

COOK FAMILY LETTERS 1841 to 1913

collected by FAYE E. HANSEN

edited by KENNETH R. COIN

1981

EXPLANATION and CREDIT

The majority of the following letters were written by three generations of the Cook family of Riley Township, Clinton County, Michigan.

After the death of Maud Randall Cutler in 1956, the letters came into the possession of Faye E. Hansen who added to the collection letters in the possession of Mrs. Cutler's son, Neil, and some in the possession of her nephew, Gerald Pike.

In the editing of these letters, strict attention has been given to retaining the original spelling of words. The only changes in this regard have been the correcting of misspelled family names and place names.

Cook Family

Joseph Cook (1790-1863) and Charlotte (Herrick) Cook (1795-1860) were the parents of the following known children: George H., Joseph W., Addison U., Charlotte, Abigail, Amori Benson, Sally Ann, and William H. H. Charlotte is buried in the DeWitt Cemetery while Joseph is in the Hemlock Lake Cemetery, Hemlock, New York with his son George H.

George H. Cook (1815-1909) married Sarah Ganoung and after her death, Sarah Swan. He lived in Livingston County, New York.

Joseph W. Cook (1816-1858)

Addison U. Cook (1817-1897) married Antoinette E. Alexander and lived in Olive Township.

Charlotte (1824-1864) married Moses S. Newman.

Abigail Cook (18247-1903) married Phineas R. Freeman.

William H. H. Cook (1837-1862). Company B 3rd Michigan Cavalry in Civil War. Died of disease on September 24, 1862, New Madrid, Missouri. Burial National Cemetery, Memphis, Tennessee.

Sally Ann died in her teens.

Amori Benson Cook (1831-1919) married Amina L. Simmons (1836-1910) and had three daughters: Estella, Ida Ophelia, and Maud (died as an infant). Amina was the daughter of Atwell (1806-1881) and Lovina (Knapp) Simmons (1805-1891).

Ida Ophelia Cook (1856-1928) married William B. Randall on October 23, 1880, in Riley Twp. They had two daughters: Edna Amina (1881-1936) who married George Simmons Pike, and Maud D. (1883-1956) who married Marcus DeLafayette Cutler.

William B. Randall married second Josephine (VanRiper) Walters on January 9, 1889, at Petoskey, Michigan. Their son, LeRoy Randall, was born August 3, 1889, at Pellston, Michigan. He served in the Navy during World War I and died June 25, 1961. No additional information or death record for William B. Randall has been found.

Photos of many of these people are in the DeWitt District Library local history collection.

April 17, 1840, Wm. M. Anthony & M. M. Avery Dr to 113 lbs of flour at 20/-
\$2.83. By Joseph Cook

I. H. Gillett
[or J. H. Gillett]

To George Cook, Milford, Oakland Co., Mi.

DeWitt, Dec. 13th, 1841

Dear Brother and sister,

As I have an opportunity to send a few lines to you by our cousin. We are at Uncle's yet. We have heard from Joseph twice. Addison received a letter from him a few days before we got here.

Uncle's folks have had a letter from Mark and James. They were well. The last time we heard from Joseph he was in Landgrove but he calculated to spend the winter in Manchester. He wrote that Uncle Ebenezer Cook was dead. Died the second of Oct.

I have been to see Altie twice since I have been here and to school a few days and to a quilting bee meeting twice.

Father has not got his house done yet, he has been quite unwell and has been so ever since we started from Milford. Amori and Henry was quite unwell last week, they have got some better. Mother is troubled with the head a great deal. Aunt has the ague some and I have a dreadful time with my teeth but Doctor Marvin looked at them the other morning so I don't think they will ache any more. I had forgot to tell you how my face swelled.

Give my best respects to enquiring friends.

I have nothing more to write. It will take you more than one day to find out what I have written.

Sally Ann sends her love to all, especially little Mary Abigail Cook, George, and Sarah, and Charlotte.

Give my love to Sarah and kiss Mary forty times for Charlotte.

(Abigail Cook)

Well, George, as Abigail is done writing I will try to write you a few lines to let you know a little about our health which is not very good at present. Your father's health has been very poor since he left Milford. He has not been able to labor any of the time. He has tried to do a little to his house, he has had some help and got it up and the lower part mostly chinked. If he has good luck in getting boards for the floor a few more days work would make it comfortable to live in. We have all been here at Uncle's ever since Lorenzo left here, which makes it very inconvenient for them as your Aunt's health is rather poor. She has had the ague some since we have been here. Your Uncle's health is not very good, the rest of the family are well.

Amori and Henry have been very unwell for about a week but are some better today.

I do not know yet whether I am homesick or not. I think I could tell better if I could have a good cup of tea. We have not had any this two weeks.

Uncle's folks received a letter from Mark dated the 18th of November. He and James were well. He wrote that he received a letter from Joseph dated the 5th of the same month. He was then in Landgrove.

Your father, myself, Uncle Woodbury and Aunt Nancy visited David and Altie Scott about two weeks ago, had a very good visit; helped them eat a roasted pig and a rice pudding.

Your father wants to have you send him one dollars worth of nails, 2 pounds ten pennys, 2 pounds shingle nails, the rest eight pennys, a few awls and tax and a pound or two of rosin.

There is no tea in this place at present, if you can send us a pound of good tea your father will pay you for it.

We all join in sending our love to you all. Uncle Moses' family included.

This from your mother,

Charlotte Cook

Once I had a true love, I loved her as my life.
I'd freely give my heart and hand if she had been my wife.
She oft times looked on me, with scorn and disdain.
The answer that she gave me, you can't come again.

I cannot tell the reason why she should use me so
I'll sing her fair praises, where ever I do go.
Her teeth is white as ivory, her cheeks is red as wine,
And her sollesing black eye doth my heart so confine.

It was last Sunday evening, she freely give me o'er.
She took me by the hand and led me to the door.
To be a woman's slave sir, is something I disdain
So now I tell plainly, you can't come again.

When twelve months was over, over and above
Cupid sent an arrow and wounded my love.
Wounded my love, which caused her to complain.
She wrote me a letter that I might come again.

I wrote her a letter all for to let her know
That love would create where I never should go
And whilst I am single and on this earth remain,
I'll remember you old madam, but I shant come again.

John Gillet
Fort Ann,
Washington Co., N. Y.

1842

I then killed my old cat and,
She made me an elegant stew
I then bid adieu to all women
All women I then bid adieu.
J. W. Cook

To George Cook, Milford, Oakland Co., Mich.

Riley, July 15th 1842

George,

I now sit down to pen a few lines to you in answer to yours which we received the 10th and were very much pleased to hear from you but very sorry to hear of your ill health. I hope you will be very careful and try to regain your former health which is one of the greatest blessings we can enjoy on this world.

We were pleased to hear that Charlotte's health was improving. I expect she was disappointed but not more so than we were by her losing the chance of coming home. Mr. Gould did not go as was expected when you left your father and myself. Went to Esquire Utley's Saturday the 2nd to visit Deacon Thayer and his wife and your father was calculating to see Mr. Gould but they told us that Mr. Ingersoll was going to Detroit after a load of merchandise for the merchant at Grand River and they were going to ride home with him and you may suppose that we were disappointed indeed.

O, Charlotte keep up good courage and be careful of your health and I trust it will not be long before an opportunity will present for you to return home once more and I think it will be a joyful day to us all for we want to see you more than pen can describe.

We received a letter from Joseph dated the 26th the same day that we received yours. Father and myself were at Uncle Pike's. David and Altie came there and brought them both and you may guess we were pleased to hear from you all.

Joseph wrote that it was a general time of health, business dull, spring boarders scarce and money scarcer yet. His health was very good. He had been to Lima and had seen Capt. Lyon and Arthur and the folks were all in usual health. He calculated to start for Michigan the first of October. He writes that he is very lonesome this summer. He says he received a letter from Jenks the 20th of June. He talks of coming west this fall and did not know but he would accompany Joseph to Michigan. He says John Dan has opened a Temperance House in the new tavern in Lima called the American Temperance Hotel. They intended to rebuild the Seminary this season.

Tell Charlotte June Gillet is learning the trade of Mrs. Gregory. We are all enjoying good health at present. Your father is lame yet. He is at work for Mr. Apthorp this week in his fallow. OUR potatoes, corn and beans and cucumbers look very well but the begas are few and far between.

Uncle's health is about the same as that is was when you left. The rest of his family are well.

Addison has got the whooping cough quite hard, he is at present unable to labor. He is here today, he came here last evening. He fetched up his roller Sun. calculating to shin them for him.

I want you all to write as soon as you receive this and let us know how your health is and how Charlotte gets along and how Sarah and Mary do. O, how I do want to see them.

Give our best respects to Uncle Newman's family. Tell Aunt Sarah I wish she would take her babies and Charlotte and come and make us a visit soon, before harvest is she can.

We feel anxious to know what time you are coming here if you have your health. We have been very lonesome since you went away.

I have no news to write at present, it is a general time of health at present. The weather is warm and beautiful. I calculated to fill this sheet but it is now past twelve and Mr. Apthorp is going to the County Site this afternoon and I want to send it by him. So, I must say good by. This from your mother,

Charlotte C.

P. S. Joseph says that David Gillet talks of coming to Michigan this fall.

Know all men by these presents, That I, Ira Day am held and firmly bound unto Caleb Freeman in the full and just sum of twelve hundred dollars lawfull money of the state of New York to be paid to the said Caleb Freeman or to his certain attorney, executors, administrator or assigns to the which payment will and truly to be made, I bind myself, my heirs, executors and administrators and every of us firmly by these presents. Sealed with my seal, dated the sixteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-four.

The condition of this obligation is such that if the above bounden Ira Day, his heirs, executors or administrators shall and do will and truly pay or cause to be paid

unto the New York state Loan Commissions or their successors in office the just and full sum of six hundred dollars and the interest thereon when called for by the above said commissions, it being the amount of a mortgage that is against land conveyed by Elisha P. Mather to Caleb Freeman without fraud or other delay then this obligation to be void or else to remain in full force and virtue.

Sealed and Delivered
in presence of

Ira Day

A. M. Day

DeWitt, July 21 1844

Dear Brother,

I received your letter the 17th of June but have neglected to answer until now.

I have not much news to write. My health and Sarah's is good. Father's folks are about the same as when you left home. Father has the ague and fever. Mother's health, about as usual. Abigail's health is gaining. The rest of our friends I believe are all well.

You asked me to write you all the particulars of the fourth but I suppose Uncle and Aunt have told you all before this time. It went off about the same as last year. About the same number of people there, music rather bad. Ball at Wm. Utley's in the evening; about twenty couples. A large party at Scott's, 120 took supper. It was voted to take supper there again as soon as James K. Polk is elected President of these United States but the probability is, that it will not be this year.

I bought three months time of Simmons for twelve dollars a month and made my escape and went to work for Geo. O. Wells. Have plenty of work and doing fair business.

Elisha Cochran is at work for C. Utley, E. C. Pike has hired to David Scott for one year for eleven dollars per month.

Addison is troubled by wild verments. Thursday night last, a bear came to his house and got hold of one of his hogs. Addison had to get up and beat him off three times during the night. He has not heard from him since.

The farmers here are about commencing haying. The wheat crop will be rather small in this part of the country, it is very smutty and some rusty.

I have nothing more to write at present.

Please do write as soon as you receive this for we all want to hear from you and know how you get along and when you think of coming home.

Father's folks and our friends all send their respects to you.

Yours, Geo. H. Cook

Dear Sir,

There is room so I thought I could put in a few lines to father to tell him that my health is about the same as when he was here. I think if I can do anything down there this winter, I would come down and see if my health would get better. I have not heard from his pocket book, do not know but Mr. Utley has. Tell him to write as soon as he can.

Yours, Addison U. Cook

Know all men by these presents that we, Harvey Alexander and Ephriam H. Utley are held and firmly bound to Patrick Galligan in the sum of three hundred dollars current money of the United States, which sum will and truly to be paid we bind ourselves, our heirs, assigns, executors, administrators, quaintly and severly by these presents.

Sealed with our seals, dated at DeWitt this 21st day of March, 1846.

The condition of the above bond is such that if the said Galligan pains on causes to be paid to Harvey Alexander seventy-five dollars in neat stock according to a certain note having even date hencewith the said Alexander and Utley to give on cause to be given and executed to the said Patrick Galligan, to his heirs or assigns, a good and lawful Warrantee Deed of NE½ of the SW½ of Sec. 11 in TSN of RIW then the above bond to be void, otherways to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of William Utley

THE RILEY BUSTER

There is a woman in our town
She walks the streets for pleasure.
She puff and blow out all she knows
And a little more for leisure.

She walks the streets from house to house,
She is always in a bluster.
All the folks about the town
Call her the Riley Buster.

Long walks at night is her delight,
Around her neighbor's dwelling.
And there she staid for two long hours,
To see what they are telling.

'Twas on a cold and dreary night,
I very well remember,
As any night that ever blowd,
In frosty cold December.

When at my door I saw a sight
Which put me in a fluster.
I straight-way caught it in my arms.
It was the Riley Buster.

At first she tried with all her might,
To free herself from this chilie glare
I asked the cause of her being there
She answered quick, "To hear Moses swear."

(Attributed to Abigail Cook Freeman)

To the Clerk of the Township of Riley; Report of the Director of School District
No. 2.

The whole no. of schollars in said District between the ages of 4 and 18 years is 13

Atwell Simmons, Director

(No year given)

Feb. 2, 1847
DeWitt, Clinton Co., Mich.

Dear Brother and Sister,

I sit down to write a few lines to you to inform you of our health which is very good at present, except father and mother and Sally Ann have very sore throats.

I rote to you last January but have had no answer yet but keep a going to the post office everytime I have an oppertunity thinking to hear from you but get disappointed everytime until yesterday. I was at the County Seat and inquired for a letter and got one. I took it down to school and read it and was very glad to hear from you but more so to hear that you were well. I wish I could write to you that we are well but I cannot, that is out of the question. I do not think we have all been well at a time since we came to Michigan. I would give all of the old shoes and boots I have got if I could see you.

I rote to you in my last letter that I was boarding at Mr. Webb's and going to

school this winter.

You wrote that everything was all a float New Year's, corn and all. Wal, we had fine times New Year's.

You wanted we should let you know what we thought about coming back to York State to live. Wal, I will tell you what I think about it. I think it is the best thing we could do, would be to come back there to live. If father thinks as I do we would come back because all the rest would be willing. I know I will do the best and all I can to get him started.

Father and mother send their best respects to all.

Answer this immediatly.

This from Amori B. Cook
to Phinias and Abigail Freeman

Feb. the 10, 1847

FOUND, near the dwelling of the subscriber on the Night of the Second of Feb., a small white Mare with black mane and Tail with a black list on the back and black strip in the face. The owner is requested to proove property, pay charges and pay take her away.

Riley, 1847

Tom Thum

Lima, April 4th, 1847

Dear Brother,

I received your letter Feb. 12th, two weeks from the day it was mailed. I was glad to hear that you all were enjoying a comfortable degree of health.

We are well, my health is first rate. Last fall my weight was 145, now it is 160. Uncle Seth's health is verry poor and has been for three of four weeks. He walks about the house some and out doors a little. He sends his respects to father and mother, says tell them he is getting to be a feeble man.

The rest of the folks are well. The last time I wrote I had heard nothing from Jenks but I have since seen him a number of times. You have probably received a letter from him.

I have been to Avon once but did not stay but a short time. Was at Mr. Gillets a few minutes, they are all at home but Stephen and David. David is in Genessee Co., Mich. He is married. Stephen was not far off. They sent their respects to all, Jane, to

you in particular, inquired if you were married. Says she is writing to you. She didn't blush any when she said it, only gest she did.

Caleb thinks rather hard of you because you haven't written to him. He says he thinks more of you than any young man he was ever acquainted with; says you promised to write him when you left Avon. Says he has forgotten the name of the Post Office in Clinton Co.

Mr. Warm lives in Avon and Mr. Gilbert they are shoemakers for a living. Some Davis keeps the Recess and lives in the house that Mr. Anthony built.

I work for Pratt yet, he is about starting a shop at Slab City. I expect to go there to work in about two weeks. I have got to be a regular boot man as the seat of my work is now fine sewed boots and I can have them to make as long as I have a mind to work for him. I have spent three weeks time under instruction with the best boot man there is in this part of the country. I like the work well. They make fine boots here, very lite which makes lite work. Wages are from 20/ to 24/. I think in about two months I shall be able to make a nice boot.

Please, do write soon for I want to know how you all get along. I suppose father is making shugar if he is able to work. I would like to come and eat it warm with you but I cannot this spring.

Please tell me who you elect for town officers in your twon, also in DeWitt and wheather the Reed's have all left or not and everything else you can think of provided you don't think of Mrs. Simmons.

I learn from the newspapers that the capitol of the state is moved from Detroit to Lansing, Ingham county, if so I am glad of it. I think it will be a help to that part of the country.

The Band of Martial Music that went to Buffalo in '35 have all been together twice this year. First time, Jan. 11, last time, Feb. 22. We are all now living in the towns of Lima and Livonia. Hiram Willison, that was in the Florida War, lives on Vermont St. The Lima Band and all the other brass bands in this part of the country are broke down and gone to pot.

Do not forget to write. Sarah sends her respects to you all, mine also to all who may inquire.

Your Brother,
Geo. H. Cook

April 18

Well Joseph, we found a little more paper in George's letter and will write a few lines to you to let you know that we are in usual health at present but very lonesome. We are glad to hear that you and Moses and Charlotte are in good health. We want to see you all very much indeed. I wished you were all here eating warm sugar.

It is a general time of health. There has been some deaths since you went away. More Robberts' wife was buried a week ago yesterday. A young man by the name of Marvin Coats, half brother to R. G. Andrews, was drowned in the Grand River near Seymour's Saw Mill the seventh of this month. His body was found the tenth and buried the eleventh. Mr. Daniel of DeWitt has lost a little girl about eight years of age. She was buried last Thursday.

O, may we all be prepared for the great and last change. Write as soon as you receive this and let us know where Moses locates himself and how and whether you think of getting into business there or returning home.

Charlotte, Mrs. Andrews has got a son, born the 9th of April. Tell George the Reeds are all gone, Jefferson and all.

Give our love to all our friends and except a good share for yourselves.

This from your mother,

Charlotte Cook

to Joseph Cook, Moses and Charlotte Newman

Milford
May 5th, 1847

Dear Brother and Sister,

I now take my pen to write a few lines to you in answer to yours which I received April 30th. Was glad to hear from you and hear that you were well and doing well. Long may you live in the enjoyment of those blessings, health, prosperity, and a contented mind. Blessing which for years I have not been permitted to partake, and which may perhaps never more be enjoyed by me while permitted to remain here in this world. Still, there is one great consolation for me, as well as all others. If I spend my few remaining days here on earth in such a manner as to merit the love and good will of our Maker, and at last find a resting and dwelling place in that world above the skies, where the immortal spirit never dies, then it will matter not how much I suffered here on earth. There, all be esteemed alike. Those that were rich in this world's goods will have no more respect shown them there than those that were poor and afflicted. How oft' do we hear it remarked that in the midst of life we are in death. Therefore, let us strive to live in such a manner that should be denied the privilege of another meeting here on earth.

That we may meet in Jesus' dwelling,
And be by him forever blessed;
Where the wicked cease from troubling,
And the weary are at rest

Miscellaneous Items

I left home last February with Moses & Charlotte, went home with them to Bloomfield, staid the 10th of April then came to Milford.

Moses moved to Milford a week ago today, lives in house belonging to Alanson Crawford and works his farm, or a part of it.

Charlotte thinks rather hard of you because you have not written to them.

Andrea Newman is now at home, arrived here last Saturday.

Have not heard from Uncle Edward's folks since I left home. I intend to go there the first opportunity.

Mother wrote me a few lines in your letter stating that they were enjoying good health and that Father and Amori were making sugar.

She also stated that More Robberts buried his wife April 10. Died at DeWitt, April 15th a daughter of Mr Daniel, age 8 years. Drowned in Grand River near Seymours Saw Mill, April 7th, Marvin Coats, half brother to Roy G. Andrews, his body was found the 10th and buried the 11th.

Charles Scott has sold the Tavern to Milo H. Turner and the Captain is as mad as you ever see anything and swears that he will never leave the house till he is carried out.

Daniel Eddy was married sometime in the month of March to Miss Isabell Roberts. Thus endeth the chapter.

Had I the wherewith to defray my expenses and Father and Mother were willing, I would visit Avon Springs this summer. I am inclined to think it would be beneficial to me and have a tendency to improve my health.

The farmers in this vicinity are busily engaged preparing their ground and putting in spring crops.

Moses, Charlotte and Uncle's folks all send their respects to you both.

Give my respects to all enquiring friends after reserving a sufficient quantity for yourselves.

Write as soon as you receive this. Direct to Milford.

This from your brother J. W. Cook to Geo. H. and Sarah Cook.

P.S. The tribe of Reeds I'm pleased to say,
Have packed their kit and moved away.

P.S. second part. Moses has traded his land in Berry County for a farm in Milford, one mile south and half a mile west of Uncles. 80 acres, 40 acres improved, a log house, well of water and some fruit trees on the same. He gives a new two horse wagon and \$300 dollars, has three years to pay it in.

George, I feel quite anxious to visit Avon Springs this season and providing our parents are willing that t should, could you help me to money to defray my expenses from here there?

Yours with respect,

J.W. Cook

To Phinias Freeman, Clear Creek, Cataragus CO., N.Y.

June 5th, 1847

Dear Brother and Sister,

I now take this opportunity to write a few lines for your purusal and to let you know that we are well and hope that you are the same.

We moved from Bloomfield to Milford the last of April and ~ Moses traded his farm in Barry Co. for one here in Milford.

There is 80 acres and 40 improved. We live only a mile and a half from Uncle Moses.

Aunt Sarah talks of going to the state of Vermont this summer if she can get money to go with.

Abigail, I suppose you think hard of me for not answering your letter before this time and I do not blame you one bit for I have been careless in not writing sooner, but when I received your letter we were talking of going out home and I thought I would wait until we got back. We did not go until the last of February and Joseph came home with us. He is in Salem now at Uncle Edwards. He went out there three weeks ago yesterday with Aunt Sarah. He talks of going to York State with Aunt Sarah and if he does it is likely that he will go and see you before the summer is past.

Oh, Abigail I must stop and get dinner for my man dear, for he is almost famished.

Well, we have had our dinner and I have been out where Moses is planting corn and I am about tired out but I think I shall live.

Oh, Abigail you do not know how lonesome it did seem to me last winter to be at home and not have you there. I could look around and see where we had been together and think how much comfort we had taken together. Oh, why didn't we take more while we were about it for we never shall spend as many happy hours together again?

Joseph has bought him a fiddle, he got it of Elisha Cochran and every time he took it to play on, I tell you, it brought old times fresh to my memory. Oh, what first rate times we have had in old Scott's ball room, have we not? Amori and Sally Ann are two pretty dancers for new beginners and I do guess that Henry will make it go off about right when he gets a little older.

Abigail, you said you had got a new cape and expected to have something more costly. I wonder if you have got it yet? If you have I should like to see it and if you have not got it yet, I hope you will get it before long. I want to see it when you get it so you must keep it nice until we see one another.

I keep your beeds yet and I intend to keep them until I see you. Oh, sister how I wish you and Phinias could come in this afternoon and stay over Sunday with us. How fast we could talk. Abigail, I should like to know how you enjoy yourself this summer. Are you homesick or not?

Do write as soon as you receive this and I promise you I will do better for the future. I will not wait as long as I have this time.

I have not had a letter from George yet and begin to think he has forgotten me and I suppose you think I have forgotten you, it is not so.

Forget you, O believe it not,
Hush the thought that tells you so,
Other friends may be forgot,
But yet I will remember you.

I have been calculating to write to you ever since I received yours and have neglected it until now but I hope you will excuse me. Give my respects to you father Freeman's family.

Now Abigail do write as soon as you receive this and do not waite as long as I have to write. Tell us what time next fall we may look for you. If you will come here and see us we will go home with you.

Direct your letter to Milford, Oakland Co., Michigan

From your sister Charlotte E, Newman
to Abigail M. Freeman

To Joseph Cook Esq., DeWitt, Clinton Co., Mich.
From J. W. Cook, Lima, N. Y.

Lima, July 2, 1847

Dear Parents, Brother & Sister,

Presuming that you would be very anxious to hear from me, I embrace this opportunity to indite a few lines on this sheet for your perusal. I would commence in the first place by giving you a short account of my journey. I left Milford on Tuesday the 22nd day of June in company with Aunt Sarah. Uncle Moses and brother Moses came with us to Detroit. Started out of Detroit Tuesday evening, 7 o'clock, on board the steamboat London and arrived in Buffalo, Wednesday evening at 9 o'clock. Had a first rate time coming down the lake. Left Buffalo Thursday morning, 9 o'clock on the Leon Packet, Red Bird Line, and arrived in Rochester, Friday morning at six. I there parted with Aunt Sarah, stepped on board the Southern Packet, and at 1 o'clock p.m. was landed at Cattaraugus [?], where stood an Omnibus which conveyed me to John Dan's Tavern, West Avon. My fare from Detroit to West Avon was \$5.50. I do not think the journey has been any disadvantage to me. I think I feel full as well as when I left Milford. I am now at Uncle Seth's. Sarah is here and I expect George will be here tonight. He works in Slab city. They are both well; I went to see George last Tuesday. I went to George Clark's, found them all well except James, he has the ague. William is in Albany teaching school, has \$500.00 a year. Charles is full as large as his father and fat as a hog. Sarah is about as tall as her mother. They asked me a great many questions about you and would be very glad to see you. This seems to be the

prevailing disease with all your old neighbors, both here and in Avon. I intend to go back to Avon tomorrow. Have not yet succeeded in getting a place in Avon where I can get into business of any kind. I do not know but What I shall stop a while at Asahel Wordsworth's, shall find out tomorrow.

Give my respects to all enquiring friends, and receive a good share yourselves, you will hear from me again soon. Please write as soon as you receive this. Direct to West Avon.

From your son and brother,

J. W. Cook

Ann Lyon sends her best respects to you and wants to see you very much. Geo. and Sarah send their respects to you all. No more at present, J.W.C.

Friday, July 9, 1847

Dear Brother,

I take this opportunity to write a few lines to inform you of my health, etc.

I feel as well as I did when you were here, with the exception of a pain in my left side, which of a day and two nights has been quite painful, but I feel in hopes it is nothing very serious and will soon be better.

I have Seen and consulted Dr. Salisbury respecting my disease and the manner in which it should be treated, etc. He told me to drink from four to six glasses of warm spring water every forenoon for two weeks and take a warm bath every other day at 11 o'clock. He said he has not the least doubt but that it will help, providing I can stay here long enough to effect an entire cure. But, he says it will take two years.

I took a bath yesterday for the first time, and shall take another tomorrow.

As I have not prospered in finding a place where I could get into some kind of business and no prospect of my doing so at present. I do not feel right in staying here and have you pay my board and my expenses at the Springs (which will be 2/ a bath) and have no other means of doing it, only by hard labor. George it is too much more than I am worthy of. But, I hope it will be in my power sometime to pay you in part, for what you have done, and still continue to do for me.

May God bless you hence forth and forever.

Give my respects to Sarah and to all who enquire.

Yours with respect,
Joseph W. Cook

P.S. Please write soon or call this way and see me.

To Joseph Cook

Riley, August 7th, 1847

Dear and Absent Children,

I now sit down to write a few lines to you in answer to Joseph's letter which we received July the 12th and were glad to hear that you were in good health and hope that these few lines will find you all enjoying the best of health and spirits.

We have all had verry hard colds for a week past. The children are getting better of theirs. Your father has quite a hard cough.

Joseph, we were much pleased to hear that you had a pleasant journey and that your health was as good as when you left home. I hope when we hear from you again we shall hear that your health is improving fast. We feel verry anxious to hear from you and hear how you are making out about getting a place to board and wheather you have got into any kind of business yet.

We have not heard from Charlotte since Aunt Nancy got home and we have not heard from Abigail since you left Milford.

Give our respects to all are old neighbors, especially Uncle Seth's family, John Clark's and Mr. Gillet's and all the rest. Tell Mrs. Gillet that Michigan is not what it is cracked up to be.

I have not much news at present.

Henry Jones was married the week before the fourth to Emma Jane. They were married down to Portland and after they got home he asked consent. MY stars! They must have had a killing time, I think.

Do write all of you as soon as you receive this. George, we have not received a letter from you this long time. It seems that you have almost forgotten us but I hope we shall receive a letter from you and Sarah soon and let us know when you think of returning to Michigan. We are all very anxious to see you. We think you might do well here at the Capitol, they are doing quite a flourishing business there I expect. They have now six or eight stores and groceries, two or three taverns, one steam saw mill, a furnace and tin shoD, one doctor, and Mr. Apthorp and Leander butcher for them. David Cochran is there at work on the state building, we heard almost a week ago that it was getting quite sickly there.

We want to hear from you as soon as possible.

I hope you will see your Uncle Pyram and Uncle Hunling's folks before you return.

Give my best respects to you mother Miller and Aunt Ann. The children all send their love to you.

This from your affectionate mother,

Charlotte Cook

August the 8, 1847

Dear and much respected Brothers and sister,

I once more take my pen to write a few lines to you to let you know that we are alive and digging in to get out of the mire.

We were verry glad to hear from you but sorry that George was ashamed of himself and we are going out there to see if he acts ashamed. I almost thought hard of him to think that he did not write to us but I will not.

We were glad to hear that you were at the spring and I sincerely hope they will affect a permanent cure for if ever a sister felt interested in a brother's welfare, I do in yours.

We are coming to see you in four or five weeks and we want you to come and stay with us thru the winter.

Phinias says he shall not come back without you.

O, Joseph how much it would seem like old times if you and I could be together again and I think we shall if we have our health. It seems as though I could not wait until the time comes for us to go. I want to see you all so bad. I shall not write much because I can talk more in a few minutes than I could write in all day.

You must excuse me for not answering your letter sooner, I was waiting to know for certain wheather we should come or not. Please overlook my bad scribbling.

I must close for I have got so pained that I can hardly hold my pen.

I want you to write as soon as you get this and let me know whether you will come or not. If you come we will go cut a cheese.

Give my respects to all our old neighbors.

So, no more at present. Good afternoon.

Phinias and Abigail to J.W. Cook

P.S. Please write what cheese is worth per pound there.

August 25th, 1847

Dear Brother,

I take my pen to write a few words to you. You must excuse us for not coming for we could not but you will find a brother and sister ready to receive you with open arms.

