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Family correspondence, 1838, 1855-1874.

Hastings, Lucy A.

[s.l.]: [s.n.], [s.d.]

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1838, Oct 6
I have sent you the proof of the
Blom Prairie, Wis. Oct. 6th /38.

My dear Leonard,

I've just written a letter to the publishers of the S. S. Advocate, telling them to send their paper to "Leonard W. Colby of Freeport, Me." for one year, commencing with Oct. So, if nothing happens to prevent, you will receive a paper, semi-monthly, for one year - I think you will like it. This I never saw it until this morning. Perhaps there are some others papers that would suit you better, but I didn't know the address, & besides I think it is a pretty good paper.

Read it, & tell me how you like it: there are a good many pictures, & I think that would please you - The postage is 6 cents if paid quarterly in advance, but I will pay that for you.

But 'tis time to go to school, & I'll finish this letter some other time.

8th Sunday noon. My dinner is not here, &
while I'm waiting for the little boys to
bring it, I'll finish this page. I
have only 3 days more to teach, after this,
and then I expect I shall go home - Wish
you could go with me! Your school
has closed, I suppose, & you & David are at
home - How do you spend the time? Do
you work any? Does "Pet" grow? You
mustn't let her forget me - Have you
read any new books since I came away?

I intended to write you a long letter before
~~this time~~ ^{now}, but I've had no time. You must
accept this short note, & I'll try to do better
next time - I want you to answer, of
course - If you write in the course of a
week, address Geneva - But you will
have when I get home, for I shall write
to somebody - - Be a good boy, my
dear Leonard - Say to be, at least, would
you? You know I always loved you, &
I shall never forget how kind you were
to me - Be kind to your ma & little Pet,
for my sake - Some time I hope to see you again.
Write me just as long letters as you choose, I
shall be glad to get them - There are a dozen kisses for
Leonard from Annie.

Oxford May 9th 1855.

Dear Brother & Sister. When I left home I intended to have written you before this but have been so situated that I could not very well untill now, untill a week past we have been dodging about, remaining but a short time in one place, we had a very good journey, did not meet with any accident to ourselves but our trunks met with hard usage, locks & hinges broke &c, I mean had to keep buying bed cords to tie them up with, still we did not lose anything, it is astonishing how they throw baggage about, it needs iron trunks to travel west with, the journey agreed with me well, I would like to give you a description of numerous places we past, but it is hard to do it on paper, we crossed on the Suspension bridge at Niagara, had a fine view of the falls, it made me dizzy to look down into

the water, you can hardly imagine what
a curiosity ^{the} suspension bridge is, the west
is a fine country, the broad prairies look
beautiful, almost beyond description. how
I ^{wish} you could see the nice farms in many
places, the town of Elgion in the northern
part of Illinois I think the most
beautiful place I have seen, it seemed
almost like a paradise, land is very high
there, wood scarce there, imagine how it would
seem to cast your eye 5 miles or more
almost on a level & scarcely a tree to be
seen, & this is but a beginning of some
places. We started from Greenfield
April 4th arrived at Sister Almira's the
6th found all well, she has got a pretty
place & if the girls have their health will
do well, brother Lyander was there, was not
intending to work on the railroad long, knew
not what he should do, thought he should
not go east at present,

Cifford is a smart little village just
beginning to be built up, there are two

stores a Tavern & Sawmill & Flouring mill, blacksmith shop &c, a large store & Meetinghouse to be built this summer, besides many dwelling houses. Mr Hastings is at work here carpentering, he has bought 80 acres of land about 5 miles from here, but will not build on it yet, as he has not enough to get team &c to go to farming this summer, nearly all the Government land about here that is good is being taken up, people are after it thick as bees. We are now boarding out, as our goods have not yet come, intend to keep house soon as we can, Smeads health is better than when we left Mass, it is much better for him to work out doors.

I like well, & am contented, the railroad is expected to run here before long, it does not seem much here as it does east everything is so different, but it will not cost half as much to live here as it does there, wheat 1 dollar

a bushel, potatoes 28 cents, eggs $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents
a dozen &c. there is plenty of wild game
here Pigeons by millions, I never saw such
a sight, they fairly darken the clouds at
times, there are some deer's I have seen
one bounding along. we have plenty of
very nice fish, Suckors & Pickerel weighing
six, eight & ten lbs, some more.

Well I must bring my letter to a
close for I must write to others also
Smead sends love & will write sometime,
he likes well. write us soon, direct
to Oxford, Marquette Co, Wisconsin.

Yours with affection

L. J. Hastings

1856, Apr 27

Oxford Apr 27th 1856.

Dear Brother & Sister,

It being rainy this sabbath morning we concluded to stay at home from meeting today, & as it is a busy time of the year we would spend a part of the time in writing to our friends,

We are both in the enjoyment of very good health & have been all through the cold winter, since my recovery from the ague I have been able to do all my work washing & ironing included. We hear you have had a very cold winter, we also have had the coldest winter people say that ever was known in Wisconsin, but have only had snow enough for beautiful sleighing all winter, the ground has now been settled as much as three weeks, grass has started considerably, in a week more there will be plenty of feed for cattle, winter wheat looks nice, Smead is going to sow five acres of Spring wheat & have on

acre of potatoes corn &c, he is going
to work at Carpentering again some
of the time for he has not any team
yet, he has bought a heifer coming in
about two or three weeks from now, so hope
to have milk & ^{make} our own butter, it is now
worth 20 cts a lb, eggs 12 1/2 per dozen, we do
have plenty of them to use, our hens are
doing nicely, ^{expect we shall have some chickens in ^{day or two} in ^{the} "} we also have plenty of pork
for we have just killed a good fat hog &
if you will come in & take supper with
us we will give you some fresh meat, have
also got a pig doing nicely, My little
Canary birds are ~~doing~~ well, I succeeded well
in bringing them out here, they were not so
much trouble as my carpet bag for I could
hang them up in the cars by my side, while
we were sometimes so crowded that I had to
~~have~~ ~~to~~ hang onto my carpet ^{bag} to keep it, they
seemed to enjoy the ride & would amuse the
passengers by their singing, sometimes there
were others who also had birds with them & when
they all got to singing we had music, dear
brother the bible says if meat make thy brother to

~~offend~~ I will eat none &c, the same
rule perhaps, ought to hold good in all things,
if we cannot lead them to see it is not right
to be offended, & want to dictate for us what
we shall have & do, I hope you have not,
& will not lose much sleep, for fear my
birds will eat us out of house & home why
are you dissatisfied with what we are satisfied
^{with} if it does not hurt you at all, they bid
fare to be much more profitable than our
hens for they will sell quick at from 2 to
5 dollars a pair & it only costs about one
cent & a half a week to keep them, I now
have a young pair about one week old &
are already spoke for, I can sell all they
raise, I have almost every day a new applicat
for some, so I hope you will now rest
more easy, but if my keeping them is
still an eyesore to you let me know it,
for I do ^{not} want to keep a stumbling block
in my brothers way, we have a very pleasant
place, have got some things planted in our
garden, some of our neighbors have got
cabbages up, the weather is very warm

here so that many days we do not
keep any fire except when cooking have
the door & window open also, Fish, Prairie
Chickens &, wild ducks, & pigeons we now have
here in abundance but as I need has not
got a gun we do not have any only when
our neighbors send us some, we perhaps
are not quite as much ^{among} savage people
as you think for, as Oxford & the other
towns about are settled mostly with Eastern
people who have come within 2 or 3 years,
but few have been here as long as 12 years
the manners customs & costumes do not
seem much different from Mass, but the
land, farms & many of the houses &c seem
to shew a great contrast, here ^{in the great west} are rich
men worth from 25 to 30 thousand dollars
& some double, & thrive, that ^{are} living in their
log houses of one room & a little chamber,
but these are rare cases, we have some as
nice houses as you do east, there are some
Indians about here, although there are none
who live very near ^{us} but ^{they} go about from place
to place, & sometimes come here, there are
now ^{out from} just the village a large number (some say two
hundred or more) come to have a Jubilee, we can
hear them hollow & drum although we are one mile
& a half from them, I do not feel so afraid

of them as I did when I first come out here, if they are treated well they seem quite friendly, when they come to a house they always come sly & peep into the windows first, or if the door happens to be open, stand a little ways off peep in, laugh, & hop about some, & talk in ^{their} language awhile, & if they are not spoken to after awhile they venture along & come in, & say Buzzoo (~~that is how~~ ^{floor sometimes,} ~~do you do~~) then set down on the ^{some of} them can talk our language quite well.

Sister Charlotte Mrs Spencer whom you spoke of I remember, she is about 75 miles a little east of south from us, we probably come within 12 miles of her in coming out here, as we staid in Janesville over night, & she cannot be far from there, two of our nearest neighbors at S Falls by the name of Dole are 38 miles south of us come on this Spring, & we are desily looking for another man who was to be here this month, Mrs Haynes brother has come out here this Spring & her

(Mr Hunt)

Father & Mother, talk of coming in Sept,
& there are quite a number of others whom
we knew scattered around us,

There has been quite a revival of Religion
in this place this winter, not any excitement
it has seemed like the spirit of God working
upon the hearts of men, Smead is one of
the converts, he was rather inclining to be
a skeptic, but such thoughts have now all
vanished & we are ~~to~~ trying to live a Christian
life, as for myself I have indulged a hope
rather over a year, but have never made
any public professions untill now, we
have joined the Methodist Class, & were two
weeks ago both baptized by immersion, four
others were baptized with us, we feel quite
anxious & interested to know your views
& feelings in regard to a future state, the
salvation of the soul is the ~~goal~~ grand of our
existence, the very purpose for which we
were made, dear brother do you think of these
things is your bible daily & read, & studied,
that you may know what is your duty

to God, do you ever pray before your
family or in secret & are ^{you} striving to do
every known duty in the fear & love of
God, think when we receive a favor from
man how ready we are to thank him &
also ^{ful} under obligations to him, & shall we be
less grateful to him from whom we receive
all things & to whom we owe all things,
Oh think of this, let not the cares & trials
of this life steal all your time & affections
from God, but prepare to meet him in peace
& may you, & yours, so live ~~that~~ together
with all our brothers & Sisters we may meet
an unbroken number
with all our loved friends who have gone
before us in ^{that} Spirit land, where all is peace,
love & joy & where partings are no more.

Well I think you cannot complain of this
being a short letter, I need has promised to
write a few lines so I will leave the other side
of this for him, I have not heard from our friends
in Michigan since Dec all well then, just had a
letter from Erastus wife, says his health is not very
good his lungs being much affected, also says sister Sarah
has been sick with a fever, I suppose you know
Eliza it is married, Joel has never written us I have
just sent him another letter & hope we shall get an
answer, write us often, Love to yourselves & children L. D. H.

well it seems Lucy has spun
out a long yarn, now I will try
to answer your questions that she has
omitted I think you hear more
about the Kansas trouble than we do
Such things dont trouble us much
we have some of Sharps rifles here to
hunt with, but I have got no gun
the people in the vicinity are down
on the Nebraska bill. & the action
of Congress upon questions affecting
Slavery, they are mostly strong friends
of freedom & equal rights,

I think there are not many
organizations of the Knownothings
in this vicinity there are some
in the large towns & cities there
is one in Portage 20 miles from us
I should like to see their principles
carried out, as to making money
at farming I cant do it without
a team & tools & I shall work out
this summer at Carpentering, those
who have got a team & tools land
broke & fenced, can make money
fast, & are ^{wheat is worth 1,12 Corn 75}
Oats 75 Potatoes 70 Beans, D, H

Sabbath Eve.

Sister Charlotte

I commenced writing on a half sheet thinking I should not more than fill it to you both, but I found I covered it too soon & I will scribble a little more to you, I have been kept at home from meeting on account of bad road & the weather today, this evening Smead has gone to a prayer Meeting held at one of our neighbors, & I am seated alone by my fireplace, would that you could come in & sit with me, but as that cannot be, I am thankful we can converse with our friends in this silent way, I am glad you have taken Oscar to live with you & wish his brother's & sisters were ^{as} well provided for, what a responsibility rests upon those who have the care of children, in order to bring them up so that they will be ornaments to society. The Typhoid fever has prevailed about here considerable this winter & people prophesy it is going to be more sickly on account of the severe winter, you Eastern people know but little of the hardships & deprivations of some of our western people who live in log houses, it would make your heart ache to look into some that I have seen since I left Mass, & yet the inmates seemed contented tough & happy, still a good share of the log houses are as warm & comfortable, as framed houses, but I have not yet got so accustomed to seeing them as to like their looks very well, I have three neighbors who live in such, but they are very comfortable, timber is so scarce & high that many who commence on new farms are obliged to put ^{up such} ~~them~~ until they can do better, Smead has just returned home & is going to finish a letter he commenced to his brother in Iowa & says that

brother must excuse him from writing this time, but says I must say a little in regard to farming, prices of produce &c wheat is 75 cts a bushel, Corn 75, Oats 60, Potatoes 50, butter 25 cts a lb & not much to be had at that, those who ^{like us} do not have a cow have to eat pork butter, we miss apples, think of us when you get your dish of them to eat around your fireside these winter evenings, dried ^{apples} are 15 cts a lb.

We have just been looking over our list of unanswered letters, & find we have eleven which have lain too long, & I must now close & write another

Our love to yourselves & the children direct your letters to us the same as you have done untill we tell you otherwise, hope to hear from you soon
Excuse errors for I have written in haste. L A H

1857, Jan 25

Oxford Jan 25th 1857.

