. Wasent you too

Baker
M^r & John & my self went to
Beatrice to the picnic & Dance it is
about 35 miles they had to go to Mill
& we had some acquaintances there we had
a nice time & on the road home I got
your letter. Henry was not well & Andy
~~stayed with him~~ Hannie & flattered myself
that I have 5 of the best looking & smartest
Baptist Brethren in this that ever walked the
Soil of Nebraska, Hannie is here a girl
to do my work & am most stout & the Boys
will not let me do all this country is setting
up very fast we have numerous visitors to
day & prettie girls with them.

John says tell you he plays the fiddle yet
Mr Baker started to Nebraska City this morn
to haul (a load) tell me if you know
why Mollie Naylor never answers my letter
please write as soon as you can excuse
bad writing the house is full of all talking
Good By my true friend Hannie Gilson
Yours Mollie Baker

Little Blue Farm July the 8. 1866

My Dear friend Hannie
I this pleasant evening take my
pen in hand to answer your most
welcome & long looked for letter which
came to hand on the 6 of this month
it found us all well with the exceptions
of the headache which is nothing strange
for me you cannot imagine the pleasure
it gave me to read your letter it so seemed
as if I were talking with some old friend
well Hannie I have nothing strange to
write at present. we was glad to hear that
your Pa had got home once more
well Hannie about that talk that you heard
I had said about you if any body ever told
you that I ever talked about you it
is a falsehood I dont care who it was if
it was my own sister it is a lie

far, I had never heard a word that you
had said about me in my life. it is true
I had heard some few things that your
mother had said about me when I was
first married but it did not amount to
much but that all the reason that I never
~~went to your house~~^{but} last summer I staid
at Georges & wanted to go to your house
but I did not feel right to go but it is
all forgot now tell your mother that Mr.
Baker says that he will never forget her
for she could of had him taken & killed
if she had bin his enemy. we told all the
who had been our friends & whom had
been our foes. well Annie we head from
the Boys a bout 2 weeks ago they was still
at Leavenworth but intended to start the
1 of this month we despatch our letter to
Council's grave, well Annie I must tell you
about my garden we had no frost on the 28
of May that killed all the early garden.

But we have some frost & heat but our
vegetable are late, but I think we will
have plenty of meat we want to make
10 barrels of meat this fall we will have
things squared around about right when
you come if can find and when to look for
you. Annie don't get mad at me for writing
well & will try to tell you about our country
I do not know anything about any of the
places you mentioned except the Little Blue
we live one side & the farm on the other
the Boys is building their house on the
other other side, a bout 1 mile from here
then places that you named must have
been on some other road we live 3 miles
from the Atchison & California Overland
Stage line we live 10 miles from Big
Sandy 10 miles from Rock creek 5 miles
from the Virginia Station 40 miles from
Marysville about 150 miles above the
mouth of the little blue, I must tell you
how we spent the 4

Hannie you dont care if I quit writing &
take a piece of grape pie & some bread & butter
you are hungry & while I eat & will think of
you & of the pleasure it will be for us to be
together once more far & da before you will
come you let me eat bacon cake but I believe
it to be so & its whiskers never without asking
when to look for you & am off and to and you
dare fear you will say Mabel Baker is a little to
smart now though a little & wish I had a hen
there to help you eat watermelons but Mrs.
Baker makes me sleep behind every time I
eat a bite of melon & he says & disturb him
Hannie tell me how many children Cartine
& John has & heard Old Stearnson married
his Cot & girl that used to work for my
sister tell me if they have any children &
know she had one tell me if any one is making
an Sallie Sophie Well talk like she was
going to get married this fall & will have
to quit writing my ink & paper at both
going to give out

Little Blue ^{any} Farm Oct 1st 1866

Well remembered friend
Hannie I am more take my pen in hand to
answer your kind & most precious letter
which come to me & tell me to go right about &
think that you are not forgotten by my old
Hannie that would not all that I
hope at all good you all
I have nothing of much interest
but it is a pleasure for me to lay a hand
of something in the first place I will tell you
that I am all alone & would give anything
if you was here to talk with me. Mrs Baker is
going to Big Sandy it is only 10 miles from
Henry & Andy is gone over to Sado creek it
is only 4 miles & stayed at home ~~and~~ paper
expressly to write letters as I have so much
work to do through the week & do not get time
I have no girl to help me now.)