We are very sorry to hear that your health was not any better but do not get discouraged for we have a doctor employed that will make a well man of you. He says he has no doubt but what he can cure you in a short time. Mother says you must keep up good courage.

Phinias has got a man to come and bring you and you must come without fail if you are able for we know not how soon the doctor will be out of the country.

The doctor says you have been drinking that water so long he wants you to go drinking scalded milk to get the acid out of your system so as to be prepared to take the medicine when you get here. He wants you to drink as warm as you can and about a half a pint at a time, three times a day.

Give my respects to George and Sarah if you see them and perhaps I shall hear from him if you get out here.

Yours with respect,

Abigail M. Freeman

Lima, Jan. 18, 1848

Dear Brother and Sister,

I have recieved two letters from you since you left but have not answered either of them. I am ashamed of myself for such negligence. Your first letter Sept. 29, and the last about four weeks ago.

I am glad to hear that your health is improving and hope it will continue to do so until you are well.

We are well and have been since you went away. I have not heard from father's folks since you left. I have heard by Mr. Thayer that Darwin and Lorenzo have enlisted and gone or going to Mexico.

Aunt Sarah staid in Allegany about two weeks, found the folks all well there.

Aunt Abigail buried her youngest daughter, Nancy I think her name was, some time last summer. When Aunt came back to Lima she found a letter informing her of the death of her daughter Elvira, which was very hard news for Aunt Sarah.

She found the friends in Vermont all well. Grandfather's health was good for a man of his age, he is blind and very hard of hearing.

I work for Pratt the same as when you was here, for twenty five dollars a month. My work for the last four weeks has been clerking and waiting on customers which is rather easier work than setting on the seat. I shall stay with Pratt til May, if I have my health and then I think of going west.

Phinias and Abigail, I do not expect nor ask you to forgive my negligence in not writing to you before, for you must know by now that I am the meanest man about writing that ever lived.

I was sorry when Mr. Putman came after Joseph as we were expecting a visit from you but was disappointed. You must calculate to make a visit this spring if not before. Sarah sends her respects to you all. Do not do as I have done, but write us soon.

Joseph, I have no Whig songs on hand, nor time to make any so you will have to wait until another time.

I want that you should write as soon as you receive this, do not delay, if you

have heard from Father's folks since you wrote.

I have not been to Avon since you went away. I have seen Gilbert & Carwin and paid up the board bill. Nowlam I have not seen, but shall pay him the first opportunity.

When you write let me know how you get along for change, I am hard up at present or I would send you some now. If I have my health I can let you have a little before long.

Uncle Seth's health has been poor for a few weeks back, he is now on the gain.

Isaac works with Mr. Terry. Milow is in Ohio. It is a general time of health in this place.

Hebry Pierce of Livonia died soon after you went away. Mrs. Jenks has buried her oldest daughter.

Please to write soon, Yours,

George H. Cook

To George H. and S. and Joseph W. Cook

Ellington, March 7th, 1848

Dear Brother and Sister,

I now take my pen to write a few lines to you in answer to yours, which we received the 5th of this month. We were much pleased to hear from you, but grieved to hear that your little family had again been visited by that unwelcome messenger, death, and has again been robbed of its purest and brightest blossom. And, as you said, it would be wrong to complain. We have an Allwise and Just God, to rule and watch over us, to guide and protect us. And although our afflictions may sometimes seem cruel and unjust; they are designed for our own particular good. "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flowers thereof falleth away."

Brother, Sister, whose strengthening tears
Flow o'er your children dead,
Say not in transports of despair,
That all your hopes are fled.
While cleaving to that darling dust,
In fond distress you lie,
Rise, and with joy and reverence view
A heavenly parent neigh.
Though your young branch is torn away,
Like withered trunks you stand,
With fairer vellure shall you bloom,
Touched by the Almighty hand.

I will now write a little concerning myself. I have been teaching school this winter, in the town of Poland. Commenced the 6th of Dec. and closed the 3rd of March. Had a very pleasant school and got along with it first rate. I had eleven dollars per month which was not enough, but as the old man said, better so than worse.

The 12th of Jan. I went to Jamestown and got me a coat and pair of pants, which cost me ten dollars. They are not exactly of the finest quality, but I consider when I have them on that they cover a fine person, so that makes it about par.

I am not married yet, and had almost forgotten to mention it. But expect every day when I shall be!!!

My health when I commenced school was the best that it has been in some years and I was heavier than I had ever been before, weighing 129lbs. But the business was rather hard for me, I now weigh 120lbs. Those ulcers on my side are about the same as they ever have been and as I fear they always will be. we received a letter from Moses & Charlotte about six weeks ago, they were well and so were the rest of our friends in Milford.

The 25th of February rec'd a letter from Father which informed us they were enjoying tolerable good health, and have been for the most of the time since we left home. They said they had not heard from you since Aunt Sarah returned from Vermont. Were very anxious to hear from you and to know whether you ever intended to return to Michigan.

We also received a letter from you some four weeks ago. Addison has moved back on his farm, and a vast many of the young folks have married since we left. I will give you a list: Wm. Peck and Nancy Jones; David Ward and Mary Ann Shears; Mr. Macomber & Nancy Oliver; Bartle Terry to Aurelia Turner; Lawyer Baker to Oliva Stowel; Samuel Treat to Jane Gardiner; Mr. Bowers to Susan Conklin etc. etc.

Phinias is calculating to move to Michigan as soon as the lake opens in the spring.

Please write as soon as you receive this and let us know when you intend to start, perhaps we can meet in Buffalo and go down the lake together.

I would like to go to Uncle Pyrams and to Lima before I go back to Michigan but I guess I must postpone it until another time.

Phinias and Abigail join me in sending their best respects to you and Sarah, and all others who may enquire.

Yours with respect,

Joseph W. Cook
to
Geo. H. and Sarah Cook

P.S. If you should go to Avon please enquire after Jane's health, and find out whether she is married or not, not that I care anything about it, you know. But the Bible says, "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

to Joseph Cook, DeWitt, Ingham Co., Mich

Ellington, April 23, 1848

Mr. Cook Sir,

I take this opportunity to inform you that we are all well, and hope to hear of your prosperity in health, in journey, and all the pursuits of life.

As I was getting ready for meeting last sabbath I saw Mr. Pettit passing and hailed him and asked him of your prosperity to Buffalo. He said it was very good excepting losing your coat. He said when he came from Buffalo he inquired for it and found that an Indian had picked it up this side of Lodi and pawned it for 25 cents and said he found it and took the coat and said he was going to carry it to Mr. Freeman's and if they would pay the 25 cents they might take the coat. While we were conversing I thought if the coat went there with the envy they then held against you, you would never see it again. I told him if he would let me take the coat I would pay him and keep it for you.. He consented. I will keep it safe until you can come and get it or send you it. Write to me as soon as you receive this, that I may know that you have received this and what way you can get the coat.

Write all you can think of, persons, places, rivers, mountains, lakes, etc. Also, if you are going to get married and take the luck in getting home. The prospects of the season etc.

I can think of no more except Mr. Freeman's folks, the old lady, is as lonesome as ever. The old gentleman is as cross as the d---- .

George is singing the same old tune and Hiram is driving oxen to plow.

The weather is quite warm and dry with frosty nights.

With your respect,

Lorenzo M. Day

Riley, April 27th, 1848

Dear Brother and Sister,

I take this opportunity to indite a few lines on this sheet for your perusal, and you will, as you commence reading this, begin to realize that I am once more in Michigan and at Father's. I wish you and Sarah were here too. I think we could enjoy ourselves for a space to good advantage and realize much comfort as though we weighed four hundred.

I hardly know what to write, and if I did I would not write it in such a manner that you could get the meaning of it the same day you read it.

In the first place I will give you a brief sketch of our journey. We started from Ellington the 12th of Apr. Arrived in Buffalo the next day at one o'clock, went on

board the steam boat Lexington and at 10 o'clock P.M. with a strong head wind we started up the lake. It was very rough for 2 hours, the old boat reared and pitched the best she knew, and you had better realize that we were a fine looking set. I vomited up everyting except my boots and there was a number in a much worse condition than I was. The 15th we were landed in Detroit, hired a team to take us to Milford. Staid there four days. Found the folks all well, except Uncle Moses, he has a lame leg, has not been able to walk without crutches for more than six weeks. Hired a man in Milford to take us to Lansing, got there the 23rd and left the 25th and arrived safe at home.

Father's health is tolerable good, excepting the rheumatism. He is troubled with that some.

Mother is about sick today, has the head ache very bad. The children are all in usual health.

Uncle Pike has a lame back so that he can scarcely get around at all.

It is a general time of health excepting the mumps. There has been some deaths since you have heard from us. Deacon Marvin is dead and also Old Mrs. Knapp.

You cannot begin to imagine how we all want to see you. Father says he can hardly contain himself. If you come back this spring there will be a greater rush and more pulling & hauling than there ever was in the city of Buffalo on the arrival of a steam boat loaded with passengers. Father thinks you would do well to come back.

I must bring this to a close as Mr. Bement wishes to write a few lines to you.

Father and Mother and the children join with me in sending their best respects to you & Sarah and to all others who enquire.

From you Brother J.W. Cook to Geo. H. & Sarah Cook

When you come remember that little box of hardware that Nelson left at his brothers for Father. Father says that you must write as soon as you receive this and write that you are coming home.

April 27, 1848

Dear Friend,

As your father and brother have left room for me to write, I feel it a duty and a privilege also to improve the opportunity.

Your father read to me a letter a short time ago, which he received from you from which I learned that you thought some of coming to this country again before long. I should be very glad to see you here, the sooner the better. If you should conclude to come out here this summer just fetch a lot of calfskins and sole leather and you may have half of my shop to work them up in and I will let that part of the trade alone and go to making Stoga Boots, etc.

Times are rather dull just now but it has been good through the fall & winter. I was drove the worst way. Peck worked for me two or three months and all along in the fore part of the winter. Allport of Lyons bought Capt. Scott's big House and came on and started a shoe shop down in that hole where Wells used to work. About that time Peck got a little scared, because Allport was going to have two or three

Journeymen, he thought I would have to give up the shop pretty soon. So, he left me and went to work for Allport but he is sick enough of it about these days. He didn't get the cash every Saturday night as he did when he worked for me. There is now four hands at work at the said big shop. Alport has two journeymen that crack considerable on fine boots but I don't think they are anything extra.

If you should take a notion to come, I think that you could sell all the fine boots and womens boots and shoes that you could make. I should like first rate to have you come and just burst them on a fine boot. Your boots would sell here before any others. I suppose you know it, if you don't, I do.

I will close by saying that we are all well.

Respectfully yours in haste,

Andrew J. Bement

Cotillion Party
1849

The company of Mr. Joseph W. Cook and lady is respectfully solicited at the house of George Hill, in the village of Portland, Feb. 8, 1849 at 2 p.m.

Managers

James Webster
Chauncy Moore
R. W. King
Jas. Millon
J. H. Pendleton

T. H. Dewy, Lyons
B. Hall, Ionia
W. S. Utley, DeWitt
Dr. Marvin
L. Brinkerhoff, Wacousta
S. Welch, Room Manag.

Music: Wheeler, Stocking & Jeffers

Portland, January 26, 1849

DeWitt, Jan. 27, 1850

Dear Brother and Sister,

After a long silence I once more take up my pen for the purpose of inditing a few lines on this sheet for your perusal.

It is so long since I have written to you or received any letters from you, that I know not what to write. But in the first place I will inform you of our health, which is very good at present. Father and Mother have been afflicted with very severe colds, but are getting better. The rest of the family are in usual health. I am now and have been since the seventh of June, employed by Mr. A. W. Pattridge as a clerk in a store. He is now postmaster in DeWitt and I an Deputy P. M.

There has been quite a change in this place since you left. Some, with whom you were well acquainted, have left this world of sin and trouble, for we trust, a brighter and better world than this. And many have passed out of the state of single blessedness, not into California to dig for gold, but into a married state to dig for something of more importance. I will name a few of each. Firstly, among those that have departed this life with whom you were acquainted: Mr. Levi Townson, Old Mr. Roberts, Robt. B. Daniels and wife, Mr. Clark the merchant and his wife, and Mr. Peter Lott. Mr. Lott was here on New Years day and in the afternoon went to the Distillery, he was then sober, wanted something to drink but was refused. He watched his opportunity and when Mr. Lee was absent for a moment, took a quart cup, dipped liquor from the tub and drank what he wanted. He then went upstairs and stood in the door a moment and trying to get out he fell out, someone took him up and carried him into the distillery, laid him on a bench where he remained about three hours. They then tried to wake him up, but there was no wake up in him. He died about twelve o'clock.

Now for the newly pinfeathered youths that are married. Some have been married so long that they are coming in, others have just commenced operations. Monroe Gibbs and Fanny Utley, E. C. Pike and Frances Marshall, J. M. Apthorp and Ann Naracong, Tobias Foreman and Jane Stout, John Marshall and Martha Parker, Milo Blair and Sally Ann Townson, Mr. - I forget his name & Elizabeth Goodrich, Peter Sprey and Lillian Goodrich. I will mention the rest in my next stop. I'll mention one more, James Briggs and Sarah Chappel.

I will now try to bring this to a focus. I have written this in a great hurry and it looks like the fag end of a mispent life. But I will try to do better next time.

It is very pleasant overhead but muddy underfoot.

Please write as soon as you receive this without fail. Give my respects to all who enquire and receive a large share for yourselves.

Your brother, J. W. Cook

P.S. There is one thing I like to have forgotten, there is a Divison of the Sons, Daughters, and Cadetts here in DeWitt and such a time has never been known before since the flight of Mohomet or the Sacking of Prague. Yours with respect,

J. W. Cook D.P.M.

Hemlock Lake, Feb. 17, 1850

Dear Brother,

I received yours of the 29 Jan. on the 12th, was much pleased to hear from you and the rest of the folks. We are well and the rest of our friends generally.

Some of our friends are gone, of which you doubtless have heard. Uncle Seth Lyon, Uncle Joel Newman, Uncle Isaac Young. Uncle Seth died the 4th of August last. Uncle Joel in May, Uncle Isaac in Jan. '49. George Pratt of Livonia died the 3, Jan. last.

We are living in this village and have been since the 23rd of last April. The first of Nov. '48 I bought a house and two acres of land for which I was to pay \$525.00. I paid \$125.00 down and was to pay \$100.00 yearly til paid or more if I could. When the first year came around I paid \$200.00 which leaves me now \$200.00 in dept. If my health is spared I think I can pay for it. It is situated about halfway between what used to be called the Block and the mill on the east side of the road. The house is new, 16x24, story and a half, finished throughout. Painted inside and out, with a good cellar and plenty of fruit such as apples, peaches, plumbs, pears and cherries. On the ground was 1½ acres of wheat from which I harvested 47% bushles of wheat.

I suppose you will think that I paid too much money for so small a place but I can sell out anytime for more than I had to give or I can rent it for \$60.00 a year, so you can judge something of the value of property here.

There is contemplation of a plank road to be built from this place to Rochester. The stock is all taken which amounts to \$50,00. The company is organized, the directors chosen, and they are making contracts for planks so I suppose they will commence as soon as the ground settles. If this road is built, property in this village will be worth twenty five percent more than it is now.

Isaac Ganoung was married the 4th Jan. '49 to Miss Oatman. He lives a few rods south of the Christian Church. Owns a house and three acres of land. He works at his trade. They have a daughter seven weeks old. The rest of the boys are west.

Charles Shepard of Livonia owns the farm where Uncle Seth lived. Justin lives there now but leaves in the spring. The old Lady lived with Bennett her son in law. Ann lives with Isaac.

Joel Youngs wife lays very low with consumption.

I received a paper which was mailed at your office. The writing I called yours but the head pattern I could not account for unless from Bement. Please inform me and send more, would you?

This village has grown half since you was here, you would hardly know the place.

There is no Division of Sons or Daughters of Temperance here nor Cadetts but there is a uniformed Military Company here that drills one night every week and a society of whitewashed Masons calling themselves Odd Fellows. They have a new hall furnished in good style.

Please to write as soon as you receive this and I will try to do better in the future. This from your brother,

Geo. H. Cook

A few words to Father and Mother:

Dear Parents,

If you will forgive me for neglecting you for so long I will do better hereafter. I have not forgotten you but I am ashamed of myself. I want to see you all.

Father, if you and mother could come and make a visit I could not wish for any greater happiness than to know that you would come down this spring and stay with us through the summer or come down in the fall and stay till spring. If I have good luck I think of coming up in May but you must not place too much compitence in my coming.

I am still at work for S. W. Pratt, a foreman in his shop. I get fair wages and the work is not so hard as to sit on the seat all the time. He pays me \$30.00 a month. I am verry well versed in the science of cutting and making fine boots. I am not afraid to work with any man in Livingston Co.

I saw a letter in Jan'y from Aunt Sarah which informed me of the death of Uncle Moses. Susan Herrick and Wheaton made us a visit last Oct. I learned from them that Uncle and Aunt visited in Michigan last fall and Uncle went as far as Flint River where Jake lives but no further. When I see him I shall talk to him seriously.

I shall have to bring my letter to a close. Give my respects to all who enquire. From you son,

Geo. H. Cook.

To Amori, Henry, & Sally Ann:

You must be good children. Be good to Father and Mother, help them all you can so that if it ever falls to your lot to be separated from them you can think that while with them you was a blessing to them. You must write to me Amori and tell me how you get along. Give my respects to Phinias and Abigail, Uncle W. and Aunt N.

Geo. H. Cook

Feb. 18 I have been informed today of the death of Capt. Wm. Warner also his son Wm. They died of consumption.

March 10, 1850

Dear Brothers and Sister,

I now sit down to write a few lines to let you know that we got home safe on Sunday after we left Phinias. We did not come back through Milford but have been out there since. We found Aunt Sarah's folks well. Aunt had been out to Uncle Edwards, she said they were all in usual health except Darwin, he was not able to work.

When did Phinias and you get home? How long did you stay and did you find everything safe when you got home? And have you received a letter from George yet? If you have, are they well and when are they coming to Mich.?

Pa, have you see old Hempstead yet and made that trade for Moses? He has traded his horse for a colt four years old next summer so I guess he is about ready for a trade. I have written all I know about trading so I will write about something else.

Aunt Sarah has not got her business settled yet she has been to Pontiac twice and has got to go again. She said I must send her respects to you all and tell you that she wants to see you very much.

Amori, when it comes good going and spring work is done I shall look for you and Elisha and Sally Ann and you must be sure and come and have Henry come with you.

Now Joseph, I must write a few lines to you. How is your health now? I can see you standing behind that old counter, pale and so tired that you are just ready to fall. I would not work so hard if I was you. Aunt Sarah says she would like to have you come and stay with her a spell if you could and we would like to have you come and make us a good long visit. If Elisha does not come with Amori and Sally Ann, you must come. Do try and come out here some of you, for if you only knew how many lonesome hours I have, I think that some of you would try and come.

It seemed to me that I could not come home without Sally Ann. If I only lived as near home as Abigail does, how glad I should be, but I cannot so I may just as well write about something else.

I have not seen that Doctress women since we came home but we are looking for her everyday.

You must excuse all my mistakes both in spelling and writing for I cannot think of anything worth writing to send. I tried to have Moses write some but he thinks he cannot so, I will write for him while he is in Mother's room.

Pa, you must make that Hempstead if you can, tell him that Moses has the slickest colt that ever grew yet, he is little but old, he will be four sometime this summer.

Give my respects to enquiring friends and you all must write.

This from the hand of your daughter & sister,

Charlotte E. Newman

Hemlock Lake, July 16, 1852

Dear Brother,

I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you to let you know that I am in usual health and at Georges. He and his family are well.

I wrote a letter to father which was mailed June 22nd and have received no answer.

Elisha wrote one to Isaac which was mailed the 24th and the 3rd day of July he received an answer.

I do wish you would answer this as soon as you receive it, for I feel just as anxious to hear from you as you do to hear from me.

We had a good celebration here on the third and a grand display of fireworks in the evening, the first I ever witnessed. The fifth we went to Avon to see how they celebrated there.

Saw Mr. Gillet and Stephen, they are all married but Bartlet. Caleb and David are in Michigan. Jane in Leroy, Susan in Penn. and Stephen lives at home.

I saw Uncle Ira Allen a short time since, his health is rather poor. He said his health was good through the winter but some how it kinder spring killed, like wheat.

People are very busy about these days, haying. Harvest is not yet ready.

George is putting up an addition to his house, 20 feet square. Isaac Ganounq is doing the job.

Elish is over to Honey Lake, I expect he will be here tomorrow.

I can not think of anything to write at present.

George and Sarah send their best respects to you all.

Do write all the news as soon as you receive this and write about all of the folks. Write when Phinias got back, etc.

My best respects to one and all, Your brother,

J. W. Cook

P.S. I want to know how the colts flourish and how Father comes on building, etc.

Hemlock Lake, Dec. 10th 1852

Dear Brother,

I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you in answer to yours which we received the 8th. Were very glad to hear from you but sorry to learn that Sally Ann's health was so poor.

My health remains about the same as when I last wrote. I was weighed the week that Amori started for home and weighed 121 lbs. The 9th of Nov. I weighed 126 lbs. and the 7th of this month I weighed 128 lbs., by the same scale each time.

Well Henry, you are the only son that our parents have that is under age and I do hope and trust that you will be kind and good to them and do all you can to help them.

Also, be kind and good to Sally Ann, especially while she is sick. Render unto her and to our dear parents all the assistance you can. Strive to do this and it will be a blessing and comfort to them and to yourself also.

You must write soon as you receive this from the hand of your brother,

J. W. Cook

Dear Parents,

I take this opportunity to write a few lines in answer to yours which was gladly received but we had almost given up the idea of getting another letter from any of you.

We have not heard anything from Phinias and Abigail only by way of your letter. We have been looking for them here, but have about given up.

About the middle of Nov. we had a little flurry of snow which staid with us a few days. It then came warm and pleasant and still remains so.

George and family are well, and send their respects to you. Anna Lyon lives with them this winter. She also sends her respects to you all.

My health is as good as when I last wrote.

I am not prepared to give you as much news from Vermont as I wish I was, I have not been over there yet; but I have seen Eliza. She said her father was at Uncle Elisha's and found them all well. Grandfather's health was very good for a man of his age. I intend to go there as soon as I can.

You must all write as soon as you can after reading this. Give my respects to all who may enquire.

From your son,

J. W. Cook

Well Amori, I will write a few lines to you, and you must take time to answer as soon as you read this and not put it off.

If you knew how many sleepless nights I have spent thinking about you all and wondering why we did not get a letter, you would not delay a moment. Write all you think of. I want to know what is going on in DeWitt, wheather Emiline is at Pattridges or not and who is going to be the next postmaster, etc. etc.

I want some or all of you to use Mary enough this winter to keep her gentle and steady. Be kind to her and talk to her the best you know and learn her all you can but do not whip her unless you are obliged to.

Sally Ann I am very sorry to hear that your health is so poor. But you must keep up good courage and bear it with all the patience and fortitude that you can. Try to think as I do in my afflictions, that it is all for the best or it would not be so. You must be as careful as you can and I hope when next I hear you will be better. Write as soon as you can.

Moses and Charlotte receive my respects.

I will do better by you next time.

From your brother,

J. W. Cook

WASHINGTON'S BIRTH DAY

The Committee respectfully solicits Your Company at the Assembly Room of

Rowland S. VanScoy

In DeWitt

On Tuesday, the 22d day of February next, at 4 o'clock p.m.

Committee

Cyrus W. Utley
S. U. Alexander
David P. Bliss
Amori Cook
Silas Fish

W.W Wilkeinson
Charles H. Wallace
Addison Woodruff
G. Stevens
Charles Parker

Loren Pattridge

Good music will be in attendance
DeWitt, January 12th, 1853
Bill 1.75

\$22.85

DeWitt, April 21, 1853

One month after date, I promise to pay
to D. & J. Sturgis & Co. or bearer,
Twenty-two & 85/100 Dollars,
Value Received, with use.

Joseph Cook

(On reverse:)

Rec'd July 1, 1853 on the within, Twenty & 25/100 dollars. \$20.25

Joseph Cook
\$22.85

Miss Amina L. Simmons, Clinton Co., Mich.

Dear Friend,

I now take my pen to write you a few lines, as I am going away, this may be the last time that I shall be permitted to write to one I so sincerely love. It grieves my heart to think on the separation, but the time is fast drawing to its close when we must say farewell, perhaps forever. I sometimes feel as if I were going to leave all that are my friends, that I shall never find their equals, then I recollect my former associates and I cannot repress the tears that unbidden start. But I know tis useless to weep for the past, tis a dream that is fled.

Its sunshine is vanished its gladness id dead
Deep, deep in its shadows bright hopes are laid low
O call them not back from the land whence they go.

What though the loving heart is wrung
By chilling words of cold farewell
And o'er its dying hopes is flung
Their echoing knell.

Shall we not meet in that bright land
Where parting words are never spoken
And love is not a brittle band
So lightly broken.

Shall we not all meet there to love
With love that has no trembling fears
In that dear home far far above
This land of tears

O memory, tho only awakener of the dead
Thou only yreasurer of the vanished past
How welcome art thou when bright hop is fled
And sorrows mantle over the soul is east,
Back over those days to beautiful to last
Thy gentle hand will lead the saddend thought
And though the tears may trickle warm and fast
Yet thy sweet pictures with such peace are fraught
The heart beguiled, exclaims, this is the fount I sought.

E. L. Tucker

Please do not let any one read this.

E. L. T.

Miss Amina L. Simmons, Clinton Co., Mich.

(Printed Card)

LOVE IN ABSENCE.

Tis said that absence conquers love
But Oh! believe it not
I've tried alas, its power to prove.
But thou art not forgot

To Amina L. Simmons
From Amori B. Cook

(On Reverse)

Remember well and keep in mind
A faithful friend is hard to find
And when you find one both just and true
Change not the old one for a new.

When this you see remember me the giver

A. B. C.

Riley, May the 8, 1853

Brother and Sister Freeman,

I now take my pen in hand to write a few lines in answer to yours which I received the 7. Was glad to hear that you were well as usual. We are all as well as common with the exception of bad colds, but Sally Ann, she is not any better than when we last wrote. She is failing all the time I think. She has not set up any for 8 weeks; not long enough to have her bed made. She suffers a great deal. She is very poor, there is nothing left but skin and bones. You would hardly know her if you was to see her. She don't look as she did the last time you saw her. We have had watchers every night for four months. I do wish that you could see her, she often speaks of you and wants to see you and Phinias both the worst way.

I cannot think of much to write. Mother says she would write some if her head did not ache so that she cannot see. She has the head ache a great deal this winter being up so much nights and broke of her rest. It makes it worse for her on that account.

George and Joseph have not got along yet but we are looking for them every day now and shall until they come or we hear from them. The last letter we had from Joseph he thought if nothing happened they should be here the first of this month. I wish it was so that you and Phinias could come with them this spring and see the folks.

I suppose you would like to know what I think about going to York State to live this summer. If we were all well I would know what to tell you but as it is I hardly know what to tell you. I hate to go and leave Sally Ann so sick. I think you made me a good offer and I would like to work for you this summer. I have been chopping a little this winter and going back to school a little. I have got about 2 acres more to chopped and that will make me 17 acres that I have chopped this winter and that will make 20 acres with what is cleared. I have got up a barn body 28 feet square and I have lots of work to do but if I should get there by the first of June and work 5 months would that do? I cannot tell you for certain wheather I can come or not but if I do I will bee there by the first of the month or before.

Write as soon as you get this from

A. B. Cook to P. and A. Freeman

Monday Morning, May the 9th, as it was late last night when I left off writing I thought I would not write any more but as it is now raining I will write a few more lines to you.

It is verry wet here for this time of year, it rained all last week, every day regular and steady all the time. Father and Mother are a sleeping now verry sound and I set here by Sally Ann a writing to you. Mr. Hyde and his wife have just gone home, they set up here last night. Sally Ann is about the same as she was last night and keeps about the same every day, but fails gradually.

Moses' folks are well as usual. Charlotte has a bad cold at present as well as myself. It is a bad time for colds as it is so wet and rainy.

James Pike's folks have all had the mumps this spring. The rest of the folks are as well as common.

If I go down there this summer I want to work five months if I can but if I do I must go right away as soon as I can get ready. I don't know but I think I can start in a week or two if nothing happens and if there does I will let you know.

Write as soon as you get this. Your brother,

A. B. Cook

You must excuse my poor spelling and writing for my pen is poor, my ink is black, if you can't read it send it back.

Cotillion Party
for the
Celebration of the 77th Anniversary

The Company of Mr. Amori Cook and Lady is respectfully solicited at the Eagle Hotel in Eagle, on Friday, the first day of July next, at 6 O'clock P. M.

Room Managers

Geo. B. Stevens -Eagle

Jas. Webster -Portland

O. C. Fall - Lansing

Henry Sampson - Grand Ledge

Geo. W. Utley -DeWitt

Simeon Hart -Wacousta

Music- Niles, Hillicker & Olds

Bill \$2.00

Eagle

June 6, 1853

Registers Office, Ingham Co.
Mason, September 28th, 1853

P. R. Freeman, Esq.

Received yours of the 26th, came duly to hand. Enclosing the deed which is recorded and herewith returned.

Very Truly Yours, etc.

William Woodhouse, Reg.

Riley, Oct. the 23rd, 1853

Dear Mother, Brothers and Sister,

I now sit down to write a few lines in answer to yours which we received last night. We were glad to hear that you were all well and glad to hear that you had a good journey down the lake.

We are all of us well as when you left home. Pa has got three biles under his arm which makes his arm very lame.

It has been very warm, pleasant weather since you left home. Pa has got his corn husked and potatoes dug. Pa thinks if his arm is so he can work that he can get ready to start in about two weeks.

Amori and Woman are well as common and so are the rest of the folks. Moses has got the swamp pretty much done and has took the job of building the school house and is to have it done the first day of December.

I can't think of any news to write at present so I will draw this to a close.

Wm. H. H. Cook

P.S. Mr. Olin has rented to Clinton House and Mr. Pattridge has bought David Sturgis house and store. It rained and snowed pretty much all day. So no more at present. Write as soon as you get this from the hand of your son and brother.

Oct. 24, 1853

Dear Mother, Sister and Brothers,

I now take my pen to indite a few lines for your perusal and let you know how we are this evening. We are well, excepting Pa's biles, they are no better. They pain him very bad.

I have been washing today. I washed at home for the first time in a great while.

Pa has been working on his bench and Moses and Henry have been husking corn.