Dear Brother & Sister,

Again I will pen a few lines to let you know how we are getting along this cold winter, our health is good as usual, but we feel as though we had got too far north for comfort, we now have about 3 feet of snow, & very severe cold weather, one day the Mercury stood 39 degrees below zero, (it is a very uncommon winter). Smead has now traded away our farm, & done well, he has bought 102^{acres} of first rate land, about 160 miles north west of here, we may never go there to live, & yet may go this spring, have not yet decided, we find it a very good way for poor folks out here, to go^{on} to Government land make improvements then sell, & after awhile get to farming in good shape, there is a great call for land where he has bought, & if he has a chance that suits he will let it go & we perhaps get to Kansas yet, his land is in the valley of the Chippewa river, about 40 miles from the Mississippi river, timber^{there} is plenty & cheap, here it is very high & scarce, still we like here & if he had a team & farming tools sufficient to make a business of farming without working out, he probably would not have sold. We last week received a letter from Lyander, he was well, but said that he had been obliged to quit work on the railroad, it was so tedious being on the Praires this cold weather, but did not tell me what he was doing, he writes me kind affectionate letters & I think I discover traces of a reformation of life & habits, God grant that it may be so. I have not heard from Greenfield since Mr Hunt & family came on here, I often think of Freedom & her children, hope they are comfortable this cold

the service of God, that we may be permitted to meet him in
to be of no hope the remembrance of our lives will be desirable to
as we are, Oh how far apart we come of being what we ought
winter, Sister Sarah writes she feels lonely now brother
Joel is gone, he used to call in there so often when at home,
you also says she knew not but that he was getting well untill
it was too late to find him alive, I doubt not she felt great
anxiety & desired to see him, & I believe too she has tried to do
what she could (situated as she is) to help him; every one does not
know all she has done for him, it is true she did not visit him often
nor ^{does} she visit anywhere often, but I believe she would like to go more
than she does, ^{we must exercise charity in regard to what we consider errors in others} a woman has not always that freedom & power to do
as they please ^{that} a man has, had he been at home when sick I think
she would have done her best to alleviate his sufferings, he is
gone & train of circumstances prevented her, & you, showing what
you would do had it been otherwise; Erastus wrote me a very feeling
letter in regard ^{to} his death, said he was sick & could not go to the
funeral, you ask me if he has not long been a neglected brother
I admit it may be so, but what was the cause of that neglect?
was it from any ill will or hard feelings, towards him? No, you as
well as I know some of the causes & I need ^{not} here mention them,
we are all failable creatures, full of sin & need the assistance
of God's holy spirit every moment of our lives to guide & direct
that we may not err, Oh brother let us learn wisdom from the
past, & strive ^{to live} in peace & union, not only with our brothers & Sisters
but with all mankind, ~~but~~ that when another is called, we ~~may~~
not feel self condemnation, I often think could my Father & all
my brothers & Sisters be permitted to meet with me again, the first
thing I would do, should be ask forgiveness for all that I had said
or done that was wrong, but that cannot be, yet I can seek
for it through ^{the} merits of Christ our Redeemer, & there I hope to
find it. how necessary it is for us to search our own hearts & see
if they are right in the sight of God, also to watch over our thoughts
words & actions in order to live as becometh such travellers to Eternity

Dexter. Feb. 13th 1857

Dear Brother and Sister, It is so long ~~time~~ since I have wrote to you perhaps you think I have entirely forgottⁿ en you, but it is not so, I often think of you often in imagination visit you in your pleasant home and see you engaged in your household duties, but it is hard and unsatisfying for me to write, but as it is our only way of conversin^g we ought to be grateful for this.

We received your letter of Oct. 13th seasonably and glad to hear the particulars of the accident which caused brother Joel's death, I regret that you could not see and converse with him, it would be a consolation to know how he felt in view of the near approach of death, perhaps he did not realize it at all. We received a letter from brother Alexander a few days since he was

well, I must tell you he has reformed
from his bad habit, he has visited us
once since, he did not appear like the
same person, it is the only time we
have seen him free from liquor, what
a comfort he might have been to us
had it not been for this, I do hope
it will be lasting we feel thankful to
see him once sober, we have not heard
from brother and sister Hastings for
some length of time, I feel anxious to hear
from them, it hardly seems like a
reality that they are west of us, I wish
I could step in and see them in their
new home but it is not likely I ever
can. Almira M. is teaching school as usual
Olive is attending school at the union
school Dexter which commenced this
winter, she will only go this quarter
then employ herself some other way,
we are enjoying usual health, today, ^{it} is
warm enough for April, if this weather

continues I fear it will be sickly,
we have had steady cold weather
with plenty of ice and snow good sleigh^{ing}
till last week, when we had a thaw
which took of all our snow and many
bridges, we have not had so cold weather
or deep snow as last winter it really
was a tedious winter. Do write to us
often, sister Charlotte we hope ~~to~~ see
you will, together with your children.
My children together with myself
send respects to yourselves and
family. Your affectionate sister.

Abigail Taylor.

1857, Mar 22

Eau Claire March 22nd / 57.

Dear Brother & Sister,

^{ly} We arrived at this place about two weeks since, but have been so busy have not found time to write until now, Mr Hastings land is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from here, he intends to work at Carpentery this summer wages are good, can get from two $\&$ $\frac{1}{4}$ to 300 dollars a day, our prospects were never so good as at the present time,

This village is new, nearly all the houses that are here were built last year, it is expected there will be 200 ~~houses~~ houses built this year, it is situated on the Chippewa river about 50 miles from its mouth, & at the mouth of the Eau Claire, it is the head of Steamboat navigation except in high water, then they go 12 miles farther at the Chippewa falls, there is every prospect of a large place, the land here is excellent, & farming is the best

business one can have, & will be good a
man's life, ^{time} or more, on account of the extensive
Finceries on the Chippewa & its tributaries, Wheat
is 200 dollars a bushel, Corn 125, Oats 100,
Potatoes 125, butter 30cts a lb, Pork 16, Cheese 20,
thus you see it costs something to live.

We are enjoying good health, I have one
boarder, board & tenements are scarce, board
is $4\frac{1}{2}$ dollars a week, there is plenty of wild
game here such as Deer Elk; Prairie hen &c
now & then a bear or wolf is found, fish in
the rivers in great abundance, I am in hopes
that we shall not have the ague this summer
it is considered very healthy, we are about
160 miles from Oxford, had a hard time in
getting here, the roads were bad, & it was
very cold weather, but have bettered ourselves
at least ~~two~~ hundred dollars by coming,
we like beyond our expectations, it seems
more like Mass. than it did at Oxford,
here we see pine Elm Tamarack & other
trees there it was nothing but Oak, Spruce

is writing to his brother, says he will try
to write next time, we have written some
five or six letters & have a number of others
to write to, but must write short, just let
them know where we are, Let us hear from
you soon, direct to Eau Claire, Eau Claire Co,
Wisconsin. Our love to you all.

May the blessing of God ever rest on you
L A Hastings

57, Nov 22

Received July 14

Case Claire June 22nd 1857.

Dear Sister,

Your letter of Apr 19 received, also the one of Feb 23rd which you supposed was lost, it did not reach Oxford untill after we left, but our friends there sent it on to us here, so cheer up sister if our letters do not go back & forth as quick as we wish they get along sometime, You say you are sorry we have to be moving about so much, could you know the benefit it has been to us, you would say how glad I am, we did not leave there because we did not like, No, we had become attached to the place & people & had it not been for Smead's sickness we probably should have been there now, but that put us back by getting us some into debt & he had such a good chance to sell, get clear, & do better, we could not withstand the temptation, buying & selling is every day

business with our western people, some
make themselves independently rich by buying
& selling land, but we do not calculate
to speculate quite so much as that, but
if life & health is spared, we shall ^{have} a western
home we shall not be ashamed to have
you come & see, I am not sure ^{but} you ~~but~~
~~you~~ would think I did actually gain an
"iron constitution" by coming here if you
could see how my health has improved
since I came, am getting fat & tough, think
you would stand a chance to get a good
shaking if I could get hold of you, do
not be alarmed about our going to the
end of the Globe, we calculate to ^{keep} within
bounds, bread & butter right side up, if the
best & only excuse for not coming to see us
is "you should not know where to find us
we move so often", I think you have none
at all, for we stayed in Oxford almost two
years, you might have come there in a week,
& it will not take much longer, if any,
to come here, besides ^{you} can come much easier,

take the cars at Greenfield, come to
Chicago, then take ^{the} Chicago & Galena
railroad to Dunleith, ~~then~~ take the
Steamboat up the Mississippi river to
Beeds landing, ~~then~~ up the Chippewa
river until you reach Eau Claire.

probably as you passed along you might
see me standing in my door ^{or on the bank of river} looking at
the big boat as she glided along in the
water to land a little above our house,
we do like here very much indeed, I have
never seen the place since we left Mass
which suited so well as this & unless
sickness or misfortune happen some way
this will probably be our home, the only
objection to this place is its being so far
north, but from all accounts it has
not been colder here nor are things
more backward than in Mass & many
other places, Smead is not going on to
his farm at present but is at work
in this village at his trade, gets 2 dollars
or 3 quarter a day & is soon to have 2 & 1/2

this is a fast place & every thing is fast
in it, Provisions are high wheat 2 dollars
a bushell potatoes $1\frac{1}{2}$ dollars, butter from
35 to 40 cts lb, Pork from 18 to 20 cts, sugar 15
to 20, Lard 20 to 22, we are not troubled
with fat but our Pork here is equal to old
Mass Hogs, & we eat it too. Smead has
bought a village lot & is now building a
house on it, I do wish you ^{could} see how pleasant
it is out here, truly the western country
is beautiful, you cannot imagine how handsome
the Prairrie are at this season of the year,
would that I could describe them, but I
cannot, so come & see for yourself, I have
sent & will send you a ^{News} paper occasionally that
you may know what is ^{on} going here & wish
you would send me one occasionally, also send
a Circular that you ^{can} imagine some what a place
this is getting to be. Smead says tell brother Adam
money lets here for from 40 to 60 per cent interest
& goes quick at that. Well Sis I am, indeed
sorry to hear such ^{news} of Freedom & family, had hoped
her afflictions might lead ^{her} to see the folly of living
wholly for this world, for all things are passing
away here, & Eternity is drawing near to us all,
I have written a letter ^{to her} would like to know what
she says about it, Have had a letter from Abigail
& Charlotte they say you have made them a visit

& that they enjoyed it much, did A. show
you any of my letters & what says he,

I have also a letter from Erastus, he says
he has a little daughter, (thats pretty well
for an old man) I would like to see the
little darling, have not heard from Almira
nor Lyssander for a long time, I know
not what is the reason, I have written
to them, just had a letter from Mrs
Haynes & Mrs Hunt, they are well &
doing well, Mrs Haynes has a daughter born
last Feb, she has named it after me.

We have some of our old Oxford
neighbors here with us, & we are getting
acquainted here, & like the people well,
we have Huckleberries & wild Plums,
Cranberries, & Snakes in great abundance,
also have ~~all~~ kinds of dried fruit plenty,
by paying handsomely for them, dried
apple is 20 cts a lb. You say Sarah Pratts
husband is west should they come on would
like to know where they are Give my
love to her & Mother & other enquiring friends

I am glad to have you write us about old acquaintances, for we often think & chat about them, Death has made great changes in your town & at I Fally, we hear from there occasionally by our old friends, O let us strive to live so that we can meet death in peace, & may God bless, & keep us till we meet to part no more, it is now time to get supper, so I will not try to fill this sheet, for I have not time, we have three cases of Small Pox here, but am in hopes there will be no more, let us hear from you soon & often, you may laugh hard as you are a mind to over this letter, & then burn it up & send me another good long one to pay for it, My love to you all, Smeads likewise,

From your loving sister

L A Hastings

57, OCT 25

Gay Blaine, Oct 25th 1857.

Dear Brother & Sister,

Your last letter was received about four weeks since, I had indeed looked long & anxious for tidings from you, & if you want me to write oftener, you must do so yourself, for I always ^{wait} to hear from you before I write, you say it is a task to write but I see not why it should be to write to me, as long as that is the only way I can hear from you, could you know how I prize your letters & how much consolation they are to me in this western land of strangers, (as it were,) away from all my brothers, & sisters, & almost without a hope of ever seeing them in this world, it seems you could not complain of the task, No; dear sister do not think so any more but set down unfold your heart to me often, & I will do the same.

We are both well, & doing well, my health was never better I think, I have had two boarders all summer & for four weeks past have had three, I do all my work alone, but do not expect they will stay with us, more than three or four weeks longer, as they will get through work here probably about that time, they are old acquaintances from Oxford, & have been building a Presbyterian Church, Mr Hastings works for them, for 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ dollars a day, we have 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars each a week for the board, so you have reason to rejoice we come here instead of mourning, besides you can come see us just as easy & cheap, it is much more healthy here, than at Oxford the water is better, it is soft & good

as ever I tasted in my life, there has been nothing of the Ague here this season. provisions are not as high as they have been, but are well high up yet, have just bought a jar of butter at 35 cts a lb, we have paid 40, flour is 8 dollars a barrell, potatoes 30 cts or less a bushell, I have not much news to write, I have had a letter from Lysander, from what I ^{hear} think he is doing well, said he had been to see Almira & had a good visit, I suppose you know Almira M is married & lives about 4 miles from home, You did not tell me what Addison said about my letters, nor did you say whether Freedom had received my letter or not, It must seem lovely indeed to you & brother Adams to have one after another taken away by death, it would seem sad to me to visit there again & not see the old friends left there, but death is not a respecter of persons, no, the loved, the rich & poor alike fall victims to his solemn call, Oh how necessary it is that we live in constant preparation for that day in which we must exchange worlds, Sister have you yet given your heart to God, Oh wait not to be better, not ^{the} righteous sinners Jesus came to call, Be hopeful, trust the boundless mercy of a crucified & risen Saviour, & all will indeed be well for time & for Eternity. I have received a paper from you, it was a real treat to see a Greenfield paper once more, do send them oftener & not be afraid I shall not get them.

I would like to send you some of the big fish we catch out of the Chippewa river, Mr Hastings brought up one weighing about 15 lbs the other morning, we have all we want, as for Huckleberries old Montague plains is nothing compared to them, I never saw them so thick, nor near as large as they are here

I went out a little while one afternoon picked 10 qts, every
bluff is covered with them, Cranberries in great abundance,
but not quite as plenty as they were last year,

It is some weeks since I have heard from Mrs Haynes, they
were all well then, Mrs Hunt I think is well contented,

Is old Uncle David Newel living? one of our neighbors
^{Mr Willard} is a nephew of his, came from York state here, lives with his
son in law Mr Kidder the Congregational minister of this
place, Mr K I think has a sister married & living in Gill,
I do not think of the name now. I should think Mother
would almost feel as though she was outliving everybody, she
must be sad & lonely, give my love to her, & say she is not
forgotten, where is Sarah P's husband, write soon, for I am
always anxious to hear from you, why does not Eliza write
me, my love to her & John, & remember me to all
enquiring friends, Smead sends respects also.