Manie your letter was ignet the kind of a
letter & like to read it tells all the particulars
and asks questions you like s do. You wished
to know @ bout the new house you seemed
to think it would be land lady of it but no
I don't know will be the mistress, to you
Mr. Baker & me has to stay in the cabin yet
we intend to build part of all up we can't
their house has two large rooms & a parlor
the front is believe 16 by 30 it is not finished
yet the carpenter is going to work in the
morning, it will be to me taking logs
boards that is all the kind we have out here
we are @ going to have a big ^{you} dance when it is
finished I want to be here to help manage it
Ab. must tell you the importance of our garden
the last of August the grasshoppers came from
off the flowers and eat every living thing
except the early corn that was too hard for them
they ain't @ single cabbage stalk left. you
have no idea unless you could have seen
them how thick they was they flesh had

three days in clouds by times you could
scarcely see the sun. we was making such
large calculations as having so many
vegetable for winter but that is all played out
there were some plums & grapes there is no
end to them I am digging now. There is plenty
of Turkey & deer & some Elk & Bear & Otter
& Mink & Ridges & Mice & bats & Wolves
& Buffaloes within 14 miles the country is
getting up very fast I think it will be a
good country after while we have some dances
I will tell you how the people live out here
they live in cabins & in dirt and ashes &
have homemade furniture & little to eat
& dress as fine almost @ they do in the cities
they are very fashionable & first everything
they can make & scarp & there looks
they don't quite all live that way they is
some tolerable good houses & some good house
keepers but scarce, I got a letter from
Mollie Maye a short time ago she sent
me her photograph it looks so natural

C. A. Hammann, Sup't
ST. LOUIS, MO.

J. J. S. Wilson, Gen. Sup't,
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

Chicago & Mississippi Telegraph Company.

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J. BASSNETT, Secy., Ottawa, Ill.

J. D. CATON, Pres't., Ottawa, Ill.

Oct 18

186

By Telegraph from Saint Joseph
To Wm Baker

Came an fm 5
O'clock train answer

Norman Gideon
OK 50 each

C. A. Hammann, Sup't
ST. LOUIS, MO.

Chicago & Mississippi Telegraph Company.

J. J. S. Wilson, Gen. Sup't.
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J. BASSNETT, Secy., Ottawa, Ill.

J. D. CATON, Pres't., Ottawa, Ill.

OCT 9 8 1860

By Telegraph from Breckinridge Mo
To Miss Annie Gibson Jr

I will be there at 8 o'clock
tonight = Wm Baker

8 Ry 50蒲

I have a photograph of the place shown here it

- Blue.

Litt. Nebraska Territory

January 13rd 1867

Dear friend Jennie,

I have just received your
most welcome favor and perused
its contents with pleasure. Oh Jennie
you never can imagine the real pleasure
and satisfaction it was to me to read
your letter. It is the second letter that
I have had since I left home I
got a letter from Perry I have
never had one word from home since
then. I guess what you wrote when
you sent me a file. Tell me what
they was all doing up in Caldwell
for I no you can come nearer making
a natural history than any body. Now
Jennie if mother and Lil does come you
must be sure and come for I would
be as glad to have you come I

Opposite side of paper
top of page 10
will post your 6 money (= money paid
to post bird life in my book it costs 75)

want you to come and make your
home with us when I read your
letter and it said that you thought
of coming Henry said good for that
they bags all day that you Ambratyle
look very natural. Jennie we live just
~~but~~ one mile from Dan we live
~~on~~ on one side of the Little blue
and they live on the other Jennie I
started from home on 16th Oct and I
stayed one day in Breckinridge waiting
for Mollie Dyer to get ready to go
to St Joseph Mollie and I wrote to
William and he to meet us at
Leavenie Siccifliffs but it so hapened
that they never got our letter but we
did not no that so we started on
the ten o'clock train got to St Joe
at two o'clock and there ~~was~~
~~was~~ William met on the two

train that
o'clock went down and you see
we missed him well so Mollie
and I went ~~up~~ up to the Percepic
House and stayed till morning in
the morning we went to Lawrenceville ~~to~~
and William had been there the evening
before well then we dispatched
down to Breckenside for him to come
up on the eight o'clock train and
so he did and he went to the Percepic
and sent his card up to our room
but we wasn't there well so he
retired for the night and next
morning he came over to Mrs.
Lindseys and you bet there was
a joyful meeting there somewhere
well so we chated over matters
and things, well to make along
story short we was married ~~on~~
on the 9th at half past one o'clock
and then we started for Atchison
Dink George and Dolly both went