Ma, Pa says his arm is so lame that he cannot write or else he would have written you. He thinks if his arm gets well he can get ready to start in about two weeks.

Ma, I would like to see you.

Abigail, you did not write how you found things when you got home, wheather your cheese was all gone or not. Phinias, you must make her write one of these days, won't you?

Joseph, I must write a few words to you. It is snowing here this evening and they have all gone to bed and I shall have to go soon for I am so cold I can hardly write. Amori and Amina are well. You must all write as soon as you receive this.

Charlotte E. Newman

Oct. 25th, 1853

Well Joseph, I thought I would write a few lines to you this morning to let you know about the weather today. The snow is two inches deep. So, I think Michigan has got to be Young Vermont.

from W. H. H. Cook

Dec. the 18, 1853

My dear and absent friends,

I now take my pen to write a few lines after so long a time to those I so often think of. You must excuse me for not writing sooner for my eyes have been soar ever since you went away but I think that they are getting better. Mother's eyes are soar now. The rest of the folks are all well except Joseph Pike's health is not very good this winter.

I herd that your health had been verry poor since you left but the last we herd you were some better and I hope you will continue to be so.

I should be very glad to hear from you as soon as you receive this; I should be very glad to see you all but as I can't at present you must write to me.

I send my love to you all. I must now bring my scribbling to a close, and I trust you will excuse me this time for my eyes are so weak I can scarcely see how or where to write.

You are in the bonds of brotherly love. This from your friend,

George R. Simmons to Joseph W. Cook,

Clinton Co., Mich.

Sunday evening, December the 18th

Brother Joseph,

As George has left for a few lines I thought I would write a little to you to let you know that I am well and I hope these few lines will find you the same.

I received a letter from Abigail about two weeks ago, she wrote that you and mother had left there and gone to George's and that you was very feeble when you left. I was sorry to hear that you was so feeble. I was in hopes that your health would be better than it was when you was here.

I want you to write to me as soon as you receive this and let me know how you are getting along for I am anxious to hear from you and the rest of the folks.

It is a general time of health here this winter, with the exception of bad colds. Joseph Pike has been bleeding at the lungs and is very feeble. The rest of the folks are all well as usual.

It has been a very mild winter so far. We have not had any snow to speak of. It is very lonesome here this winter. I would like to see you all. You must write to me often for I do want to hear from you all. I have been looking for a letter ever since you went away but have not got any yet.

This from you brother, Amori to J. W. Cook

I want Father and Mother to write and George and Sarah.

Hemlock Lake, February 17th, 1854

Dear Children,

I now take my pen in hand to write a few lines for your perusal which I hope you will receive as present conversation. We are all in usual health; I have had a very hard cold but I have got about over it. Joseph's health is not any better than it was when I wrote to Amori. His right hip pains him and troubles him very much about walking. He has not been out of doors but two or three times since he has been here. He sends love and good wishes to you all and wants to see you very much.

I have no news at present. It is a general time of health at present. We have not had any sleighing since the fourth of January.

I wrote to Amori about our visit to Richmond. Your father and myself have been out to Bergen found your Uncle Pyram's family in usual health but very lonely. We did not find your Aunt Mary and you may think that we were very much disappointed. She and her family left there last fall and went to Cattaragus County, the town of Franklinsville. We shall visit here before we return to Michigan.

O, Moses, Charlotte and Henry how glad I should be to see you. I often visit you in my dreams and think of you by day. I hope you are all in good health and spirits. Do write often, we want to know how you get along and how things are at home.

We want to hear from Uncle Pike's folks and want to know if you hear any news from Uncle Nute's family,

O, Charlotte do write as soon as you get this for you can't think how I want to see you.

George and Sarah send their best respects to you all. They have gone to Lima today to visit with Arthur and his family and his wife, they are here on a visit from Illinois. They have been here about three weeks, they will probably start for home this week.

Moses, you and Charlotte must write often.

This from your affectionate Mother,

Charlotte Cook

Henry, I will write a few lines to you which I hope will find you in the enjoyment of good health and spirits. I do want to see you more than pen can describe.

I hope you are attending school and making good progress in your studies.

O, Henry remember that youth is the time to prepare for old age. Try to improve your time to the best advantage, be kind and respectful to all; be a good boy and you will find friends where ever you are. I want you to read a chapter in your testament every day and think of your absent mother. Write as soon as you get this and let me know if you are well and how you get along with clothing this winter.

Tell Amori and Amina they must write often, I want to know if Amori has got over his cold. You must all be careful of you health. We have not heard from Phinias and Abigail since your father left there.

Write soon, and write everything that will be interesting.

Give my respects to George Simmons and his lady. Tell him he must write.

From your Mother,

Charlotte Cook

To Joseph Cook, Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co., N.Y.

Friday Evening, February the 24, 1854

Dear and absent parents, Brothers and Sisters,

One and all, I now sit down to write a few lines in answer to Mother's which I received the 11. I was glad to hear from you all but sorry to hear that you were troubled with bad colds but hope when this reaches you it will find you enjoying good health which is the greatest blessing on earth. I have had a bad cold all winter and have not got over it yet. I have worked all the time excepting stormy weather. The Doctors tell me that I have got the bronchitis but Doctor Baron says that he can cure me and I am now taking his medicines, and I hope it will do me good.

It is a general time of health here this winter. Old Miss English Reed has been very sick for a long time and they don't think she will live for a great while longer for she is failing fast. Nathaniel Allwood has got the consumption, he has been sick all winter and cannot stand it much longer.

I cannot think of any news to write at present. The rest of the folks are all well. Mrs. Simmons has got sore eyes and has had all winter.

Sun. evening- Again I take my pen in hand to finish my letter. I have not had a chance to write any since Friday evening and I thought I would finish it this evening.

I cannot think of anymore to write at present. I would like to see you all more than tongue can tell or pen can describe. Joseph how I would like to see you tonight and talk with you. I have been in hopes that you would enjoy better health than you did when you was here. I have just read a letter that Henry handed me that Mother wrote to Charlotte and I was sorry to hear that you had not been able to bee about nor had not been out of the house but two or three times since you had been to Georges but I hope when this reaches you it will find you in better health. You must write to me as often as you can for I do want to hear from you if I cannot see you, but I hope that you will come home in the spring with Father and Mother if your health will admit and I hope it will but it seems to me that you have been gone a great while but spring is fast approaching and then I shall look for you home.

Do write often for I want to hear from you. We have had first rate sleighing here this winter, we have had a little thaw for a few days back but it has been snowing all day. I cannot think of much to write and I will draw it to a close and leave room for Amina to write.

Tell George and Sarah they must write.

This from A. B. Cook to Parents, Brothers, and Sister

Dear Mother,

I now sit down to write a few lines to you to let you know that I am well at present and hope this few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing. The rest of our folks are all well at present, all but mother's and George's eyes; they don't get much better yet. Tell Joseph that George would have answered his letter before now if his eyes hadn't a been sore. I was very sorry to hear that Joseph's health was so poor. I hope when I hear from you again to hear that it is better, I send my love to hom and want to see him very much. I think of you often and want to see you all very much. Amori has written all the news I believe. I cannot think of much more at present. Mother sends her love to you all. I send my love and well wishes to one and all and hope it won't be a great while before we shall all meet again. Write often for I am glad to hear from you if I can't see you.

Excuse poor writing and poor spelling. I can't think of any thing more at present so good evening for it is getting late.

This from A.L. Cook

Though parted we a distance are

I hope that your love may share

I hope that happy we may be

In time and eternity

March 1, 1854

Dear Brother & Sister,

It is with delight that I sit down to converse with you this morning with my silent pen. O, could it have been otherwise how much more pleasant it would be but it was so ordered by divine providence and I suppose I must be contented with my lot.

We enjoy usual health and I hope these lines will find you in the best of health and spirits and with all the happiness this world affords and plenty of chores to do.

I hardly know how or what to write, it has been so long since I have written to you.

Our Catteragus winter has been very mild indeed, only about two weeks sleighing and not very good at that. There has not been any sleighing since December.

Amina, I will tell you what my business has been for a week or two past; making baskets and doing chores. I have made thirty and I believe that fills the contract. Amori wanted to know about Fanny, Phinias has sold her. He got 75 dollars for her. He did not brake her so we do not know wheather she is lazy or not but she is handsome.

I must draw this to a close. You must excuse my poor composition and correct my mistakes for I have a severe pain in my head so that I can hardly see to write.

Amori, you must write soon. Amina, when you get Amori's old socks darned you must write me a long letter. Give my respects to your Father and Mother Simmons, likewise to your brother George and consort

Yours truly, A. M. F.

Amori, have enclosed a note for you to collect and send the money to me by mail. Take your pay for your trouble out of it. The interest due on the mortgage in twelve dollars and 21cts.

P.F.

(From Abigail and Phinias Freeman)

March 5, 1854

Dear Father and Mother and Brothers and Sister,

I now sit down to write a few lines for your perusal. We received your letter last night, were glad to hear from you all but sorry to hear that Brother Joseph is so feeble, hope he will be a great deal better when this reaches you. It is a general time of health at present. Oh, you do not any of you know how lonesome I have been this winter but I have not been half as lonesome since Mr. Harlow's folks moved in your house. They are very nice folks and I know you will like them first rate. Mrs. Harlow is one of the best women, she seems almost like a sister.

Aunt Nancy's health has been quite poor this winter. Joseph is a good deal better than he was the fore part of the winter; he is learning to take Daguerotypes. Uncle and Aunt have been here once since pa went away. Darwin and Lorenzo and their wives have been out here on a visit this winter. They said they left the folks in Salem all usually well.

Pa, Mr. Hyde has given up working your sugar bush, he says he did not make any bargain with you to work it and Uncle Pike wants to take it and I guess he will. Oh, ma how we do all of us want to see you, it seems to me as though time does not pass away half fast enough. I do want to see you more than pen can describe.

If you and Pa go to Vermont before you return to Michigan you must give my respects to all who enquire for me. Henry and I wrote to Abigail when we wrote to you before and we have not received any answer yet. I must draw this to a close for I must write a few lines to Joseph and leave room for Henry to write.

Ma, do write as soon as you receive this won't you? Good Bye.

Brother, when you get this I hope you will enjoy better health than you did when Ma wrote. I felt in hopes when I heard you had written Amori and George Simmons that I should have received a letter before this time from you but I have not. Oh, how I wish I could call in and see you all this afternoon, how fast I could talk. Moses and Mr. Harlow have been making sap buckets a few weeks back. They have made 100 and 80. They intend to get 200 done before sugar making commences. Moses is calculating to make sugar with Harlow. Oh, Joseph how I do want to see you, how many lonely hours I have seen since you went away. This has been the longest winter that I ever saw. I hope you will come home with pa and ma when they come.

Mr. Harlow's folks have had a letter from Milford since we wrote to you. It stated that there had been no new cases of the small pox and those that had it were better so we think Aunt Sarah's family is better.

Tell George and Sarah that I would like to see them very much. Tell them they must write me a letter and you must all kiss little Riley for me every day. Moses joins with me in sending love & well wishes to all who enquire for us. I will have to stop scribbling in order to leave room for Brother Henry to write. Oh, Joseph I wish you and all the rest of you could be at home when we make sugar. Now Brother, do write as soon as you feel able.

This from your daughter & sister, Charlotte Elvira Newman

Riley, March 5th, 1854

Father, Mother, Sister and Brothers, one and all,

I now take this opportunity to write a few lines to you to let you know that I am well and hope that this few lines will find you the same. I have no news to write at present.

Our school has broke up here in this district and I am going to school over in the district east and I like the school very much. I have been there about a month and it has 2 weeks more to keep. I have not been sick a day this winter and I hope I shall not be. We have had lots of snow this winter but it has all gone now and there is mud and water in its place.

It is a general time of health, at present. Oh, you cannot tell how I want to see you all it is a good while since I have seen you but it will not be a great while before we shall see you again. Pa, you must come home as soon as you can in the spring. Amori and wife are well and doing well. Mr. Estes said he would like to see you first rate and he sends his best love to you.

Now Ma, I will write a few lines to you. You wanted to know how I got along with my studys. I get along as well as can be expected. I have gone clear through my geography and about half through arithmetic.

Oh Mother can I all of my feelings tell
How this heart has longed to meet you
Since my lips breathed out farewell.

So, no more at present, I shall have to bid you all good night for it is a getting late and I must go to bed. Write as soon as you get this, so good bye,

Wm. H. H. Cook

Signed and sealed this fifth day of March, 1854.

March 5th, 1854

Dear and Distant Parents, Brothers and Sister,

I once more take my pen to answer yours which I received Mar. 5. We were very glad to hear from you once more but I cannot describe my feelings when I read Joseph's health was not as good as when you last wrote. I was in hopes that his health would continue to improve.

O, Joseph, how I do want to see you, if I had wings I would see you before another day rolled away.

It has been a long and lonely winter to me. We have had about two weeks of sleighing here this winter. There has not been much chance of visiting or business and one great difficulty is money.

I want to see you all more than pen can describe.

I suppose you would like to know what we are doing. Phinias is fixing for sugaring and I am making baskets for a livelihood. It has been very sickly here this winter. The Typhoid fever has been rampant and it generally proves fatal. We are in the enjoyment of our usual health and I wish these lines could find you all in good health. O, how I do want to see you all.

Will draw this to a close by scribbling myself your well wishes. Ma, Margaret sends her respects to you.

A. M. F.

(Abigail M. Freeman)

Hemlock Lake
March 12, 1854

Dear and absent children,

With trembling hand and anxious heart I now sit down to write a few lines to you in answer to yours which we received the 10th and were very glad to hear from you but we were much grieved to hear of your ill health Amori. You must be very careful or you will, I fear, lose your health entirely. You will be careful, won't you? Say you will.

We are all in usual health. We have had bad colds but are getting over them. Joseph's health is not any better than it was when I wrote before. He is very feeble and lame. It is hard work for him to walk from one room to another with two canes, sometimes we draw him in his chair but I feel in hopes when the weather gets warmer and more settled his health will be He sends his love and good wishes to you all and wants to see you all very much.

We have had a very mild open winter. We have not had any sleighing since the 4th of January. We have not had any cold weather since this month commenced. It is very pleasant today.

O, Amori how glad we should be to see you and all the rest of our children that are in Michigan. Tell Moses, Charlotte and Henry, if they have not answered my last letter, to do it today for we are anxious to hear from them.

George and Sarah send love and good wishes to you both.

Elisha Cockran was here last Sunday. He was well, thinks some of moving back to Michigan this spring. He said he had a letter from Josh not long since and he wrote that the school in that district was broke up. I want Henry to write to me and write all the particulars about it. I want to know if you have heard anything from Phinias and Abigail this winter. We have not heard from them since your father left

there and we feel very anxious to hear from them.

It is a general time of health in this place at present. There has been four deaths in this place this winter. There is one woman near here sick with cancer. She is not expected to live.

O, my dear children, since we see that sickness and death is abroad in the land and even in our midst, how important that we should be also ready for such an hour as we think not death may come O, my children.

If I could see you one hour I could say a great deal more than I can write on this sheet of paper.

I must draw to a close and let your father have room to write. Do write as soon as you receive this. Tell Aunt Nancy she must write to me and write all she thinks I would be interested in. We feel very anxious to hear from Uncle Nute's family.

Give my love to all who may enquire after me and take a good share of it for yourselves.

From your affectionate mother,

Charlotte Cook to Amori & A.L. Cook

Amori,

I now sit down to write a few lines to you. Ma has written concerning our health. I shall write but a few lines at present. You wrote that you had a hard cold all through the winter. Amori, I charge you to be careful of your health. When I left I feared that you was forgetful of what I said to you, knowing that you have many times had a cold settle on your lungs. I have felt very uneasy concerning your health. Now do Amori, be careful. The spring of the year is a bad time for colds. I want you to write immediatly after you receive this.

Let me know how your fodder holds out and how mine does. Give my respects to all your folks and all the neighbors and Brother Johathan.

I want to know what the prospect is for making sugar. I want to know if Mr. Hyde is going to work the bush and if you or Moses are going to work with him.

I understand that you have had a school a few weeks and it has broken up. I want to know the cause, tell me every particular.

Tell Moses and Charlotte and Henry all to write us imediatly and you write Amori, do not forget.

This is Monday, Mar. 13, very warm and pleasant. The birds are singing.

Your father,

Joseph Cook

Abigail, I wish you would try to see what you can do with those stockings. If you have not already done so, get it all in factory cloth except one spool of thread. If

you can't dispose of them to advantage send them back by your pa. Please send those that Charlotte knit, they hang on the line in the dining room.

Would you like to have your rolls spun before Charlotte goes back and what kind of yarn do you want, coarse or fine? They will not make verry fine yarn.

I want to have Charlotte stay until we get into our house, then she says she will be back onto you again.

How do you like the blue azure?

O, Abigail you don't know how disappointed I was when Amori came home without you and I have not got over it yet and I shan't until you come and make us a visit. O, I do want to see you more than pen can describe.

C. C. to A. M. F.

Your Pa will tell the particulars. My love to you and Phinias.

To Joseph Cook, Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co., N.Y. 1854

Riley, March the 22, 1854

Dear and much respected Parents, Brothers and Sister,

It is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to write a few lines in answer to yours which I received today. I was glad to hear from you all but sorry to hear that Joseph was so feeble. Joseph, how I do want to see you and I would if I had the money to go with, I would see you in less than a week if health would permit but I hope in the course of a month or two you will be able to return to old Riley once more. I should look for you the first of May and shall be disappointed if you don't come for I do want to see you.

It is a general time of health here this winter with the exception of bad colds. I have been very careful this winter but I have got a hard cold and have had all winter and I have taken a great deal of medicine. I have had considerable of Dr. BaZon's and some of Dr. Hazards and I have taken a good deal of patient madicine. I have taken cherry pectoral but it didn't do any good as I know of. I am now taking Brant's Pulmonary Balsom. I commenced taking it last Saturday and I think it has done me more than all the rest I have taken this winter and I hope it will continue to do so until I get over my cold, for I have suffered a good deal. My lungs have been very sore the most of the time but I have not had any cough this winter at all and I am in hopes that I will get better by the time I write to you again.

It is getting late, I cannot see to follow the line so I shall finish this tomorrow night.

This from Amori B. Cook to Parents, Brothers, and Sister.

I again take my pen in hand to write a few lines for your perusal.

It has been uncommon cold this winter. This month has been very pleasant and warm. We have not had any sugar weather yet to speak of. Father, you wanted that I should write what the prospects was for making sugar this spring, it is rather dull. Last winter Mr. Harlow came out here and bought the lot west of yours and wanted your house to live in until he could build his, so I got my corn out and let him go in and he is there yet. He has not commenced building yet and Mr. Hyde's folks had calculated to move over and live in the house through sugaring and I didn't know it until after Harlow had gone in and Mr. Hyde thought it was too far to come from home every morning and back at night. So, I spoke to Harlow and told him how it was and about the bush and asked him if he would work it with me. He said that he and Moses was calculating to make together and if Moses would, he would. I saw him again in a day or two and he said Moses said if I had anything to do with it he hadn't. I told him that I had nothing to do with it unless I helped work it. Then he said Moses didn't want anything to do with it. So, I told Harlow if he would work it with me I would find a team rather than to not have it worked. He said it would have to be divided in three shares and that we would not get much and he would rather not. Then I told him that you would have all your sugar to buy because I had let him have the house and I thought it was rather hard and I said no more to him but I thought there was not much man about him. So, he and Moses are making on Harlow's land so I think your bush will have to lay over this spring.

Marriage notices in the 1st paper of 1854

In DeWitt on the 11th by Rev. Louis Coburn, Mr. John Hicks and Miss. Eliza A. Huston all of DeWitt.

In DeWitt, on the 18th inst. by R. Strickland Esq., Abram Bigelow of Ottawa and Eliza Boughan of Riley.

In Riley on the 17th inst., by Henry Jones Esq., Mr. William Towner of Danby, Ionia Co., and Miss. Martha Eddy of Riley. Also at the same time and place by the same, Mr. Solomon C. Perry of Danby to Miss. Mary Ann Reed of Riley.

To Joseph W. Cook, Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co., N.Y.

Riley, April 7, 1854

Dear and respected Parents,

I now take my pen in hand to indite a few lines to you to let you know that we are in usual health and I hope that these few lines will find you enjoying the same. We received your letter the 1st and were glad to hear from you but very sorry to hear that Joseph was so sick but I hope that when next we hear from you he will be a great deal better.

We got a letter from Phinias and Abigail the same day we got yours and they wrote that they were well. Abigail wrote that she had been a makin' baskets this winter for a living. Moses and Mr. Harlow are making sugar. They have made about 450 pounds and are a sugaring off again this afternoon. Charlotte has gone up there to get some to eat. I wish you was all here to get some with the rest of us.

Amori has got his house raised and is to work on it now. He thinks he will get it redly to move in to next week, but I think he won't.

I have no news to write at present. It is a general time of health in this place at present. The small pox is raging at quite an extent in Lansing. We heard that there were about 40 cases a week ago. We have not heard since.

Well Pa, I suppose you will want to know how town meeting went this year, so I will tell you all I know about it. Philip Burrett is Supervisor; P.P. Peck is town clerk; Henry F. Jones, treasurer; Ray G. Anrews, Justice of the Peace; Nathan Reed & J. Owen, Commisnors; Joseph Miller, Constable; Samuel Fritz, Mr. Bennett, LeRoy Sheldon, George R. Simmons, Path Master.

So, no more at present. Write as soon as you receive this from your son and brother,

Wm. H. H. Cook

Riley, April 7, 1854

Dear Father and Mother and Brothers and Sister,

I noe take my pen to write a few lines in answer to your letter which was gladly received by us all. We were glad to hear from you but verry sorry to hear that Joseph was in no better health. O, Brother how I do wish we could see you and I do hope that when this reaches you that you will be a great deal better than you were when Ma wrote to us.

Ma, I have received a letter from Aunt Sarah since I wrote to you before and she wrote that Susan died with the small pox and only think of what a lonely time they must have had when one was taken away and the rest all sick and not a neighbor that dare go in to assist them. She wrote that the rest of the children had got well enough to go to school.

Brother Henry told you how much sugar we have made. There is no one a making sugar in your bush this spring but you shall have some of ours for I used yours that you left. Hyde is working Simmon's sugar bush because the sap is so much sweeter than it is in your bush.

Ma, Mrs. Harlow told me to send you her respects and tell you that she has enjoyed herself as well in the old house as she could anywhere so far away from her mother.

Pa, Mr. Harlow wants to know if you would like to let him plant the lot there by the house to corn. If you would he says he would like to plant it if you did not letit to anyone else.

Brother George and Sister Sarah, how I would like to see you and your little boy. How I do wish you could all come and eat warm sugar with us tomorrow, how

much better it would taste to me if you could.

Oh Sarah, Old Mrs. Simmons has stood on her hind feet all winter because Amori and Sis are going to house keeping. She thinks they might always live with her just as well as not. You must kiss little Riley for me.

Ma, you wanted to know what I have been doing this winter. I have not done much of anything for we have had such cold weather for a while that I could not work and the rest of the time I have been so lazy that I have not done much.

Oh, how I do want to see you all. You must write as soon as you get this. Moses joins with me in sending love and well wishes to you all.

O, Joseph how I wish I could see you tonight and know how you feel but that cannot be. I shall have to wait. Past ten o'clock, good night.

Ma, do write as soon as you get this.

Charlotte E. Newman

Dear Father and Mother,

I have just called in to Mr. Simmons to read the letter that I got for Amori today, and found him a writing and when he went to supper he asked me if I didn't want to write some too. So I thought I would improve the opportunity by writing a few lines to you and let you know that I am well at the present time and I hope that when we hear from you again that you will all be well and hearty.

I do not know what to write at present. We had a good school in this district about a month and then it broke up on account that the folks would not send, if they had all sent we would have had a good school and had scholars enough to support it. They would not send because they thought the school bill was running too high so that was the end of it. After that broke up I went over east to Sarahphina's school and went until it was out. Since then I have been to work for Moses on his job. Set about chopping 5 acres for 10 bushels of oats an acre. he has got it half done and I guess he will finish it this month if he has good luck. He is thinking of selling out and so is Mr. Andrews but I think they will miss it if they should.

It has been pleasant weather most of this month but it is some muddy now.

I guess I had better quit writing for I make so many mistakes and I must go home and stay with Charlotte for Moses has gone to the sugar bush with Mr. Harlow to bile sap.

Write as soon as you receive this from your son,

Wm. H. H. Cook

To Joseph Cook, Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co., N.Y.

Riley, April the 24th, 1854

Dear Parents,

It is with pleasure that I sit down this evening to write a few lines to you in answer to yours which we received the 19th We were glad to hear from you but sorry to hear that Joseph is not any better. I was in hopes to hear that he was getting better and I hope when this reaches you that he will be. I do want to see him. I was in hopes that you would all be here by the first of next month but I am afraid not. I am in hopes that Joseph will be able to come by the last of the month.

It is a general time of health here this spring. I have got over my cold, I think, but I have had a hard one, that is a fact. I have taken three bottles of balsom and I think it has helped my lungs for they were very sore when I commenced taking it and I think it has cured me and if I am careful I shall get along if I don't get any more cold and I think if I was in Joseph's place I would try it. It may not help him, I think it would. It would not do any hurt if it did not do any good.

I suppose you would like to know what I have been doing this winter. I chopped thirty cord of wood for David Scott and thirty cord for Mr. Simmons besides working for him a good many days, thrashing oats and cutting logs and rail cuts and one thing or another and I chopped four days for Mr. Hyde and fifteen days for Mr. Clair and I have built me a house and we are now keeping house by ourselves. We moved into it the 17 of this month and I have got the best log house there is in Riley. I want you to come back and live with us this summer or until Father can build, for the old house is a poor conserve, it looks bad since I have built mine.

It has been an uncommon cold winter here and we had first rate sleighing all the winter but when the snow went off it come off warm and pleasant and it is a real growing time. I never saw it nicer in my life. We have warm showers frequently and everything looks nice and fine. The woods is getting quite green and the grass grows finely and the wheat fields look fine, mine in particular. Everyone that has seen it says that it is the best they have seen.

There was a peddler here the other day, he said he had been all over the south and east part of the state and he said that mine was the best wheat he had seen, and if nothing happens it bids fair for a good crop.

We have got one cow and calf and two yearlings, both heifers and eight hogs and pigs.

I thought I would write to you to know if I can have your pork that is there to Moses. I shall have hogs enough to fat this fall and then I can pay it again and I shall have to get some potatoes of you if I can. Henry says he opened them yesterday and they looked fine and nice. If I can have the pork and potatoes I think I can make a living of it this summer.

Your cow that you let Mr. Knapp have has been sick. I saw her once but I thought she could not live but she has got better. Was Mr. Knapp to keep her until you got home or only through the winter? If not I would like to get her and keep her until you come home. I want you to write about these things when you write to me and let me know if I can have them until you get home but I hope that won't be a great

while for I do want to see you all very much.

You wanted to know if I kept my colts yet. I have got them yet and they are all the team I have got but they are good enough for me. They will do all of my work that I want a team to do.

It is getting late and I am sleeping so I will draw it to a close. Write as soon as you get this for I do want to hear from you often.

Amina joins me in sending her love and good wishes to you.

All this from A.B. Book to Parents, Brothers, & Sister.

To Mr. Joseph Cook, Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co., N.Y.

Bergen , April the 26, 1854

Dear Brother and Sister,

After a long delay I Will write you a few lines. We are all well. Ann's health has improved some since you was here. We was glad to here from you and that you found Joseph and the rest of your friends so well.

The roads have been so bad that we could not come out to see you.

The workmen came to build my barn a week ago last Tuesday. We have had from four to six men the most of the time since and we cannot come at present. You did not write whither you was a going to Vermont or not. We should like to know when you are going and if not, when you will start for home.

We have had a letter from Mary, they were well. She wants to know what Abigail's husbands name is and what town he lives in.

You must come and see us before you go home. We intend to come and see you before you go home if we can. Write as soon as you receive this.

Our love to all,

Pyram Herrick

Hemlock Lake, May 11th, 1854

Dear Children,

It is with pleasure that I sit down to write a few lines to you in answer to yours which came to hand Monday evening, we were very glad to hear from you and glad to hear that you were in comfortable health. Do be careful of your health all of you.

O, I do want to see you more that pen can describe. We are all enjoying usual health, except Joseph. His health does not improve as I was in hopes it would. He is not any better than he was when I wrote to you before, he has had a very bad cough for two or three weeks past. He has not been out doors but once since last fall;

he sometimes feels almost discouraged. He wants to see you all very much and he wants you all to write often.

It is a general time of health. I have no news at present.

It has been rather cold, backward weather for a few weeks past but it begins to look like spring, fruit trees are beginning to blossom and look very beautiful. George's onions, peas, and lettuce looks nice.

We received a letter from Uncle Pyram written the last of April, They were well, he is building a barn this spring. We have not heard from Phinias and Abigail since the first Dart of March.

Amori, your father says you can have the pork and potatoes as you wrote and the cow until we return. We cannot tell at present when that will be, it will depend on Joseph's health and I do hope his health will be a great deal better when you hear from him again.

I am very glad to hear that you are keeping house by yourselves. I hope you will take all the comfort you have anticipated you would. You will find that married life is a mixture of joy and sorrow. Always be kind and affectionate to each other, never find fault without a reason, and never frown. Read your bible every day and try to live an honest upright life and you will be sure and take comfort.

Amina, you and Charlotte must be sisters and take all the comfort you can together. How I would like to make you a visit in your new house, I don't suppose I shall hardly know the place when I get home.

Give my love to Moses and Charlotte and Henry, tell them we do want to see them more than pen can describe. Tell them to write often and do the same yourselves.

Your father wants you to take care of what corn he left and the beans you can use what you want of them.

We want to know what Henry is doing. Henry you must write and let us know what you are calculating of doing this summer or till we come home, which I hope won't be many months. Be careful of your health and be a good boy and always do right and you will have friends that will be ready to assist and advise you at any time. Oh, how I do want to see you and talk with you.

I hope you have not neglected to set a weeping willow by dear Sally Ann's grave. I hope you all visit her grave often.

Tell Charlotte she must write soon and often for I do want to hear from her.

Your father is in the shop with George.

Amori, you and Amina must write as soon as you receive this. Give our love to all who enquire and take a good share of it yourselves.

Father and Joseph, George and Sarah, join me in sending love to all. It is getting late and I must bid you all good night by scribbling myself your affectionate mother,

Charlotte Cook

P.S. Pa wants you to see to his fence and keep it up good and he wants to know if you put manure around his apple trees last fall?