Love & good wishes of your sister

L A Hastings

Dexter Feb. 9th 1858

Dear Brother and Sister,

It is long since we have heard from
you. and longer still since I have wrote
but I hope you will not follow my
example by letting daily cares prevent
Olive is attending school this winter
is intending to teach next summer,
I spent three months alone last
summer while she was teaching,
we have a young man boarding with
us this winter who goes to school and
works nights and mornings, so Olive
does not have the cow to take care
of, I really do not know whether
you have heard of Almira's marriage
or not, she was married last March
to Franklin Chamberlain and lives
about four miles from us.
Olive wrote to your daughter last

spring but does not know that
she received it, we have had very
mild pleasant weather this winter
it has appeared more like spring
than winter, but now we have sleighing
and it is snowing fast to

We received a letter from Sister
Lucy a few weeks since she says they
are enjoying good health and getting
fat on venison and bears meat, she thinks
it the most healthy place she ever knew.
How rejoicing to hear they are in
health, how unexpected a few years
ago that they would go so far west
of us and enjoy health I can hardly
realize it yet. Brother Lyngander is
in Jackson yet we hear from him
frequently was out to see us last
summer, says he has forsaken his
bad habits, does not appear like some
person what a comfort what a blessing
I do hope he will continue steadfast.

I do not know how these hard
times affect you in Mass. but here
it seriously affects farmers, produce
has come down very low wheat
brings only five shillings a bushel
last summer it was almost two
dollars, butter brings but a shilling

So you ~~not~~ think you will ever
come out and see this country,
how happy we should be to see
you both here, recollect to write

Your affectionate sister.

Admira Taylor

Oliver sends her love to
you all and wishes your
daughter to write

My love to you all

58, Feb 26

San Claire Feb 26th 1858

Dear Sister,

I was glad indeed to get a line from you, & do wish I could hear oftener, I suppose you think the same, well then let us both write oftener, we are both well & growing fat, we like here well as ever, were you & Sister & ^{brothers} where I could see you occasionally I should not have any desire to leave this place, we have enough to eat, & the very best of water to drink, & enough to wear if it is hard times this is more than every one can say, you need not worry about us, if we are well, business has ^{been} dull here this winter, but I suppose the hard times have been felt the least in Wisconsin of any state in the Union, Spring is now approaching & work will probably be more plenty every where, remember we have the same God to watch over us here, that we should have there, I have never regretted coming west. We have not had any regular

boarders this winter, thought best to take life
more easy through the cold weather, which by
the way has not been very severe so far, we
had a few cold days in May & a few this month
yesterday & today is very warm, so that we hardly
need any fire to keep warm, had a letter
from Erestus & wife not long since, she tells
me his health is poor, I fear he has not long
to stay in this world, how I do wish I could
see him, he is a dear brother to me, I have my
thoughts as well as you as to somebody's being
nice, by what he writes me I should think he
worshipped his little Parri, Last evening I
received a letter from Mrs Bancroft a
daughter of Parley Meriam's I first received
a letter from him, he learned our place of
residence by Uncle Jotham, they live in
Wampun, Hancock Co Wis, about 2 hundred
miles from us, but when we were at Oxford
were only about 40 miles apart, we mean
to go & see them sometime, Mrs Bancroft

lives about 4 mile from her Father, they must
be well off as to this worlds goods, she
writes they have 260 acres of land, have near
one hundred acres under the plough, 2 good
houses one for a tenant, a good barn & other
out buildings, have been in this about 24 years,
although they are strangers it seems pleasant
to know, that I have even a cousin
so near me, in this western world, I
had a letter from Olive I not long since
they were all well & now always write
good news in regard to Lysander, do
they not write to you? Is what makes
you backward in answering the questions
I ask you; if you have not burned up
my last letter I want you to read it
over & see you skippe~~d~~. them, write out
your whole heart anything you think I
want to know, I would love to shew you
brother E's letters to me, may be it would
afford you some light & comfort, in

regard to somethings which I do not think
best to write, one thing I do know, unless
a certain person has reformed there cannot
be any dependance on their word. you
will not be apt to know when the truth
comes, ^{Oh what a pity,} I hear from Mrs. Haynes & folks often
her children have been sick with scarlet fever,
Sylvanus wife also, but were all getting better
the last we heard, it has been very sickly with
it about Oxford, it is not such a healthy
place as this, Go to see Mother often as you
can, give my love to her, how happens Sarah
P to come & stay there so? where is her husband?
I am much obliged for the News paper
sent & ask for more it does ^{me} so much good
to get hold of them, I would send you
one oftener but we do not have any published
now; the foreman was taken sick sometime
ago & has not been able to attend to business
so we have none now. Smead sends respects
to all, remember me to Eliza & say I would
like to have her write me, also to Freedom &
children, write soon, & forget not your absent
Sister L. A. Hastings.

58, Aug 22

Can Claire Aug 22nd 1858

Dear Sister.

It is long since I have penned a line to you, I have had so much to do, & so many cares that it has seemed impossible to write, but Oh how much I have wanted to see you & unburden my whole heart, shall I never have that privilege again? My health has been good considering the family I have had to do for this summer, I have had two boarders most of the time untill a few weeks since they left, since that time we have been alone except, Brother Erastus, this morning he left on the boat to go back east, it seems hard to part with him, but I suppose it is all for the best. he has never been well pleased with the place, (there is nothing like Boston with him) & is so afraid to go into business, that we could not encourage him to do so, although we think he might do well, poor brother he is so downhearted & discouraged I do not know what will become of him, how much he has failed since we left Mass, he seems like a broken down old

man, how much he has reminded me of
Father, there is nothing but farming that
he cares to go into out here, he has been talking
about buying one & may come back & buy it
yet, if he should, would want us to
carry it on for him, Now Sarah I want
you to write me, & tell me all about
his wife, what do you think of her, could
I live with her? tell me just what you
think of her, do not be so afraid to say
what you want to to me, his health has
improved since coming here, & I am
very confident it would be better for
them to come here if they could only
be contented, but if they cannot I
had rather they would never come.
as for ourselves we like as well as ever
& have not any desire to seek another
home in this world, I suppose you
know Sister Almira was married last
Spring, it is now sometime since I have
heard from her, or from Lysancier, I must
write them soon. We have had rather
a wet season & a good deal of warm
weather, so that wheat in many places

has rusted, Corn looks well, but will not be out of the way of frost untill about two weeks more, yesterday & today the weather is quite cool, we are almost afraid of a frost tonight, Joseph H., has been at Glen Haven ever since he first went there, which was soon after he left Greenfield, is about well & will soon return home I suppose, we last week had a letter from Lemuel his health is very poor, has some fears his lungs are diseased, the rest of the family are well as usual, Lydia has two children.

I do not remember of seeing that letter you speak of which was written to Sister, let the past go, could you see each other I think a satisfactory history of circumstances would be given & both would view things in a different light, of course both would feel different, but as that is uncertain as to seeing each other, I would advise you to write, I think you would get an answer, ~~ata~~ correspondence ought to be

kept up, we have accounts of
great revivals of religion in the
eastern states, I have sometimes
thought perhaps the Millenium
was about commencing, God grant
the good work may continue, & that
we may share in its blessed fruits.
many thanks for all the papers you
have sent I would send you some
but have none to send, I hear from
cousin Parley occasionally. I have
not heard from Mrs Haynes for
sometime past, all well when I write.
I believe I must close for this time
as I have a number of letters to write
having neglected all my correspondents

Please answer this immediately, & do
not fail to give me a good description
of all that I want to know, do not
keep this letter.

Our love to yourselves & all
enquiring friends

L A Hastings

58, Nov 7
Evan Claire Nov 7th 1858

Friend Adams

We have received 2 letters from Sarah recently, and presume you will be anxious to hear from Lucy again, she is not able to write, so I have all the writing to do & shall write but little, for the want of time, I have had to leave my work & take care of her for 3 or 4 weeks past, but now we have got an old nurse, a real good Mother to her, & she seems to be getting a little better, the worst of it is we cant have the old Lady but a few days, as she must go 5 miles from here to stay with her Daughter & if Lucy gets well enuf to ride I shall take her out there to be nursed up awhile, our neighbors are very kind & bring in things for her to eat &c, but there is none of them can come here & stay to take care of her

I have considerable work ^{to do} on our
House to make it comfortable for
winter, Lucy has some of her old
complaints, still some different. She
needs good care & I think if she
can have it she will get up again.
She sits up $\frac{3}{4}$ an hour a day, and
says tell Sarah we could not get
money to go East with (without
sacrificing too much) and if we
could she is not able now to go,
but wants Sarah to come & stay with
her this winter. I wish you could
come out with her, there is but very
little money in circulation here now
& any man with the ready cash can
increase it very fast, Erastus was
afraid to do anything, but I know
he hardly knew what to do on
account of his wife. I think she
will keep him in the City till
she uses up what means he
has got, then he can go. Perhaps
I Judge too hard.

Money can be let out here
for from 25 to 50 per cent with
good security, if a man is
here he can see for himself what
the security is, I know how it is
Eastern Capitalists need not be
so much alarmed because some
have been shaved,

You can let any amount of cash
at 12 per cent & perfectly safe by
Law, but a man can make
more by trading.

We have had no snow here
yet & not very cold.

It seems to me we had
our share of sickness years ago,
& it comes rather hard to have
Suez down again, while we are
trying so hard to get a good
comfortable home, but we must
try to be reconciled to our lot &
do the best we can.

If Suez can get a little better

I may try yet to get her to
Northampton, & if she ever gets
well again she shall not work
so hard,

The route here after the
River freezes will be from "Chicago
by Portage City to Sparta, 80 miles
from here, by Rail Road & from
Sparta by Stage

Boats are running yet.
Yours with our love to all

D. S. Hastings

1858

Car. Chaire Dec 30th

Friend Adams

As Lucy has been writing a little to Sarah, I will pen a few lines to you.

I will comence by wishing you all "A Happy new Year".

It will not be so happy a new year with us, as it might if we both enjoyed good health but if Lucy ever gets up again I mean to try to keep her from overdoing. There is a poor prospect of her recovery, here but I think if she could be at Northampton awhile she might be cured or be made comfortable, I should have taken her there or to some other place East, long ago if I could have got money, but there is no cash to be had here, or when there is a little it lets for 5 per

cent a month & some higher.

I was hoping we should be able to get us a good comfortable home soon, but if it requires the sacrifice of what little we have got, to get Lucy up again then it must go, but I think it will not all of it.

I have a good lot & House not all finished, worth \$800, all paid for, & no incumbrance but can't raise cash on it here now, now if you or any one that knows me will send out \$100, I will well pay it when I am able to sell, or earn it, with good interest.

that will do to go East with but I shall want more before we return.

The weather here has been quite mild so far, just snow enough for good shipping.

Yours with love to all. D. B. Hastings

Dear Sister

The temptation to write you again is so strong, that I shall scribble awhile if it does hurt me, in some respects my system has improved a little, but disease is not removed nor is there any signs of its being done, nor I see nothing but suffering & death before me here, & I might not be cured anywhere, but think there is a chance if I could have such treatment as I need, it is my old complaints, of course. I wish myself back to Northampton Money is very scarce here, we have a house & lot here worth at least 700 dollars, & have tried to raise money but cannot, & Smicad has 200 dollars at his command, ^{due} next fall but cannot have it. now I think I could stand the journey & if could only

raise a hundred dollars should start
immediately, but we cannot so I must
resign myself to my fate, Oh how I
do want to see you, why do you not
write me? You ask me Almira's
husbands name it is Pelhamuz I do
not ^{know} whether he is a widower or
not, he has a shoe shop in Dux
is a Deacon of the Baptist Church
I believe Sister was very sick through
the summer but was so she done
her work the last time she wrote
Lysander was there & well, also is
very steady, thank God for that
Sister, Parley Meriam's family have
all been sick this summer, their
daughter Mrs Bancroft has lost
a child, I am tired out & must
stop, write immediately.

Love to all from L A H

59, Jan 26
Eau Claire Jan 26th 1859

Dear Brother & Sister

We received your letter yesterday stating that you had sent us \$100, & today the money came to hand, having been forwarded, by the Express Agent at Beeds Landing, ^{situated} at the mouth of the Chippewa River, there being no Express Office here, it was sent to one of our Merchants

I ought to have requested you to send a Draft on N. York, that would bring the face of it, or one per cent premium. here but it may be as well as it is, for if we go East, your money will be better.

I cant tell how soon we shall start if at all, for Lucy is not so well now one or 2 weeks past she has seemed to gain some, but the last 3 or 4 days has lost & last evening she had a very poor turn but is better today, sends her love to all & says she will try to write you a little soon. We are having comfortable winter weather

We feel grateful for all your kindness to us

Yours &c

D. S. Hastings

1859, Feb 22

Camp Claire Feb 22nd 1859.

Dear Brother & Sister

I suppose you are anxiously looking for a line from us, so I will try my strength at writing again, my health is again improving some, so that I can sit up some, & walk a little, Oh how much sickness & suffering I am carried through, how much cause for gratitude & love to God for his goodness & mercy to so sinful & unworthy a mortal as myself, I do hope I shall live more faithful & devoted to him the remainder of my life.

We have not given up the idea of going east, but shall not start untill the river opens, as it will be so much easier for me to ride in a boat, we are now having mild beautiful weather the ice is rotting away & the prospect bids fair that the boats may run as early as they did last year, the first one came up the 28 of March.

disease has seemed to come to a crisis & my Physician here thinks I may regain comfortable health, but never be as well as I have been, I think Dr Halsted would again cure me, but I sometimes think if I can only get so as to do my own work, perhaps I had better not go to Northampton again as it will be attended with so much expense, & I feel as though I am hardly worth having so much done for me, & then again I think I am liable at any time to be clear down again & if so the expense may be more than if I should go there, besides the risk of getting up again. I am quite undecided yet, the money you sent us in safe keeping so that we can go if we think best, Mr Hastings spoke of sending a note in this letter but concluded he would not this time as the letter he ^{sent} would serve as a receipt untill we made up our minds whether to send ^{money} the back, or go back ourselves & then

make it right, I do not know as have any news to write Smeads health is not very good but is able to work all the time, although could not get work to earn much this winter, but as Spring opens trust he will be able to get work & earn something, he works now finishing our own house, I wish you could see what a pretty place we have, it makes life too dear to me, I love it so well, it has been hard times here as well as in other places, but we have been comfortable every way notwithstanding our afflictions, have not heard from Almira of late, nor from Lysander, I am getting tired & must stop. My love to Mother & all enquiring friends, do write soon as you as get this, & you may expect to hear from us often.

Our love to you all

L. A. Hastings

59, Apr 20

Canby, Va. Apr 20/59

Dear Brother & Sister.

It is a long time since I have taken my pen to write you, sickness is my only apology & that I consider sufficient, Mr. ^{Tracy} ought to have written you oftener, but his daily cares pressed so hard, that he kept putting off for more leisure, thus our correspondence has not been very frequent on either side, My health has improved considerable for the last two months, but I am far from being well, yet if I can only get so as to do my work, I will not complain if I do suffer some, can now do a little but have to be very careful, we have intended to go back to Northampton, & may yet, but if I can ^{get} tolerable well think we shall not, on account of

The expense of going & coming back,
yet I can never be as well as I have
unless I go there again.