with us to the Depot well we
got to Atchison safe and sound, and
on the way Mollie met with an old
acquaintance, I will tell you his name
as ~~it~~ is ^{Mr.} S^r. Willson he was mooned in ^{the} knee
in that hill ^{over} Kinnard go fly around
Jennie come just tell me dont
this heat ~~say~~ ^{any} thing that
you ever heard, now Jennie please
~~don't~~ don't send this sketch sketch
to gads or Potters, for I am
afraid that every body else would
quit and I am sure I don't want them
to for I don't like to write well
enough to keep ~~the~~ them a go ^{so} tell
Bettie to write to me, tell ya her ma
that I havent for gone what good
corn bread she youst to Bake tell
will and ~~say~~ ^{ask} her to write ~~she~~ well
as it is geting late I shall soon
have to close. I must tell you
who is here and what we are doing

A MOTHER'S LOVE.

What an unselfish thing is a mother's love for her baby! No other ever equals it. Children love their parents partly because they are so necessary to them—because all good things are the gifts of their hands—because they are the wonderful, powerful creatures who keep danger away, and bring about their pleasures. The all-absorbing love of after-life is never quite unselfish. We love both passionately and tenderly, perhaps, but it is because we know ourselves to be beloved—because of the personal charms or fine mental qualities of the object of our affection; but a baby—what does a baby do to win such all-absorbing love from its mother? If any grown mortal gave her such ceaseless anxiety, such pain and toil and trouble, and such wakeful nights, and in return gave no greater mood of love or gratitude, how long would her affection endure? Yet this small red thing, not yet beautiful, so helpless that it cannot hold its head up properly—that is almost always in a paroxysm of grief from unknown causes, save when it has such legitimate reason for woe as the colic, or an ill-placed pin—something that robs her almost entirely of all her former pleasures: this she adores—this she avishes her heart's wealth of tenderness upon—would wake for, toil for, starve for if necessary, die for if need be.

It is such an unselfish love that purifies the soul as nothing else does.

An uncharitable woman, cold to others' woes at most times, will become a Lady Beautiful while her babe lies at her breast. She will be very generous to ragamuffins of all sorts, because "once they were babies." A little thing just like hers, perhaps. All the beggar-women in creation can have a dole from her if they will, but whisper, "I buried the like of that babby last week, mum." Oh, if she should lose her baby, she could not live—could not, could not. But we do live, do we not, mothers? For the little graves are legion, and only mothers' hands would dress them for years and years with such fond care. We live, but there is nothing in our lives for ever like that little snow-drop that withered in our heart's garden. It has as much individuality to us as any man or woman we have ever known, and we expect to meet it in the other world, our baby still, not some glorified spirit past all recognition.

I knew one dear old woman who had lost parents, husband, and all other relatives; she could talk calmly of them all; but when she spoke of "little Eliza," she always burst into tears. And "little Eliza" died at five months old, before her mother was eighteen.

The woman who has never had a baby of her own is only half a woman, and only half knows the sweetness of life. And even when our babies leave us, the memory of the love we once felt perfumes the heart forever.

MARY KYLE DALLAS.

Rock Creek, Nebraska, T.

April 20th /807,

Darling Fannie

I am happy to say good evening to altho it is by the way of silent correspondence

Oh Fannie you dont know often I do think of you and wish you was here it is such a pretty warm day when I look out and it is so pleasant altho we are so far apart it dont seem as tho you was coming this evening, it reminds me of other days Fannie when we would expect each other and we would be so glad to see