To Joseph Cook, Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co., N.Y.

Riley, June 3, 1854

Dear Parents, Brothers, and Sister,

It is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you in answer to yours which I received a few days ago. Wee was glad to hear from you but sorry to hear that Joseph was not any better. How wee do want to see Joseph and all the rest of you. I hope When this reaches you it will find you all enjoying good health and that Joseph is on the gain and I hope that you will return to Michigan, for I do want you to come back as soon as you can. I hope that you will get here before haying and harvest and that will not bee a great while. I cannot see a great. many stumps in my wheat field. I cannot think of any news to write at present. It is a general time of health here; now the weather is warm and dry so that the corn is backward about coming up. Mr. Harlow planted four acres of corn on your place and I planted three on yours and it is so dry that it has not got up yet. Wee need rain.

Moses has sold his farm but he has the use of it this summer. He took a span of three year old colts, harness and an old lite wagon for three hundred and 25 dollars and the rest in money. He got eleven hundred and the man pays up what is back on the place out of the 1100.

Write as soon as you get this from,

A. B. Cook

I would write more but I am at the Post Office and Estees is in a hurry to do up the mail.

To Joseph Cook Esq., Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co., N.Y.

Riley, June 11, 1854

Dear Parents, Brothers, and Sister,

I now take my pen to write a few lines for your perusal and let you know that we are well. We received your letter a week ago last night. We were glad to hear that Joseph is a little better and I hope when this reaches you he will be a great deal better.

I should have answered your letter before, but Elisha Cochran started for home last Monday and he said he would see you before the week was gone, if he has I suppose he told you that Moses sold our farm. He sold for eleven hundred and fifty. He took a nice span of three year old colts; he says he would not take any less than three hundred dollars for them. They are black and look very near alike.

Oh, Ma, how I do want to see you. I could talk more in five minutes than I can write in two hours. What beautiful verses them were that you sent to me.

Uncle Pike has been here today; he thinks that he and Aunt Nancy and Sidney will start for York State in about two months. They have hired out their farm to James for fifty dollars a year. He says if you do not get started for home before they get there they shall see you before many months. How I wish I could see you. Ma, I will tell you what I done last week after I got my washing done. I made a pair of pantaloons for Moses and a fine shirt for Henry and a frock for Moses to shear sheep in. I expect he will get to shearing tomorrow if it does not rain.

Oh, Brother Joseph, how I do want to see you. I do hope that you will be able to come home before many months. It seems as if you have been gone a year. Amori and Amina are well.

I shall have to draw this to a close so that Henry can write and I shall have to get supper. You must all write as soon as you get this. Moses joins with me in love and good wishes to you all.

This from your daughter and sister,

Charlotte Elvira Newman

Sunday evening, June 12

Dear Parents,

I now take this opportunity to write a few lines for your perusal and let you know that I am well and hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing. I hope that if Joseph gets able to, you will be to home before a great while.

I would like to see you very much. M. W. Pike Esq. was here last Saturday and started for home last Monday.

Pa, Mr. Apthorp wanted me to ask you if you wanted to let out your grass to cut this year; if you did he said he didn't get back in time enough to do it. He would like to mow it. He said he would mow and stack all of it for one half. Mr. Harlow also spoke about mowing it.

I must bid you all goodnight. Write as soon as you get this.

Wm. H. H. Cook

To Joseph Cook, Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co , N.Y.

Riley, June the 11, 1854

Dear and Distant Parents, Brothers and Sister,

It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to write a few lines to let you know that we are all well at present and I hope these few lines will find you the same.

It is a general time of health here now and fine growing weather. Crops of all kinds look well for the season. I wish that you could see my wheat, it looks fine, it is

all hedged out nice and there is not many stumps to be seen and if nothing happens I shall have a good crop and then it will seem to help me some if not more. If wheat keeps up as it now is, it is now 12 shillings a bushel, and folks think it will not be much cheaper after harvest. I think it will fetch a dollar fast enough.

I cannot think of any news to write only I have sold my colts today for two hundred dollars in cash. Don't you think I have done well? I think I have done first rate and I want to know how much George will throw off providing he can have his money sent to him in the next letter or a part of it. Perhaps it would be better for me to get a check on some bank and send. I want him to write what he will do and how he wants it sent to him and I will do the best I can for him and I want him to write as soon as he reads this and let me know what to do for it is a hurrying time of year with me. I have got lots of work to do.

I hope that Joseph will be able to come home so that you can get here before haying and harvest commences for I don't know how to get along if Father don't get home for I cannot get much help without paying the money. I hope Joseph will be able to come for I want to see him the worst kind of way and if it wasn't a hurrying time of year I would be there in less than a week but, my corn wants hoeing and my potatoes want planting and by that time clover will want cutting and then harvesting. If Father don't come and if he wants to let his grass to cut, I want it and then I can get a hand to go in with me to give a share of the hay. If you was here, you and I could do it like a book. I cannot do it alone, but if I can have yours and mine together it could be an object for someone to go in with me. I want you to write as soon as you get this and let me know about these things.

This from A. B. Cook to one and all, Parents, Brothers and Sister

June 18, 1854

Dear Brother and Sister,

I do not think I can employ my time any better for the time being than by writing to you. We enjoy usual health and are getting rich as fast as can be expected, and I hope this will find you enjoying the same blessings. If there is anybody in this world that I want should prosper, it is you.

We milk three cows this summer and are raising five and four yearlings. Phinias has one yearling he calls worth one hundred dollars. He has six, three year old steers, one yoke of three year old steers for 84 dollars and 50cts. These that he has are worth 40 dollars per head. He had traded the team he drove west for a span of four year old colts and the horse he got for farming he sold for 90 dollars. I think I have written all the particulars and I hope you will do the same when you write to me.

I have not much news to write. How I wish I could see you and Amina with that little young one on your knee.

Write soon. This from your sister Freeman to A. B. Cook & Consort

Phinias joins me in sending good wishes to all. I will write what produce is worth. Flour is 10 dollars per barrel, corn one dollar per bushel, oats 50cts, potatoes 37cts. Crops look promising for the coming harvest.

To Joseph Cook Esq., Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co., N. Y.

Leon, N. Y., June 18

Dear Parents, Brothers and Sister,

I take my pen after a long silence to answer yours which I should have answered long ago but I thought when I received yours that I should have been there before now but I do not see any prospect so I will write. We are well and I wish these lines could find you enjoying good health and spirits.

Ma, you asked me to write what I was doing, I will tell you what I have been doing the past week. After I done my washing I quilted a bed quilt, made Phinias a pair of pangs and a sunbonnet for myself, had company one afternoon, went visiting one half a day and took a ride. You may think I slighted some of it but I done it all well and I wish I could know what you and Sarah are doing and how Joseph enjoys himself.

Joseph, when Ma writes again you will write some if you are able. You cannot tell how I want to see you and all the rest.

Pa, Phinias says if you will pay that money to Joseph he will pay you when you come here. He thinks it will be better then to run the risk of sending it by mail. If you want him to send it, write to that effect.

Phinias joins me in sending good wishes to all.

Goodbye,

A. M. F. to Parents, Brothers, & Sister

To George H. Cook, Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co, N.Y.

DeWitt, June the 28th, 1854

Brother George,

It is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to write a few lines in answer to yours which I received yesterday in regard to the money I owe you. I shall send it in this letter or in two letters if it takes up too much room in one. I shall write another and mail them both at once. I wrote to you to know how much you would throw off if you could have it all at once. You wrote that you thought that I was very unjust in

asking you to throw off any. I did not mean any of the principal nor any of the interest that is due now. What I meant was to know if you would throw off the interest on the other two notes from now until they are due but perhaps I might have written it so that you would have understood me. I did not wish you to think that I thought you was cramped for money bad enough to throw off any of the principal or the interest now due on the three notes but it seems by your writing if I pay it up now you would not ask me to pay up the interest until they was due, that is what I wanted you to throw off. I did not know but you would want the interest until they was due. I shall send you one hundred and sixty dollars, that is the nearest I can get at, interest and all.

This from Amori B, Cook
to George H. Cook

DeWitt, June 28, 1854

Dear Brother,

I hav this day mailed you two letters. In one of them I have enclosed one hundred and sixty dollars. I had each bill registered in full at the Post Office.

Write just as soon as you receive this and let me know if you get it. This from Amori B. Cook to George H. Cook

Receipt of notes to J. W. Cook

To Mr. Joseph Cook Esq., Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co., N.Y.

Riley, July 16, 1854

Dear Parents and Brothers and Sister,

I now take my pen to write a few lines in answer to your and to let you know how we are. Moses' health is not very good this summer, he is troubled with a very lame back the most of the time. We were very glad to hear that Joseph has got so he can ride out. I do hope he will continue to gain and soon be able to come home with you.

We have had a very warm and dry season so far. The small pox rages around here some. They have it at the Cushman neighborhood and down in the Parks settlement; and I hope it will not get any nearer this place than it is now.

Oh, how I want to see you. I could talk more in an hour than I can write in all day.

Moses calculates to commence haying tomorrow if he can get help enough. He has not made up his mind where he will buy yet.

Pa, Moses wants to know if you will sell Fanny and if you will, how much you will ask for her.

Oh, how I do want to see you all. Joseph, I do hope that you will continue to get better so as to be able to come home as soon as the weather gets cooler.

Ma, my head aches so hard that I shall have to stop and leave room for Henry to write.

George, you and Sarah must kiss little Riley for me.

Moses joins with me in sending love and good wishes to all. You must write as soon as you get this from the hand of your daughter and sister,

Charlotte E. Newman

Now do write soon. How I do want to see you all.

July 17

Well Ma, I now take my pen to finish this scribbling. I left room for brother to write but he had been to work so hard through the week that he didn't feel much like writing. He is working for Mr. Rusko by the month. He has eleven dollars a month. Rusko wants him four months. He commenced work four weeks ago today. He comes home Saturday nights and stays until Monday morning. He has traded his rifle with Moses for them steer calves we raised last summer. He gave the rifle and ten days work for the steers. He says that he wants to see you all very much. Moses has commenced his haying today, the grass is very light.

The swamp land sales are to be held in Lansing on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. I expect Moses will attend the sale tomorrow.

Oh Ma, how I do wish you all were home, how many times have I looked up that way and wished I could see you and pa and Joseph a coming.

Oh, Brother Joseph how I do wish I could see you tonight and know how you feel and I want to see all the rest of you more than pen can describe.

It is a general time of health about here but I do not think it will be long if this hot weather holds a great while longer. I never had so much of the headache in my life as I have this summer.

I shall have to draw this to a climax for it is almost dark. Now do write as soon as you get this from,

C. E. Newman

To Joseph Cook, Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co., N.Y.

Olive, July 21, 1854

Dear Friend,

I once more take my pen to write a few lines to you. I have been sick for the past week. I was taken with the intermitten fever. I employed

Dr. McDonald and he broke up my fever and I have sat up the most of the time today. It is a general time of health here considering the weather, we have had a verry, verry hot summer here so far. We haven't had any rain to speak of lately, till yesterday and it rains some today.

I heard from you the other day and was glad to hear that your health was getting better.

I don't want you to think I have forgotten you because I haven't written sooner, for taint so. I think of you often and wish I could see you. Tell your Ma and Pa I would like to see them verry much and I send my love and best wishes to you all. Elizabeth sends her respects to your father & mother.

As I feel some tired I guess I can't write much more this time but will try and do better next time.

I don't know as you will want to bother your brains to read what I have written already.

This from your friend,

George R. Simmons to J. W. Cook

Blessed hope like a star on the darkness of a ocean
Still beams o'er the track where our destinies tend
And guide our frail heart from this sea of commotion
To havens of peace where our sorrows will end.

To Joseph Cook, Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co., N. Y.

Belmonte, July 23, 1854

My Dear Uncle,

You must pardon me for not writing to you as I agreed to. I did not learn the particulars about Uncle Bemus until last Friday. I met with Mr. Ingham (an Uncle of Lucinda's husband) he informed me that the men living at the mouth of Cold Creek that Aunt Alice staid a part of the time with them and Dart of the time at Pike with Amori's folks. Said he saw Uncle Daniel when he was out last fall, said he thought he had improved in morals very much. Aunt Alice's health is very good, also the rest of the folks in that place.

I received a letter from James last week, he writes that they have a fine boy-that Joseoh's health was improving-the rest of the folks mostly well, that they had just heard from Milford and that Uncle Newts folks were all sick with the small pox and were not expected to live.

We are about the same as when you were here.

Instead of going to Rochester to buy goods as I intended, I have made arrangements with men in New York to forward to order such things as I kneed in store until spring. I think of building me a store house near my dwelling in the spring

and make trading a permanent business in connection with the mill. I am making lumber and shingles to a pretty good advantage.

I hope that these lines will find cousin Joseph's health much improved and the rest all in good health and shall expect a visit from all of you in course of the winter. I wish you to write me what time you intend to return home. I think I shall go west toward spring.

Ruth Ann and Harriet unite with me in kindest regards to you all. Hoping that none of our friends will ever again do us the injury of passing over Avon without giving some reasonable excuse for doing so. Say to George that the offence is one that cannot be forgiven in any way, except by one weeks visit by himself and family.

Write as soon as you receive this.

I remain yours truly and affectionatly,

M. W. Pike

To Joseph Cook Esq.

To Joseph Cook, Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co., N.Y.

Leon Center, July 28, 1854

Dear Parents, Brothers, and Sister,

I grasp my pen once more to write a line for your perusal, we are enjoying usual health for the time being and if this could find you all well how glad I should be.

Phinias is haying at present, he thinks it will take him four or five days to finish.

I will tell you what I have done this week. I have earned seven shillings, done my washing and bound a bed quilt and had five men to cook for. Now I wish I knew what you and Sarah were doing.

Everything is as dry as parched pea grass, news and all so I hardly know what to write.

Ma, when you write again, write wheather you and pa would come home with us if we would come down there sometime. I shall have to draw this to a close and bid you all good bye.

Joseph with these lines I've penned

Twenty two dollars to you I send

And very glad it happened so

I can pay the debt I owe.

Receive this with my best wishes, from your child and sister,

A. M. Freeman

Phinias R. Freeman, Chartaregas Co., Clear Creek, N.Y.

Hemlock Lake, August 6th, 1854

Dear Children,

I now take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you in answer to yours which we received July 29th and we were very glad to hear from you and to know that you were in usual health. I hope Moses has got over his lameness.

Joseph has had rather a hard time since I wrote you before, he has had a swelling across his back from one hip to the other which was verry painful night and day for two or three weeks. The Doctor lanced it the 20th of July which releived the pain and he feels quite comfortable at present.

Uncle Aaron N. and Miss Cornelia Robinson was here yesterday and Joseph rode down to the shop with him but it tired him some. The rest of us are enjoying usual health.

You Pa has gone to Vermont, he started the 26th of July. I shall look for him back in about three weeks from yesterday. He said to tell Moses that he don't think he can take much short of a hundred dollars for Fanny.

O, Charlotte how I do want to see you and all the rest of my children but we must stay untill Joseph's health is better then it is now before we can start for homw.

It is a general time of health. The summer thus far has been verry warm and dry, tho it has been cooler for a few days past.

We had a real fire in the village this morning. The Methodist Church and one dwelling house were burnt to ashes. The fire was first discovered in the church after sunrise. They held a singing school in the church last evening and t think it must have taken fire from the snuff of a candle. They saved the furniture of the dwelling house.

Monday the 7th

Today we have been washing and I have been coloring a little and now I will try and write a little.

Isaac Ganoung and his wife and Anna Lyon were here yesterday and we had a first rate visit. I wish you and Moses had been here. Anna has been up to Michigan on a visit, she started the 17th of April and returned the last of May. She found her friends all well. Your Father Newman and Amanda came home with her and staid about two weeks. I did not see them. Your Uncle Abner Newman and his wife and a son were at Uncle Aaron's when your father got there.

I can't think of anything more that would be interesting only I do want to see you more than Den can describe. Do write as soon as you get this and write all you can both think of.

Joseph and George and Sarah join me in sending good wishes and love to all. I want to know if Uncle Pike's folks have come to York State.

Give my respects to all who enquire, the neighbors in particular. I must bid you good night and write to little Henry.

From your Mother, Charlotte Cook to Charlotte &
Moses Newman

Henry,

I will try and write a few lines to you to let you know that mother has not forgot her youngest son. O, I do want to see you more than you can guess and I feel in hopes that Joseph's health will improve so that we can get home this fall.

I was very glad to hear that you were well and that you had found work near home. I hope you have got a good place to work and will have your health and be steady and give good satisfaction.

We were very glad to hear that you had traded off your rifle for a yoke of steers. Pa says that he hopes you will keep the steers and not let anyone fool them away from you. Joseph says to keep them until they are three or four years old and then they will be worth something to you.

We received a letter from Abigail dated the 29th of July. They were all well then and she thought Phinias would finish his having in four or five days.

Give my love to Amori and Amina and tell them, we do want to hear from them. We have not received a letter from them in some time. George has written to him and sent the notes in the letter but has not received an answer, we want to know how he gets along with his haying and harvesting and all the rest of his work.

Joseph received a letter from George Simmons the last day of July, he was very much pleased to hear from him. He sends his compliments to George and Elizabeth and hopes he has got his health again. Says he will write as soon as he gets able.

Now Henry, do write as soon as you get this. Be careful of your health and be a good boy.

I must bid you good night from your mother,

C. C. to W, H. H. C.

To George H. Cook, Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co., N.Y.

Londonderry, Vt. Aug. 9th 1854

Dear Sister Charlotte,

I seat myself this afternoon to write a few lines to you in haste. We are in usual health; that is, Sheldon and myself, that is all of our family now that Rebekah is married. Joseph came here yesterday and I was almost as much suprised as though one rose from the dead. I did not know that he was in the olace 'til I saw him and I knew him just as soon as I hit my eyes on him and I can tell you the way we shook the friendly hand was not slow and how verry, verry glad we should have been to see you, how much we should have enjoyed the visit. I have not expected that you would ever come th Derry again and I am sorry that you could not come now with Joseph but we are in a world of disappointments, sickness and death; that, you have already learned dear sister as well as myself but we must be reconciled to our lot. I am very sorry that your son Joseph is so much afflicted, give my love to him and shall send

him some papers by his father.

My love to George and family and all the rest that enquire after me. Our daughter Rebekah Janett is married to a man by the name of Hill, Thomas E. and gone out to Lake Co., Illinois, town of Waukegan. They were married the 27th of last Sept. and left the 29th. I have not seen her since but have had 16 letters from her and a good many papers. Don't you think I would like to see her? I recon I should.

To Charlotte C. from Joanna P. (Pierce)

Aug. 9

My Dear Friend,

I now sit down to write a few lines to let you know that I am well. I arrived at Manchester at 7 o'clock the next day after I left home. I found them all in usual health, father is quite blind but he knew me, after talking to him a little. I was rejoiced to find him so well. I have been to see Polly and found them in usual health. I am now at Shelden Pierce's. I have been to Uncle Jo Allen's and to see all the old neighbors. I found them all in usual health, excepting Merry Davis, she is very feeble. She does not sit up any. I expect Elisha here tomorrow to go with me to Springfield to see Uncle Eben. Elisha is very anxious to have me go to Pittsford to see Eben's folks. I do not know what to do, I am anxious to get home. I cannot tell you when to expect me. I am anxious to hear from Joseph. I shall get around as fast as I possibly can. Give my respects to all who enquire for me.

This from Joseph Cook to you all.

Rebekah's husband is a writing master. I will send Joseph one of his papers that Rebekah sent me, that speaks of his schools.

Joanne Pierce

HILL'S WRITING ACADEMY

Opens this, Friday Evening, May 5th

AT 7 O'CLOCK, IN THE

BASEMENT OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH,

To continue two weeks; lessons being given each evening, (Sundays excepted) of two hours each, and for the convenience of those wishing to write at other hours of the day, lessons may be taken from 8 to 10 A. M.

TERMS,

12 LESSONS, \$2 PER SCHOLAR.

Many years teaching in the Eastern Cities in competition with some of the most celebrated teachers in the Union enables Mr. Hill to assure the public that the most perfect satisfaction will be given to all wishing to acquire a knowledge of the Art. A Hand Writing is guaranteed to every member of the class unsurpassed for legibility and rapidity of execution, it being the Duntonian System, so universally admired and approved at the East, and wherever introduced.

TESTIMONIALS.

The following notices from the Press and Testimonials of patrons of his schools, taken from neighboring cities and selected from hundreds of similar import show the opinion entertained of Mr. Hill's writing and mode of teaching throughout the country.

Libertyville, Ill., April 11th, 1854.

Feeling it due to Mr. THOS. E. HILL for the highly creditable and successful manner in which he has conducted a Writing School recently kept by him in this place, the undersigned patrons of his school take this mode of expressing to the public their approval of his mode of teaching Penmanship and their entire satisfaction as well as gratitude for the success and benefit which have attended his efforts. We recommend Mr. Hill's System of Writing and his manner of teaching to the public.

H. BOYLER, N. BAKER,
J. W. POTWAIN, D. C. STURLE,
And many others.

Those wishing to improve their Chirography should not fail of taking lessons of Mr. Hill teacher of Penmanship.— We lately called at his Writing Hall and were shown specimens of his writing which we do not hesitate to pronounce the best we have ever seen. But what speaks most emphatically in his favor is the rapid improvement of those under his tuition as shown by specimens of their writing both before and after taking lessons of him. It is one thing to write well, and another to teach others to do it. Both of these

we think Mr. Hill abundantly able to do and we cheerfully recommend him to a liberal share of patronage.

Whitehall Democrat.

Mr. Hill comes highly recommended as a gentleman and a teacher, and his skill in the Art he proposes to teach speaks for itself in his works and needs no other recommendation.— We have examined his specimens and we must say we have never seen finer specimens of the doings of a pen. His execution is rapid and facile. We recommend his school to the liberal patronage of all who would be expert in the use of the Pen.

Kenosha Tribune.

His specimens of Penmanship are of the finest we ever saw, and the specimens of progression of his former pupils are astonishing. We bespeak for Mr. Hill large schools throughout the country, as he is every way qualified to teach this pleasing Art.

Waukegan Gazette.

Wherever Mr. Hill has been he has had large classes and great success in teaching. His trials with the Pen approach the marvelous.

Keosauha Democrat.

Mr. Hill is a capital teacher and those who become his pupils will get the worth of their money.

Waukegan Chronicle.

☐ See Specimens at N. S. Storr's Bookstore.

Riley, August the 27th, 1854

Dear and Distant Parents, Brothers and Sister,

It is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you for your perusal and to let you know that we are all well at present and I hope these few lines will find you the same.

We have got the handsomest little girl here that there is in town. It is three weeks old today and Mother, the reason I think it is the handsomest is because the most of the folks say that it looks like you and of course it is good looking.

I cannot think of any news to write at present. I never saw so dry a summer as this has been, we have not had any rain, not enough to lay the dust for more than six weeks and I don't think that it ever was so dry in Michigan before. The corn is all dried up on the openings, it did not ear at all it was so dry. On the timberland it is rather better, about half a crop I should think. A good many have cut up their corn to save the fodder. Potatoes are nothing. If it would rain in a few days it would help the late planted ones. Hay was rather late this year but the wheat is good. It cost me thirty six dollars to get my wheat into the stacks and I guess it will take the most of it to pay for the harvesting and thrashing. I expect to thrash it this week.

I had a felon on my finger so that I could not work at harvesting at all and wages was very high and it cost considerable.

I do hope that Joseph's health is better so that he will be able to come home before a great while for we do want to see you all the worst kind of way. Do write as soon as you get this and let us know when you think of coming home for we would like to know, but don't come as long as the cholera rages so bad. I would wait until the weather was cooler. It has been some sickly about here this summer because it has been so hot and dry.

I cannot think of anything more to write at present. Amina joins me in sending her love and good wishes to you all.

Write as soon as you receive this for we do want to hear from you often. The reason for my not writing before was on account of my finger. It was a bad looking finger and it pained me night and day.

This from A. B. Cook to Parents, Brothers & Sister.

To Mr. George Cook, Hemlock Lake, Livingston Co., N.Y.

Cadiz, N.Y., Sept. the 3, 1854

Dear Brother and Sister,

It has been a long time since I saw you and had the privilege of conversing with you face to face, so I will improve on my time in writing to you. Is it possible that I am writing to a sister that I have not seen for years? Dear sister, how I do want

to see you and family.

I heard this morning that you did not receive my letter that I wrote you this spring. I did not send it at the right office.

I heard that Joseph had gone to Vermont and left you to George's with young Joseph. I want to see him so bad. I don't know what to do. Tell him as soon as he gets better to come to Franklinville and make me a good long visit.

Charlotte, do come and see me before you go back to Michigan. I have almost forgotten how long it is since I saw you but it is a long time.

Tell George and Sarah I want they should pay their debts. I shall soon begin to charge George interest. I suppose you know what it means, my writing as I do?

Tell your mother that I heard from your Uncle Pyram's family last night. They were all well.

Times have changed since I saw you. I have me a man and he is building me a house to put me into, as you see he means to take care of me. I expect to move next week and then I will have room enough.

I want to see you all so I don't know what to do. I can't make it appear that I am writing to you, Charlotte. My mind is so confused I scarcely know what to write.

Pyram wrote to me and said you and Joseph had made him a visit, that you staid a week with him. I wish you would make me as long a visit and as much longer as you can.

Pyram wrote that you had buried Sally Ann so you have your trouble. I should liked to have seen her before she died but I could not. I was with Susan three weeks before she died, it afforded me a great comfort.

I wish I could be with Joseph and help take care of him. I often think of him and want to see him.

It is so warm this morning that I can hardly write. The warm weather overcomes me so I don't know what to do.

O, Charlotte if I could see you I could think of enough to say, I should not have to stop and think what to write.

Tell Joseph that I wear that ring yet that he gave me and often think of the giver. Joseph, your Aunt Mary is one of your best friends you had better believe. I would help you if it were in my power but I am so far from you. I presume I think of you many times when you are asleep. You be a good boy and as patient as possible. I know what you have had to suffer in gone by days. You must submit. This world is not our abiding place. Joseph, I often think if I could be as willing when I came to die to leave my dear friends as your cousin Susan was, I should not dread death as I do.

It will not be long Charlotte, before you will be here if you come this fall. I am afraid you won't and I'll be disappointed if you don't. Oh, Charlotte come to Franklinville this fall if it is possible.

Josiah has just come in with a watermelon and he says he has got the best corn he ever raised. He says he wishes you would come and make us a visit so he can get acquainted with you. My husband is a great care for company. I would like to have you and Joseph, George and Sarah, Pyram and Ann and all your families with you, come and make us a visit. You may conclude that I am rather flusterated, it makes me homesick when I get to thinking of Livonia and the folks there. I want to see them so bad.

Charlotte, by this time you have read what I have wrote, you will be contented of reading scrawlings.

George don't think I would like to see you and Sarah.

I have no more to weary your patience with at present so I will draw to a close by scribbling myself your

affectionate Sister,

Mary Heath to Charlotte Cook

Dansville, Feb. the 2, 1855

It was with much pleasure that we received your letter on the 27th. we was glad to hear that you were all enjoying comparitively good health, which is one of our greatest earthly blessings.

We were much gratified to learn that Joseph's health is improving. You may yet have the great joy of seeing him restored to health, which would no doubt fill your hearts with gladness and gratitude toward the great Physician which is alone able to restore health and give happiness to mortal man. Trust in Him and if it is His will and pleasure that you should see that happy day, fail not to return thanks to the Father of all mercies for his kindness.

Father's health is as good as it was when you were here in the fall. Mother is enjoying very good health for her, and the rest of us are well.

We have had no news from the East since you was here.

There is no news of any importance that would interest you that I know of.

By request of my sisters I will give you a list of their husbands names.

Bethiah married David B. Sholl, Mary married Charles Goodno, Sarah, the youngest, married James Wilber, William married Susan Lorish for his wife, and John, Oh, I liked to forgot, he is not married.

I need not say that we would be glad to see you and have our visit over again. Tell your son and daughter that we shall expect a visit from them. We will give them a hearty welcome to our humble home if they will do us the honor of coming to make us a visit.

We are having a first rate run of sleighing now which makes business more lively at present, than usual.

We had a special election to elect a Senator in the stead of M.H. Clark. We had a pretty warm time of it. It is reported that the knownothings will carry the day by about 2,000 and elect Wm. Goodwin, a Methodist Minister of Ont. Co.

No more at present except the love and good wishes of all your cousins.

Write as soon as you can. We will be glad to hear from you at anytime.

I write this at the request of Father. He says his hand trembles so that he can't wright.

John W. Richardson

Manchester, January 31st, 1855

Dear Brother and Sister,

I hastily seat myself this morning to write a few lines to you. Hope you are in usual health.

We have got started for the west. We came to your Brother Elisha's last night., shall take the cars at noon today. The rest of the family are in usual health. He has lost his horse that you rode. He does not know what was the cause of the loss.

They send their love and respects to you all.

Leon, February 11th, 1855

Respected Husband and Children, one and all,

I now sit down to write a few lines to you to let you know that we are all in as good health as when you left and we feel very anxious to hear how you all stood your journey and how you found all our friends and what time you got to George's and if you found them all well.

O, how I would like to see them.

We received two letters last night, one from Joseph Richardson and one from sister Pierce and I thought I would send hers to you, that you might read it for yourself. She wrote very short and I thought I would write a few lines on the back of it and send it right along and I wish you to bring this letter back when you come.

I want to know if your cold is any better and how Joseph is. If he thinks the journey was too hard for him.

You don't know how lonesome we have been since you left.

Charlotte, Abigail and I did just as you told us to, we went over to Priley's and staid till Phinias got home and the next day he took us over in the sled and carried us up to Aunt Hannah's and we had a verry good visit and today we have been up to Samual's. He is getting quite smart.

We have not eat one meal yet in the room we did when you were here, there are so many vacant seats, we had rather eat in the other room.

Henry, I hope you and Charlotte have written today, we shall expect a letter this week. George and Sarah, you must write, both of you. I hope Riley has got over his cold, how I do want to see him.

Joseph Richardson's folks were all well when they wrote.

Give my love to all who enquire.

Phinias and Abigail join with me in sending love and good wishes to you all. They are setting in the corner reading the newspaper. George, if you have a paper with a good story in it please send it along if you can spare it.

Joseph, write as soon as you feel able.

Good night to one and all,

Charlotte Cook

Hemlock Lake, Feb. the 28th, 1855

Dear Mother, Brother & Sister,

I now take my pen to write a few lines to you to let you know how we all get along. I should have written some when Henry wrote but did not know he had written until the next day and I have been waiting thinking we might get an answer but I do not know as it is time yet so I thought I would not wait any longer.