Sineads health is about as usual
has not had much work ~~at~~ at his
trade this year as yet, but hope
there will be more building going
on by & by, our winter has been
quite mild, with only about snow
enough for sleighing, March & Apr
thus far has been cold & backward
with frequent snow storms, Boats
commenced running on the Chippewa
river to this place about two weeks
since, We received a letter from
Charlotte E while she was at Sister
Adams was pleased to see the improvement
she had made in writing, think she
has done well, hope she will write us
again, Cousin Parley Meriam wrote
us about one year ago, since that

we kept up a correspondence
his daughter Mrs Bancroft writes
occasionally they have two children
living, buried one ^{child} last fall, there is
a family lately moved into this
place, who used to be neighbors to
them, say Cousin, & all his family
are well off, I have not heard
from Sister Almira, or from Lysander
for sometime, believe I wrote them
last, you must not expect a long
letter from untill I am better, for
I become tired very easy, & have quite
a pile of letters before me to be
answered, they have been gathering ever
since my sickness, & must be attended
to, fast as my strength will admit,
Should I continue to gain you
will probably hear from ^{us} oftener than
you have done, but God only knows
what is for us, we have only the

promise of today, & if we are only
what we ought to be, it matters
not what tomorrow brings.

Write soon & often. Our love to all,

L. A. Hastings

59, May 3

Camp Claire May 3^d 59

Dear Brother & Sister,

Long & anxiously had I been looking for a letter from you, at last one come, & now I am going to write & answer it immediately so that you may follow my example & not have to wait untill I get almost out of patience, & think you have forgotten me, or are sick, My health is somewhat better than when I last wrote you but am not good for much yet, still I am thankful to be as well as I am, do not expect to ever be as well as I have been, if I can only do my own work, with what little I need would help me, it is all I ask, I will be contented, your advice in regard to taking care of myself is good & I shall endeavor to do so, & I assure I do have to rest often times a day, in order to get along

rescued me the way, he would not get it
cost so much as he would get. do let it go, don't
any way & gain, I shall never attempt
to keep boarders & do as I have done,
indeed I cannot if I would.

You ask if our unfinished house was
comfortable through the winter, the part
we occupied was, I need fixed it nice,
you need not worry but that I shall
be well cared for so long as he has
his health & can work, it has been, &
is now hard times, there is not much
work to be had, & cannot get money for
what is to be done, but we have got
along thus far comfortable, we do not ^{have}
the dainties you eastern people have
& you perhaps would think it hard
fare, but we have enough to eat, drink
& wear (if it is not so nice) we
hope for better times, as the place
becomes older, things will be cheaper &
more plenty, you ask if I have used
my carpet, I have some, winters, & a nice

nothing going to Madison himself & that would
The Russell of goods we have never
thing it is for me too, it makes a room
so much warmer & saves so much hard
work, I have not had a Rocking chair
untill since I was taken sick, I mean
bought one like my cane seat one I
had east, only it is light colored, & what
do you suppose he paid for it, well it
was six dollars, he would have got me
one before but I was not willing to have
him pay so much for one, if we could
do without, we paid one dollar apiece
for our wooden bottom chairs, & they
are not any better than those we had
east you remember, it will not always
be so, when they get to making them
in this country they will be cheaper,
we lived some four or six months
without any chairs, except one which
a neighbor lent purpose for me,
we used stools & so did all the
Aristocracy for they could get nothing

some more
of my
with
I shall not be able to buy any further on it just
now, but will do even so we can buy what ever you think
for we want to start it on to you
else

for a long time, chairs and nearly
all the Furniture are brought from
Cincinnati or some eastern place on
the boats, I use nothing but a pine
table which I made, am going
to wait untill tables are more plenty
& cheaper, then I will have a good
one, well I have most filled my sheet
& have said nothing about that money
which you sent us, we have concluded
to send it back soon as we hear from
you, & shall give up going back East
at present for if I can only be
comfortable we cannot afford to go & if
I get down again perhaps some way
will open so that I can go, we do not feel
right to keep it any longer for it has not
been put out to interest, we have just kept
it in the house, so that we could start
any time if we thought best, Mr Hastings
wants to know if it would ^{do} just as well to
send you a Check on some N^y York Bank, or
whether you prefer to have the money itself
returned, what did you pay for having ^{it} sent?

1860, Jan 1

Woolworth & Co.

Eden Blair Jan 1st 1860.

Dear Brother & Sisters,

I shall commence
my letter by wishing you all a happy new
year, yes, most sincerely do I hope it
may prove a happy year, but Alas we
know not what is before us, & I often
think it is well we do not, for if we
did we should hardly think we could
endure the many trials & changes awaiting
us. We have just received your
letter & today has been so cold I dare
not venture out Church, so I have
concluded to spend a little time this
evening in silent chat with you,
it seems you have just about such
weather as we do, I do not think the
season through has been any colder or
more changeable than in almost all the
northern states, we have had slight frosts
every month but not so as to injure our

corn much, some fields however were
entirely cut off, potatoes are not as good
as they were last year on account of the
drouth, we have had only a few days at
a time of very cold weather as yet, did
not have any snow untill Nov. 4 have
not had any sleighing yet, now have
three or four inches of snow, this morning
the Mercury stood 26 degrees below zero, but
the weather is moderating a little, I think
I never knew such sudden extremes
in the changes of the weather, as those
we have had in the last four weeks.

My health is comfortably good, far
better than it seemed possible for me
ever to be again, Oh, how much sickness
I have been carried through & yet my
life is spared, "What shall I render
to my God for all his gifts to me?
Someday is well as usual, is at work
most of the time now for himself, cannot

earn much in the winter, it is
dull times here, as well as in other
places, but we have got plenty of corn,
potatoes, to eat, also a nice pig to kill
in the spring, & hope soon to have milk
our Cow will come in the course of a
week or two, & we have some fourteen
hens or so, & ^a little Canary bird hatched
yesterday morning, my little birds are quite
a help to us I find these hard times, I
can sell all I raise, a few weeks since I
sold one for a dollars worth of butter &
two bushels of wheat. It is sometime
since I have heard from Almira she was
well the last time she wrote, she is married
again, Olive is also married; & lives some
three miles from her, Almira Mr has a
son born last Apr I think. I have had
a good letter from Lyssander not long since
he was then in Ann Arbor, I think
there has a great change come over him

in regard to his life, poor brother I wish he had a home of his own & some one to love & care for him.

Charlotte I often think of you since the death of your Mother, Oh how sad & lonely it seems to loose a parent, it brings fresh to my mind the day of my fathers death, now almost fourteen years since, it seems but yesterday, & yet when I remember all the changes which I have passed through it seems longer than it really is, it must have been pleasant for you to be so near your Mother that you could occasionally go & lend a helping hand or give her a comforting word, it is hard to part with friends, but let us remember we must soon follow them, we know not how soon.

Our place is under great excitement in consequence of two robberies which have just been committed one on the Eau Claire bank the other United States government money N B Boyden the Receiver was sitting in his office making out his returns about 9 o'clock in the evening when he was taken blindfolded gagged & tied with a rope to his writing desk &

Embossed seal in the top left corner.
Evan Glavin Feb 26th /60

Dear Brother & Sisters

Long & anxiously
have we looked for a letter from you, at
last it has come, & I am going to
give you an immediate answer,
hoping thereby to obtain one from
you sooner. My health has been quite
good for me all winter, far better
than I had reason to expect, considering
all the sickness I have passed through
I have done my work alone, & got along
well, Lemuel H^o came here last October,
& has been with ^{us} ever since untill last
thursday, when he started for home,
he thinks of going east in the Spring,
to spend the summer, if so, you will
probably see him, & then you can learn
all about us. he has been out of health
for about two years, he improved
rapidly while here, the soft water &

pure bracing air of this country
seemed to have a very beneficial
effect, we have had a mild open
winter with the exception of now &
then an extreme cold day or two
at a time, have not had any sleighing
to speak of, nearly all of Feb has
seemed like Spring, today is a lovely
day, warm enough to sit comfortable
without a fire, Now I must tell
you the good news, we have a calf five
weeks old, & we have a plenty of milk
to use, & make our own butter, Oh you
do not know how we prize it, I hardly
~~ever~~ see the cow, or look at my pails
of milk, without thinking of you, & feeling
grateful for your present, by which means
we obtained the cow. we make a complete
fat of her, The times are rather dull
& money scarce, Amad has not been
able to earn much this winter but

we have got along well, raised a plenty of Corn & potatoes & have had some to spare, the time is now at hand when he can get work & be earning something, although there is not a very good prospect of much building being done this year.

I received a letter from Erastus & Carrie a short time since, by which we learned he was very feeble, I fear he will not live long, how I wish I could see him once more though it were but for an hour, but I suppose that can never be again in this world, I have not had a letter from Almira or Lysander this winter,

'Tis sad indeed to think of the fate of cousin William, I believe this is the first instance of anything of the kind ever happening to any of our relatives, I believe Ruth & her Mother

are all that is left of the family,
how does Ruth & husband get along,
well I do not know as I have much
more to say this time, so I will
send my love to Mother, tell her she
is still remembered, & though we meet
not again here, we will hope to meet
in Heaven, but with you there is
a feeling that we shall yet meet
again, it may not prove so, but there
is comfort in the thought, & it affords
me joy in many a lonely hour, I
cannot forget brother Adams promise
to visit us sometime, & this is the
secret of my hope.

I mean joining with me in sending
love & good wishes to you & yours
write soon
L A Hastings

Em. Clarke March 11th /60

Dear Sister,

Your letter was received today noon, & this evening I will stay at home from meeting, & write to you, for it is the only way I have in my power, to express my deep sorrow & sympathy with loved friends in affliction, Oh it is sad to think of our dear brother's lot in this world, what you say in regard to his wife does not surprise me, for from what I learned of her by him when he visited us, & by her letters to him (he always showed them to me) I was satisfied she did not care anything about him, but it does seem strange that she should treat him so unkind now that he is so very low, I would suppose a sense of duty would cause her to do otherwise, even to a Slave

& much more so to one who has been
so kind, & loved her so deeply as E has,
I pity the reflection she will sometime
have, may God have mercy on her,
were ~~he~~ within my reach, she should
have no more chance to abuse him, I
would take care of ^{him} myself if it cost
me my life, but Alas! he is far from
me, & I cannot soothe or cheer his
wounded spirit, but God can, & will
do it, if he only goes to him with
it all, & pleads through the merits
of the Saviour, Oh that I could see
him once more, though it were but
for an hour, it seems sometimes
as though I could not be denied
& yet I suppose I shall be, & must
be resigned, & leave him in the hands
of him who careth for us, it seems
his religious views & feelings are
much the same as when he was

with us, it used to make me
feel bad sometimes to hear him
talk as ^{he} did about somethings, & yet
in some respects, he seemed like a
Christian, he was so good & kind to
every body, that I often felt that
he was one, & his errors or strange
views were mistakes of the head &
not of the heart. You do not say
as he said anything about me, I
have sometimes feared that he felt
^{hard} towards me for not being more
anxious to have him stay with us,
& move his family on, had he not
been married he would never left us
untill death called him, but as it
was with my feeble health, & knowing
what I did of Carrie, I felt that
I could not do as he wished me
to, he wanted to get a farm &
have us live with him, all in one

family, did I do wrong by not being willing too? I felt that I could not live so, he would not do anything about it unless we did, he did not seem like himself any of the time while with us, he often said it seemed as if he should ^{be} "crazy" he knew not what to do, we tried to have him go into some business in the village & live in the house with us or build on his lot here, but no he was so afraid he could not make anything, because it was so different from Boston that we could not persuade him, he might have done well in the Grocery business or others that I could mention, if he had only been contented & willing to try, I think his life might have been spared many years, yet if he had staid, he gained strength & flesh while here, I sometimes feel as though I done wrong in not trying to all live together, & yet I feel that I could not have lived so long

tell me Sister, did he say anything
as he blamed me for anything that
transpired during his stay with
us? or that I did not do as I
ought, Oh how my heart aches
to see him, untill his late sickness
I had secretly hoped he would yet
sometime come back & live with
us & let Carrie take care of
herself, for I knew he did not &
never would enjoy himself with
her, were he able to come I would
now urge him to come, if he could
only get sufficient strength the
journey might do him good, I
wonder how she dared neglect or
speak harsh to him while you were
there, did she know that you felt
it, did E say anything to you about
her treatment, tell me everything

you can think of, I received
a letter from them a few weeks
since I commenced it, Carrié finishes
it, I wish he was able to write me
a long letter & tell me his whole
heart, I am sorry to hear that you
are not well & that brother Adams
has been sick, do hope that he is
now well, & able to hear, it is one of
the greatest of misfortunes to be deaf,
when Lemuel H first came here
last fall, he took a severe cold
& his head was bad, for several
weeks was almost entirely deaf, he
used an ear syringe night &
morning to wash out his ears.
Sometimes took Castile Soap & water
Sometimes clear water, after awhile
got about over it, Freedom too is
sadly afflicted, I often think of
her & the family, how do they live?

3
8 what will become of them? should she remain blind, who has Sarah I married? & how did she happen to go to Boston to live? what is his business &c. I do not know but you will be tired reading so much & so think I have asked too many questions, but you must excuse ^{me} for I feel anxious to know all about things,

well Sarah we are all poor sinful, suffering creatures, of a day, as it were, & we do need something to lean upon & bear us up, & that is just what our Saviour came into the world for, to "seek & save that which was lost" Oh sister lean on him with faith, plead his merits, & you are safe, we cannot save ourselves, he is our righteousness, look away from

self, see what he has done for
you, yes for you he suffered & died,
that you might live, tis believe
love & bless him. You ask me
to pray ^{for you}, be assured I do, but
you must pray for yourself,
go to God with all your hopes
& fears, tell him your whole heart,
just as you would to an earthly
parent, believe that he is the
hearer & answerer of prayer, & ~~that~~
^{he} will hear you, never be
discouraged, persevere till death.
& may the Lord give you peace.

How does Freedom bear her trials?
did you ^{ever} talk with her upon the
subject of religion, poor Ophelia
I often think of her & sometimes
wish I had taken her with us, I
do hope she will yet be better, my
love to them, do not let her die,
without talking to her upon the subject,
excuse mistakes, write again soon.
Love from D D & L A H.




Cañe Claire May 22/60

Dear Sister.