each other. fernie I dont think we ought the country better than I could write dont
to be a part from one another for you do say and any thing about it tho
we always got along so well and thought so well fernie I must tell you what we
much of each other, oh fernie this makes have been doing this week I havent been making
me shed bitter tears, for some times I feel soap the first I ever made in my life I
London where william is gone. I want you had splendid luck, Joe and John started on
to come at the first opportunity now I the plains last Monday, and william has
will tell you there is a man talking of been doing wheat Henry has been helping and
going to pass with a wagon and I guess and Andy herds the cattle, oh yes fernie I
he wont have much load and I want you made some gardens to day, dont you say
and mother to come out. the man says lady for me, I think I will have some
he may be there the last of May or the middle lettuces and peas against your time,
of June) ~~as soon as~~ I will too if nothing well I cant think of any thing else only
happens to prevent his trip, tell mother William is going to the P's, and Linda is
so, write soon ~~as soon as~~ so I will no going ^{tomorrow} fishing so I will bid you a pleasant
where you are do your ut most to get ready good evening, and go and make a fire in the
to come, and if this opportunity should fail stove and chairs and get supper,
I will contrive some other for I do want you fernie expect my best love to gether with
to come, I think a gaunt fact that the the Bays tho there is more of them present
railroad will be in forty miles of us tho I no they would if they was here for they
fernie has been your P's and I expect he often talk of you he sure and write soon
told him all that was necessary about from your good friend, Maria, Baker.

the Indians not so bad

Eliya said she well rec'd
your a letter with the
quilt pattern in it & think
white deedes well decorated
inver got in letter from you
that she come in October
believeably i have sent them
very well this winter
we are all well at this time
John Falke is well want
you to clought as mableas
you please mableas i set
it with a geaching heath
I will respect William
Ferry is in Gilson
Milwaukee at fall city site to him to
see good day

To Jenkins Mills Jones County

February the 16. 1868

i received your letter
to day and was glad to hear
from you i sent you a letter
in desember we moved in our
new house the last day of
November bushy sent you
a letter we sent ^{it} to ~~zooches~~ post
office herston is married
and lives in Hillcat the old
Mrs herston she was well
She said she would like to see
you better than any body
in the world you ^{would} make her
feel a live when she was all
most dead with trouble she
sees a great deal of trouble
old William Brown has ^{rely} sole
all his children many ^{have} home
bill marsh his ellick

and told them to never to com
back miss brown is almost
givin to death about it old John
philips has sold out and is a
young to leeses andy is a going
and riders to ridish meet
has got a boy miss mckee ^{and}
dozen ~~is~~ and beth and his
wife frankie and wife all
a going to elminise this
spring the have move our
old school house down
one mile south of rally
jenkens we are all very
mad about it we had the
~~last~~ school year every
the have broke it up and
agreed sing ^{ing} school sistons

iam in such a hurry i
can't write in my
tonite as soon as you can
and tell me about the
midian if they are as bad
as ever the know one
mess is a coming in a
year or two are you to see
how the are a bying up
in one year the want
be afoot of land here and
towaway city on maxi
desire in the moshe
~~out~~ country is good
land you at sell out and
go down there and buy
apartments

14th 1869

can make two hundred dollars
on the trade we will have
bring him out here so he can
enter it and i expect we will
have to take him back if we
do i will come down after you
if that is the case i will see
the weather

all
stay
this winter ~~and~~ the
nicest winter i ever seen so far
our cattle is all fat so far we
haven't any young calves yet
but is lacking for some every
day i think old black tail will
come in pretty soon
i will send this letter by ~~to~~
and the ~~will~~ mail at ~~that~~ ~~we~~
i will close hoping to hear
good news from you soon
so fair well for this time

W. C. Linn

P.S. old lady your ducks
is all right if i thy will common
living pretty soon from the sines i seen the
other day.

Sunday evening January the

Dear manie i am at home alone
to night the boys is all gone to
rose creek a hunting and will
write you a few lines i received
your letter late December

the ~~such satisfac~~
~~to hear from~~ ~~i~~ ~~maud~~ ~~and~~
~~to hear that~~ ~~maud~~ was getting well
a gain i was so uneasy about her
i could not rest night nor day
your letter was one month on
the road you said in your letter
that you had not got a letter
from me since i left there i
wrote one the same day i got
home and this is the fifth letter
that i have wrote to you since
i got home i directed the first
to you and all the rest to
maud i can't see why you don't
git them i smoke something

a bout coming home this
winter on the railroad i would
like for you to bee here very much
but the mail is so uncertain you
might ~~not~~ ^{not} get ~~it~~ ^{it} at Waterville two weeks before
i would get ~~it~~ ^{it} then i think you
had better ~~come~~ ^{come} and
i will come up ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ march
~~but if~~ ^{if} you have wrote to me
that you will be at Waterville
before you get this letter come
a head and i will meet you there
if i get your letter in time if you
~~do~~ ^{do} come there and i dont get there
in a day or two you can go to
old Bill Staleys and you will
see all right till i do come he
lives in a mile or so of town you
can get some body to take you to
his house i will tell you how the
country is improving since you
left here there ~~it~~ ^{it} has been