My health is about the same as when I left Leon. Father is about sick with a cold and has been ever since we started, and it seems to grow worse instead of better. He intended to have gone to Richmond last Monday but he did not feel as well as he did the week before and gave up going. I do not know when he will go.

It is a general time of health, excepting colds. Mr. Blakeley is sick with a cold, not able to sit up. Thomas Newman and his wife & Aunt Sarah were here last week & Charlotte would have gone home with them but Sarah and Riley were about sick with a cold, they are getting a little better. Henry has got a bad cold too. George is afflicted with a cold as well as the rest. His hands all work in the lower shop this winter and there is no chance for Father to work if he was able. Henry has Seen the Elephant. We had an Oyster Soup the other day and Henry liked it very well, and he has courage to think he could swallow a raw one.

Charlotte has got her some poplin cloth and is making her a blouse waist or something to that effect. I have not got the right name, she must write and let you know. Sarah is cutting carpet rags.

Mr. Doolittle that lived on the Pond farm died the 14th of Jan. of consumption. Mr. Fisher died the 13th of Feb. of the same thing. Esq. Blackmore died the 15th of consumption.

I received a letter from Estes the 22nd he said our folks were as well as far as he knew. We received your letter the first of last week, was glad to hear from you so soon.

Riley wanted to know why Grandma didn't come. Charlotte told him Aunt Abigail wanted you to stay with her. Riley said why didn't you make Aunt Abigail mind so Grandma could come.

I should like to see you all first rate. The folks all join with me in sending love and well wishes to all inquiring friends.

Write as soon as you receive this. Write all the news.

From your son and Brother,

J. W. Cook

P.S. Charlotte being in haste
You should see her blouse waist,
Or a piece of the cloth would sound better,
So she cut off one end (a block-gold poplin)
And wished me to send
The same to you an this letter. J.W. Cook

George and Sarah & Charlotte, Mr. Blakeley & wife, Mr. Remington & wife, Mr. Richard Blake & wife went to Riley Newman's in East Avon and near as I can find out they had quite a time. Got home the next morning about 6.

J. W. C.

Franklinville, Mar. 4, 1855

Dear Brother and Sister,

It is with pleasure that I seat myself to write a few lines to let you know that we are all well at present, and hope when this letter reaches you it will find you enjoying the best of heavens blessings. I have received a letter from Pyram since you was here, he wrote they were all well excepting Ann, she has almost lost the use of her left arm. So you see, we have our troubles, some in one way and some in another. It is a world of trouble, the best way we can face it. o, dear Charlotte and Joseph, how I do want to see you and all your children; especially Joseph, how I want to see him. Abigail, if you and Charlotte would come and see your Aunt Mary we could have a grand time I guess, don't you? O, dear how I do want to see you all.

Joseph, Josiah has gone to meeting today, you can guess what meeting. He told me to tell you that he had got six acres chopped and now he is going to fix for sugaring.

That same night you went away from here the young folks was here for a spree. Rosilla says they had omnibus but no blunderbuss. They go about the same as they did when you was here. The girls have got schools for 12 shillings per week, about a mile apart. One in Tikletown and one in Chaplesburg.

Gilfer says you must remember all the connumdrum and Charlotte must remember all the songs. Abigail, if your Father and Mother are to your house I want they should write to me as soon as they receive this and if they are not I want you should write as soon as you read this one. Let me know for I feel anxious to hear from them. I want you should write if you've heard from Amori since you was here, let me know if you go back to Michigan this spring or not.

You must all come and see me as soon as you can. I have wrote all I know.

Goodby,

Mary Heath to Charlotte and Joseph Cook

Hemlock Lake, Mar. 8

Mother, Brother, and Sister,

I now take my pen in hand to answer your letter which I got last night. Was glad to hear from you and to hear that you all were well. We are all well at present with the exception of hard colds. Father's cold is rather better than it was when Joseph wrote.

Charlotte got a letter from Moses yesterday. He was well. He had sold most of his hay. He said fodder was as scarce as it was the hard winter. He thought he should not come down here but wrote he would send money to pay her freight to Michigan when she would write when she was ready to come.

Well, Abigail I will scribble a few lines so you know that I am kicking and hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing. There, I have just sneezed. It is a warm day, I have just come in from splitting wood and it makes me sweat.

Write as soon as you get this. So no more this time.

Wm. H. H. Cook

To Charlotte Cook, Leon Center, Cattaragus Co., N. Y.
% P. R. Freeman

Hemlock Lake, March 8th, 1855

Dear Mother, Brother and Sister,

I sit down to write a few lines to you in Henry's letter. You must excuse me for not writing sooner for we have all had very bad colds. Father does not get over his cold, yet he keeps around all the while. It is two weeks today since he has been down to the shop. He sends his love to you all. Joseph sends his love likewise, he feels as well as he did when he wrote to you.

I received a letter from Moses Tuesday. He wrote that his health is rather poor, he has give up coming down here.

Sarah has not got over her cold yet. Little Riley has got over his so that he feels first rate. He gathers snow and says he wants to see grandma real bad. He has just brought

in a pail full of snow. Sarah is sewing carpet rags. Henry is sawing wood.

It is a very pleasant day, the sleighing is about used up.

Abigail, George and Sarah were very much disappointed because you and Phinias did not come with us, they were expecting you.

How do you like the color of my basque? (wh. flowers on blue cotton)

Mother you wanted to know how many visits I have made. I have not made any yet. I think I shall go over to Lima before many days if I have a chance.

I cannot think of much to write. Give my respects to all who enquire for me, especially to Margaret.

George, Sarah and all the rest join me in sending love and good wishes to you all.

Write as soon as you receive this from the hand of your daughter and Sister,

Charlotte E. Newman

Riley, Mar. 11, 1855

Dear Parents, Brother and Sister,

It is with pleasure that I take my pen to write a few lines to you in answer to yours which we received about the middle of February and was glad to hear that you was all enjoying usual health and that Joseph's health was improving. I do hope that it will continue to do so for health is one of the greatest blessings on earth. My health has been good all winter until now. I have got a hard cold so that I am not hardly able to sit up today but I thought I would try and write a few lines to you. I beg you to excuse me for not writing before for we have not had any ink or paper, that has been one excuse, and another was that there has been a protracted meeting held at our school house for a while back and how much longer it will continue I cannot tell and after I had been chopping all day and then go to meeting evenings, I did not get time to write but I hope that I shall do better for the future.

I have got ten acres and a half cut down and fitted for logging as soon as the brush is burned. I don't think that I shall chop any more this winter. It has been a hard winter every since I wrote to you before, it was snowing that day and it kept on snowing for two weeks every day until the snow got to be nearly two feet deep and it laid on until a few days ago, it commenced thawing and now the ground is quite bare. I cannot write any more for I do not feel able, write as soon as you get this if you can read it for my hand trembles so that I cannot write. No more at present.

This from,

A. B. Cook to Parents, Brother, and Sister

When you write let us know when you think of starting for home if health permits.

Dear Parents, Brothers and Sister,

I now take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you to let you know that I am well at present, and hope these few lines will find you the same. Amori says he don't feel any better today than he did yesterday; his lungs are very sore, so much so that he cannot cough. Little Emiline Estella is well and the best natured little girl you ever see. There has been a good deal of sickness around DeWitt this winter and a number of deaths. Mrs. George Wells was buried last week, Mr Gerley Parker and his wife was buried a few days ago. I cannot think of anymore that you was acquainted

with. There are a number around that is very sick now. Mr. Hide for one and Mr. Patridge is very sick. Aunt Nancy Pike has been very sick this winter with carasipilas (?) but she has got better now so she is around. Elisha Pike's wife has been very sick this winter, she was sick the same time Aunt Nancy was. I cannot think of anything more to write, if I could see you I could think of more to say in one hour then I can think to write in all day. I should like to see you all very much and hope Joseph's health will be so you can come home before a great while. Our folks are all well. I believe Uncle Samuel Knapp's folks have got a young daughter about a week old. We have had a very hard winter here and it is some cold yet. The snow has been very near two feet deep but we have had a thaw.

Leander Hammond is married to Miss Drake and Ben Miller is married to Janette Frost and Andrew Jones is married to Persis Cutler. Mother, I should like to see you and Charlotte and Abigail very much. I should like to see you all first rate and hope I shall before long. It has been a good while since I see you. I want to see one and all of you.

Father, Mr. Apthorp wanted you to fetch him a peck of broom corn seed if you can and if you cannot, fetch what you can. I cannot think of anything more at present. I send love and good wishes to you all. Write as soon as you receive this one and all of you.

Excuse poor writing and poor spelling, This from

Amina L. Cook

Tuesday, Mar. 13, 1855

As Amina has got through writing, I thought I would try and write a few more lines to you to let you know that I feel rather better of my cold today, but it is bad enough today but I hope that I shall get over it in a few days. There is a good many complaining of bad colds. O, I wish that I could see you all. I wish that you was here to go to meeting this evening and heare Elder Gunderman preach, for I believe that he is a good man and a good Christain. There is to be a meeting here tomorrow in the afternoon at our house. O, I wish that you could come in and enjoy it with the rest of the neighbors. There has been a great revival in this neighborhood and I pray that it may do good. Uncle Pike is clear carried away with it, he feels good now. I tell you. Hiram Reed wanted me to tell you for him that he never wanted to see anyone so bad in his life as he does Joseph and Father and Mother. He says that when you get home he shall come right down and see you. Do write as soon as possible This from your son and brother,

Amori B. Cook

May the Lord be with you now and forevermore. Mother, I kiss Emiline every day for you. Abigail, I wish that you could see her, she is a great case to play with and so good natured.

From J. W. Cook to home folks at DeWitt

Hemlock Lake, Mar. 19, 1855

Dear Mother, Brother, & Sister,

I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you in answer to yours which we received the 17th. Were very glad to hear from you, but sorry to hear that you were afflicted with bad colds, hope when this reaches you it will find you all enjoying good health. My health is about the same as when I last wrote. Our folks are all getting better of their colds. Charlotte went to Aaron Newman's a week ago yesterday and has not returned yet. Uncle Ira was here Saturday last and Father went home with him.

That pedlar has not been here yet but I expect him in about a week; then you may look out for a storm. I have made up my mind to turn over a new leaf. Abigail, tell Mother to tell Phinias to write. I want to know what he is doing, and if he has received any money from Dunkel yet. My left side and hip pain me some today and it is hard work for me to write. Therefore you will please excuse me if my letter is short, and badly written at that. Sarah is washing and Henry is gathering snow and helping her some; their sibern (for the first time since it was built) is dry. There has been no sleighing of any amount here for some time. The greatest share of the snow being gone except where it is drifted. Philip Short, Esq. was buried the 14th, he died very suddenly, while sitting at the table eating breakfast. Elder Briggs' widow was buried the same day. George O. Wells of DeWitt, Mich. died the sixth of this month so says the Clinton Express.

I am getting rather tired and shall have to bring this to a close. All join with me in sending love and well wishes to you all. I want you all to write as soon as you can make it convenient after receiving this, and write all the news. Give my respects to all enquiring friends and receive a good share yourselves.

This from your son and brother,

J. W. Cook

To J. W. Cook, Esq., Leon, Cattaraugus Co., N. Y,

DeWitt, April 29, 1855

Dear Parents and Brothers and Sister:

I now take my pen in hand to write a few lines to let you know that we are well and I hope that when this reaches you that you will be in better health and spirits than you were the morning that Henry and I left you. We had to wait at Cattaraugus some time for the cars. I do not know what time we started but we were in Dunkirk at noon, we had to wait their until half past three in the afternoon when we again took

the cars for Buffalo, got there a little past four. There we had to wait until six in the evening, then we started once more in the cars. we got to Niagra at dark so that we could not see the falls. If it had been light we could have had a fine view of them for the cars went very slow over the bridge. It was eight o'clock when we got over into Canada, there we had to wait until eleven o'clock in the evening before the cars started again and when they did get started they did not go but a little ways before they would stop longer than they run and we did not get to Detroit until Wednesday noon. When we were on the ferry I had the misfortune to have my money taken from my pocket, I did not miss it until I got to the Hotel in Detroit and we thought we would go and pay our fare to Lansing in the stage so as to be sure of a seat. I put my hand in my pocket for my money and it was gone. I had about seven dollars and you may guess that I had the blues then but the stage agent told me not to feel bad, that if I would leave my trunk he would see that I had a seat in the stage in the morning and so Henry paid his fare and the next morning we left Detroit in the stage for Lansing; got there at eleven o'clock in the evening and Friday morning Henry got up and started for DeWitt and in the afternoon Moses came after me and you had better believe we were glad to see each other. We have not got all our things set up yet so as to go to keeping house yet but I expect we shall tomorrow. Joseph, Moses and Riley are at work in the Cabinet Shop this summer. Moses says he can fit you out with a set of household furniture in the course of a season, such as tables, chairs, stands, bedsteads, Bureaus, Lounges and wagon hubs if you like and a bench screw also to set the rest up with because he knows how to do it. Oh Joseph, I do hope you feel a great deal better than you did when I left you. Mother, have you and Abigail got your quilt done yet? And Abigail, how does your little lamb prosper? I saw Aunt Nancy yesterday, her health is not very good yet, she said that she wanted to see you all very much and she said she would write to you soon. Mother, I cannot think of anything more to write, only give my regards to all who enquire for me.

Moses joins me in sending love and good wishes to you all; You must all write as soon as you receive this from your daughter and sister,

Charlotte E. Newman

Write soon

To Mr. Phinias Freeman, Leon Center, Cattaraugus, N. Y.

Franklinville, May 12, 1855

Dear Friends one and all,

I now embrace a few moments I have in writing to you concerning my health which is not very good at present. I was quite sick about two weeks with the erysipelas. I suppose Charlotte, you know how to pity me don't you? The rest of the family are all in usual health, and now I would enquire how you all are, especially little Joseph. I want to see him the worst kind of way, you better believe.

And now Abigail, I want to know where your father and mother are and if

they are going home this summer or not and what time, for I must try to see her before she goes home.

Charlotte, I want to know if Moses has been to Abigail's yet or not. I am looking for you and Moses every day. I don't know what the reason is you don't come along; if you knew how bad I wanted to see you I believe you would come and see me soon. Do all come as soon as you can and make me a good visit. Tell your mother I often think of the visit we had last winter. Shall I ever enjoy that blessing again? I fear I never shall. It is too bad, I think, do you think so Charlotte? I often think when we were all children together living with Father and Mother, taking comfort. But now we are separated; some dead, some got to the west. I think we had better visit oftener. Oh, Abigail how I do wish I could be with you all, what a visit we would have.

Oh, Charlotte I must see you again before you go home.

Our folks had a logging here a week ago last Friday, they got about five acres logged. They have had three bees, two last summer, one this spring.

Charlotte, you had ought to be here now, it is just as pleasant as it can be. You can see as far as the eye can extend. If you only lived neighbor to me I would be contented but I don't expect that will ever be. I wish you would come and see me once more, it seems to me that you might. Phinias, I want you would come and fetch Abigail and make a good long visit. Harness up and come right along. Don't you believe that you ought to fetch Abigail to Franklinville to make her Aunt a visit? I think you might. I look for some of you everyday. I don't want to spend so much of my time in vane when it don't ammount to nothing. I wish I had you around your neck I would pull so hard you would be glad to come this way.

I have not heard anything from Pyram since I wrote to you. I am looking for a letter from him everyday.

I presume I have wearied your patience by this time with my scrawlings so would not thank me to write anymore this time. You must write as soon as you read this. I wish you all goodby.

Abigail, I will send this to you for I don't know where your Father and Mother are, with you or at George's.

I shall expect a letter now soon from some of you.

Write without fail from,

Mary Heath to Abigail Freeman

To J. W. Cook, Cataraugus Co., N.Y. - Leon Center
(Postmarked Cadiz, N.Y.)

Franklinville, N.Y., Aug. 10, 1855

Dear Brother and Sister,

I am all alone this morning and it is come time since I have seen you or heard from any of you. I will devote a few moments in writing. We are all well at the present; I hope When this letter reaches you it will find you and yours enjoying the best of heavens blessings. We received a letter from Hillard about two weeks ago he

wrote that Pyram was not able to do but very little work this summer but did not write what was the matter. I wrote to him about the time you left here and wrote as you requested me that you would be very much pleased if he could make it any ways convenient to come and make you a visit before you went home and that you thought of going this fall if Joseph's health improves.

Oh, Charlotte how I do want to see you and all the rest, especially Joseph. I would give almost anything if I could see you all. Abigail, your aunt wants to know if you could eat those pickles that your mother carried to you when she went home from here? Charlotte, I finished sewing carpet rags yesterday. I had 42 pounds. I was glad to get them out of my site, you had better believe. O, Charlotte don't I wish you was here with me, we would visit some while we were alone. But as you are not, I will keep writing. I want to know if you have got your dress maid yet or not. I have not wore my dress yet. Josiaha has spoke of you since you went home ever so many times, that he wanted to see you very much. Tiffer says it has been very lonesome since you went home.

We had some cucumbers last Sunday for the first. I want you to write as soon as you get this and write if you have had a letter from your children in Michigan since you went home or not. write to me when you think of going home and write how Joseph's health is, whether you think of going this fall or not. I must see you again before you go home. My hands are so cold I can hardly write, I don't expect ever to take so much comfort again as I took when you was here but perhalps I may. Charlotte, do write as soon as you get this, write how you all are. I think it would be as well for me to stop writing for I don't believe you can find out half that I have wrote, so I will bid you good-by from,

Mary Heath to Charlotte Cook
and all the rest.

Mon., Jan. the 28th, 1856

Dear Nephew and Niece,

I received your letter Saturday afternoon and was glad to hear from you and likewise to hear that you was a coming to make your old Aunt a visit. Your Uncle and I have been talking of coming to make you a visit all winter and have not got started yet but we have not given it up yet. If nothing happens you may look for us soon, perhalps this week.

O, Abigail do come as soon as you can. Your Mother's children seem very near and dear to me. You wrote that you had not heard from your folks in a long time. I should like to see them first rate and I presume you would too. O, sis are you not very lonesome since your folks went home? I presume you are. I should of thought you and Phinias would have come here before this time. I have thought of you a great many times since I heard that your folks had gone home. I wanted to see you very much.

You requested me to write as soon as I got your letter and I have done so. Abigail, I wish you lived a little nearer to me so we could see each other oftener.

Your Uncle and I have not been East, I don't know when we shall. I want to see your Uncle Pyram bad enough I assure you.

I will not weary your patience any longer this time, so you must overlook all mistakes, you will find them numerous.

I must bid you good by for this time from,

Josiah and Mary Heath

To Phinias and Abigail Freeman

Lansing, January the 29th, 1856

Respected Brother and Sister,

I seat myself to address a few lines to you to let you know that we are still in the Land of the Living and are all well at the present and hope that these few lines will find you all enjoying good health also.

I would like to see you very much but when it shall be I know not. It is two years since I heard one word from Silas but if all is well I shall see him in the course of two years.

George, I would like to see you and hear from you often. I can't write but a little for the want of time.

Abigail, give my respects to all enquiring friends and tell them that I antisipate seeing them before long if nothing prevents.

So, Goodnight, Ruben Dunkel to A. M. & P. R, Freeman

Victor Twp., February 4th, 1856

Dear Brother and Sister,

I now take my pen to write a few lines for your perusal and let you know that we are well with the exception of bad colds. I hope these few lines will find you both in the best of health and spirits. How I wish you could come in and visit us this evening. I could talk more in a half hour than I can write in two.

Oh, Abigail I thank you kindly for that cheese you sent to me. It was first rate and I wish I could ever have anything to let you have that would come as good to you as that cheese did to us.

We moved up here the 20th of December, we have been over to Pa's once since we moved. We went home Thursday after New Years and come back the next Wednesday. We live about ten miles from Pa. Our potatoes all froze while we were gone and we have to live on bread and meat this winter.

Oh, Abigail and Phinias we have now got the pleasantest spot there is in Michigan but the next time Moses sells out I am going to coax him to go to New York State.

It is so dark I can hardly see, so I shall have to light a candle. Now I have a light and will try to finish scribbling.

Abigail I have been washing today and I presume you have if you are well. Our folks were usually well when we were at home. How did you like Ma's dress? I think it is very nice for the price. I made the waist and sleeves for her and made them as she said you wanted them made.

Now I will give you a description of our house. The upright part is sixteen by twenty four and the ell is fourteen by twenty four. We have not got it finished yet, it is colder than seven barns. We have got one grand old oak shade tree close to the house.

Phinias, Moses says he talks of going to buy a yoke of horses tomorrow. Now he wishes you and Abigail would pass you apples and cheese.

O, I wish we could come over and see you, I would be very glad but we shall look for you up here next fall and you must not disappoint us, will you?

Abigail, give my respects to all of your neighbors that I am acquainted with and tell Aunt Mary when you write to her that if she will write to me and tell me where to direct a letter I will write to her. I have forgotten the name of the post office. Now Abigail do answer this soon and I will try and do better myself.

Our post office address is DeWitt yet.

Charlotte E. Newman

P.S. Amina is all swelled up again and old Granny Simmons is fraid little sis won't be two years old.

Write soon.

Leon, February 12th, 1857

Respected Brother and Sister,

I take my pen in hand to inform you that you have not answered my letters that I wrote to you a month ago. I have been looking for a letter everyday but I guess you have forgot the name of the place. I will tell you where to direct your letters, I forgot to the other time. I hope you will excuse me for my carelessness. I will mention it before I forget it. Direct your letters, that is if you write any, to Leon, Cattaraugus Co., N.Y., to Hiram Freeman. I don't know but the name is familiar to you. I have not seen it wrote in so long a time that I have almost forgot it myself. Now if you feel disposed to write don't forget the name of the place to direct your letters. I don't mean letters but letter, for I shall feel encouraged if I get ½ of one.

Well, I will try to think of something else to write about. I shan't write anything that I wrote in the last letter for I honestly believe you got it so I can't think of anything that would be news to you.

When you wrote to Mr. Towns folks you wrote that you had heard from Silas and I want you to write to me where he is and all the particulars.

I shan't write anything about myself this time. I am a boarding to school and going to Mr. Towns. I don't mean what I just wrote; I am boarding to Mr. Towns and going to school this winter. Pernal Freeman teaches our school.

It is a general time of health here this winter, Miss Belataris is sick.

Mr. Fourmaner and his wife have gone down there today. It has been the coldest weather here that you ever saw. The thermomitor has been clear down in the cellar but it is coming up now.

The next subject will be alltogether different.

Write all the news and all the particulars and don't forget the place. This from your brother,

Hiram Freeman

Mar. the 24, 1857

Dear and distant father and mother, brothers and sister,

With pleasure I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you to let you know that I am well at present and hope this few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing. The rest of our folks are afflicted with sore eyes. Father's are very bad, they pain him so he cannot rest nights. Amori's health is not very good this spring but I feel in hopes that the medicine he is taking now will help him.

Joseph, I was very sorry to hear that your health was so poor and hope when I hear from you again it will be better.

I want to see you very much but I cannot at present.

We haven't had but one letter from Abigail and that was right away after Father left there. Amori has written to her twice since but has not received any answer from her. Charlotte sends her love and well wishes to you and wants to see you.

Uncle John has moved to Coldwater.

When you write again, write what you think of coming home if Joseph is so you can.

I send my love to you all, I do want to see you. I can't think of anymore at present so I will bring my scribbling to a close. You must excuse poor writing and poor spelling.

Do write often for we do want to hear from you if we can't see you.

This from, Amina L. Cook

THE YOUNG FOLKS AT HOME

Twas when in southern groves I dwelt
No sorrow then I knew.
It seems that ev'ry hour was bright,
That gaily o'er me flew.
The little ones that round me clung,
Ere I from them did come
Made ev'ry hour still happier seems
Oh the dear young folks at home.

Chorus:
I am very sad no joys for me
Why did I ever come
Oh shall I never never see
The dear young folks at home

Hiram Freeman/October 16, 1857

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY

The woods of my county tall verdant and high
The woods of my county tall verdant and high
Thought rocked by the tempast of ages gone by
Still towering in grandure the breeze washes their leaves
Cattaraugus my county I love you for these.

God shields Cattaraugus dear land of our birth
And her children that wander afar o'er the earth
Thou art our loved county where ere our lots cast
Then take to thy bosom our ashes at last.
Then take to thy bosom our ashes at last.

Hiram Freeman, Oct. 16, 1857

4.38

DeWitt, Jan'y 1st, 1859

One day after date for value received, I promise to payto the order of John Hicks,
Four 38/100 ----dollars with interest at ten per cent.

A. B. Cook

Social Party

The Company of yourself and Lady is respectfully solicited at the

Seymour House

on Thursday Evening, February 10th, 1859

Committee of Arrangements:

Hon. H. H. Show	Hon. James M. Hoyt	R. C. Dart Esq.
" Geo. W. Peck	" Daniel L. Case	Theo. E. Doughty "
" Jas. Monroe	John A. Kerr Esq.	A. C. Winter "
" T. Bradhead	H. B. Shank M.D.	Geo. K. Grove "
" S. L. Smith	E. R. Merrifield Esq.	Jno. Robson Esq.
Room Managers:	C.V. DeLand	A. S. Butler

Music by Derby's Cotillion Band

WASHINGTON BALL

At Metropolitan Hall,
Hemlock Lake,
On Wednesday, Feb'y. 22, 1860.

Music by C. C. Sedgwick & Co.

Your Company and Lady is respectfully solicited

Managers.

S. Parker,	Hemlock Lake	Cordon Gilbert,
H. Potter,	Chas. Cook,	D. Owens,
J. P. Rudd,	Geo. Gilbert,	Warren Short,
L. Northrop,	Ed. Kersuer,	Dr. A. A. Gibbs.
	J. B. Rouse,	

Bill, 2,00.

(Written on Back.)

G. R. Cook
H. Lake
N.Y.

Mutual Contract entered into between Atwell Simmons and J. B. Knapp the stipulations of which are as follows: viz.

1st the said J. B. Knapp is to work for said Atwell Simmons on his farm commencing on the 5th day of March, 1860, and ending on the 1st day of November, 1860, and not to make up lost time.

2nd the said Atwell Simmons is to pay the said J. B. Knapp for his work $\frac{1}{4}$ (one fourth) of all the produce of his farm when he calls for it, as follows: -viz. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the hay, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the grain, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the fruit, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the increase of stock, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the increase of Bees, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the potatoes, Begas, Beans, Peas, etc. and also $\frac{1}{4}$ of all the grain that said parties shall sow in the fall of 1860, & that shall be harvested in the summer of 1861, at the expence of the said Atwell Simmons.

3rd, the hay is to be divided in the cock and stored in the barn, the grain, fruit, roots, etc. by measure, & the increase of the stock and Bees according to the value. Division, however, may be made otherwise as both parties agree.

4th, the said Atwell Simmons is to board the said J. B. Knapp, and bear all expences of thrashing the grain, to find seed and tools and team, etc.

5th, if the said J. B. Knapp is prevented from working the time specified he is to be paid at the rate of \$12.00, per month for the time he does work.

6th, the said J. B. Knapp is to do $\frac{1}{3}$ of the harvesting in 1861, the said A. Simmons to board the hand who does said harvesting and to have all the straw.

Dated, Riley, March 5, 1860

Atwell Simmons

Joseph B. Knapp

The Old Bachelor

Come all you old rusty coat bachelors
And listen to what I now say
Your eyes that begin to get rusty
Your hair that begins to turn grey.

Come scour up your rusty old reapers
And make your old harnesses bright
Come make your old limber legs caper
And harness yourself for a fight

My shoes that have lately been tapped
My stockings are footed with new
My britches are made of good leather
And after the girls I'll pursue

When I was a youngster,
About forty-five years of age,
I was so shameful and so bashful
I scarcely dare speak to a maid.

I was so shameful and bashful
The truth unto you I'll make known
The first I laid seige to a damsel
Was down in the garden alone.

She gave me a short slighty answer
As maidens most generally do
I then thought I'd go try her old mother
And see if she would prove any more true

But her answer was shorter than the other
She bade me from her to be gone
Oh then I was obliged to be scabbling
And make the best way to my home.

I went to my cottage and sat myself down
On a three legged stool
I was forced to live single
Live single a silly old fool

(Written by Joseph W. Cook)

On the death of John C. Marvin, prepared by his affectionate teacher and school mates - to be sung at his funeral.

Death paid our school a visit,
Taking off a blooming youth.,
O that I could doubt its credit,
But alas 'tis painful truth.

He who once so gay and mirthful,
Used to grace our little band.
Now no more shall join our circle,
But is clasped in death's cold hands.

Dearly loved by all who knew him,
Our breavment we now feel.
Now we come at last to view him,
O, may God our sorrows heal.

Now we see his aged parents,
Low with grief their heads are bowed.
Feeling their affections severed,
May they be with grace endowed.

He was young and always cheerful,
Thirteen years had ore him flown.
He was called although so youthful,
Called to slumber in the tomb.

Friends for him are deeply mourning,
Nothing can their grief assuage.
Yes, our loss we are all deploring,
he's gone down to the grave.

We now miss his presence daily,
O, who now our grief can tell.
Parents, friends, scholars, teacher,
All have bidden John farewell.

But once more we hope to meet him,
On that peaceful happy shore.
Where angel spirits greet him,
And death pains are known no more.

DeWitt, Clinton Co., Michigan

There is a lodge of scaly-wags
That stile themselves the sons
Of temperance thay make their brags
Saying we are the temperate ones.
But their works each day doth them betray
And plain it does appear
That they take delight each Saturday night
With whiskey, rum and beer

Thought they prenent they never touch
Nor taste one drop of gin
But oft we think they take to much
Rum and Brandy Fling.
For its every week they all must meet
With their Brandy, Rum and Beer
For its their delight each Saturday night
All seasons of the year

Oh how they strut and swell and blow
With their regalias on
Some scaly scamps there is we know
That there is many a one.
For each Saturday night they all unite
With their whiskey rum and beer
O' its their delight each Saturday night
All seasons of the year.

And there is a section of Cadetts
That wear the Clout on squair
And Dauters too with pantaletts
That round their legs they wear.
The sons each week and Dauters meet
Each others charms to shame
O' its their delight any sort of a night
All seasons of the year.

No more at present

(Written on reverse of previous page)

This from your friend a way down east to my friend pat (?), a way there in
Michigan Shiwassay County

What is Slavery?