I have delayed writing you longer than I ought, but have not been very well for a weeks past, & have ^{not} had ambition enough to set myself about it, I am now feeling some better & will try to pen a few lines, it seems sad & lonely when I think of Erastus, he has been almost like a Father to me, & now to know he is dead, & that I can never see him, is indeed a deep sorrow, he owned a lot here & I had flattered myself, he would be out here again, I would have been glad to have had ^{him} lived with us & if he had not been married probably would not have left us long as he lived, I have always

been afraid that he felt hard
towards me, because I did feel as
though I could undertake to do
as he wanted us too, I tried hard
to have him get into some business
in this village, & either build or
live in the house with us, just as
he thought best, but no, he would
do nothing unless we would go
to farming, or something that we
could all live together, sometimes
I think I wish he had never come
out here, for I feel as though he
had never felt towards us as he
did before, but I do not know, it
seems he has not left a parting
word for me, did he never enquire?
or say anything, ^{about} us or our affairs?
Oh how I wish I could have been with
him
"as you & Addison was, You cannot
think how I miss his letters, he



generally wrote often, I believe I have all the letters he has written since we come west, the last one he sent us he only wrote a little & Carrie had to finish it, Do you know who will be the Administrator on his estate did he say anything about a Note he held against Smead? given when we lived at Oxford, he told us we need not ever pay ~~for~~ it unless he asked for it & that Carrie knew nothing of it, & if he was taken away it would be destroyed, we should not have it to pay, I did not know but he might have said something to you or Addison, but he wrote me immediately after Erastus died, but did not say & left a word for me, there are some other things I should say to you, were you present but dare not trust

it on paper, I wrote Carrie some
three or four weeks since, but
have not received an answer,
I wrote just as good a letter as I
could, & hope she will answer it, I
am glad E was carried to Greenfield
to be buried, it seems pleasant to think
he will lay by the side of Father,
Oh how would I love to visit their
grave, & shed my tears there, instead
of shedding them over this paper,
but there is a long distance between
us, & probably I shall never be there,
yet we do not what may be, but
one thing we do know death is certain
sooner or later, Oh let us try to live
prepared for it, you speak of the
hardness of your heart, did you ever
think who gave ^{you} to feel its stupidity
& hardness? & it is for just such as
you & I that Christ came into the
world for sinners not the righteous
Jesus came to call, you remember the
hymn "Come ye sinners poor & needy"
read it, & ponder well its meaning, as
to Erastus Christianity I do not know
as it is right to say any thing about
it, I think his mind has been at



times much exercised, but that
for a number of years past, it
has been settled into a fixed state,
it seems he talked with you about
the same as when here, I often
felt bad to hear him talk, &
yet, he had some excellent
views & he was always so kind
& generous &c, I can but feel at
ease about him, we know he is in
the hands of a Holy & just God,
& there I am willing to leave
him. I have not had a
letter from Almira or Lysander
since last fall, I wrote last
to them & now I have written
again to A, hope to hear soon.
Sarah I wish you could find
a book called Memoir of Carosso
if you cannot find it ^{at} the book

store, you may find ^{it} among the
sabbath school books in the Methodist
Church, if you are as much struck
^{as I was} with the resemblance of his likeness
to Fathers, you will wish to get the
book for that if nothing more, I did,
& found the reading also very
interesting, it may do you good.

He received the paper containing
the news of Nahum's death it
seemed very striking, he possessed
such a strong constitution & was
so well, just think how much
I have been sick, & how many I
have outlived of our relatives &
acquaintances, & for what am I
spared? poor unworthy me, what
goodness & mercy are shown me.
my letter is full of mistakes I have
written in a hurry, love to all our
friends, write soon Love & kisses from
L. D. & D. D. Hastings

Please remember them me to them
and all enquiring friends, Olive has
a daughter about five months old, we
are living together now which makes it pleas-
ant, Love from Almira Pulhemus

Duxbury July 2nd 1860

Dear Uncle & Aunt:

We have received two
of your letters from you which lie
unanswered, although I did
not intend so long a time
would pass before I wrote
you, your last letter contained
the death of Daniel Carstens,
and we ^{are} all well as usual
Mr. Easton has bought the
farm ^(B 25; 1/2 acre) except the house and
two acres, which is Mother's
share, that was bought of

another man that joins
the forty. Mr Burton did
not give us a quit claim,
but Mr Bates has nearly payed
him if not wholly, so we are
in hopes we will have no
trouble. We ^{had} but little snow
last winter, corn & potatoes
look well considering the dry
weather, wheat looks nice,
and will be ~~an~~ considerable
fruit except peaches as there
are not many trees around
here. Uncle Gysander is in
Ann Arbor working at
the carpenters trade, I think
he has \$15. per month, I am
afraid he has not entirely
given up his old habit

does not lay up any thing
as we know of. he made
us a visit in Jan. and we
hear from him quite often.

Almira and family are all
well. I would like to have Charles
with me. I must leave a little
place for Mother to write. My love to
all. — Your affectionate friend
O. Easton

Dear Brother and Sister,

Your last letter informed us
of the death of brother Coarster.
another of our number has gone
but I can hardly realize this, let
it teach us to be also ready, we
are fast hastening to the tomb.

I have not had the opportunity
of seeing or knowing much about
him since we came to Mich. but

how often do I think of our
youthful home when we all
surrounded one hearthstone, I
recollect well, I never can forget
the loneliness I felt when brother
Emastus first went to Boston, I lived
alone here one summer when Olive
was teaching school but never felt
so lonely as then. Father was away
from home at work in a brickyard,
I was the oldest child living E.
was next ~~to me~~ and so much comfort
for me, the others were ~~so~~ young and
~~and~~ required so much care, there was
wanting a head to the family.

We received a letter from sister
Suey April 15 said nothing about her
health so I presume she is about the
house. It is pleasant to hear you
speak of visiting old friends and
relatives, it reminds me that I too
have relatives although I cannot
see them, should be especially happy
to see Aunt Lincoln Meriam and cousin
Cyrus I think I have been informed
that he was married and lived with
them, tell him when I was there we passed his
house but neither himself or wife was at home

Embossed seal in the top left corner.

Paul Claire Feb 25th 1861

Dear Sister Sarah.

Long have I looked in vain for a letter from you, & now I have come to the conclusion that I must write & stir you up, or there is no telling how much longer I might have to wait before I hear from you, remember this is my second one to you, since you wrote me, sometimes I have thought, I would wait, & see how long it would be before you would write, but I find that too hard a case, Now Sarah if you are not sick, it is too bad not to write oftener, if sick surely some one might let me know it. I know you might find time to write two or three lines, at least, if you set yourself about it. way off here

as we are from all our relatives,
it seems hard to have you so negligent
about writing, there have I said
enough to stir up your ideas, if so
I will forbear, & expect to hear from
you soon. My health is,
& has been all winter extremely
good for me, I think better than
at any time since my sickness at
Greenfield, Smead is about as usual
& we are comfortably situated, he has
not earned much this winter, there
cannot be much to be done at Carpentery
in the winter, but we raised plenty of
provisions, & so are well cared for, I
said this because you are wondering
how we are getting along, Our winter
has been very mild, yet extremely
changeable, yesterday was cold & tedious
today is very warm so that I have had
my door open considerable of the time,

& this is a specimen of what our winter has been, how about yours? we have only snow enough for good sleighing.

It is now almost year since brother Erastus died, it has been a lonely time to me he used to write me so often Oh how I have missed his kind & affectionate letters, Carrie writes to me occasionally, one of her letters I would like to copy for you, but I do not think best, yet will tell you some things she said.

"July, 12th. she says, the last four months have been lonely ones for ^{me} bereft as I am of my stay & helper, God bless him, I trust & feel sure he is perfectly happy. I sent a trunk ~~to~~ Granfield containing all of Erastus clothes (except four of his best articles) which he desired should be given to his brother Joel's family, the four articles he told me to sell, for he knew I should want every cent of cash which I could

obtain after he was gone. but have not heard of its arrival, shall write soon. In it I sent some of his own usefull articles thinking Mrs Adams would know best how to divide them, I have acted exactly according to his own directions

While on this subject I will continue & mention the possession of two Notes he held of yours & when I repeat what he told me to write to you I trust you will not be offended - It was told them you will be glad ^{to have} ~~if~~ some or all whenever you find yourselves able to send me. 33

The above is copied from Carries letter, more I do not think best to copy if I remember right it is not ^{far} from 60 dollars that we owee him, you know what I told you he said to me when out here, it does not trouble me any, although I am very anxious to have it paid, & we intend it shall be as soon as we can dispose of some property, we have on hand, Amcaud has a village lot here without any buildings on it, we shall sell it soon as possible &

hope to pay it up, what we
owed him is all we owe, I
should not have said anything
to you about this, but after
telling me what he did, I did not
like to say anything to Carrie & thought
perhaps he said something to you, so
you must excuse me, for you must
know it caused me some anxiety.

it is all right, he was ever a
kind & benevolent brother to me, Carrie
says she will send me her little girls
likeness, she I suppose has lately
written you.

I had a good letter
from Lysander not long since he
always speaks of you & your kindness
to him, wishes he could repay it

Olive's husband has bought the
old homestead & they all live
together it must be pleasant
for ^{Sister} Almira she has not wrote
me for a long time, have you
written to her yet; if not do write

& not let there be such an ~~estrangement~~
estrangement, remember how
uncertain life is, Olive has a
little daughter, How is Mother?
give my love to her I have forgotten
her age, she must be very old
for only think you & I are
quite old Ladies, How is it ~~that~~
do you look much older than
when I last saw you six years
ago, I believe I look about the
same excepting I have lost my
front teeth I need says when we
get able I shall have some put
in, now I think of it I will give
you an expression Lyander
made in his letter, it was this,

"You speak of growing old, it is
very true with me, I see my whiskers
are quite gray, wrinkles running every
which way on my expressive
countenance - Leaves have their
time to fall & I don't know
as I have any petickular wish

to be the last one to stick on
does not that sound just
like Lysander; poor dear brother
I do hope he will be ready ^{when} called,

Where is she that was Sarah
Pratt & how getting along & all
the rest of the folks. I used to
know, I hope to hear from you soon

Our love to you all

Do not keep this scroll. L A Hastings

Earl Clure Sept 16th 1861

Dear Sister

I suppose you are almost out of patience with me for not writing sooner, but really so many cares have come along every day, that it seemed as though I could not well find time, besides I have been sick, was taken the first of April and for eleven weeks had to keep a hired girl, since that I have kept around and done my work, but still am not very well, but if I can only do my work I will not complain. Oh how I wish I could have one of Joels girls to live with ^{me}, I regret it more and more every day I live, I am glad you like Melissa so well she must be a great comfort to you, and now you have Mother with you, I think you are doubly

blest, how I would like to have her
come and stay with me awhile, it
seems as though it would do me good,
give our love to her, Sarah I feel
a little childish, I feel just like
having a good cry I want to see
you all so bad, just think, here I
am without even the most distant
relative that I can see, & do not
often hear from any one, Oh what
a blessed privilege, to be so near
Addison as you are, poor brother
I know well how to sympathize
with him on account of his health,
do not think I am homesick, for
I am not, I had rather live ^{here} than
in Mass but I do want to see you
more, why could not John
kept ~~an~~ and made us a visit,
when he went to Ohio, it is too bad,
we would have been so glad to have
seen him, with perhaps he will come

sometime, I have not heard from Almira
for a long time I wrote her last,
I had a letter from Lysander last
Spring he was then at Ann Arbor
but thought he should not stay
much longer, would have been glad
to have come out here if we could
have given encouragement of doing
well, but that we could not do, for
it is dull hard times, he sent me
his likeness, it looks very natural,
although it looks old & careworn, like
the rest of us I suppose, we are old
people now, Well how do you feel
in regard to the war, is it not dreadful,
do you remember what Father used
to say? who ever lived to see it there would
see war yet between the North & South
or dis-union of the North & South,
here it is in part, war is upon
us, what will be the result we know
not Ean Claire has just sent off a

a fine company, we had a great time when they left, music and marching with them to the boat, & then a time of parting, I tell you it was a solemn time there was about eighty soldiers perhaps but few if any will ever return. God only knows there is talk of getting another company, but I do hope they will not for we have scarcely men enough left for a home guard if necessary to form one, you will wonder what we want a home guard for so I will tell, there is danger of the Indians coming upon us, they have already committed depredations in some places & many fear if this war continues through the winter we may expect dreadful times, I confess I almost wish myself back east when I think of the danger to which we are exposed for I tell you it is not very pleasant to think of being murdered & robbed by the Indians, but then they may remain quiet, Eau Claire has always been considered Neutral ground there has never been any here since we come to this place untill a few weeks since

there was five ventured here, they
were the Chippewais, they and the
Sioux are at enmity with each
other, that is why this is Neutral
ground, should they meet each
other there would be a battle, the
people here told those five that
were ^{here} that the Sioux were coming
& they cleared quick I tell you
we should stand in no fear
of the Indians, if it was not
for the secessionist they are
stirring ^{them} up, the government
bought this land of the Indians
and it so happened some of the
commissioners that were to pay
this money to the Indians were
secessionist and instead of paying
the money to the Indians paid
it over to the southern people to
carry on the war, and tell that
we cheated them, & so get them to

~~fighting~~ with them & fight us, in
some places they have already enlisted
but we will hope for the best, perhaps
I ought not to have mentioned this
for I fear you will worry about us
but I trust no sad trouble will come
upon us. we have had a beautiful
season, Crops are excellent although
wheat is not quite as good as last
year, I had a letter from Carrie
not long since she was well but
little Carrie had fallen down the steps
and cut a large gash on her nose
it was then getting better, but had
been very bad, how I wish I could
have her, if Carrie does not provide
any grave stones for Erastus, we will try
and do something towards getting some,
do not let his grave be neglected, dear
kind brother, it must not be neglected.
I set ^{want you should} something out around it for me,
a white rose at the head, or a willow.
is there anything around Joel's grave?
I would like dearly to go that graveyard.
I have written just as fast as I can
make the pen go consequently it badly
written, but if you can not read it bring
it to me & will read it for you, our love to you all

W.P.P.