a town laid out in one mile
of her by the name of Fairbury.
They are laying the foundation for
a large store house and there will
be a steam mill here next
week. He ^{is} at the head
of ~~the~~ ^{only}
has got ~~for~~ ^{for} a post office
they will see a black Smith he
to marrow) it is getting late i
will close far to night the boys will
be back to marrow and i will
let you no what luck they had
so good by for to night Wm Baker

Jan the 18th the boys has got
home they killed five deer and
one wildcat and it was not
a good day for hunting either
marie Joe is going to start down
to see old man Ryburn to maybe
to buy his place i think we

Denton Texas Jan'y 1st 1874

Mr H. M. Baker

Fairbury Neb.

Found William of family

Gorm

kind letter came to hand in due time but my being
absent hunting a locality for farming operations
presented its reception by me & hence the delay
in an early reply. I have determined to try my
fortune this year in Paul's Valley Ind Territory

decidedly the best farming country that I have
seen since I left Neb. I believe the best
country

farming I ever saw, I design growing corn
& feeding cattle thereby making a market for
the corn I raise. I also design dealing in
cattle this summer it being the best
thing I see now I will act in concert
with an old cattle man a Missourian
and a man who bears as fair a name for
honesty & uprightness as any in the country
& a man who knows a cow bridle upon sight

Perry is getting along very well I know nothing
of him than that of a gentleman, I design taking
him to Pauls Valley with me if he will go, I will
see him with regard to the matter to day.

Joe Elliott left for Dallas before I returned
from the valleys, Texas does not suit him.

If you or any of your brothers should
come to Texas your market route will be
by way of Pauls Valley on the Washita.
I would be pleased to see you & believe
I could be of service to you Pauls Valley
is a point on what is known as the lower Cattle
trail inquire at the Valley store for ^{Bry.} Hutchins
who can tell you of my whereabouts

It seems mighty to me that you are fixing
up in Nake, for a life time, but if you are content
then it is the place for you, but let what ever
raise corn & feed cattle you can market your
corn at 50cts per bu. by so doing & drive your
stock from Texas I will expect some of you
this spring. wife will write Mrs. B soon.

Yours truly

Dr. G. W. Martin

Wellannie i will give
you some news there has been
over on rock creek old Stakeum
and his wife and daughter
had a fine fight old Stakeum
got several of his teeth rotted
out and his wife got her jaw
broken and the girl was badly
bruised up so no more write
soon and let me know how you
are gitting along.

J. J. Baker

P.S. Annie i have been
looking over the papers and
i can't find that dead at
mine wrote in your next
letter if it is in yours
please J. J. J.

To Jenkins Mill Jones County
Nebr

87

January 6th
I sent myself to inform
you that we are all well
expecting that we have a well
bad cold. Many of us sorry to
hear that Elwood is sick of hope
that this will find Elwood and
you well have you wanted me
to write to you to let you know
if William is back again trouble
in coming home back he had
done trouble with Mary he
give out he planned to strafe him
if Annie agree if William now in
hunting we went in hunting but
the Indians were so thick and we
had to come home we got home
the day after Christmas they have
ain fare or five place out here this
winter Annie free and go some where
is going a hunting in a few days

have if you caught duck
in our parlor you would think
we were the best duck keeper you
ever saw we are getting Batesys
to wash for us Anna J will quit
to let William write same.

Andrew

Dearest nannie i was so sorry
to hear that grand was sick
i am going to the post office to
inquire to see if there is a
letter from you i am so anxious
to hear from mad i will
be so ready and i have
from her dont spend any
pains or expens if they can
be done thing done for her
and i will see it paid
you said you had not got
a letter from me since i

left there i have a note
three letters to you since
i got home i wrote a letter
to you the same day i got
home it got to a gal that
before you wrote to me
you said that the weather was
very cold here it has been
the nicest weather here i ever
seen we here had no winter
here yet it is so warm to day
it is not comfortable... nannie
there was several parties here
a christmas and new year but
i was not at any of them
they sent a printed invitation
in the blue valley record
for me and you to attend
a big ball at the Hubert
house in Leaven if you had
a been here we would a went
for the winter was so nice

From Rockcreek

Sunday Evening.