Slavery is that disgraceful practice which man follows when he takes away the rights of his fellow creature and rules him at his wish, with the severity that he would a dumb brute. It is this abominable practice which destroys the happiness and peace of thousands; and this, even in ones own happy country. He, and only he, who suffers in bondage can rightly judge of the wickedness of the law which gives man an unrestrained control over his fellow. The Creator must look down on the slaveholder, as on a being who is not only seeking his own destruction, but that of the thousands who surround him. He should be considered by man, as a person who breaks all rules of humanity and should be classed with the lawless canables, who feed upon the flesh of him who should have the same liberties with himself.

When we look at the master and see him living in all the luxuries which riches can produce and enjoying the wealth earned by him being whom he holds in bondage, and who labors under the lash for nought but a scanty sustenance, and we might say, suffering all the miseries that human life is heir to; and turn and behold the miserable slave, we must then within our hearts curse the vile protractor of his wickedness, and pity the object of his persicution.

Slavery is the greatest evil that exists in these free and independent states. But stop: free and independent did I say? How can this be? How can we call this an independant land. a land of liberty, when there are millions of human beings bound down in chains and slavery. But perhaps there are some that do not consider them human beings, for if they did, they would not treat them like brutes, or might I say worse than brutes. Perhaps too, they that because they are black, they are destitute of feeling and ought not to enjoy a fee and independant life. But the same God of heaven that formed us formed the poor Africans and they ought to enjoy the same freedom rights and priviliges that we do. The wise men that framed the constitution of this noble republic formed this decision that all men were created equal, not that all white men were created equal, but that all men were created equal, and that they were endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among which were life, liberty, and the persuit of happiness. Now I would ask if the poor African of the southern states enjoy any of these rights. They do not. They are deprived of their liberty, that liberty which our forefathers, with so much arduousness, and with the loss of thousands of our brave progenetors, gained for us. Again, as respects to their happiness; some people pretend to say that slaves are content and happy. Yet no man in his senses really believes them to be so. The very man who tells us that the slave is contented, that he is willing to be a slave, will in nine cases out of ten, if called upon to define slavery, say it is involuntary servitude, that is that the slave works against his own will.

Let any man analyze his own association with the word slave and he will find that he invariably associates with it the idea of a person kept in a condition against his will.

Lastly, some may say if they do not enjoy any of the abobe mentioned priviliges, that they enjoy life; but I would ask what enjoyment they can take in a life of bondage where they are under the incessant controll of their masters, who reign predominant over them, inflicting upon them his blows of severity if they transgress but for a moment to rest their weary bodies.

Men we are apt to show by their actions what they like and dislike. If slaves are contented and happy in slavery, Why do they run away from it every chance they can get? When prisoners break jail we are apt to think they are not contented and happy to stay there, and when they are all the while trying to break jail, whether they get out or not, it would be an odd notion to interpret all these struggles as so many capers of contentment and happiness. Why are the slaves constantly running away? Doubtless it is because they are so happy they don't know what to do with themselves, and so in their glee fall to kicking up their heels as babies dance up and down and shake their hands at the sight of sugarplums. But then their kicking up their heels all in one direction, away from that plantation, rather than towards it, and the fact that when away, they stay away, and are always trying to get their friends away. These are mysteries about which poor human reason is doomed to puzzle itself in vain.

When a horse happens to jump out of a rich clover into a mullen field, he is sure to jump back again. But horse instinct is no standard for human reason. A rational horse would have staid in the mullen foeld contently munching the stems.

Lastly, some may say if they do not enjoy any of the aforementioned privilages, that they enjoy life. But I would ask what enjoyment they can take in a life of bondage, where they are under the incessant control of their master who reigns predominant over them, inflicting upon them his blows of severity if they transgress in the least from his tyranting commands or stop but for a moment to rest their weary bodies. Now shall we not sympathize with the poor slave? Yes, and we should detest their oppressors; he who is so inhuman as to rivit the chains of oppression upon his fellow beings, and I tremble for them when I know that they are seen by a just God; He who will judge the poor of the people, will save the children of the needy and break in pieces the oppressor.

Composition No. 7 by

J. W. Cook

STATE OF NEW YORK

TO MR. GEORGE COOK

GREETING:

YOU being appointed Drum Major of the fifty eighth Regimant, twenty seventh Brigade and seventh Division of Infantry of the Militia of the State of New York: I do therefore by the virtue of the power vested in me, Grant you this warrant. You are to obey the orders which you shall, from time to time, receive from your superior officers, and to discharge the duty of Drum Major with fidelity according to the laws and regulations established for the government and discipline of the militia of this State.

Given under my hand, at Geneseo this first day September A.D. 1861.

James Wood Jr, Colonel.
Cmdt. 58th Regt. N.Y.S.M.

DeWitt, N. Y., Sept. 1st, '61

Respected Friends,

I did not write according to agreement as you have discovered. I had too much business to mind to write. I had the darned ague the third day afore I returned home but I think I can be giving it some doses and it will soon be obliged to make a retreat, but I need not tell you about the ague, you know all about it.

Phinias, I have not seen Hiram yet nor heard of him with regard to the new excitement here. Our men are all gone from here that we can spare. There are 1400 numbered now at Debenport, 20 miles below here. There is no business doing here at present. Money is scarce and the constant cry is hard times. How I am going to come out I can not yet tell. If I could stop where I now be I would be all right but I have a contract to finish my house and the carpenters work comes to nine hundred dollars and I let the same men the job to build my barn for one hundred and fifty-six dollars. That is for the carpenters work on the house and barn. The contract was let last spring so you see I cannot stop when I see fit. My creditors are all quiet as yet, if they continue so I may come out all right. Wheat is worth forty cents per bushel; corn, nothing; Stock of all kinds, low except good horses for the calvary.

The boys are here. I find there are three places that they are not afraid of. The bed, the fireside and table. I don't know but I shall have to get a couple of hand bosses to keep them in.

Abigail, I shall have to tell you about the young soldier that shipped aboard the cars with me at Jackson for Kalamazoo. It appears that his lover was not willing to give him up so the fair dame shipped with him and such embracing I am sure you have seen in the course of your life.

I must close by wishing you well. Remember your friend and brother,

Silas Freeman
to Abigail and Phinias

Respected friends,

Silas has left a small space vacant and I will endeavor to fill it. He has been sick ever since he came home from Michigan with the ague. The boys are well and nearly crazy, they don't know what to do with themselves. They think they would not go back to Michigan for anything, we have not heard from Hiram lately.

Abigail, I have not forgotten the good old times we used to have years ago and hope you and Phinias will make us a visit some of these times and stay a long while.

Give my respects to your folks. I must draw to a close by wishing you health, wealth and prosperity.

Please excuse all mistakes. From your friend and well wisher,

Betsy Freeman

Riley, Oct. 7, 1861

Brother George,

I take this opportunity of writing a few lines to you in answer to yours which we received the 5th. Was glad to hear from you but sorry to hear that you had been so sick but I hope by the time this reaches you will be in better health. You must be careful and not do too much or you will get down again.

I came home from the Rapids the 4th. Found the folks all in usual health. I have a furlough for two days. we were mustered in to services the 3rd but instead of being in the 2nd Regt. we are in the 3rd. That is the 3rd Regt. of Calvery.

From this state I believe I wrote to you before instead of Col. Kellogg having one Regt., he had orders from the War Department to raise two Regts. of Calvery and two Com. of flying Artillery.

The first Regt. will probably leave for Washington some time next week. The second will stay some days longer. There is from 2300 to 2500 men now and they come in every day more or less.

Write soon and I will do the same.

Wm. H. H. Cook

Dear George,

I now take my Den to write a few lines to you in answer to yours. My health has been verry poor for sometime past but is better now and is improvong I think.

I was sorry to hear of your sickness but glad to hear that you are getting better. George, write to me directly and let me know the situation of your health. I am anxious to hear from you every day.

I have been calculating to make a visit to York State. I would have gone in the early part of the season if you had been at home. You wrote to me to let you know when I would come and you would meet me there at your home to visit your family anf friends. Write to me and let me know when you are going and how long you will stay and I will endeavor to meet there if possible.

George, write to me without fail and let me know if you have heard from your family.

This from your Father, Joseph Cook to George H. Cook

27th Regiment, N.Y.S.
Volunteers

Nov. 1st, 1861, Camp Anderson

Dear Wife,

I take my pen to answer yours which I received yesterday. I was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was well.

It is a great satisfaction to me that we can converse with the silent pen although separated for a time, it affords great consolation to me.

We are drilling some now. There is over one thousand horses here now. The first Regiment will leave here in a few days, they are going to Missouri and we expect to go there too.

As I told you before, I can't tell you whether I can come home or not but I shall come if I can. If I can not come, I want you should come out here. If I can not come I will write to you when to come.

We have drawn our shirts, boots and drawers. There is so many here that we can't get but two meals a day and the boys are a growling, but at that, we have all we want to eat and drink now. Last Sunday night we had the greatest stampede ever in Grand Rapids. We had just got seated to the tables and we found but very little on them to eat. The boys cleared the tables in two minutes, the dishes flew in every direction. It was every man for himself. I got out safe by a jumping over two tables. We live better since that.

Give my respects to all, Abigail, write what you think about coming. Direct your letters to Camp Anderson, Grand Rapids, 3rd Michigan Calvary in care of Capt. L. G. Wilcox.

We are well, except colds. I will draw to a close by wishing you all well.

Goodnight my dear wife. Write, P. R. F.

Camp Anderson, Nov. 9th, 1861

Dear Wife,

I received your letter yesterday a short time after I had sent one to you. Was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was well but was sorry to hear that father had the ague yet.

The second Regiment are a drawing their pay today. We cannot tell when we shall get our pay but I think we shall next week.

There is five of our Company sick, four of them with the measles.

We have not got our uniforms yet. We carry on almost all kinds of business here, some spelling duels, some debating and some preaching.

I saw Joe Jonas and June Davison, she was married last spring and she has got a boy about two years old. I think she has done well for the length of time.

I think I shall come home before we leave but I can not tell whether I can or not, I shall if possible.

Amori, you wanted to know what we thought of your going to Washington. I think you had better stay at home. I want to see you and Amina and the children verry much.

Abigail, write how you get along and what you are doing. These few lines from your well wishing husband.

Goodnight, my dear,

P. R. F. to A. M. F.

Camp Anderson, Grand Rapids, Nov. the 14th, '61

Dear Companion,

I seat myself to write a few lines to you it being the only thing I can do at present for your comfort.

Abigail, you know there was nothing but our Country's call that would of induced me to be without your company and your smiles for the space of three long years should the war last so long. But I know that I have your blessings which is a great comfort to me.

The second Regiment left here today. They had a sheep roasted whole yesterday. We had a tip top dinner which was furnished by the inhabitants of Grand Rapids. Govenor Blair was here and several other spectators and wee had a great time.

Nov. the 17, '61

Abigail, I received your letter of the 14th yesterday and was glad to hear from you, was sorry to hear that Father had the ague yet.

The boys you spoke of was all put in the guard house for 14 hours except William Knapp. But I believe they have let them go. They could not hold them, I think I should be at home within a week but I cannot tel for certain when I can come but I shal come before I leave here for the south.

We have not got our uniforms yet but shall by the middle of this week.

Abigail, don't work too hard and take care of your health. My health is good at present. We are all getting fat and saucy.

You wanted to know who June Davidson married. I hav forgot his name.

This from your well wishing husband and may God bless you my dear wife.

P. R. F.

Write as soon as you get this, you cannot write to often for that is the greatest comfort that I have is reading your letters.

Give my respects to all who enquire.

Camp Anderson, Nov. 18th,'61

Abigail,

Now if you want to go with me there is a chance for you. There is four women going with each Company, 48 in all, for to wash and mend. They say that they can make thirty dollars per month. Now you can do just as you think best but if you think of going don't do anything else, but get ready for we shant be here long. You wanted to go or I should not of said anything about it but there is some here now and they seem to enjoy themselves so well I thought I would let you go if you wanted to. Do just as you think best.

Goodnight, P. R. F.

Camp Anderson, Nov. 21, 10 o'clock a.m. 1861

Brother Amori,

I received yours this morning, was glad to hear from you. I am well at present and hope this will find you all the same.

You must excuse this bad writing for I have got a bad pen and not a very good place to write. I am on top of a hay barrack, I am on duty this afternoon to help unload hay and oats as they come in and not having much to do I thought I would write a few lines to you. I have unloaded one load of hay.

I am where I can over look the whole camp. It is as nice a day as I ever saw for this time of year and it looks nice to see all of the men out on drill and see the people passing to and fro through the camp and hear the bugles a sounding. From where I am I can look down in the city that is two miles off.

I saw Dan Newman yesterday, he has been here four weeks and I had not seen him before and his quarters is not more than 5 rods from ours. He is well and tough as a bear. He said Aaron went in the 5th Regt.

Lewis Van Dyke is sick, was taken yesterday. I guess he has got the measles. There is a good many got them here in camp but the most of them that come down with them first have got so they are out and around.

We have not got all of our uniforms yet. Our company have got their boots, shirts, drawers, caps, and overcoats and by Saturday we shall have the rest. Some of the Co. have got all their uniforms.

I suppose by the first part of next week U. Sam will give us a little money. About two months pay I believe is all we get now.

It is rather more quiet now than it was when the second Regt. was here. Then it took twenty men for guard in the day time and about 60 in the night. That was the main guard and some nights they had to put on an extra guard and now it takes 12 men in all for night and day guard. They have more only on the inside of the camp and that takes 12 men before they had them inside and out and a patrol guard from here to the city.

Well, Amori, I guess that I have wrote enough, more than you can make out in a week. Write soon.

Give my best respects to Father and Abigail, tell them to write to me. Give my respects to Mr. and Mrs. Simmons and all who may enquire after me.

I would like to see you all first rate and maybe I shall before I leave here for I don't think we shall leave very soon. My love and best wishes to you and yours.

This from your Brother, Wm. H. H. Cook

Grand Rapids, Mich. Cal.

Camp Anderson, Nov. 24th, 1861

Dear Father,

I take this oppertunity of penning a few lines to you to inform you of my health, which is very good at this time and I hope this will find you in better health than you were the past time I heard from you. It seems too hard for you to have the ague and I think you had ought to take something to break it uo.

I have not received any answer from the letter I wrote before but I know it is quite a job for you to get to writing when you are well so I shall not stop writing to you on that account but will write as often as I can. If you receive a letter from me as often as once in two weeks you had ought to be content. Nothing would please me better than to receive a letter written by you.

We have fixed up quarters so they are very comfortable. We have got a large stove that takes in four foot wood, so you see we can keep warm. Yesterday was verry snowy and it looks quite like winter.

The rumor is that we leave here for St. Louis next Thursday but how true it is I can't tell but probably we will leave brfore a great while. I suppose we will receive our pay or a Dart of it tomorrow or Tuesday.

If we leave this week it is not likely that I can come home. Phinias left here for home yesterday. There is a rumor also that our Company has got to stay here and take care of the horses but you can't tell how true a thing is by hearing it, but someone has got to stay, but whethere one whole Company will stay or so many out of each company. If we stay maybe I can come home.

Lewis Van Dyke has had the measles but is getting better. I was in to see him today and he was quite smart. All of the boys that were sick are getting better.

James and Daniel are well.

Father, I will now close this for this time and finish some other time. So good afternoon.

Camp Anderson, Nov. 27th

Well, Father, I will now try and finish this and send it to you for it is the last you will get from me dated at Camp Anderson. We start for St. Louis at 10 o'clock a.m.

We received our pay today. I got \$16.03 for my pay. We get the rest of our back pay the next pay day, which will be the first of January.

I have not much news to write now. The boys are packing up there duds to be ready in the morning and there is so much talking and laughing that I can hardly tell what I am writing.

There was a sad occurrence happened in our Co. this morning at about 3 o'clock. A young man about 24 or 5 years of age by the name of Peter Vowres shot himself through the brain with a pistol while he lay in his bunk. Nobody knew the cause of his committing the act, he was a respectable man and one who was thought a good deal of by the company. His parents live about two miles north of Ypsilanti. Boys here are acquainted with them and say they are nice folks and are well off. He got a letter from them last night with \$5.00 in money in it.

It was a horrid looking sight. He was up a half an hour before he killed himself, went outdoors, came in and got into his bunk and shot himself in the forehead just over the right eye. It raised quite an excitement.

Well, I guess I will close this for the present till I get to St. Louis. Give my respects to all who may enquire after me.

I remain your affectionate son til death,

Wm. H. H. Cook
3rd Mich. Cal.

to his father, Joseph Cook

I just got this letter sealed up when Phinias came, he wants to write a little.

Camp Anderson the 27th Nov, '61

Abigail,

I got into camp at seven o'clock this evening, found Henry writing.

We leave here tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Write as soon as you get this for I can't write longer. Direct to Camp Kenton, Co. B, Missouri in care of Capt. Wilcox, 3rd Mich., Calvary.

Abigail, I enclose five dollars to you. I want you should use it for your comfort. I would send more if I had got my pay. Be of good cheer, take care of your health and don't worry about me.

Good night, my dear wife and may God bless you,

P. R. Freeman

December the 1, 1861, Camp Douglas
Chicago, Illinois

Mrs. Sarah Cook,

It being Sunday morning and having few moments of time I will wright a few lines to you.

I have been a soldier since the first of September. I have just returned from home last night. I have been home to berry my little boy, he died very sudden. The boy was eleven months old, he had the croop.

Mary's health is quite poor at present. My two little girls are well. The rest of the folks are all well as far as I now of.

I send my best respects to you and the rest of the folks.

I find a soldier's life is some different from our common way of living but I have no reason to grumble, the cause is a good one, therefore we must be content with our lot.

I am in very good health for the present.

Sarah, I want you to wright me a letter and wright all the news. Let me know wheather George is in the army or not. I understood that he was sick in the hospital. I want You to wright all about wheather he is beter or not. I want you to wright all the friends. I want to hear from Aunt Ann Justus and the rest of the folks. Tell Riley I want him to wright to me.

Sarah, I would like to have you see us all done out in our uniforms all dressed in blue with our white gloves and our shose all black up to fits, but enough of this.

Sarah, I would like to have you wright to Mary if you will. Mary feels very bad; and tell Ann to wright.

I saw all the boys Saturday, they were all well. Melton's wife has got a little girl, also Nat has got one more in there family.

It seems to be quite sickly here today. The snow is about two inches deep. The cannon is fired avery night and every morning. Then we have to come out and show ourselves to the best advantage, but enough of this.

Direct your leter to Douglas Brigade, Chicago, Ill. in care of Capt. Bird, Box 5L15. Yours with respect, I will wright you al longer leter next time. This makes the fourth leter for this day. I think this will do for me.

Wright soon as you can. My love to one and all.

Myron Ganoung

Camp Benton, Dec. 5, 1861

Dear Father, Brother and Sister,

I rather think you would like to hear from one that is in the land of cotton. I am writing on a camp kettle, my desk is the camp chest.

We arrived in camp Sunday morning and it is the first chance I have had to write and it is after nine.

We left St. Johns Thursday night, Saturday night in St. Louis, quite a distance from home. Had a very good journey. Citizens all through treated the soldiers first rate, at Owosso they had a supper of crackers and cheese, coffee and bier at eleven P.M. in Detroit, breakfast at Adrian. At White Pigeon we saw a hundred soldiers. At Elkhart to ladies treated with all that they could, wish and cheered for the Union to a man.

It does not seem as if I was seven hundred miles from home in the land of Secah. Their regiments left camp yesterday and there are twenty thousand here now, it is a grand sight to see them out on dress parade. It is a fine day, seems more like a summer day than winter.

I am quite well, Phinias and Henry are complaining some. Henry was on guard last night but I hope they will not get down sick. Two were taken to the hospital tonight out of our corps. I hope they will find all in good health, both temperance and physical.

I enjoy myself first rate so far, but wouldn't be a soldier. There are two ladies in Co. (?) besides myself, one of them is first rate.

I can't write much more tonight for it is almost ten and I have to get up in the morning.

Father, I hope this will find you well. I would like to see you but I am a great ways from home but you will think of me and not blame me for going with Phinias, will you? For he is near and dear to me.

Write to me dear Father, won't you?

May God bless you, Goodnight.

Amori and Amina you will write to me soon, won't you? I want both of you to write and write all the news you can.

Kiss your little girls for me, don't let them forget Aunt Abbie. How I wish I could see them and all the rest of you.

Write and I will write once a week. I am going to write to sister Charlotte. I must bid good night and go to my bunk and rest my weary self and may God bless you all with health and prosperity.

A. M. F.

Camp Benton, December the 6, 1861

Dear Friend,

According to agreement, I now enclose a few lines to you, hoping they will find you better than I am myself. I have got a very bad cold, hoping that it is not very serious.

Amori, I will tell you something about our journey, we was three days and three nights, we had a good time and a hard time. I was sick and tired of riding in the cars. We got here on Sunday night and it was late and we had to stay in the cars all night. It was not sleeping it was roasting. And then Sunday morning at 11 o'clock we

got in the camp ground and it is a site to see. It is a perfect city. The barracks all painted off like frame houses. There is sixty thousand men here. You can't hear anything but the fife and drum. It is more than I ever expected to see in my life.

There has been three of us shot here and three poisoned. We have to be careful of what we eat for fear of getting piosened. This is a large place, the town is seven miles across it now.

Amori, I am going to tell you what is going on here. We are now expecting to have to stay here now, some think he is going to winter here. The report came here yesterday that he was within four miles of here yesterday, and there was one thousand men went to meet him and more going. They calculated to fire and retreat until they have the forts free. And there is lots of them around the camp, and if they take it they will have a good time of it. We bee already if they come, there was talk of us defending and if that is so I am ready to come home and if it is not so I am ready to stay and if it is my lot to die here I am ready to stand. As it is Amori, I should like to see you and all the rest but cannot come, it is to part with friends that we never expect to see again but the best friends have to part.

Tell Miney I have forgot her, when I shaked hands with her in St. Johns. You don't know how I felt there but Amori, I think that we will all be home in the spring. And if we die, I hope we reap the reward.

It is getting late and I will have to bid you goodbye. I send my love to all enquiring friends. Now, Amori, write, won't you?

I remain your friend until death,

Samuel Miller
to Amori and Amina

Amori, tell Jonathan to write, the last time I heard from Mother he was sick. If you get to talking with Mother tell her we are well seated. I hate to write home, it makes her feel so bad.

Direct to Missouri, 3rd Regt. Mich. Cal.

James Miller to Amori Cook

I hav not wrote to you yet but excuse me if you please. I hav been cooking til today and I am very neer sick.

I hav seen more than I would if I had stade at home. Sometimes it was good and other times bad but I do not feel good now. When I think back I have to shed tears.

Dan wrote all about what is going on hear. I hay not much to write. Amori, encourage Mother, she feels so bad. Tell her that we feel satisfied here.

I send my best respects to all, nothing more at present.
Remember your friend til death,

James L. Miller
to Amori and Amina Cook

December 12, 1861

Most affectionate Aunt and Sister,

I got your letter this day stating that you was well and the rest of the folks too. I am glad to hear from you and I am in good health at present.

I am in St. Louis now, in Missouri. The finest city I ever saw. I thought Chicago was a nice place but it don't come up to this place.

I was out this morning to a great rebel concert, this rebel shot one of our guards last night, so this morning we went out and burnt their house and burnt their barn and took some hogs, some cows, took one wagon, some ducks we had for dinner today. We got a Session flag in the feather bed, the boys took that flag and tore it to pieces. They threw the feather bed into the fire and table and everything almost that they could find. We found about ten or twelve of Uncle Sam's blankets, the boys took them for horse blankets. They took some ducks, them we will take for our dinner tomorrow. We took one wagon, two cows, one sow and pigs. The boys wanted to burn the old lady but the officer would not allow that.

There has been three jailed on that post.

Well Sarah, I want you to answer my letters. You spoke about me coming down and see you, if I live through the war and can come that way, I will do so.

Sarah, I want you to tell George to take care of himself, tell him where I am.

Aunt Ann spoke about friends from Pennsylvania by the name of Momford. I remember them very well but I don't think I would know them now.

Sarah, if you see Uncle Justus and family, tell them I send them my best respects. Tell them to wright to me. If I can get plenty of letters it keeps me from getting lonesome. I have not heard from them since I went home to bury my little boy. Sarah, you and Aunt Ann, I would like to get a leter from one or the other once a week. Tell Justus, I would like to have him wright me a leter.

Sarah, I want you to wright to Mary, you direct to Duram, Winnebago Co., Ill.

It is supposed that there is about forty thousand soldiers within ten or twelve mile of here. Those soldiers are all good soldiers, all Uncle Sam boys.

I have calculated on going home in the spring. I thought the war would be settled by that time but it seems to hold on. I hope that this war can be settled without much fighting.

The boys here in camp seem to enjoy themselves quite well. The dancing comences about seven o'clock every night with the exception of Sunday. Sunday we have to come out to meeting with the clothes all brushed as nice as a pin.

Yours with respect. Please to direct your letters by order Company and so forth Co. 55th Regt. Ill. Vol., Camp Benton, Mo. or St. Louis.

Myron Ganoung

Camp Benton, St. Louis, Mo, Dec. 23rd, 1861

Dear Father, Brother and Sister,

Received your letter Saturday night and was glad to hear from you, I can tell you. I should have wrote yesterday but was appointed by the Captain to select horses for our company, which took the most of the day. So you see Sunday does not come in sight of our camp.

We are all well at present and hope these few lines will find you all well.

We expect about twenty two hundred prisoners to be brought into St. Louis tomorrow or next day, which have been taken since we came here.

I have been down into the city twice since we came here. They work more mules here than horses and some of them I think have longer ears than the horses on your old crabs.

We are drilling on lot yet. We have not got all of our horses yet. There is one inch of snow on the ground.

You wanted to know what I thought of your selling your oxen. I think you sold them well. You did not know how many oats there was, I don't know but take enough to pay what Abigail traded and send the rest if you can and it will be alright. Give my respects to all who may enquire.

I have not time to write any more at present so goodbye and may God bless you all. Write all the news and excuse this short letter.

P. R. Freeman

Riley, December 23rd, 1861

Good morning Br. Phinias,

I seat myself to write a few lines to you but I hardly know how to commence. It is to inform you of the death of your sister Ruby. I heard yesterday that she was buried Saturday. That was the first I had heard that she had been sick. The disease I was told was inflammation of the lungs.

Oh, Phinias, that you could of been here, how much better it would have seemed to both of you but it was so ordained otherwise. Perhalsps you will learn of her death before this reaches you.

This life is short, we do not know how soon from this life world we must go, but when we do depart from this we hope to go unto that world of bliss.

Wee are all enjoying good health here at present and I hope this will find you the same but Phinias we can't tell what three years my bring around, you nor I may not On the face of the earth be found.

Oh, Phinias and Abigail, how lonesome it is.

This from your affectionate Br. till death,

A. B. Cook to P. R. Freeman

Dear Uncle and Aunt,

At the request of Mother I now seat myself to pen a few lines to you in answer to yours which we received dome time ago. We was glad to hear from you and that you arrived home all safe and were all well. We are all well at present and hope these few lines will find us in good health for health is one of the greatest blessings bestowed upon mortals here below, mother says.

Phinias and Abigal,

I wrote a letter to you in answer to yours of the 8th and am looking for an answer about now. Please write as soon as you get this and let me know if you have heard of Ruby's death before this. Perhaps sister Charlotte has wrote to you before.

Give my respects to Br. Henry. I am looking for a letter from him in answer to one I wrote.

Amina commenced writing a letter on this sheet to her Uncle Ebenneazer Knapp and had the luck to blot it and then would not finish it so you can see the difference between her and me. I think you won't be particular what I write on if I will write to you.

Abigail, write to me often, won't you?

Good by, may God bless you in all things.

(Amori B. Cook)

Jan. the 1st, ('62)Riley

Good morning Brother Phinias,

Wish you a happy new Year and a poctet full of money and a plenty of beer. Yours of the 23rd I received the 31st, was glad to hear from you and glad to hear that you was well. Myself and family are well at present and I hope this will find you in the best of health.

Father's health is improvong fast, he is troubled with the rheumatism considerable this winter so far.

Phinias, how like Sam Hill the wind does blow today. I never saw it blow harder in my life. I guess it will blow my hay stacks all away if it keeps on much longer.

Phinias, I hardly know what to write. I hav not done anything since you left nor I can't. I am lonesome and discouraged. I wish you had of staid here with me. I beleive that we could have enjoyed ourselves as well as we do now. I shant have anything left by the time your three years are up. I took to trading to pass off time. I did not know what to do. I traded Off my oxen and then my wagon. That I traded for a better one and gave some to boot the amount of 40 dollars in property at a good price and I got a first rate wagon but still I wasn't contented. Could not set myself to

work at all. Next I traded off Charley, my colt to Door R. Stowell a brother-in-law to Hr. Sutton. You know where we drove our cows last summer. Stowell got the bull of Sutton and wanted to trade him to me for Charley and he wanted him and he wanted to let me have the bull for the colt and I made him the offer to give 60 dollars for his colt or he might give me the bull and 30 dollars and take Charley. He had the horse fever I thought a little and he took me up at my offer. The neighbors that see the bull said that he was worth more than the colt, some said that he was worth 75 dollars in cash and some said they had seen bulls sold for one hundred dollars that could not compete with him. He was three years olde coming four next spring.

You know, Phinias, he was right. I kept him about ten days, he done first rate, eat hearty as I ever saw a critter eat in my life and he was all right until last Friday morning. He rushed to eat and kind of dumped around all day. At night when I done the chores I put him in the stable as usual and thought he was not better, in the morning I would go to doctoring him but did not think he was much sick and the next morning I found him dead in the stable. We could not make out what was the matter of him. It was a loss for me. I would not have taken a pretty thing for him.

Your brother Hiram staid here last night, he said that he was as nice a bull as he ever saw in his life.

Hiram got his papers that was here and went back to York State and is coming back and going to Iowa to take Ruby's children. I suppose you have got the letter I wrote you concerning her death.

Write soon this from,

Amori B. Cook to Phinias R, Freeman

Camp Benton, St. Louis, January
the 2nd, 1862

Dear Brother and Sister,

We received your letter today and was glad to hear from you.

I enlisted the 31st of August in the 3rd Michigan Cavalry, Co. B., but if I was to home now I think I would know enough to stay there.

January the fourth, 1862

Most affectionate Sister and Aunt,

I will take time to answer your letter of December the 23rd, stating that you was well. I am glad to hear from you.

I jest got a letter from home, they are all well. Aunt Nina spoke about the morgage On Arthur's place. Tell her the last I heard about it they were calculating to

settle. The men who hold the morgage will take the north part of the farm. That will leave Arthur all the east side of the railroad if they do it, so that it will be in Arthur's hands to settle up with the boys, I hope that he will.