East Chaire Dec 27, 1861

Dear Sister

I have just laid aside my work with a determination to write you before another day passes off, I am now hurried sewing and knitting to make ourselves comfortable for winter, you will think I am rather late about it, but we have to get things when we can and that is not always as soon as we would like, my health is as good usual for me, Samuel is also well, he gets some work to do, but not as steady employment as in the summer, we have had a delightful December until now for a day or two past it is very cold, the last week in May was tedious indeed, the river froze up and was excellent crossing and there fell just snow enough for good sleighing and we thought winter had set in fairly

and we had made up our minds
for a hard one, when ~~so~~ it turned
round and thawed out the ice, carried
off the snow, and untill now it has
seemed like Spring, I tell ^{you} it is biting
cold. I do not like to stir from the fire,
I have just received a letter from
Sister Almira she says her health is
good as usual but has not strength
to endure much, Lyxander is still at
Storn Harbor comes to see them occasionally
got out of work last summer and worked
for them a month, says he is a firm
believer in Spiritualism, she speaks
very affectionately of him, says he
resembles Father very much, also says
he sometimes talks of going to the
war but she does not think he will,
I wish you would write to her, I do
think it would please her very much.

Now about the Indians there is not
as much excitement about them as there

was, yet we stand in some fear of
them, occasionally there comes two
or three in the place but we do not
much think any will dare come to
do any mischief Eau Claire has sent
off two more companies ^{to the war} since I wrote
you last, made up of men in, and
around this place, I tell you it ^{is} sad
and melancholly times here, but
probably not any more so than in
other places, God only knows when, and
how it will end, be it as it will hard
times must follow, the pink seeds sent
are safe, so you need not fear ^{to} send things
in a letter for I do not think I have
ever lost a letter from any of my friends
since I come west. I believe I did
not tell you in my last about the
blue berries we had this year, such an
abundance I never saw or heard of
and many of them measured an
inch and a half and some of them

two inches around; now if you do not believe this I have got some preserved in Cans, and if you will come out you shall have some of the big ones. to eat, thousands of bushels must have wasted on the ground for almost every bluff was covered a great many miles we know not how far, it took but a short time to pick a twelve quart pail full, we generally have a good many but this has been an uncommon fruitful year, in this place, would you believe it, there has been seven pair of twins born in Eau Claire, some not in the village but close by, and all within a year, all of them are now living and doing well, what place can beat this story.

Cranberries are plenty, but not Apples, well I have got most to the end of my sheet and it is almost bed time, I need is popping corn & I must take a bite and bid you

Good Night for this time, do not just get one thing more I want to say first you may think Lyman partial in sending his likeness to me, but not so. I asked him for it or I should not have had it, I told him I wished he would send one to you.
Love to Mother and all Lucy A 16



East Claire May 11th 1862

Dear Sarah

I suppose by this time you are somewhat impatient to hear from me, but I trust you well know that my affection for you is as strong as ever, although I do not write as often as I used to. I find as I grow old it is much harder to set myself about writing, consequently I put off from day to day, untill I get ashamed of it, & then I go to writing. My health has been good all winter, indeed I am so well it almost scares^{me} to think, for I never expected to be so well as I am, do you not think I know how to prize it, Well the winter is over, but the war is not ended, what a sad thing it is, Oh

how many homes and hearts are made desolate already, by the loss of loved ones, and yet there are but few, perhaps comparatively to what will be before it closes, Alas! that it should be so, have many that we know gone from your place? The excitement about the Indians has subsided, they did not trouble us at all in the winter, a few came into the place once in a while, but seemed friendly, I do not think they will ever trouble us, Imead is well, and hard at work as usual, we now are having unusual warm weather, which makes grass & things start April was a very cold and windy month, I have not heard from Sister Almira for a long time, nor from Lysander, but perhaps it is my fault for I have not written for more than a year, it is too bad, and I think I shall soon write.

you ask if I now have any Canary birds, I have two singers, one of them

Massachusetts we have heard from them but
our Mother she is in love with Dick.

Joseph & Alfred are in the Army in

is one that I brought with me
from Mass, is now almost 11 years
old as I have now had ^{him} almost
years, you may believe he ^{is} my
old pet, he has lost two wives, but
I now intend he shall live alone
the remainder of his days, if you
will come out here, I will give you
the other one, it is about 4 years
old. Remember me to Mother, tell her
she is not forgotten, how glad I would
be to see her once more, but suppose
that will never be this side of the
grave, I wonder if she still wears a
pair of Spectacles given her by a
certain person, by the way do you
ever hear or know anything about
the one who gave them, I always
have to laugh when I think of that
time, there being a little temper on
both sides, caused by what was
intended as an innocent joke

an innocent like
I have not heard from Carrie since
last fall, I wrote her in March,
but have not received an answer,
she never has sent me little Carrie's
likeness, and I fear never will, how
I wish I could have her, I frequently
hear from Parley Meriam by way of his
daughter Mrs Bancroft, they must be well
off in life, they have two hundred acres
of land under the plough, they raised
over fifty bushels of Apples last year,
and if they can be raised there, we
think they can be here, at any rate
we are going to try. I must now say a
few words to Melissa. Our love to you all

L A H

Dear Miss Right glad was I to receive a
few lines from you, and know you cherish
the memory of your Fathers sister, although
distance, and time has made us, ^{as} it
were strangers, I hope you will again
write me and I will try and write more to
you next time, I am glad you stay with
Sister Sarah, and imagine you take much
comfort together, would that I had one of
my dear brothers children with me but alas:
here we are without a relative near I would
love dearly to visit you all once more, perhaps
some of you may come and see me sometime
love to your mother & all ways

Dexter Oct. 11th 1862

Dear Brother and Sister,

Again I will try to spend a few moments in writing, I received your letter of June 4th informing me of Sister Sarah's death.

O how unexpected how true that we know not what a day will bring forth, but the Lords will is done and we must submit.

I can hardly realize that half our number is gone, that you only are left alone in our native State, the remainder of us scattered up and down in the world, but it is even so. I feel thankful that you had the privilege of seeing her in her last sickness, and doubly thankful to you for writing to me so many particulars, the description you gave of her sickness is next to seeing her.

I hope she is happy and that we shall meet her where we shall be free from sin and where parting sacraments will not be heard, let us strive to be prepared

I received a letter from sister
Lucy June 18th she said her health
was good, and saying she supposed
they were in some danger from the Indians
so many men had gone to the war there was
not enough left for a home ^gard, I feel
anxious about them but suppose they are
not very near the seat of trouble with them.

This is a dreadful war how many homes
made desolate many young men gone
from our midst have died on battle field
~~or~~ and in hospitals and yet more must
go and tidings grow worse and worse and
I know not what will become of our country
it is filled with sorrow and gloom.

I have not seen Brother Lysander
since last spring am expecting him here
every ^{day} he has been at work quite steadily
this summer, you ask me whether he keeps
steadily and lays up anything, I dont
think he lays up much, still I think he
is earning more now than ever before
in Mich. the man he works for at the
carpenters trade is rather slow pay and

I expect is owing him something.

I think he usually keeps steady while at work when he does not work he indulges himself in his habit, what a comfort it is to see him, if he is steady he resembles Father so much, I believe he has an excellent disposition and would be a smart man if it were not for this fault, if he would only be himself it is all we need to ask, last summer, ^{a year ago} he worked for us a month or more was himself most of the time.

Farmers crops ~~to~~ are good this season wheat sells for a dollar and twelve cents a bushel, wool is selling for ^{eighty} ~~twenty~~ cents a pound, these are the principle crops which bring money fruit is plenty especially peaches, good winter apples can be had for twentyfive cents a bushel last winter for fifty cents, we have a small orchard which bears some, we have a pear tree with fruit on which has bore apples three years from a graft you sent us, the raspberries commenced to grow but got destroyed, I do not think there is any in this country

Well I believe I will close, As you
~~as you~~ described your lonely journey
through Jerusalem it brought fresh
to my recollection the days of youth, when
we all lived together a happy family,
I can easily imagine it a lonely place
now, these days will never return yet
I love to think of them lonely though they
were after Mother's death.

Olive sends her respects

Mr Pulham wishes to be remembered

Yours affectionately

Amira Pulham

Do, Brother observing writing me he has got some
years done for Brother & worse cannot the grate
B feel for his kindness, more generosity, he has given
me one hundred dollars for it, just received fifty the other
I am here when I call for it

Essex Place Oct 21th /62

Dear Brother & Sister,

Once more I am
seated to write you, hoping this may
find you and yours, in as comfortable
health as it leaves us, my health is
surprisingly good for me, and since
cold weather has come on Mr G
is much better so that now he is
able to work all the time, and eat
quite hearty. I believe I have not
written you since the time I told you
of our Indian fears, if I remember
right it was the Sabbath after I wrote
you, our village was thrown into a
terrible consternation by a report
being brought us, that there was
coming three hundred Indians strong
and were within a few miles of us
burning and destroying everything
before them, the news spread from

house to house like wild fire, and in a short time the streets were alive with people, every old gun was put in order, axes, shovels, & hatchets, pitchforks, and in some instances lightning rods were speedily taken down and fixed into spears, & almost everything that could be converted into weapons was brought forth, such a time I never saw, and hope never to again, the home guard was called, pickets sent out, and many sent of horse back in every direction to learn the truth of it, if true when within hearing distance of our pickets, they were to blow a horn, and they in turn to give us warning so that all the women were to flee for refuge to a large three story building the men were to protect it, but on return of our

scouts, it proved there was but small foundation for the fright, a few Indians had committed some depredations in the back settlements and frightened the people away, told them to leave, as more were coming, I suppose all they wanted was to get them away so that they could get the better chance to steal, however there has been awful murders in Minnesota, and they are still trouble yet, and there has been great reason to fear the Chippewas (these are nearest us) would make war upon us, and we still have some fears though small because a treaty has been formed with ^{the} old Chief of our tribe and he seems quite friendly, and we trust other tribes will be subdued before they reach us, and even if they should come we feel tolerable secure for the Governor of the state has sent us one hundred

guns and ammunition, so that with what we had of our own in the village, we feel tolerable secure,

You speak of the deplorable state of our country, it is indeed in a ~~severe~~ condition, I little thought I should live to see such a time as this, do you remember our Father used to say, who ever lived to see it, probably not in his day, but there would be war between the North and South, or else it would be divided, well his words have proved true, war is in our land with all its train of evil, and desolation, what awaits us in the future God only knows.

You speak ^{too} of the war meetings in your place, and of the fife, and drum, this is all familiar to our eyes, and ears, Gen. Blair has sent of four companies already, and now there will soon be drafting I suppose, the soldiers marched and drilled in our streets daily before they left, I cannot if I would describe the feelings it gave me to see them, many of them have been killed on the battle field others sicken and die in the hospital, and some return wounded and crippled for life, when will men learn war no more?

brother, I never intended to give you reason to think your letters if frequent would be considered a burden, I wish, I could always think, and speak aright, but I am a weak erring creature, full of faults, will you not, can you not? overlook all, and believe that I mean well, ^{happy} to hear from you any time. L & H
our love to all, ^{Good bye}

East Charge Mar 25th 1869

Dear Brother

We recd yours in due season & were glad to hear that you are comfortable. As I am laid up with a lame knee, I thought I would help Lucy write a little. My health has been good this winter untill about 10 days ago.

I had been at work for some weeks about 1/4 mile from home & the long walk & going with wet feet some brot on my lameness, but it is recovering & I hope in a few days to be able to work again. we have got the old machine worked over & renovated so that I guess it will run quite well awhile. I still work at the Carpenter & Joiner work but I hardly know how business is going to be the coming season, but the prospect looks quite favorable for

a plenty of work; Money is more plenty here, & every thing lively. But our National affairs are in such an unsettled state, & still some fears of more trouble from the Indians, that we cant make safe calculations for the future.

I expect wages here this season will be \$1.75 to 2.00, per day and Board ourselves. (last season 1.50)

I may possibly sell our House here in the Village, & build on my Land & go to farming, I have 40 acres $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles out, $\frac{1}{2}$ improved but have no team, & shall not go to farming until I have one of my own. Farming will be good business certainly as long as the war lasts. We have had a wonderful mild pleasant winter, but little snow & that is about all gone now & I think the frost will soon be out of the ground.

War, is a terrible scourge to any people, however well it may be conducted, & by whatever party.

Every war has had its opposers, we cannot all see alike and I hope & pray this war may soon cease.

Yours truly D. S. Hastings

Dear Brother & Sister.

I think that my excuse for not writing sooner is a very good one so I will give it, we have been having a very sickly time here, and I have spent nearly every leisure moment in visiting, and trying to do something for the sick, there has been more sickness and deaths in the last six months in this place, than in all the time we have been here before, fevers, measles, and diphtheria have prevailed, one man lost all of his children (three in number) within ten days, another man lost his wife and two children in less than two weeks, some days there were

two funerals a day, I never saw such a time, the sickness is now abating considerably, I do not know of but two ^{now} who are very sick, both children, one of them probably will not live untill morning, the other they have some hopes of yet.

March 28 The other day while writing to you I had company come in, of course this sheet had to be laid by, and have not untill now found time to finish it up, Amead is some better but gains slowly my health continues quite good for me, you say Charlotte & and Charles are teaching school, I cannot realize that they have grown up and become teachers, Oh how strange the past seems, almost like a dream, I sometimes get almost lost, when thinking of the home of my childhood, and the loved ones that were there, and of the changes that have taken place, since I left, brother I often think of you left there ^{in old Mass} as you are, the last ^{one} of our family you ^{must} feel sad and lonely I know, but there is ^{one} comfort for you yet, you can visit the graves of brother Father Mother two brothers and two sisters, none the rest of us can ^{do} so much as visit the grave of one, I often think it would be pleasant to go ~~the~~ back and make a visit, but Oh how sad it would seem to meet so few of those whom I have known, probably I shall never do it well my sheet is full but I have not said one half I would like too, but this must suffice for this time My love to all, you do not how it makes our mouths water for some of your apples, when you write about them perhaps we will send for some next fall, write often. Lucy et al

East Claire Apr 9th /63

Dear Brother.

It seems a long time since I have heard from you, hope none of you are sick, My health has been good all winter I think it has been better than it has before since we come west, I do feel truly thankful for it.

Mr Hastings has been well as usual except two weeks was laid up with inflammatory rheumatism, is now quite well, there has been much sickness, and a great many deaths, mostly children I think there has been more sickness and deaths in this place the last six months than in all the time we have lived here before; fevers, measles and diphtheria have been the prevailing diseases, one man lost all his children (three in number) within ten days, another man lost his

wife and two children within two weeks, sometimes we have had two funerals in a day, the sickness is gradually abating and I trust will soon disappear: we have had a very mild open winter Our Physicians think that has been one cause of the sickness, Spring bids fair for farmers, the frost is nearly all out of the ground, and they will soon commence work.