— My Dear Friend & Family

Through many
long years I recollect since ^{last} we last met.
Since we last met I have as hitherto found
no opportunity to write to you in his letter
Fannie should often have thought of you
as we do at Montreal if you still remembered our
old times, although the last time it can
now not yet be much brachile. But now
how time is past & gone but never to
be regained by me, but Fannie we have
so nice pleasant little home & so more
pleasure than I have seen for 4 years
I would like to see you the best in the world
I am lame now out in this country & I want
you to send me your photograph & you
have it. — Fannie & I must tell you a little
more we are here this evening our friend

From the organ, and from St. Peter.

Hallie in Hamilton & Long Island I wish
you from Julia & did not know that she
was here we was not had heard so many
bad reports against her that i do not
know whether to believe them or not
and i will tell you what i think she
had become she does not seem to you
that have to right the way in telling
around the fire and am sitting at the station
writing, & you will see all we all the
most write about things you can think of
and all about the Brookbridge folks
& every thing else. Greet your sister to
Hallie in Harbor Rock Creek for me
I must close now as my best writing
is gone & much time was at home practice
and look at me if you all have any time
the name of patient but i will come
over there directly and say in it whether

Friend C. on the 1st of Feb.
F. M.

\$18⁶⁹

No. 555

Treasurer's Office, Jefferson County, Nebraska,

Received Oct 1, 1868

Received of Daniel Baker

Eighteen Dollars, in full for the following

Taxes, for the year 1866

| DESCRIPTION | Lot. | Blk | Sec. | Tp. | Rge | Acr's | Kind of Tax. | Am't. | Penalty. | Int. | How Paid |
|-------------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-------|---------------|---------|----------|------|----------|
| | | | | | | | State Gen'l, | .. | .. | | |
| | | | | | | | State S. F. | .. | .. | | |
| | | | | | | | State School, | .. | .. | | |
| | | | | | | | Bridge, | .. | .. | | |
| | | | | | | | Co. Gen'l, | 5.52 | | | |
| | | | | | | | Co. Sinking, | 2.21 | | | |
| | | | | | | | Road, | .. | .. | | |
| | | | | | | | Poll, | 5.00 | | | |
| | | | | | | | Poor, | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Dist. School, | 2.21 | 157.225 | | |
| | | | | | | | C. House, | | | | \$18.69 |
| | | | | | | | Advertising, | | | | |
| | | | | | | | TOTAL | \$18.69 | | | |
| | | | | | | | Daniel Baker | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Treasurer, | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Deputy. | | | | |

~~§ 32~~ ¹⁰³

No. 57

Treasurer's Office, Jefferson County, Nebraska,

Bidwell, Oct. 1, 1868

Received of William Baker

Thirty two.⁸² ¹³Dollars, in full for the following
¹⁰⁰

Taxes, for the year 1867.

Thomas Henry

Treasurer,

Deputy.

Total Amount of Co. orders \$ 23.13
Amount Received 22.50
.63 Bal

100% of above

\$4.16

Treasurer's office Jones County, Miss., No. 1, Vol. 1

Begun on the 1st January, 1866.

Received of Daniel Baker \$4.16 Dollars in full of the following taxes

Part of fee,

at

to

the

kind of tax

Territorial 45-

P.D. School fund 36

P.D. Sink fund 27

County tent 44-

P.D. Sink fund 27

Land & D. Taxed

Road & Toll 2.00

P.D. School fund 36

Daniel Linsley

\$4.16

Thomas Helms Treasurer

\$6.00

No. 37

Treasurer's Office, Jefferson

County, Nebraska,

April 29th 1869

Received of John Barber

Six (6)

Dollars, in full for the following

100

Taxes, for the year 1868.

| DESCRIPTION. | Lot. | Blk | Sec. | T.p. | R'ge | Acr's | Kind of Tax. | Am't. | Penalty. | Int. | How Paid |
|--------------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|---------------|-------|----------|------|----------|
| A. M. H. | 15 | 2 | 2 | E | 2 | | State Gen'l, | 75 | | | |
| | | | | | | | State S. E. | 45 | | | |
| | | | | | | | State School, | 60 | | | |
| | | | | | | | Bridge, | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Co. Gen'l, | 150 | order | | |
| | | | | | | | Co. Sinking, | 60 | | | |
| | | | | | | | Road, | 150 | | | |
| | | | | | | | Poll, | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Poor, | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Dist. School, | 60 | | | |
| | | | | | | | C. House, | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Advertising, | | | | |
| | | | | | | | TOTAL. | 600 | | | |

Ives Marks

Treasurer,

Deputy.