The mud is so thick as paste here in the camp. My wife speaks about the snow up home.

Sarah, I want you to answer this letter and let me know about things in general. My health is very good at present.

I have not found out where Mr. Cook lives yet. If you know his post office address and his first name you let me know in your next letter and if you write to him you can say to him that I am here in Camp Benton in Co. C, 55 Regt., Ill. Vol. The number of the barracks 18. You tell him to call on me, I would like to see him very much.

Sarah, I thought I would send you a ring in this letter but I have not got it made yet. I will send it in my next letter.

Tell Aunt Ann that I send her my best respects and also Riley and the rest of the folks. In your letters to George give him my best respects, tell him a soldier. Tell George, to look out for himself.

We have just got our new guns and we feel quite proud over them. The talk is tonight that we are a going up the river but I think not, this would be the wrong way to go to war.

I would like to have you write as often as you can to Mary, she feels quite lonesome. Mary draws seven dollars from the county every month, this will help her some. I got a letter from her last night. She was up to Durand. She had just got her a pair of shoes. The children are all well.

I wrote this letter in great haste, so you must excuse my many mistakes.
Yours with respect.

Direct yours to Camp Benton, Mo. to Co. C, 55 Regt. Ill., Vol. In care of
Capt. Bird.

Myron Ganoung

Camp Benton, Mo. Jan. 7, 1862

Fear Brother & Sister,

You must forgive me this time for not answering your letter sooner. This is the first time I have had to myself since I came here. Now permit me to wish you all a happy new year, with blessings both spiritual and physical.

I hope when this reaches you it will find you all in good health and spirits.

Phinias is quite down with a cold seated on his lungs, so he is not fit for duty. Henry and myself are quite well. Henry says he never felt better.

Going away from home I have not gone away from work. I have to work all the time. Six men to cook for, besides washing and sewing all I can do and this evening would not have been mine but it has rained. My clothes are in the tub so I have a little time to myself. I would like to see you all first rate but I do not know

when I shall. Do you miss me any? When I think how kind you all were to me when I left alone, it seems as though I could not forgive myself for not being more thankful for your kindness. I presume you will overlook my faults now I am away. Sister, I would like to know what you are doing and how you enjoy yourself this winter. Write as soon as you get this, won't you? Dear Estella I am glad to have you send a little word to me to hear from you. Have you got most through your book? When I come home I will bring you a new book.

Dear Ida a word to you. I will keep your bonnet and oil cloth safe. Remember Aunt Abbie, won't you? And when I come home I will bring you a nice new book.

Now my dear little Oly, you don't know how Aunt Abbie wants to see you and have you tell me all the things that have been done and who's the boss of you. A new book, you shall have.

One word to one and all, write to us soon and I will do better next time.

Great deal of excitement in camp sometimes. The report is we are going to Kentucky, the next one probably to New Mexico, then Fort Wayne. When or where, I guess is to be found out but perhaps when I write again I can give you some information.

I must bid you goodnight.

Once more may God bless you. This from Abbie Freeman

P.S. Phinias sent a paper to Father. Amori, we received your letter informing us of Sister Ruby's death, which was very unexpected news but she has gone where we shall have to go and how soon we know not. Good night dear ones.

Camp Benton, Jan. 9th, '62

Brother Amori,

I have a little spare time just now and I will improve it by writing a few lines to you in answer to yours which I received the 7th. Was glad to hear that you were all well. I am well as usual with the exception of some cold.

I have not any news to write now. We are not doing anything at present. We have not drilled any since I wrote before. We drilled one day with our horses, we have got our saddles and sabers but it has been so muddy that we could not drill. The Col. had us drill one day but the Gen. put a stop to it. He said he would not have the men drill in such weather.

It has been bad weather so far this month, not very cold but rainy. The mud is about a foot deep now.

We got our pay yesterday. I don't know but I can let you have some. I want to send enough to pay Father, but I won't send any in this for I do not know wheather it will be safe or not. There are so many who are a going to send money home. I guess it would be better to wait a while. James Miller is a going to start for home in about a week. Walbridge sent him a letter, said he wanted he should be there to that trial. So, if he goes I will send it by him.

How long we will stay here I can't tell but I guess not long. The Col. said the

other day that in six days after we got our pay we would go to Fort Wayne, Ind, but wheather we will or not, I can't tell. He said it was not so much expense to keep us there as here. Hay here is \$22 a ton. There it can be had for 8 or 10 dollars. Corn here is 30 cents, there only 15 or 20. So I think we will not be apt to stay here a great while. I tell you it takes a pile of stuff for so many men and horses as there is here. There is about 40 or 50,000 men here now. You have no idea what it takes to supply us for one day.

Well I have not time to write any more but I will soon again and you must do the same.

Wm. H. H. Cook

Mo., January 13, 1861 (SHOULD BE 1862)

Well, Friend,

I now take my pen in hand to write a few lines to let you know that I received your letter and I was very glad to hear from you and hear that you was all well. My health is not very good at present. I hope this few lines will find each one and all of you well.

I think I would like to see you all very much. I tell you that I was very sorry that it was so that wee could not have the privilege to see each one another at the time that we went to St. Johns. I wish that I was coming to your house to be with you tonoght But I hear that wee air in St. Louis, Mo. far away from old Michigan. It may be that wee will not have the chance to see one another again but, I hope that wee will, fore you know that I would lyke to come and see you all now.

Well, Amori, I do not know as you can read this or not, if you cannot, you must keep it till I come home. I will read it fore you.

Well, I suppose you would lyke to hear from me a little news. I do not know as I have much. I have heard there was a vary large battle to be fought in a few days at a place somewhere in old Kentucky. There has been quite a number of Regiments left here today. There was not any Calvary left. It is all Infantry that was left.

Well, now I suppose you would lyke to know how well Freeman is. He is on guard today and Mrs. Freeman is in the wash tub washing for the Company. Henry was on guard last night. The Miller boys are here. I suppose you will see James Miller sometime this winter, if he lives long enough he intends to start for home sometime this week if nothing -happens.

Well, Amori, I will not write much more this time, please give my best respects to your Father and Father Simmons and Mother Simmons and all the rest of my friends I have in that place out there, your school marm in particular.

I believe you will have to excuse me this time.

From your friend, W. L. Van Dyke

to Amori Cook

Riley, Jan. the 19, 1862

Dear Brother and Sister,

I now seat myself to answer your letter that we received after so long a time. Began to think that you had quite forgotten me but I see you have not. Was very glad to hear from you again and to hear that you was well but sorry to hear that Phinias was sick. Hope this will find him better again.

Myself and Amori have got very bad colds just at present. Father has been having the ague again which is not very pleasant. He broke it up last week but he had it again last night. I am afraid he will be sick all winter but I hope not.

The children are all well. They talk about Aunt Abby a good deal. Oly says she is the boss of herself now that Aunt Abby and Uncle Phinias has gone to war.

Abigail, you wrote that you had all that you could do. I have all that I can do and more too. Last week the school teacher was here and Aunt Nancy was here most all of the week. She told me to send you all her love.

I have not seen Charlotte since you went away. I guess she don't intend to come over here anymore. We heard that Moses was a going a peddelling, wheather he has or not I don't know.

You wanted to know how I enjoyed myself this winter. I don't enjoy myself much, it is so lonesome without you. You know I can't go up to Phinias's every day as I could last summer. Abigail, it seems as so you had been gone a year.

I wish you and Phinias and Henry could come home but I suppose we shall have to be content with hearing from you.

Amori and I went up to Mr. Feasles to a party last Wednesday night they had a nice time. They had lots of nice cakes and pies to eat but we did not enjoy ourselves so well as we should if you all had been here.

We have had some cold weather along back, it is tip top sleighing here now.

Abigail, you wrote that you was cooking for six men. I want you to write wheather you cook for Phinias & Henry or not and wheather you tent with them and eat with them or hire your board and how you enjoy yourself away off there this winter and how you like a soldiers life by this time.

O, Abigail, you don't know how I do want to see you and have a good visit with you but I can't. I hope the day is not far distant when I shall.

How I wish you could come in and stay all night with me tonight, we would not sleep much.

Abigail, it seemed when I parted with you as though I had parted with my dearest and best friend. You was always so kind and good to me. I do hope we shall meet again before long.

It is getting late so I will bid you goodnight dear.

This from Amina L. Cook to Dear Abby

Write to me as soon as you get this even if some of them have to go without a clean shirt.

Remember well, and keep in mind
A faithful friend is hard to find,
When you find one both just and true
Change not an old one for a new

Mother says tell you she wished you could come in and eat some apples.
Elizabeth wants you to write to her.

Jan. 19, 1862

Brother Phinias,

As Amina is writing to sister Abigail I thought I would write a few lines to you thinking perhaps that it would be acceptable to you.

I hav got a hard cold on my lungs. I don't know what it will amount to yet but I hope I shal get over it in a few days.

When Abigail wrote she wrote you had a hard cold in your lungs and I hay been anxious to hear from you ever since but hay not but I hope this will find you in good health and Br. Henry also and likewise sister dear.

Oh, how I wish you all was here, it seems to me that we might take a good deal of comport. I suppose you do take as much comfort as you did here but my God Phinias I wish that you could come into my house some of these long evenings and sit and eat apples and parched corn with us. Oh, how glad I should bee. But, I don't ever expect to see you again but I hope I may Phinias. I feel so bad to think that you enlisted that I don't know what to do; in fact, I don't do anything, I can't, I feel so lonesome. I wish to God that you was back here again. If you was I don't believe they would get you in it again for I think you have been sorry as much so as once that you enlisted for it must bee that you hay to endure a good many hardships and bee exposed to all kinds of weather, which is not very pleasant.

Uncle Pike was here last Monday and took supper with us. He told me when I wrote to you to tell you if you had been here the 13th of January you could of helped eat a good spare rib.

Phinias, wouldn't you like to have occasionally a clean meal of warm biscut and butter and dried beef and mince pie, fried cakes and apple sauce and everything nourishing? If you would come over here, you should hav it.

Wee are having nice winter weather here now. There is about 16 or 18 inches of snow on the ground and it is tip top sleighing. I wish you was here now I would take you out a sleighing and see how you liked it.

I hav got a good pair of colts, one of them has got considerable reaction of the hind muscle but I guess that she will get over it after a while.

No more at present. Write soon.

This from your Br. Amori to Phinias Freeman

Lansing, Jan. the 19, 1862

My much beloved friend,

Having a favorable opportunity I thought I would improve it by writing to you and informing you of our health. We are all usually well but Mother and she is sick a bed with a soar throat. She has not slept or eat enough to put in a tea cup for five days and five nights and it seems as though there was no peace for her.

Your sister has been here three months and mother has not been well two weeks at a time since your sister has been here. I don't know what we should of done had not Charlotte been here. If only we had a few such neighbors as you and your kind sister. We have got neighbors enough but they hain't like you.

I won't say one word as long as your kind sister is here and they hain't any prospects of their going away from Lansing. They are getting ready to keep house again.

Mrs. Newman has not been to Riley yet. She had a chance to go one night and mother was so sick that she would not go and leave her sick a bed. She has sent word to Amori a number of times that she wanted to come over there.

If you were hear we would have a gay old chat.

Well, now for something else.

Father said that Dryer received a letter from Hiram Freeman and he wrote that he could not get hear short of two months. Dryer says if he has the two girls boarded so long that he will have to sell the place to pay their board. Butterfields' folks have twenty shillings a week for the girls board.

How sad it seems for those children to be left alone in this wide world but it is no worse for them than thousands of others that are left without father or mother or anyone to help them.

And now, I must tell you the sad news. A week ago tonight Mr Allen's little boy died. He died with earasiplus. We hadn't heard that he was sick 'til we heard that he was dead. He was sick only five or six days. The funeral was Monday at ten o'clock.

Wednesday morning at nine o'clock C. Jones died. He died with information on the lungs. He was sick ten days and for the last three days they thought he could not live the day through. The funeral was Friday at one. It was a sad looking funeral prosession, twelve children and mother besides the rest.

Charlotte had such a headache she could not go and I had Dingman's children to take care of.

Well, I can't think of much more this time for it is past bed time. Charlotte says tell you she had had a terrible headache for three days. She says you must answer her letter and tell Henry she is looking for a letter from him everyday.

Father sends his best respects to you and Freeman and Henry. Mother sends her love to you.

Give my love to Henry and Freeman and take good care of yourself.

This from Orrilla M. Francis.

(To Abigail Freeman)

Paducha, Jan. 26, 1862

Most affectionate sister,

I received your letter the twelveth of this month, stating that you was well and the rest of the folks too. I was very glad to hear from you. This day being Sunday, I will try to answer your letter.

I am in Kentucky, we had a very hard time to get here, the weather being very cold. Had to stay on a sand bar six days. There is a great many of our boys sick, we had to leave some of them in St. Louis. We had to stop at one place and bury one of our boys. They have the measles and the mumps, some of them have been very sick but we have got in Kentucky and in good quarters. We expect to stay here for the next three weeks and maybe that we will stay longer than that.

I will send you a ring in this letter if I can get the stuff to make it out of. I think I will get it tomorrow.

I was down to town yesterday and got my picture taken. It is a hARRY SCARUM picture. I set with a pistol in my hand ready for action.

The weather is very nice, the nights is cold, it freezes some. The days is warm, the bluebirds are singing.

We have a plenty of freedom in the camp. They all feel very friendly towards us, wheather they are or not, I don't know but we treat them as such.

My health is very good at present. I have been rather sick while I was on the river. I had the coldest time I ever had in my life. We were on the river ten days before we landed at Paducha. This is a very handsome place on the Ohio River. This place was first settled by the French, it is rather larger than Lima but not quite as nice a place. The city is rather nasty. We are about fifty miles from Columbus where they expect to have a fight. We expect to get our guns tomorrow to go on picket guard in a few days. We then will see some of the rebels. Some think that we don't have much of a fight.

I got a letter from home about three weeks ago, they were all well at that time. The letter that you sent me, I sent sent home to Mary to read.

I want you and Aunt Ann to wright to Mary as often as you can. If I can I will come and see you on my way home. I have a very bad place to write, I take my knapsack and write on that. If you can read this letter you will d6 well for I can't. Send my love to George and the rest of the folks. Please direct your letters to Myron Ganoung, Paducha, Ky., Com. C. 55 Ill. Vol. .

Yours with respects,

To Mrs. Sarah Cook

Myron Ganyoung

Benton Barracks, Mo. Jan. 26, 1862

Dear kind Brother and Sister,

Your long looked for letter came to hand this evening with eager eyes & lips we perused the contents. You do not know how glad we were to hear from friends who are near and dear as you are but were sorry to hear that you had such bad colds and that Father had the ague but I hope when this reaches you that you will all be in good health and spirits. Enjoy yourselves the best you can once in a while when you have a clean meal think of me. I would like a clean meal first rate but when I shall get it I know not, but I have no reason to complain. I am in good quarters, a great deal better than I ever expected to find in the army. I have a good warm room to live in but not very elegantly furnished. Lights out so I must go to bed and finish this tomorrow sister.

Night has made its return and I am almost sick but I thought I would finish this silly mess I have it moving.

Not much news Go write: Phinias is not very well and Henry has the mumps & cough. A great many are sick in Co. B. He is in the hospital. Daniel Miller was taken there today. One of the Co. died last week and was sent home, we don't know how.

I wish I could see you all, I could tell you lots of things about camp life. You wanted to know how I live. Phinias and I live together just about the same as ever. Phinias has duty to do as a soldier and the rest of the time he is at home. Henry comes in and stays with me when he gets tired of staying in the quarters.

I wish you could come in and see us tonight and bring those little girls, they would have more questions to ask Aunt Abbie than they ever did before. It would be new to them as well as you to see the table set with tin ware, it is rather novel.

Orderly Seuryten is in the quarters calling on Co. B to fall into roll call. I guess they have all fallen in, I hear them answering to their names as the orderly calls them.

How I do wish I could see you all tonight. I rather think I should feel much better. O, I miss you all very much, you don't know how much I miss the girls. You know how much I love them, tell them to be good girls and remember Aunt Abbie. Tell little Oly that Aunt Abbie will come back and be the boss of her one of these days. Tell your mother I would like to come in and eat apples with her and chat awhile.

Remember me to all enquiring friends. We received a letter from brother George, he wrote that he was going home and Father, he wrote he expected you would meet him there and I hope you will be permitted to do so. Father, I wish you would write to your children, you don't know how glad we should be to read a letter that you wrote to us. I must draw this to a close and bid you all good night and may God add his blessings.

Write as soon as you receive this. I will write in a few days. The bugle says lights out.

Abigail M. Freeman

Beaufort, S. C., January 1862

Mr. Cook Sir,

I have been delaying from time to time of writing to you but now I will endeavor to write you a few lines to let you know that I am yet alive and well.

I have not heard from you since I left Grand Rapids. I would like to have you write and tell me where Henry is and how all the folks are in Riley and what kind of weather you have in Michigan.

The weather is verry fine here, there has been a few frosts but no snow.

I have wrote to Mr. McLouth three times and have not had any answer yet.

I suppose you have heard of our glorious victory here and if you have not, send me a lot of paper and I will tell you all about it. There was two companies attempted to cross the river when the Rebels fired on them and they returned with the loss of one man.

We are encamped seven miles from the village of Beaufort and three miles from main land. We all went within a half of a mile of main land a few days ago but didn't see anything to cause excitement. We are expecting a fight in a few days. There are lots of negors here. They seem verry well pleased about our coming here.

If you want to enlist, now is your time. Lieutenant Belcher is now in Michigan recruiting for this Regiment.

It is getting dinner time and I must stop scribbling. Rite soon. Give my best respects to all enquiring friends.

Yours, Daniel Dillabaugh

Direct to Co. B. 8th Michigan Regt., Beaufort, S.C.

Camp Franklin, Virginia, Friday, Feb. 7th, 1862

Dear Brother,

About one hour after we parted at Livonia Station I started on my journey at 12 o'clock. Next day I was in Washington. I thought to myself I would like to know where you was at that time. I left Washington at 10 o'clock for Alexandria by steam boat, arrived there at 2 o'clock. p.m. staid till about 3 o'clock.; put my trunk aboard the 27th Bread Wagon and started for camp. Arrived in camp about half past four, all right and well.

My cold is better, I think I shall get rid of it in a few days. The mud is knee deep; worse, if possible then it was when I left home.

I wrote to Sarah this forenoon.

This afternoon Co. D and Co. E has been out target shooting. I went with them and have just returned. We went about a mile and waded through the mud all the way.

Amori, if I was ever homesick I am today. Having just returned from a good visit with my family and friends. Although I have plenty of friends here and they were

glad to see me, still I feel lonesome. Amori, I wish you was here with me, then I should not feel so lonesome; but I think you are well enough off at home and your family are not worrying about you as mine are about me. So, I am satisfied as it is for you and your families sake, I think it is all rite that you are at home.

Amori, write as soon as you receive this. I want to know what time you got home, etc.

My love to sister Charlotte and Amina and the little ones.

Father, I am verry sorry that your health is so poor. Sorry that you was not able to meet me at my home. I have thought all winter of the pleasure I would have in meeting you when I went home but it seems that it was not to be realized.

Be careful of your health my dear father and may God bless you.

My love to my good Aunt Nancy, tell her to write to me.

My respects to all enquiring friends.

G. H. Cook 27th Regt, N.Y. Vol.

Feb. 13, '62

Good evening Dear Father, Brother and Sister,

With my pen I will visit with you this wintery eve. Wintry did I say? Yes, it seems the most like home tonight it has for it is quite cold and snowing fast.

You must excuse me dear sister for not replying to you kind letter sooner. I have had an awful time with my head, had one awful ache in my ear. I could nor write or work and I do not feel much like writing tonight.

Phinias has been quite sick with a hard cough but is getting rather better so that he went out on dress parade this morning for the first time.

Henry is well and out on guard tonight. I hope this will find you all in good health.

I do not know what to write or how but I feel anxious to hear from you once more.

We shall stay in Mo. a great while. The Regt. are all gone from here except Mich. 2nd and 3rd and Iowa 2nd. Benton Barracks are quite cleared out. Co. B has suffered a great deal from sickness this winter, five of their number have gone to that shore whence no traveler returns but the general health of the Co. is improving.

I would like to see you all more than tounge can tell. If I could see you I could tell you something about camp life. If I live to come home I presume I can tell some yarns.

Ganale Carlisle was in to see us last night awhile. He says he is on guard three times a week regular. He says he would like to see you all first rate.

Dan Newman was in here the other day. He is the same old sixpence. He and Henry went to the city one day last week and Henry bought a very nice present home to me in the form of a Rigolette and a very nice one too.

My ear aches so I can't write any more tonight.

Abigail

Paducah, Feb. the 16th, 1862

Most affectionate Sister,

I received your letter today stating that you were well and the rest of the folks. I am very glad to hear from you and the rest of the folks.

You state in your letter that George has been home on a visit and has gone back to Virginey again. I am very glad to hear from him. You do not speak about Riley.

Aunt Ann says she is well. I am very glad to hear from my old friends. Tell me what regiment their cousin Lyon is in then I can tell where to find him. You write me the particulars about him if you please. I have not heard from my folks in two months. I have been looking for some time for a letter but it never comes.

I feel very anxious to see my wife and children but I think I will go home in two or three months.

Sarah, I want you to write often as you can for letters I get from my friends do me a great consolation.

Tell Uncle Justus to write me a letter and tell George to write if he will.

It is quite warm here in Kentucky, the blue birds are singing, we had a great time today. We had a march today through the mud. We have been down to town to see the general of the camp. My health is very good at present.

Our soldiers are getting beter than what they were. My weight is 180 pounds.

We are having a very hard fight up the river, our wounded soldiers are fetched here to the hospital to be Doctored. The churches are filled up with the wounded soldiers. We went down to see the boys today but we did not get in to see them. We are going back tomorrow to see them,

Tell Aunt Ann to send all the particulars about this Mr. Lyon, I would like to see him. I would like to find some friend here in Kentucky. I am here without any connection and a great way from home.

Well Sarah, I want you to write often and tell the rest of the folks to.

Direct your letters to Paducah, Kentucky to Co C 55th Regt., Ill. Vol. Yours with respect to Sarah Cook,

Myron Ganyoung

Camp Franklin, Va., Thursday Feb. 27, 1862

Br. Amori,

I have received two letters from you since I have written to you, one on the 22 the other the 24th. Glad to hear from you and hear that you got home safe and found the folks all well. My health is good, firstrate.

I received those papers the 14th. Many thanks to you for them.

Are the people generally satisfied with the result of the trial?

I received a letter from Sarah last Sat. the 19th. My family were all well then. I wrote to sister Charlotte the 13th but have not received an answer yet.

I have not written to Henry or Phinias since I came back or heard anything from them.

I should have written to you before, Amori but I have been busy. The 16th I went out on picket duty with our Regt. We went out eight or nine miles from camp on the Little River Turnpike towards Fairfax Courthouse. We returned to camp the 22nd all well. When I came in I found your letter of the 10th in the office, it had probably lain there a number of days.

It is verry muddy here yet. Last night it rained all night but there is a strong wind today that drys up the mud a little.

We are under marching orders. There was an order from headquarters read on parade yesterday afternoon that all Regts. composing Franklin's Brigade hold themselves in readiness to march on short notice. We may move tomorrow or next day or we may not in a month. Can't tell. When we do start I will drop you a line or send you a paper. It is supposed we are to make an advance on Mannassas but rumor says that the Rebbels are leaving that place. What the truth of the matter is I can't tell.

Amori, I am getting to be myself again. I am not as lonesome as I was a few days after I came back. Were it not for my family are so lonesome and worrying so much about me I should be contented.

Amori, write as often as possible. You don't know how much good it does me to receive a letter from my family and friends.

My love and res!pect to Father, Amina and the little ones.

G. H. Cook 27th Regt. N.Y. Vol.

New Madrid, March the 6th, 1862

Dear wife,

I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to let you know how we are. There is 16 of us sick with the disentery; Henry, Louis VanDyke and myself are sick but we feel better this morning.

Abigail, I am glad you did not come with us for you could not of got here. we are about 30 miles below Cicero. We marched 60 miles. The most of the way it

was wilderness. The worst roads you ever saw.

We lay within two miles of the enemy. In New Madrid they are strongly fortified and will give us a fight. Our company is out on a two day scout. They are taking large amounts of stuff from the rebels. Our Regiment brought in six loads of bacon, 6 mules, and two fat oxen, 1 barrel of molasses, 1 of sugar.

Abigail take care of yourself. I think that we will be better in a few days.

I think we will have a fight here within two days. Direct yours to St. Louis.

The rebels have all left their plantations in this direction.

Write often and send me some stamps.

This is a poor excuse for a letter but I will try and do better next time.

Good night my dear and may God bless you.

P. R. F.

March the 14th

Dear wife,

I take my pen to write to you to let you know that I am lonesome and I have been sick but are better now except weak.

I have not heard from you since you left St. Louis. I trust you got home all right but you can't tell how I want to hear from you. I wrote a few lines to you the sixth but I don't know wheather you will get it or not for we have no way of getting mail nor sending.

We are at New Madrid on the Mississippi River, 20 miles below Columbus. So you see we are surrounded by the rebels. We attacked the town yesterday morning.

They fought all day but during the night the rebels fled.

Direct your letters to St. Louis the same as you have. We should have a mail route after this. We are all getting better. If you have some stamps send me some for we can't get any here. If I find time I will tell you how we fared coming here but I will tell you when I come home.

Good night my dear wife and may God bless you.

P. R. F.

Camp Franklin, Va. Sunday March 16th, 1862

Dear Wife and Aunt,

Our Brigade left Camp Franklin last Monday, the 10th at 9 o'clock for Manassus. We marched to Fairfax Court House, about fifteen miles, and pitched our tents. Fairfax is a small village of fifty or sixty dwelling houses, four or five taverns, one church, eight or ten stores and shops and Court House, county offices, etc. There is but few families living there, the most of the buildings are occupied by soldiers.

I suppose the Rebels commenced evacuating Centerville and Manassus about the time that our army started from the Patomic, they have all left their strong holds at Manassus and Centerville and gone somewhere, I don't know where. A Part of our army I suppose are following them up and part have returned to their old camps but are leaving as fast as they can by steam boats down the river.

The 13th N.Y. Vol. were in camp at Fairfax about one mile from ours. I visited their camp on Tuesday the 11th, saw Mor&ce Potter, James White, Wm. Bliss, Lemm Gibbs, Duane Stilwell, Jem Webb and a number of others that I am acquainted with. They were all well. Lorentine Wells is sick with fever in Washington. I also saw Lieut. Hurlbert, he said he left his wife in camp at Fort Cochran.

While at Fairfax I went into the county clerks office and picked up a couple of old papers which I will send on to you in this letter. I want you to keep them on account of their age. You will see that they are dated 1741.

Fairfax is about eight miles from Centerville and about ten from our old Bull Run Battle Ground.

The largest portion of the army were in advance of us, ours being one of the Divisions held in reserve.

McClellins headquarters was at Fairfax. From the belfry of the Court House at Fairfax, as far as the eye can see the country was covered with troops in every direction but the Rebels were like the Irishman flue, when Mc raised his thumb they were not there.

We left Fairfax on Friday the 14th at 7 o'clock evening, took our back track for our old camp. Marched nine miles and pitched our tents about 12 o'clock for the balance of the night. I shall have to own up Sarah, that I was out rather late that night. On Saturday morning 15th started for old camp Franklin where we arrived about 11 o'clock a.m., rather tired and some wet for it rained some before we got into camp and rained very hard all the afternoon.

I mailed a letter to you last Monday morning, just before we started for Fairfax. I received yours of the 10th on Friday the 14th a few minutes before we left Fairfax Court House. How glad I was to hear from you and hear that you were all well.

Riley, I am sorry that your teeth trouble you, if they ache too hard you must have them pulled out. Sorry you lost your reader and slate, we have not received our pay yet, don't know when we shall. We may not get it in a month.

Our Regt. leaves Camp Franklin tomorrow for Alexandria and there ship for some place down the Patomic. Don't know where we shall stop.

I shall send my trunk home. I have a valise that I can carry all the traps in that I shall want to use. If I had know just how things were going to turn I should of left my trunk when I was at home. It will have to lay at Livonia Station till I send you the money to pay charges but I had rather it would be there than have it stored here and run the risk of its being lost. I will send the key in a letter.

Direct your letters to Washington D. C. instead of Alexandria.

I shall write you again at the first opportunity and let you know where I am. Write to me Sarah, as often as you can and I will do the same by you. You must cheer up and do the best you can. Don't be cast down and you will get along better.

My health is good and I am feeling first rate. I shall have a chance if nothing happens, to see some more of the country and maybe a little more fighting.

Riley, my boy, you must remember your promise and be good. Mind Ma and Aunt and take good care of Jenny.

I must bid you all goodbye until I write again.

G. H. Cook

Advanced Post, Port Royal Ferry
March the 18, 1862

Mr. Amori Cook Sir,

I received your letter of March the 2nd, yesterday. I was glad to hear from you and to hear that yourself and family are all well.

Our company is at the Ferry. There is four Regiments at Beaufort, one of them comes out here and stays two weeks. We came here three weeks ago last Monday. The Regt. went back to Beaufort one week ago last Monday. We got a mile and a half when we got the order to stay two weeks more.

We went on picket every other day the first two weeks now we go on every fourth day. we don't drill any, we are having a good time.

We can see the Rebels every day, they hain't tried to shoot our pickets but twice and then I guess they got the worst of the bargain. It is about ten rods across the ferry from one pier to the other. The Rebels come down on the pier most every day. They don't act much like enemies, for our Captain went over and shook hands with them and talked with them about an hour. There was four came down yesterday and our Lieutenant and one of our Sargents went over and shook hands with them and talked with them. They would not tell how many men they have over there but the 8th and the 14th Regt. of Tennessee is there and I don't know how many more.

It is very pleasant here, the flowers and fruit trees are in blossom and so is the negros. They are getting ready to plant, some of them are planting now. They are very industrious folks. There is about two thousand negros on this island. Negros and cotton is the two largest crops they raise here. They raise oranges, sweet potatoes, peanuts, figs, plums, peaches, and corn. Oysters are five cents a pint and hoe cake in proportion. I opened a half of a cup full of oysters the other day and made up my mind that I had rather give a negro five cents for a cup full then to open them myself.

There are four Rebels on the pier now, our Captain is talking with them. Their clothes are grey. They are well clothed and I guess they have plenty to eat.