The first boat of the season came up the Chippewa river to this place the third of this month which is earlier than usual, we expect soon to have a rail road through this place to St Paul. it would seem pleasant indeed to hear the whistle once more and see the cars come rushing on, it would be a great help to the place if we do get it, and I think there is not much ^{doubt} but what we shall, The Indians

near us are still very peaceable
but in Minnesota the people are
expecting more trouble with them
soon unless Government prevents.

We often think and speak of
your ~~family~~ ^{father} friends, it would
be gratifying indeed to see you
but I suppose you think it too
much of a journey to come out
here, so we must be contented
with hearing from you, Carrie has
not answered my last letter as
yet, I suppose she is still in Philade
lphia, remember us to all your
family and all others who may
enquire.

Yours with affection
L A Hastings

Dexter Dec. 11th 1864

Dear Brother and Sister,

We received your letter together with your Photographs with pleasure I have long been looking for one, as I cannot see you personally your pictures will give me pleasure while I live, for which I feel grateful. Brother.

Hastings did not stop here on his return I had hoped to hear directly from you he left those saions and a bundle for Lysander at Ypsilanti but I did not receive them untill it was time to set and they did not live. I have not heard from Mr Hastings since last spring he said he had sold his land and was going to manufacture soap of all kinds, in company with another man. Mr. Easton Oliver's husband has sold out and gone to Iowa and bought eighty acres for ten dollars an acre near Des moines

the capital, he thinks of moving out there in the spring if he likes, his family are living with us, brother Szyander lives in Jackson and works at the carpenters trade. I think he has two dollars a day I was there this summer he said he had not lost but one day this season, I think they are doing very well for these hard times.

The drought affected our our crops this season, wheat is selling from two dollars to two and fifteen cents a bushel, corn a dollar and twelve cents, potatoes sixty five per cent from fourteen to fifteen dollars a hundred, beef seven, hay from fifteen to twenty dollars a ton. I think you must get a good price for cheese this season, I can easily imagine that you are very lonely, is it not hard to bring up children and when they are grown up and ^{are} so much company to have them leave you, but so it is with this world, how does brother

Joels widow get along now she
is blind, do her children support her
are they kind to her, I hope they are
a comfort to her in her affliction
we are all well, we have cold weather
and good sleighing snow six or eight
inches deep, I enclose my P photograph
you will see I am an old woman ^{sixty}
years old, Mr Bulhemus has not ^{got} his
at present. Olive presents her respects

Please remember to Mother and all
enquiring relatives My love to
yourselves and family

Almira Bulhemus

66, Apr 6

Dear Brother and Sister,

It is a long time since I have heard from you, I have been looking for a letter all winter, I hope this will find you all well. We have had a very cold winter but little sleighing, much has been cold and windy and today there is no green thing to be seen, our winters are much more severe than when we first moved here. I suppose you have heard brother Hastings was married last April to a widow Whiting, you may not know that they lived together five months disagreed and seperated forever as he says.

I think brother Lysander is doing well in Jackson he takes the

charge of the union hall, lives in
the same block, & think he has two
dollars a day and his wood furnishes
Almira and I went out to Iowa
last ~~July~~ June, I think it a fine
country ^{through} Illinois and Iowa,
those large prairies look beautiful
but do not know as I should like
to live on them.

Do come out and see us once.
Mr Pulhemmes presents his
respects. Remember me to
Mother, and all enquiring frien^d
Much love to yourselves while I
remain your affectionate sister
Almira Pulhemmes

Some of those scions you sent us
last spring are living, for which
accept my thanks

Dexter April 6th 1866

Webster March, 24th 1867

Dear Uncle & Aunt. - It has

been some time since we received your letter, I thought when you were here last summer that I should write quite often & now here it is Spring & have not as much as said "How d'z' do". I was down to Mother's yesterday they were all well, & Mr. Pulhams busy as ever, Mother had a very bad spell last Fall with her lungs, coughed so nights that she could not sleep & would sweat so nights that she had no strength, it seemed to me she had the consumption, nothing for a time seemed to help her, till we got one of Dr. Chosis recipe books & selected one of the recipes that we thought must be good from a knowledge of the articles composing it. we then procured the roots & barks & went to work accordin' following the directions very carefully,

After she had taken the syrup four or five days, went down to see how she was, found her sitting up & no cough at all & the night sweats gone, it took some time to get her strength again, has hired her washings done this winter, washed last week thinks she will do the washing now, Mr. Pulhennus is always kind when she is sick & has brought in the wood & water all that he could before he went to the shop Only the other day Mother was telling me how well she felt this Spring & how easy her work had been this winter, she has not been so fleshy ^{for} a long time as now, We have had no letter from Uncle Lyzande nor heard from them since you were here, Had a letter from Olive last night they were well excepting her husband was complaining some, am afraid they have felt the cold severely this winter as their house was not finished & she seemed to write rather down heartedly, Franklin has been ^{my} ~~gone~~ ^{away} from home about half of the time this winter buying & selling cattle, it has been a hard winter for the

business & he has not done as well as
sometimes, he made well on the cattle
he had when you were here I believe. He
is at home now getting ready for spring
work, has hired only one man by the
month pays him 25 dollars per month
for eight months, thinks he shall not
hire any more ^{than on hand} by the month, but hire by
the day & job & let out some of the plough
land, wages are so high & produce is falling in
price, except wheat, which is high brings
now two dollars & eighty-five cents per bushel
& think it will be higher before another
harvest as it is not in the country, if next
harvest should be light it would make
hard times for the poor, The insect last
Fall was in all early sown wheat, but
late sown wheat looked well, but no
one can tell how a wheat crop is
going to turn out, till it is thrashed, & then
can tell nothing of the amount of money that
goes either in the pocket or out of it till it
is sold, no crop the Western farmer raises is
so uncertain as the wheat crop.

of your address in Boston we will get the letter but perhaps not
give the address in New York, Washington Co, New York
you so soon
Willie is going to school this winter
for the first, he don't like to go very well
& don't learn very fast, but think he may do
better after he gets started as he is very
persevering, music seems to be his greatest
delight, Lewis the youngest is the opposite of
Willie in every respect, Our District have built
a new School House since you were here, on the
four corners west of our house, not quite half a
mile from our house, Now that you have been
to Mich, & know how it looks here, it seems
that we are a great deal better acquainted
though relatives yet almost strangers, I can
also see how it looks around your home which is
a satisfaction to me, In a few weeks you may
imagine seeing me with a Shaker pulled over my
face weeding & hoeing the Strawberry bed, or out in the
garden planting & weeding, or feeding chickens, geese & turkeys
you see I am going into the fowl speculation, have commenced
with a capital of five turkeys, sixty-four geese, & I don't
know how many hens as we don't count them only once in
two or three years, Don't know what success may have, may
be something like the maid with the pail of milk in the
back part of the spelling book, but if don't forget about it
will keep you informed on the "interesting subject"

I could not but think yesterday when I was going to
Mothers of Zion & Aunt Charlotte what you ^{would} think of the
roads if you were here now, Think if you should ride
from Dexter to Ann Arbor over these muddy roads, the next
ride would be New Englandward We always have very bad
roads in the Spring, always expect it, & make our calculations
for it, & then accept it as an agreeable variety, you know,
but I know no one accustomed to good roads, this muddy time
would give the horrors - I own to getting a little nervous
myself as the horse tugged pulled & ploughed through the
mud that came up at every turn of the wheels till the
wheels must have weighed more than the buggy & its contents,
& then the holes to keep out off & the holes that you can't but
help to get into, keeps the teamster on the sharp lookout for
breakers ahead, In short Aunt Charlotte it is as bad as getting
down that ladder when I was teaching, Now I do hope
you will write often as you can I should like Cousin
George & Charlotte to write, what is George going at this summer
& does Charlotte live at Pely Adams yet & Eliza I would like
to hear from her, I think must write to her before long
I say George but now it seems to me that is not his name
out can't think what it is but you will know I mean right
Yours Affectionately
A. C. Chamberlain

Base Lake Feb. 10 1868

Dear Aunt, We received

yours last week was on the point of writing when we received it, so will not have occasion to delay as usual with me, Mother was wondering why she did not hear from you the last time I saw her, Mother & Mr. Pulhemus are quite well this winter I have not seen them very often this winter, have been without a girl most of the time since September which has kept me tied up to the kitchen, it is almost impossible to hire a girl, good or bad, Franklin paid three dollars & a half to a girl for one weeks work last fall & twenty-shillings a week for two weeks after that, Two dollars however is the usual price, We have a young girl now who has been with us not

quite two weeks but will not be strong
enough for summer help.

When Franklin is not at home to-day
he went to Detroit last night with
a car load of cattle. Don't know how
far he will go, He has been no farther
than Detroit this winter. We have not
heard from Uncle Lyander in a long
time, the last we heard he was still
living at the same place, We have
heard nothing from Smeed since what
I wrote you, suppose he is having a
precious time with his jewel I intend
to go to Jackson to see Uncle Lyander
after F - gets through with driving
cattle, We are having fine sleighing
the snow is about eighteen inches
deep on the level, We have had a
great deal cold weather this winter
not so changeable as it often is, The
thermometer I believe has been as low
as twenty-seven degrees below zero, twenty
degrees below zero I think kills peach

buds, so we don't expect peaches next summer, I will send you a newspaper when I mail this, so that you can see the description of E. L. Boyden's farm, which you recollect we passed when we went to Ann Arbor, it ~~was~~ is the one on Boyden's plains, ^{of} which Uncle said he would have no ambition to be president if he owned such a farm.

The paper will also give you a correct account of the markets & the value of produce, Will also send our photographs they were taken last Fall. But no more now, Lewis is hanging round me trying to be undressed for bed, so I will wish you & Uncle both Good Night, hoping you will both write some convenient time we like much to hear from our Eastern friends & you are the only ones who write to us now.

Affectionately Yours

A. M. Chamberlain

Well Lewis is safe & snug in
bed & I must tell you of my
poultry speculations, just to let you
see how we do in Mich, will commence
with hens I don't know how many hens
we had to commence with or how many
chickens we raised, but we sold one hundred
ninety three doz, eggs at prices all the way from
twelve to thirty cents, so that the eggs amounted
to forty dollars, sold one hundred lbs, chickens at
11 cts per pound & all the eggs & chickens we
wanted through the whole year to use
raised 21 geese & sold 67 lbs of feathers during
the year, sold off all our geese which amounted
to 85 geese in all, so ends the goose story,
raised last summer over sixty turkeys
sold 45 at a dollar apiece have 17 on hand
~~made~~ & have given away & ate 7 intend to
take my turkey money & put it towards
buying a sewing machine for if cannot
get hired girls must use more smacking
Don't know how it will be about visiting
you next summer more will depend
upon the help we get in the house
thang any other thing, ever more
Good Night A. M. Chew belaire

Dexter Oct 7th 1868

Dear Brother and Sister,

I received your letter of Sept 20th which had been long looked for.

I know it is long since I have written it is getting hard for me to write my eyesight is getting very poor, but do not forget you, often think of that visit and long to see you once more, think of much I wish to say that I cannot write, do not know whether I can ever go to Mass. or not. I am sorry to hear Brothens health is so poor hope he is getting better. We are often reminded this world is not our final home I hope we shall be enabled to give it up in peace when called away.

Franklin and Almira have been to Iowa this summer to see Olive and family, ^{found} them well, they have

sold their farm in Iowa, suppose
they want to go west thinking
they have not ^{got} there yet, he paid
ten dollars an acre and sold for
forty, built a small house, and
fenced his land, dont know how much
he has broke up. Brother Szegecun's
wife and children have been here
this fall, they have another daugh-
ter about four months old, call
her Lucy Almira they are still
living at the same place but he
does not have the care of the hall
the building has been sold, he works
at the carpenters trade, talks some
of moving to Ann Arbor, I think
they get along about as usual.

Fruit is not plenty here this year
last year we had peaches and all
kinds of fruit, grain crops are good
wheat has been over two dollars a

Bushel is not quite two now,
butter thirty eight cents, cheese from
twenty to twenty five cents.

Mr Pulhemus presents his
respects I hope you will write
and let us know how you do

My love to all

I remain your affectionate
sister Almira Pulhemus

Dexter March 20th 1870

Dear Aunt - Your letter of March
thirteenth was received last
evening, & glad we were to hear from
you, it brushed up memories of
the past, & again brought to recollection
those we call our kin far away, yet
in this age of steam & electricity, not
very far away. Last Spring we thought
to visit you during sometime in the
summer, but affairs did not go as
expected so had to stay at home,
Franklin rented his farm last Spring
for one year & we moved to Dexter
& lived in Mother's house & they boarded
with us. The man Franklin rented
to proved to be so dishonest that it
had been about as much as Franklin
could do to keep things straight, there
are so many chances for dishonesty
on a rented farm, The next best thing

seems to be to go back, so in about
three weeks we shall gather together our
cats & dogs both great & small & move
back. We should have not rented
the farm if we could hire good help
but it is very difficult to get help that
is good for anything, one needs to keep
his high heeled shoes on all the time
else they will run over him ^{before you are aware} & they are
not to work for you, but you for them,
especially is it so since the war. If a
young man is good for anything he soon
goes west & gets himself a home, & the
rest think the world owes them a living,
We repaired ~~to~~ our house & built on
some bed rooms one year ago last
fall, so that now we have "plain
comfortable farm house, If we do not
sell the farm we probably shall sometime
build on the hill I think we pointed
out the spot when you were in Mich-
East Spring Franklin set out some

evergreens & ninety maple trees on
the building spot & eighty maples on
the roadside by the old house. The
Maples now are a good size & in a
few years will be fine trees. He intends
to set out more this Spring. Mother's
health has been poor all winter & last
summer she was not able to do
any thing, last summer she was a
great deal as Aunt Lucy used to be
& this winter she takes cold so easily
that she has a cough most of the
time, she thinks she is going to do
her work this summer & hire the
washing and ironing done, but
I don't think she can, think she
ought not to stay alone as she will
have to from morning till night as
he goes to the shop and takes his
dinner with him, Oliver's husband
sold out but did not go farther,
west as he talked but bought two

& a half miles from Des Moines
& are doing well I believe.
We have heard nothing from Uncle
Lyander since last summer they
were then in Jackson at the same
place working at the Carpenter's Trade.