S 46,83

No. 35

Treasurer's Office, Jefferson.

County. Nebraska,

18

Received of Mr. Barker for Self & Brothers
Fifty (45) Dollars, in full for the following
Taxes, for the year 1865

\$ 65.31 Treasurer's Office, Jefferson Co., Nebraska, No. 569

April 29.

1871

Received of William Baker

Sixty five and

$\frac{31}{100}$ Dollars,

in full of the following TAXES, for the year 1870, on the annexed PROPERTY or REAL ESTATE:

| PART OF SECTION OR NAME OF TOWN. | Section or Lot. | Town or Block. | Range or Lot. | Acres or Block. | Kind of Tax. | Paid in Cash. | In Warrants. | Interest. | Total. |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|--------|
| Personal Property | | | | | State General Fund. | 6.73 | | | |
| NW 4 | 15. | 2. | 28 | 160 | State Sinking Fund. | 1.35 | | | |
| NW 4 | 22. | 2. | 2 | 160 | State School. | 5.38 | | | |
| | | | | | State University. | 2.70 | | | |
| | | | | | County General Fund. | | 16.15 | | |
| | | | | | County Sinking Fund. | | | | |
| | | | | | Land Road. | | 8.00 | | |
| | | | | | Poor Fund. | 1.00 | | | |
| | | | | | District School. | 9.62 | | | |
| | | | | | Poll. | | 10.00 | | |
| | | | | | C School | 5.38 | | | |
| | | | | | Advertising. | | | | |
| | | | | | TOTAL. | 32.16 | 34.15 | | 65.31 |

[ORIGINAL.]

J. C. Rose Treasurer
T. J. Galt Deputy

\$45⁹⁰

No. 50

Treasurer's Office,

Jefferson County, Nebraska,

April 14 1870

Received of Mr. Baker

Forty Five (45) $\frac{90}{100}$ Dollars, in full for the following
Taxes, for the year 1869

| DESCRIPTION. | Lot | Bk | Sec. | Tp. | Rge | Acr's | Kind of Tax | Am't. | Penalty | Int. | How Paid |
|--------------|-----|----|------|-----|-----|--------|---------------|-------|------------|------|----------|
| S.W. 1/4 | | 22 | 22 | 2 | | | State Gen'l. | 440 | | | |
| N.W. 1/4 | | 15 | 22 | 2 | | 32 1/4 | State S. F. | 220 | | | |
| | | | | | | | State School. | 330 | | | |
| | | | | | | | Bridge. | 220 | University | | |
| | | | | | | | Co. Gen'l. | 1540 | order 1540 | | |
| | | | | | | | Co. Sinking. | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Road, | 800 | Road | 1300 | |
| | | | | | | | Poll, | 500 | Poll | | |
| | | | | | | | Poor, | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Dist. School, | 540 | | | |
| | | | | | | | C. House, | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Advertising, | | 100 | 1750 | |
| | | | | | | | | 4590 | | | |
| | | | | | | | TOTAL. | | | 5590 | |

Jules Martin Treasurer,

Deputy.

NEBRASKA STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

978.258
D32

FONDER TALES
of the Oregon Trail



and
Jefferson County

CHARLES DAWSON

he was elected Secretary of State, serving until 1882, afterward serving as Adjutant-General and holding many prominent positions in the G. A. R. and insurance companies of the State. Mr. Alexander died in the year 1911, survived by his wife and four children,—Mrs. C. F. Spain, Mrs. A. J. Brooks and daughter, Gertrude of Lincoln, and a son, R. C., of Topeka, Kansas.

DANIEL FREEMAN, THE FIRST HOMESTEADER.