March 27th I left this letter unfinished
last Sunday & Sunday night Lewis, my
youngest, had the croup & for two days
after we had to watch him closely -
he is quite well now, so that delayed
finishing this, In your last you mentioned
it snowing when you wrote, We also

had a snow storm the same day & a
week of pretty good sleighing, & yesterday it
commenced to ^{rain} snow about noon & is still
raining, I don't think it has stopped at all since
it commenced, it is not cold but very muddy
I don't think it will be so we can visit you
next summer, The trouble is, for both to leave &
trust to hired help as we should have to do,
I think Mother will not be able to come & I would
not like to come alone, I do wish you could
come & see us & make a longer visit, your
time before was so short, Mr. Burden was out here
this Fall, he only stayed from Sunday till Monday morning
He owns some Land near Lansing & was out to see about
selling it, Franklin was in Albany this winter & went
to Troy & saw Charles, My love to you all, I hope
Uncle Addison will write too, we like so
well to hear from you all, though I am very
negligent about answering but make a great
may punctual resolutions

Yours Affectionately
A. M. Chamberlain

from old Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station
at W. C. Channing
are almost - the only one we have to
glad to write often so you can
though she is sometimes a little deaf
Mother has not a single look which her
eyes do I am getting quite gray but
We are getting quite old Franklin says

Base Lake Feb. 2^d 1872

Dear Uncle & Aunt - It

is almost a year
since we received your letter &
because I did not answer immediately
it has been delayed thus long, I
was at Mother's yesterday & read a
letter she had received from you
a few days ago. Mr. Pulherms & Mother
are both well this winter. He rents
his shop in town & takes care of his
pony & chickens & brings in wood &
water & they seem to be getting along
as cozy^{ly} as two kittens. We have heard
nothing from Uncle Lyander for some
time I think the last letter was this
Fall. They were having the ague & living
in the same house with her brother's
family. Mary Ann had united with
the Baptist church & the children

of our most come to Delta
you direct to Delta on 9th St - 1st grad on route, north
our first of it in Barabook, Wisconsin County, or it
attended school, they are home sick

& would get back to Michigan if they
could. We have been having cold
weather this ~~weather~~ winter, Last
Wednesday morning the thermometer
stood at thirty-four degrees below zero
It was very still & the trees
cracked with noise like guns.
The barn & house & even the rails
of the fence ~~would~~ would explode like
the click of so many guns, It is
thought that apple trees may be
injured as the bark ~~to~~ on some is
cracked by the frost. But our winter
bears no comparison with the severe
weather of Minnesota, a snow storm
on the Prairies at any time is a
thing to be avoided, but when joined
with the extreme cold of this winter
it is terrific. We do not expect
peaches this year in this locality
But in the fruit region of
Michigan the peach buds are reported

in good condition. The fruit
region comprises a strip along
Lake Michigan where the
atmosphere is so tempered by
the lake that peaches are raised
there in great abundance every
year. Figs have been planted out
& were reported as doing finely.

Apples were very plenty in
Michigan this Fall they scarcely
paid for picking & taking to the
cider mill, Good winter apples
were worth one dollar a barrel,
barrel & all, dried apples are worth
five cents a pound, winter wheat
of first quality is worth about two
dollars in Detroit, but owing to
a combination of millers we don't
get much over a dollar & ~~fifty~~^{eighty} here.
That sheep bring about six & a quarter
cents per pound, I should think
one half of the last wool crop
is in the hands of the farmers

the record & news paper concern
we had a dry summer last year
but what little rain we had came
at the right time & the crops were
pretty good, though wheat on most
of the farms was a light crop, We
have good sleighing now & the
snow in many places is melted
to water horses & for household use
Mother well is entirely dry & they
melt snow, We have had two years
now of drouth we have more snow
this winter than last, I think I wrote
you about our little boy now nineteen
months old but I think from your
letters you did not receive it, We call
him Charles Franklin & you must
know such a rarity as a baby makes
him quite a pet, Olives little boy in Iowa
has been very sick for a long time they thought
he had consumption but he is some better now
A. M. Chamberlain

Dexter April 10th 1872

Dear Brother and Sister,
We received your letter of Scine
but have not answered it till
now, indeed I do not know when
I have written, not because you
are forgotten no never, I long to see
you once more and feel as though I
could then be better satisfied to
part, but if it cannot be so, I hope
we shall meet in a better world where
parting words will not be heard.

I was taken sick the third of July
with erysipelas and confined to
my bed about ten weeks, it spread
nearly all over me, ^{except my head} and was very
painful I became very weak, am now
able to do my work except washing
am subject to a cough winters and
cannot go out much.

We have just received a letter from Brother Sycander saying he has the ague and a cold says they have all had the fever and ague and last fall Mary Ann was sick with fever confined to her bed two months, he says she is homesick as she can be, says it seems a very unlucky move for them, they are living with her brother and he works for him on his farm, he says her brother has been rather unfortunate and cannot ^{do} by them as they expected, he gives some description of the country it is rolling prairie, no wood except on the borders of the streams of water, the lumber comes from Chicago.

When we heard from Olive last their little boy was very sick he had croup, and congestion of the lungs I hope he is better. Franklin's family are well except colds, Mr. Pulhemus health is not good as it used to be he has rented

his shop and works around home
he presents his respects

Remember me to your Children

Love to you all

Amira Cullemis

Brother Le. address is, Wakarusa
Shawnee Co. Kan.

Webster Dec, 20th 1839

Dear Uncle & Aunt, We
received your letter
yesterday & it came to a
sorrowing house, for she to whom
it was written lies cold in the
grave. Mother died the day ~~on~~
which your letter was written,
The thirteenth of December at
ten minutes past three in the
afternoon. Was taken sick on the
fourth of Dec, in the morning with
a chill but we did not think
her dangerous till Monday, when
she was worse & from that grew
rapidly worse. Her disease was
Typhoid Pneumonia or Congestion
of the lungs, for the last ten years
she has been subject to attacks of
Congestion, sometimes slight & easily

removed, she had an attack of
congestion about six weeks ago but
it did not trouble her more than
one day, & since then seemed better.
& had not coughed much, she has
had a cough for several years more
or less at times, but she never thought
much about it, & it was hard to
get her to take much for it. We
had a very sudden change in the
weather at the time she was taken
sick, & I think she took cold which
caused her sickness. The Dr. said she
had no constitution for him to
build on, she was very much worn
out taking care of Mr. Pulhamus in
his sickness. He was taken sick in
February & died the 2nd, of July. For
a long time Mother took care of
him & had to get up several times
in the night, afterwards when she
had more help & ought to have had

rest if she left the room for a few
minutes he would call for her,
Mr. Pulchensis was a very hard person
to take care off & I don't see how
Mother endured it, Her anxiety
must have kept her up, She came
to live with me in September &
she was very thin in flesh so that
it seemed her dresses could almost
go twice around her, & she tired so
easily & her hands trembled so, but
she would be busy about something
or reading, & I think she had gained
some since she came here, if she
had lived till Spring so she could
have been out of doors more I
think she would have gained in
flesh & strength. I was happy to have
her with me & had laid plans
for her to have flowers to occupy
her mind next summer, she
was exceedingly fond of flowers
as she was of anything beautiful
I thought to try to make her
last days pleasant as I could
but it was only three months

she was with me, We have repaired
our house some since you were here
& opening from the sitting room
we have four bed rooms that can
be warmed from the sitting room
stove, Mother took the room
nearest the stove, she liked it best
because it had an outside door &
fixed it up with some of her things
but it is desolate now, It was hard

for Mother to break up keeping house
& ^{leave} her own home where she had
lived so long & had there been any way
that she could have lived in her own
home I don't know but she would enjoy
it better, I think Mother enjoyed her home
more than most people do & I suppose
it would be harder to leave it, Mother
was quite deaf but the day before she
died her hearing returned & she had her
senses all through her sickness. The
day ^{before} she died she talked with us all,
Death had no terrors for her, but
she talked of it as some happy event
that was to bring her into great
happiness, Not a doubt or a murmur did
any of us here, We telegraphed to Olive
she started the next train but did not
get here to see her alive, When we
told Mother that Olive was coming she
said "I don't think I shall be alive then"
Olive's husband came with her they brought
their two youngest children, the babe is
nine months old

Dec. 23 I intended to
have sent this letter yesterday when we took Olive
to the cars, but forgot it. Mr Pulhemus made
his will during his last sickness, The squire
who wrote the will advised Mr. Pulhemus
not to make a will, as it would not
leave Mother as much as the law allows
& it would cost more to settle the estate,
but Mr. Pulhemus insisted on it & he
wrote it see page 5

& Mother would say nothing even if she should suffer. Mr. Pulhemus was not worth much, & he had seemed inclined to help his children for a few years past, he owned two shops in Dexter that he rented, one for a shoe shop, & the other for selling meat, & about five hundred dollars in notes & mortgages, The willed Mother one hundred dollars & his personal property, His personal property did not amount to much if we could sold it for a hundred dollars we would have done pretty well, The man who wrote the will was the one appointed by the will to settle the estate, & he advised Mother if the Judge would not allow her one years living out of the estate, to break the will, but we afterwards found that notes & mortgages were personal property, & we thought to let the will take its course, After the debts were paid his

property was to be divided among
his children & grand children,
When Mr. Pulhemus married
Mother he was not worth anything,
he had to borrow money to rent a
shop with, He was owing debts in
Sun Arbor that he afterwards paid
when he was living with Mother,
He brought a bed & bedding & a little
furniture when he came to live
with Mother, & what he was worth
when he died he made after
he came to Dexter, & if he had
not had Mother's house to lived
in, He would not had much.

We received those spoons from
Uncle Ruben the day Mother
was burried. I shall write to him
soon, Also a letter from Uncle
Lysander since Mother died, I guess
they see pretty hard times, don't think
he has much money to spend for
bitters, said they had sent you
Lysander's photograph, Hope you will
write soon We all send our love
Yours affectionately
A. M. Chamberlain

4481 1/2 Webster Feb, 1874
 Mother all through her sickness was so afraid
 of making trouble, it grieves me to think of it,
 & when meals were ready & some would go out
 to eat, she would turn to me & say go home &
 eat your supper or dinner, so that she might be
 there was no time for me in her room, but she always
 knew whether it was dinner or supper or what
 she would say go more & get a little rest, & I had
 down the world not let them call me, of you time & she
 would not let them call me, but rather suffer
 that I might not suffer.

Dear Uncle & Aunt, I

wrote a letter a week ago to Uncle Reuben Merriam but cannot tell from the letter that Sarah Merriam wrote to Mother, how to direct it, & therefore I send it to you, & will you be so kind as to direct it so that he will get it; We received two spoons from Uncle Reuben the day Mother was buried, she had received a letter from her cousin Sarah sometime before & ~~was~~ had been looking for the spoons. We received your letter of Jan, 8th & have read it over & over, It is a great comfort to me & every little event connected with my Mother's early days

is very interesting to me, What town was Mother born in? I don't recollect of our visiting the place where she was born when we were visiting in Mass. I think if Mother had lived two years longer she would again visit Mass, I asked her not long ago if she could have her choice to go west & see Olive, or east & see her relatives, which place she would rather go, she said east, & I then thought if possible to have her go, During her last sickness she spoke of the climate in Mich - now agreeing with her, I will send you several of our western papers at the same time we put this letter in the Office, you will see some sketches of the hardships of pioneer life & they are not over drawn, The Mrs. Taylor referred to, is not Mother, but another Mrs. Taylor

My Mother & Albert Pullemus
were married March 20th 1858

We received this Fall a paper
containing the death of the daughter
of Dutee White, but we have received
no letter ~~from~~ ^{any} It has been
years since any of my Father's
relatives have written & all that
we know of them is what you
write. We buried Mother by
the side of my Father, The day
before she died, she said to me
"I suppose you know where I
want to be buried". The picture
of yourself that we received in
your last letter I will send to my
sister, & I will keep the one
Mother had of you & Aunt
Charlotte, & Uncle Reuben's I
will keep in remembrance of
him, I recollect well my visit
there with my Mother

his wife & son were both living
then, Can you tell me where
we can purchase the record of
the Locke family, I don't know
as that is the title of the book
but you will know what I mean
when I tell you that it contains
the record of the Merriams, I
have seen the book,

Mother never staid alone
after Mr. Palhemus death, The
same girl that worked for her
when Mr. Palhemus was sick,
staid with her untill she
came to my house, Mother
would have lived there
^{untill winter}
alone, if I would have let her,
but I did not think it safe,
& could not have rested or slept
at night, if she had been there
all alone, I send you a lock
of Mother's hair, you see it kept
its color well, I want to send
you something as a memento,
What do you want? What shall
I send? I hope you will write often
as you can & Aunt too I would like to
hear from ~~the~~ you so much
Affectionately yours
A. M. Chamberlain

Base Lake Sept, 27, 1874th

Dear Uncle & Aunt, I ought
to have written you before
this but I have ^{had} a good many
letters to write lately, & I hate to
write letters but like to get
them when others write them.
I received yours about two or
three weeks since & I see you
did not get the paper I sent
you containing the death of my
husband, He died the 20th day
of July, He was not confined to his
bed only from the 3^d day of July
after he gave up to his bed he
only sat up twice, I never saw
one fail so rapidly in flesh &
strength as he did, I could see
every morning he was thinner

than the morning before, his
disease was cancer in the stomach
A very distressing complaint towards
the last, as it is actual starvation
He lived six days on ice & water
He first complained of his stomach
soon after ~~his~~ Mother's death,
The symptoms the same as
dyspepsia, but from the first
very obstinate & nothing that
he took made it better, He
said himself during the winter
that he believed it different
from common dyspepsia, he
thought it cancer long before
the physicians called it so,
I am left with a great deal
of care on my mind & a great
many things to see too, but
guess shall get along if I keep
well, My oldest boy is now
fifteen, my second eleven &

the youngest three last June
I shall sell the farm this
winter if I have an opportunity
& go to Iowa & get a small place
as this farm is too large for a
woman to manage successfully
with hired help, I have put in
eighty acres of wheat this Fall
There was raised on the farm
this summer 16000 bushels of
wheat 432 bushels oats 280
bushels of barley, I have received
a letter from Uncle Lyzander
I don't know how he is going
to winter this winter, I will
send you the letter & you can
see they must ~~be~~ have hard times
I think as you say if a share
of Uncle Reuben's property could
go to him, "it" would go to a
needy place, If there should be
anything for him, I hope you
will see to having it put in
a little home so that he can
not spend it, I hope to hear
from you & Aunt Charlotte soon

Yours affectionately
A. M. Chamberlain

In settling up Mr. Pulhemus estate, the personal property is taken to pay debts & there will not be enough left to pay Mother's funeral expenses & doctors bill & tomb stone unless they sell some of the real estate, the shop which would not bring much, I am glad that Mother never knew that so little would be left her,

The Administrator don't want to sell the real estate, the law is take personal property first-