Daniel Freeman, of Gage county, has the distinction of being the first homesteader in the United States, filing entry No. 1 upon a homestead located in Section 26, Town. 4, Range 5, about four miles west of the city of Beatrice, in the valley of Cub creek. Mr. Freeman was a soldier during the Rebellion, and was home on a furlough which would expire on the second day of January, 1863, and the homestead act was to take effect on the same date. Therefore Freeman journeyed to the land office at Brownville and prevailed upon the officials to remain awake with him on the night of January 1st, until after midnight, so that he might file on the homestead and return to his command without breaking his furlough. This request was complied with, and the records show that his entry was No. 1, proof of residence was No. 1, patent was No. 1, and all recorded on page 1, of Book 1, at the Government Land Office, now located in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Freeman continued to live upon his homestead, rearing a large family, taking a deep interest in all public affairs, finally ripening into old age, still preserved in his manly proportions, erect, and lithe of step and movement.

Mr. Freeman passed away in 1910, mourned by his many friends, especially the early pioneers of Gage and Jefferson counties, with whom he had mingled and experienced the trials and hardships of pioneer life.

THE BAKER BOYS.

The Baker boys were among the first pioneers of the county, coming from the State of Missouri, in the years 1863-4-5.

They homesteaded land lying close together and worked in common for many years, in the pioneer days. Their main business at the homesteads was farming and the raising of live-stock. Like nearly all the early settlers, they freighted across the "Plains" to earn their livelihood, during the summer months. The Baker boys freighted down the Santa Fé Trail during 1864-5-6, besides some between their place and the Missouri river.

While the boys did not take an active part in the politics of the county, nevertheless they had the best interest and welfare of the people ever in mind, and had they been of different political faith, perhaps most of their names would have been enrolled as public men.

As a family the Bakers are one of the best known and popular of the county. Only two of the brothers survive, Andy and William, who are living in retirement in the city of Fairbury. A brief biography of all is given:

Andy Baker.

Andy Baker was born in Missouri, in 1844. Came up the "Old Oregon Trail" the spring of 1863, settling

on a homestead in Sec. 4-2-2; married Miss Mary Beattie in 1870. No children.

Dan Baker.

Dan Baker was born in Tennessee, in the year 1832. Came with his parents to Missouri in the year 1844. Followed farming here till 1863, then came up the "Trail" to Jefferson county, and filed on a homestead later on, close to that of Andy's. Dan took quite an interest in the business affairs and life of Fairbury, and spent most of his life therein. He married Miss Mary Ritchie, who passed away in 1905, leaving no children. Mr. Baker died in 1907.

William Baker.

William Baker was born in Tennessee, in the year 1835. Came to Missouri in 1844, and to Nebraska in 1864. William bought his homestead from Joel Mattingly, and has continued to reside thereon ever since, Fairbury growing up in his front yard. He married Miss Nannie Gibson in the late 60's, who died in 1872, leaving two children who afterwards became Mrs. Maud Kavanaugh, and Mrs. Hattie Campbell.

Joseph Baker.

Joseph Baker was born in Tennessee, in 1837. Came to Missouri in 1844, and to Jefferson county, Nebraska, in 1864, homesteading on a tract of land across the river from William, where he continued to reside for many years. He married Miss Lulu Morris, and the following are the children: Carl, Donald, James, Jefferson, Arch, Edith, and Kate.

John Baker.

John Baker was born in Tennessee, in 1839. Came to Missouri in 1844, and to Nebraska in 1864. John was never married, and died in 1904.

Henry Baker.

Henry Baker was born in Missouri, in 1847. Came to Nebraska in the year 1865. Henry never married, and died in the year 1909.

GEO. WEISEL.

George Weisel was born at Gommern, Germany, in the year 1827, and emigrated to America in 1858. Migrating westward through the States, he finally joined a company of gold-seekers *en route* for Pike's Peak; but by the time he had reached the vicinity of Big Sandy, his conservative German mind impelled him to desert further journeying and to take advantage of the opportunity offered there to make money in a general ranching business.

Weisel erected a building just above Patterson's ranch, and here for many years did a good business with the travelers of the Trail. Weisel was a typical character of the early German pioneer, and upon his slowly-thought-out conservative judgment, much of Big Sandy's success in history rests. Weisel might be termed the sturdy, progressive and sound business man of the Big Sandy, and in consequence he was identified with nearly every business or political undertaking, serving in different capacities as a county, precinct or school officer.

Mr. Weisel, foreseeing the adaptability of the waters