Now Amori, about the buttermilk eyes and Angeline More, I wouldn't give one of my old boots that I left at Fort Wayne for either one of them, but still I hain't spoke to a girl since I left Annapolis.

The gnats is so thick that I must stop scribbling, excuse my poor writing and write as soon as possible.

No more this time. This from Daniel Dillabaugh, Co. B

P.S. Please hand this letter that I sent in yours to Newton McLouth and I will be much oblidged to you.

New Madrid, March the 20th, 1862

Dear Wife,

I received your kind letter yesterday and was glad to hear that you had got home safe, for you was so tired when you started I was afraid that you would be sick. My health is better then when I last wrote to you but Henry is not so well, he has a pain in his right side. He went to the hospital yesterday. The doctor thinks he will get better in a few days.

The weather is as fine as the first of May. Grass grows a little here.

We are on the banks of the Mississippi River.

While I am writing, the cannon roars like thunder. Ten miles up the river from this place they have been fighting for 3 days with our gun boats at no. 10 Island. We have troops both sides of the river and have a strong fort at New Madrid, the place we took. We took 17 large guns and 500 horses and mules, we calculate to fight until the rebels get out of supplies, for they can't get past our new fort.

The Captain and First Lieutenant are sick. The Capt. is in the hospital.

We did not start from St. Louis until the next day after you left. We arrived at Commerce on Friday, laid out without tents. It rained a part of the night. We started on Saturday for this place, rode all day without anything to eat except a few hard crackers that was not fit to eat. Camped in the woods without tents or anything to eat. It rained verry hard the most of the night. We started as soon as it was light and at 10 o'Clock found ourselves on a secsh corner. We tried our revolvers on the secsh hogs. I think there was 20 killed that morning. Co. B had a hand in it, they were skinned, cut in slices and each man took a piece and boiled it.

We arrived here on Monday night.

Abigail, you wanted to know what I thought about taking one of the girls, I don't know but it is our duty under the circumstances for to take one of them.

Write what luck you have in getting money from Straub, if you can't get as much as fifty dollars take it to Parsons and have him collect it. Make a bargain with him and I think he will do it for twenty dollars. Tell Straub before you do it.

Write and tell me the news. I can't tell how long I shall stay here or when I shall come home but I hope for the best. It will be all right by and by.

This must do for all at present.

Good night my dear wife and may God bless you my dear.

P. R. F. to A. M. F. and all the rest

Riley, the 27 March, 1862

Br. Henry,

Thinking that perhals a few lines from me would be acceptable I thought I would drop a few to you for your perusal and to let you know that we are all well at present.

Last night we got a letter for Abigail from Phinias and as she was over to Lansing on a visit and we was anxious to hear from you and Phinias, I opened it and read it and was sorry to hear that you was in the hospital sick. He wrote that you had a pain in your side. Henry, how sorry I am for you, I know it must be hard for you to be so far from home and bee sick but keep up good courage, that is the thing and it will be better for you than half of the medicine you can take but I hope when this reaches you it will find you in good health and spirits. Henry, I wish I could call in and see you and Phinias once more and I hope that the time is not far distant when wee shall all see each other as wee have in times past and gone.

Henry, your letter of Feb. the 11th I got the 6th of March. It was a good while getting here but I can tell you I was glad to hav your likeness. It looks as natural as can bee.

Wal, Henry, I again take my pen this evening to finish this letter. Perhalps you would like to know what I am doing. I am trying to make shugar. McLouth and I are working Father's bush again this year. Wee tapped some yesterday and some today. It runs first rate but it is hard getting around in the wood the snow is so deep. It has been sap weather all this week but wee did not work at it, thought wee Would let the snow settle some first bat there has been a good lot of shugar made a redy this spring.

Henry, as I have been to work today in the bush, I hav a good many places where you hav left marks made with your ax a good many years ago when you and I was boys and I could not help crying to think wee was so separated from each other, that we could not see each other if wee was ever so sick and I think that by this time Henry, you would like to see the old shugar bush, would you not? I wish you could come over in a day or two and get some warm shugar to eat. I know you used to like it and I guess you hay not forgot how to eat it yet.

Henry, the reason I hav not wrote to you before was because I thought that I would wait until I got a letter from you and then I would know where to direct but I see by Phinias' letter that wee direct as before. I hav been looking for a letter from Lewis VanDyke this some time but I guess I shall hav to give it up unless you put him in mind of it.

Tell Phinias that it comes natural for me when I am in the bush to work to look up towards Father's house to see if I can't see him a coming to the bush as he used to last spring. I wish he was here to help make shugar this spring. I would be glad, Henry if you write as soon as you get this for I want to hear from you often.

Excuse me for not writing before won't you?

This from A.B. Cook to H.H. Cook

Camp near New Madrid, Mo., March 28th, 1862

Dear Wife,

I received your kind letter of the 21st on the 25th which was a great comfort to me in this time of sorrow. You can't tell how glad I was to fear from you and the

rest of our folks and to hear that you were all well.

I wrote a few lines to you on the 24th starting to tell you of the death of Brother Henry, which was hard news for me to write. It seems as though it could not be so but O, how I miss him. But we must submit to it, our loss is his gain. He was buried by the side of four others of our Regiment on the farm of Acker. I would of sent him home if I could but I had no money and if I had it was impossible to of done so. If they get an express office here before we leave here I will send his things home.

We were both taken sick at the same time but Henry had no appetite, he could not eat scarcely anything. I did not think he was dangerously sick until the night before he died.

Abigail, you wrote you wanted to come here. You had not better think of coming for it is a hard place for a woman here. and very difficult getting here and then they would not let you stay. There was two women followed our Regiment and they was two weeks getting here and they have been ordered to leave.

Abigail, you know I would like your company if it could be so but under the circumstances I don't see how you can come.

We are 200 miles from St. Louis and the rebels are above us on one side of the river.

I think I shall be at home within two months.

Lewis Van Dyke is quite unwell. James Miller is not well but is not as sick as Van Dyke. They are both able to be about. My health is getting very good, so I drill the most of the time.

You wanted to know how we fared. We have about the same we had at Camp Benton except bread and we get flour instead, our butter is here and cheese.

We expect to leave here soon.

Father, I would like to have you write me a letter.

Amori and Amina, I was very glad of those lines I received from you and would like to see you and the children. Now write to me often, won't you? Wheather you get a letter or not.

Good night my dear, P.R.F.

Estella, I was verry thankful for a letter from you.

1862, Riley, April the 1st.

Br. George,

A few lines to you for your perusal but it is with a sad heart and a trembling hand that I announce to you the death of our much beloved Br. Henry. Wee received a letter from Br. Phinias, March the 30th, bearing date of March the 23rd informing us of his death. He said he was taken with the dysentery first and that run him for some time, I should judge by the writing of the 19th of March he was taken to the hospital. The typhoid fever had set in and on the evening of the 22nd about half past ten

o'clock he breathed his last.

O, George, that was hard news for us to receive, but O he is gone, poor boy, how he must have felt during his sickness so far from home. Oh, it was too bad but thank God he had one kind Brother with him to smooth his dying pillow.

George, I can't write, the tears blind my eyes so, but you will excuse poor writing and spelling, I know you will. George, it seems hard to give him up but we have no reason to complain, for God doeth all things well. It is a debt that we have all got to pay. Life is uncertain but death is certain. It may be our turn to follow next. We cannot tell how soon from this world we may go. Life is short at the farthest.

George, we received your good long letter of the 24th and 5,6-7th today. Glad again to hear from you and that you was well, for good health is one of the greatest blessings on earth.

Wee are all well at present. Father's health is better than when I last wrote but Father is getting old and feeble and our hearing of Henry's death, that worries him a great deal. In all probability he can't stay with us a great many years longer.

George, I am sitting by the table all alone trying to write to you. Father and the little Girls hay gone to be and Amina and Abigail hav gone to sit with Mrs Harlow, she is very sick. Thay said they would write next time or in a few days, I believe.

Perhals you would like to know what I busy myself about this spring. Wal, I am trying to make shugar but hav not made much yet, only a little over a hundred pounds. The snow is so deep it is hard getting around in the woods. It is old snow, it has not all gone yet in the woods.

George, I am lonesome and all most discouraged, sometimes I wish that I was in Virginia with you. I am so lonesome I don't know what I do want but I know what I would do if I had the money to go with, I would see you as soon as possible.

George, write as soon as you get this won't you for I do want to hear from you often and I will do better for the future. Phinias write me that his health is poor this spring, poor fellow, he must hay a lonesome time there now.

Amori B. Cook to G. H. C.

New Madrid, April the 8th, '62

Dear Wife,

I received a letter from you and brother Amori on the fourth and was glad to hear from you, I can't tell you! It seemed as though I had got almost home. I should have answered it before but we have had marching order for the last three days. We expected to cross the river to fight but the night of the 5th was very dark and rainy one and we took the advantage of it. The trouble here has been that often we could not reach them with our gun layouts but on the right we run the rebels blockade, at daylight our gunboats were here and in the afternoon they went down the river four miles where the rebels had two large ports and the noise of the cannon was such a one as you never heard. In two hours the rebels was drove from every battery and we had

the place and last night we took the island. They can't stand before us. We started to cross the river this morning when we heard that they had surrendered at no. 10 and we returned to camp. What will be the next move I can't tell but the rebels are getting sick of it here, I can tell you!

Amori, you wanted I should write all of the particulars, whether Henry had his right mind or not. He did not the last day, only by spells. The last I heard him say about any of you was five or six days before he died. He said he wanted to write to you and started to but said he did not feel able. I do not think he thought he was giving up when he went to the hospital. I told him that when he got a little better he had better get a discharge if he could. He said if he got better he had rather stay. About one hour before he died I asked him if he knew me. He said yes. I asked him who it was, he said Phinias but he was so low I did not try to have him talk much. The day before he died he wanted I should sit down by the side of him.

My health is good, better than when I left Camp Benton. My appetite is tip top, it never was better. I have gained twelve pounds in 15 days and when I tell you I did not weigh but 156 the 20th of March you may think there was need of gaining a little flesh. I begin to feel tip top as to health but I have been so lonesome since Brother Henry left me that I hardly knew what to do. There has not been a man in our company but what has been sick since we came here, Lewis and James are better and Lewis begins to feel first rate.

I can't write anymore fore we may have to march.

Abigail, I don't want you should worry about me, I will look out for no. 1. I live pretty well now, I have tea, potatoes, eggs, cheese and so forth. Take care of yourself won't you? I don't worry about you for I know that you are at a kind Brother's house.

McYappin has resigned and is going home before a great while. I think we will be paid in two or three days. You did not write whether Henry sent on any money home or not before Abigail went home. All the money he had was three dollars and forty cents. I never heard him say what he done with his money.

Write all the news. Amori, write what you are doing. Abbie, I must bid you all goodnight. Give my respects to all who enquire.

P. R. Freeman

We took 6,000 prisoners; 3 generals.

Tell Jonathan that James says he will send home money.

Franklin, April the 9th, 1862

Dear Friends,

Feeling anxious to hear from you induces me to write a few lines to you to let you know that we are all well at present and hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing.

We have not heard a word from any of you since you was here. We looked

for a letter from some of you after you got home from here until we got tired of lookin' but you made so short a visit we think you hardly knew you had been here. We would like to have you come and finish that visit you commenced.

Our children were much pleased with their cousins, have often said they would like to come out there. Last summer they talked they should come in the fall, when fall came they could not get away. The war has taken the men so it is difficult to get help and you have your own work to do yourself.

Bronson has bought more land, I think you needn't look for them this fall; don't wait for them but come and finish that visit you commenced two years ago, or almost. We have not seen your Father and Mother here yet. We expect they enjoy themselves so well in their new house they cannot come. We should like to have them come and make us a visit. I can't see that there is any to hinder them.

It has been quite sickly here this winter with the typhoid fever and a number of deaths.

It is raining to day, the goin is very hard. We have a very wet spring thus far. I do not think we have had more than two pleasant days in two weeks.

I must bring this letter to a close. My head aches and I can hardly see the letter. Give our respects to all our friends, to your Father Cook and his daughter; tell her I hav often thought of her and felt to symphize with her in all her afflictions.

It is almost a year since we have had a letter from our son Chauncey. The alst we heard from him he was in Arcansu (Arkansas). We often think he is not living. Write when you get this, tell us where your brother in law is.

Hannah Knapp to Elmina Cook

I know by experience it is a task for old people to write to you and you should feel under obligation to write.

We are again in town today and I have seated myself to write a line or two to you.

We received your kind letter and was glad to hear from you. Was glad to hear you was all well. Tell George's folks they must take good care of those babies. If any of our friends are coming out here this fall, write a few weeks before they come. We have not been to see Mary in about a year and when we go we are gone a week and we would (not) like to have any of you come and find us gone from home.

We are as usual.

Yours in a hurry. From your Aunt Hannah Knapp to Almina Cook

Direct to Tipton P.O., Lenawee Co., Mich.

New Madrid, April 11th, '62

Dear Wife,

I seat myself to write a few lines to you. I can't write much for I am on guard. I am well except for a cold.

We drew our pay day before yesterday. I have sent you fifty dollars by McYappin, he started for St. Johns today. He will be at home before you get this; you will have to go to St. Johns after it.

Write as soon as you get this. I don't get half letters enough. Write often, won't you?

I did not draw but two months pay this time, I have got twelve dollars left so you see I shan't suffer for money. Abigail, use what you want of it for your comfort and the rest I would like to have to use when I come home.

We have just received marching order. We expect to leave in the morning, we are going down the river some 70 miles.

Goodnight Abbie, and may God bless you.

P. R. F.

We took one hundred cannon here.

New Madrid, April the 14th, '62

Dear Wife,

I take my pen to let you know how I am and what we are about. We are all packed and by the dock waiting for boats. We are bound for Memphis, Tennessee.

I have not received a letter since the 4th. I wrote you a few lines on the 11th. Mr. Goppin started for home day before yesterday. I sent fifty dollars by him. You will have to go to St. Johns after it.

Abigail, I have collected twenty (29) nine dollars on your account.

I am in good health and first rate spirits. I feel better than I have since you went home. I hope these few lines will find you both in good health and spirits. I will send Henry's things home if I could but there is no express affice here yet. I think in four weeks more we shall be going north to our own native homes.

I shall have to stop writing so good afternoon my dear wife and may God bless you.

P .R.F.

It is very warm here today. Write as soon as you get this. Write often, write all the news.

Camp, one half mile from the City of Alexandria, Va. Tuesday,

April 15th, 1862

Dear Brother Amori,

I received yours of the 4th on Friday the 17th.

O, Brother the sad intelligence that it conveyed to me, the death of our loved Brother Henry. Our youngest Brother, I can hardly realize that he is gone, poor boy. He has found a lonely grave far from his home but he has passed through the dark valley of death to which we are all hastening and paid the debt that you and I will soon be called upon to pay and my prayer to God is (if I ever prayed) that we may be prepared to meet those loved ones that have gone before us. I am glad that Phinias was with him for I know that he would do everything for him that could be done. You say that his health is poor, I am sorry for him, for a man wants good health to stand the hardship and exposures that he is subject to in the army.

The last letter I wrote to you was from Camp Franklin dated the 24th of March, we were then expecting to go down the Patomac River to Fortress Monroe or some other place but we staid through till Friday the 4th of April. About 12:00 noon of the 4th our Regt. left old Camp Franklin and marched to Alexandria. Took the cars on the Orangeville and Alexandria Rail Road for Manassas Junction about 28 miles from Alexandria, arrived there about 4 o'clock P.M., pitched our tents and staid through until Monday the 7th. When at 8 o'clock we struck our tents and started again. Marched 12 miles (keeping on the lines of the railroad) to a place called Catletts Station 40 miles from Alexandria southwest in Fauquier Co., arrived there about 3 o'clock P.M. in a heavy rain storm and it continued to rain and snow till Wednesday night and Thursday morning the snow was three or four inches deep. I tell you Amori, it was worst storm I ever experienced. We campt in the woods one half mile from the station and you had better believe that there was four or five acres of timber chopt, logged and well a burning in a retry short time after we got on the ground. It was the only way we could keep ourselves anywhere near comfortable. The timber was second growth white oak, white ash and hickory; the neatest I ever seen. Size of the trees from six to sixteen inches through. A choice lot but it suffered badly.

We staid there til Friday night. At half past eight Friday evening the 11th, just as I had finished reading your letter and one from Sarah (For the mail did not get into camp until after dark orders came that Franklin Division was ordered back to Alexandria. At half past nine the 27th was in line ready to march. We marched down to the station and stood there in the mud 6 or 8 inches deep till four o'clock Saturday morning. We then got aboard the cars and arrived on our present camp ground about 11 o'clock and here we are yet but I suppose we will leave here within a few days and go down the river to fortress Monroe or Yorktown.

I understand that the Artillery belonging to our Division is being shipt today.

Amori, you must excuse me for not answering your letter before. Today is the first convenient oppertunity I have had. If you can read this you will do well. My conveniences for writing are rather limited. I haven't had a board to write on, I have to write on my bunk.

Amori, I just received yours of the 10th. What a satisfaction it is to me to hear from you and to hear that you and your little family are well.

Father, I am glad to hear that your health is improving and I hope it will

continue to improve and may God grant that I may be permitted to meet you again this side of the grave. Father, write to me if you are able. How I should like to see your hand writing again.

It is no use for me to try and give you the war news of the day. You can get that from the newspapers. Tell Uncle Woodbury that I am very thankful to think he has not forgotten me. My best respects to him, also to my good Aunt Nancy and family, also to Addison and to all friends who may enquire.

Abigail, when you write to Phinias, give him my best respects, tell him to write to me. I can't write to him because I don't know where to direct a letter. The last letter I received from Br. Henry was in Jan'y while I was at home. He was then at Camp Benton. The last letter I wrote to him was written the 4th of March, I did not get an answer, Poor Boy! I don't know wheather he got it or not. Write to me as soon as you hear from Phinias. Remember me to Sister Charlotte, tell her to be patient and I will answer her letter sometime, if I have good luck.

Well, Amina, it appears that you are not readdy to spare that boy of yours yet so I suppose I need not expect to see him in Virginia verry soon.

Say to the little girls that Uncle will send them the first nice papers I can find.

Amori, you did not say in your letter where Henry was when he died. Please inform me in your next letter.

My health is good, I have seen the toughest time for the last two weeks as far as being exposed to bad weather is: concerned that I ever see in my life but it did not affect me any. I am though as a bear.

I will write you again as soon as we make another halt. Where it will be I can't say.

I received a letter from Sarah the 11th. My family were all well the 7th which was the date of the letter.

Please write soon and often.

From G. H. Cook to his Brother A. B, Cook

April 30, 40 miles above Ciaro

Dear Wife, Father, Brother and Sister,

I received your kind letters today and was glad to hear from you, I can tell you! and to hear that you was well.

My health is good.

Abigail, you wrote that you was lonesome without me. I don't think you are more lonesome than I am without you but you must keep up good courage.

Amori, I wish I could of bin there and help you make sugar. I think we could of made a pile of it. I think that you must have worked some to have made what you have, and done your chores too.

It has been nice weather here till now. It has rained the most of the time for a

week. The Mississippi and Ohio rivers are very high. I think the people must suffer severely. We passed a large number of them.

We started on the 17th for Memphis before we got there the order was countermanded and we were ordered back to Cairo and now we are on our way up the Ohio and from here we go up the Tennessee River four hundred miles.

There is some 25,000 soldiers in this fleet. I counted 20 steamers this morning loaded with soldiers. There they expect to have a fight.

There is floods where there is not a spot of land to be seen. Cattle are swimming in the water up to their ears and the water is raising very fast.

Abigail, McYappin went home on the 12th. I sent fifty dollars to you by him. I want you should write as soon as you get it. I wrote two letters since I sent it.

I hope you will excuse these few lines. I must draw to a close by wishing you health and prosperity and may God bless you all.

P. R. F.

Tell the girls I would like to see them.

Abigail, I hope the time soon comes when peace will be restored and we can enjoy one another's company as in days before. Direct your letters to Tennessee River.

Have paid as high as 50¢ per pound for butter, 20¢ for cheese, 20¢ for crackers and one dollar for potatoes. Tea in the south is worth \$3.00 a pound, coffee, 80¢.

Camp near shipping point at the mouth of York River, Va.
Sunday, April
27th, 1862

Dear Brother,

I received yours of the 18th yesterday, I assure you that it was a very welcome messenger for it said to me that you all were well and I am very glad to hear it.

My health is first rate. I received a letter from you the 11th, while at letters station, which contained the sad intelligence of the death of Brother Henry. I did not answer that letter until the 15th while we were in a camp near Alexandria. While writing that letter I received another letter from you mailed the 10th, and wrote to that effect the 19th while on board the S. R. Spaulding anchored off shipping point near the mouth of York River I wrote a letter to Father which you will be likely to get about this time. Our Regt. staid on board the Spaulding till Thursday the 24th. On Wednesday the 23rd the Spaulding sailed down to fortress Monroe about 20 miles southeast of shipping point for the purpose of getting supplies for the ship and to give our men a chance to see the fort. The fort is a splendid place, very large, mounting a great many guns. Some very large ones, all as neat as a pin. It beats anything of the kind I have ever seen. Nearby at the mouth of Hampton Roads a fort is being built of stone in the stream called Ripsaps.

There is a large fleet lying at fortress Monroe, with steamer gunboats, steam boats, steam tugs and among the rest lays the far famed iron clad steamer, Monitor and a curious looking craft it is. I can't describe it too you, therefore I shall not try.

Thursday morning the Spaulding steamed back to the old spot near shipping point. In the afternoon our Regt. were landed on shore for the purpose of giving the men air and exercise and give the sailors a chance to clean up the ship. There was about twelve hundred men on board besides quite a number of horses belonging to the officers and they had to be stowed away pretty close. The privates were all stowed away forward and below except Co. E, they were quartered on the hurricane deck, the deck ahead of the wheel and the cabin being reserved for the officers, and the undersigned having the honor of wearing a few small strips of silver lace on his coat was provided with good quarters in the cabin.

We are camped on a point of land jetting out into the bay and nearly surrounded by water. The ground was covered with a verry handsome pine grove but the boys are cutting it down for wook to cook rations and for fire to keep warm by, for the weather is damp and cold. Yesterday it rained nearly all day. Every afternoon while the tilde is out the boys gather bushels and bushels of oysters by wading into the water where it is two or three feet deep. I have not fished for any yet, don't think I shall. It is nearly out of season for oysters and they are getting rather soft and I haven't eat but a few.

Can't tell you how long we shall remain here, perhaps not a great while. The boats that brought our division down from Alexandria are laying here at anchor and our Division as I understand it is held as a reserve. I think the boats are laying here ready to ship us to any point where we may be wanted, perhaps up the river to Yorktown. We are, I suppose, within 61 or 8 miles of that place and our men are at work carefully planting Batteries and trying the range of their guns. We hear heavy firing from that direction every day and night. I suppose the Rebels have a large force there and are strongly fortified, How it will turn out I can't say. Hope it will come out all right.

Father, I am glad to hear that your health is improved from what it was last winter, hope it will continue to improve until you can say that you enjoy good health again.

I cannot tell you how soon I shall go home but I hope I shall before many months roll around. I would like to see this war closed up but I don't know as I ever shall, can't tell. Would like to stay in the army until it does close, if that should happen within a few months. I know that I had ought to be at home for my family are very lonesome while I am absent.

I received a letter from Sarah the 23rd written the 13th. My family were all well then.

Father, I would like to receive a letter from you, if you are able to write. I will write you at the first oppertunity or at least in a few days.

My best wishes to Uncle Woodbury and my good Aunt and family. Tell Aunt to write to George.

Amori, you say you mean to write to me once a week. Bully for you, I will try and do the same by you.

Remember (me) to Mr. and Mrs. Simmons and family, also to Addison,

Abigail, I would like to receive a letter from you and Amina. I have no papers yet for the little girls and I am sorry for I don't know how soon I can get them. Tell them to be patient and as soon as Uncle can get them he will send them.

I am glad to hear that Phinias' health is good, give him my best respects when you write to him.

It is getting dark and I shall have to close my letter and bid you all good night for the present.

May the all wise and over fulling Knower bless and protect you all,

G. A. Cook 27th Regt.
N. Y. Vol,

Mississippi, May 4th

Dear Wife,

I received your kind letter of April the 23rd yesterday. Also the one that you and Charlotte wrote when you was at Lansing in March. I am glad to hear from you often and to hear that you and the rest of the folks are well.

There was nothing of much importance transpired since I last wrote. We moved our camp day before yesterday, about five miles from where we was when I last wrote. We are about the same distance from Corinth that we were.

I am well and hope these few lines will find you both in good health and spirits.

A part of our Regiment had a skirmish yesterday, killed some and took some prisoners. I think that Corinth will be taken in a few days. Everything looks favorable on our side. We have a, mighty army here and they know it. I don't think there will be much fighting done here, the Rebels must begin to be getting sick to the stomach.

Abigail, I am in first rate spirits, taking all things into consideration, but if I realize what I anticipate, I think we can enjoy ourselves. What do you think about it? I would like to be at home, there is no place like home to me but we must keep up good courage and it will all come out right yet.

I don't think it will be long before I shall be at home.

Wheat is in the head here.

We are just over the line in the State of Mississippi near the Tennessee River. I must bid you good night my dear for they say lights out.

May 5th Rained hard all
night

I can't think of anything to write. I think that if I was home I could talk a good deal better than I can write. How I would like to drop in this morning and take breakfast with you, don't you think I could enjoy it? You can't tell how I want to see you all. I think we would have a good time.

Amori, you wrote that you had made six hundred pounds of sugar, how I wish I could have bin there to help you.

James and Daniel are well. Lewis VanDyke is at the hospital at the river. Direct your letters to Hamburgh, Tennessee.

This from your husband until death and may God bless you.

P.R. Freeman

Abigail, write where the girls is and if you have heard anything from Hiram. I will send you some cotton that I picked myself, just as it came from the ball.

State of Mississippi, May the 5th, 1862

Mr. Adam Straleb,

Please pay the mortgage that I hold against you to my wife, Abigail M. Freeman and this shall be your authority for the same.

Phinias R. Freeman

My Dear,

I thought I would write a few lines to you to let you know how I am. I am well and hope these few lines will find you in good, health. Ida, you wanted I should come home right off, I will come as soon as I can. Be good girls til I come, won't you?

Amori, write wheather you have any potatoes or not. I can tel you they are a scarce article here. My mouth waters for some. I sent two descriptive rolls of our Regiment and one paper. Have you got them Amori? Wouldn't I like to take a dish of milk with you. Write all the news.

Abigail says that you and Amina are so good to her that she don't know as we can ever do enough to pay you for it.

Beaufort, South Carolina, May the 7th, 1862

Mr. Cook Sir,

I received your letter of April the 21st this morning. Glad to hear from you and hear that yourself anf family were well.

I have just come off of picket this morning. Last night was a very nice night to be on picket, there were some gnats and mosquitoes but it was warm. We have nice weather here. Corn that was planted early isabout eighteen inches high.. Potatoes are in blossom, peas are big enough to eat, peaches and plums will be ripe about the

last of this month. Oranges are about as large as bird eggs, blackberries are ripe. I went to pick berries the first of this month. I got about 8 quarts. There was seven men passed me where I was on picket yesterday, each one of them had a pail full of berries. I never seen so many berries before. One man in our Company bought a bushel of berries for forty cents a few days ago.

Amori, in reference to Emma, you may be in my place if you want to be and write to her as often as you like for I don't think I shall write to her.

Amori, since I wrote to you I have been in the State of Georgia and had the pleasure of seeing Fort Polaskey taken from the rebels. I won't try to tell you about it, but here is a paper that will tell you all about it, but I suppose you have heard all about it before this time.

This is wrote to here with blackberry juise but it has got spilt and I will have to take ink to finish it.

I didn't send any letter in the other one for Newton McLouth; when you read this little camp kettle hand it to Newton.

I don't know as I have anything more to write at present. We got back to Beaufort two weeks ago last Saturday. We drill two hours and a half a day. No more at present.

Yours truly,

Daniel Dillabaugh

I can't verry well send you any oranges this time.

The 79th New York Regt. are going to have a concert in our camp tonight. I am going if I can. The cost is twenty five cents. Dan

In Camp Near Corinth, May the 16, '62

Dear Wife,

I received your kind letter of the 26th today and was glad to hear from you, I can tell you, and to hear that you was well. O, I want to see you and I think I shall in a short time. if things work in our favor for a short time as they have for a few weeks back. If we suceed in this battle I think we shall get our discharge in a short time and that is the opinion of the officers. Abbie, I want to come home as bad as you want I should but I am not homesick in the least, I am in first rate spirits and my health is the best now that it has been since last fall. You must keep up good courage and not worry about me for you know I will look out for myself as well as I can and come home as soon as I can. I have been looking for a fight every day this long time but if you could see the roads that we have built since we came here you would not wonder that it takes so long to get ready. There is some skirmishing every day and quite a number has been killed and wounded.

It looks like we may have a hard battle now but we may not.

It is very hot here now. I hardly ever see it hotter in July or August.

The 2nd Iowa Cavalry charged on a battery the other day and they had 6 men killed and 42 wounded and lost 150 horses. Some of the wounded have since died. Co. Y of our Regt. had one man killed and 5 wounded. Two more of our Co. have died since James Berdel died.

James and Daniel Miller are well. I saw James VanDyke day before yesterday, he was well but he said he was homesick. I have not heard from Lewis lately, he is at the hospital, was getting better the last I heard.

I saw High Fairbanks the 14th Regt., he said Daniel Dunckel was in illinois and had wrote to George Dunkel to take care of the children til he could come out and get them, said he had two children. There is 10 Regtiments here from Michigan.

O, how I would like to be there today, don't you think I would? You can't tell what I would give for a dish of milk. I give 20 cts. for a canteen full of buttermilk, eggs are worth 30 cts. per doz., chese 25 cts., crackers 20 cts., tobacco 80 cts., tea \$20.00. I have dranked \$1.30 worth of tea so you see I am not a tea totalist any longer.

I will have to draw to a close. Kidding you good morning my dear wife and may God bless you.

P. R. F. to A. M. F.

I am writing under a peach tree and they are as large as

Camp, five miles from White House Landing
New Kent Co., Va., Tuesday May 20th, 1862

Dear Brother,

On Monday the 12th of this month while in camp six miles up the river from West Point I wrote a letter to Father giving him a little sketch of our trip up the York River and the skirmish at West Point. The papers set down our 10ss in that place in killed, wounded and missing at 300.

Tuesday the 13th moved up the river ten or twelve miles to Cumberland Landing about two miles from New Kent Court House and camped in a cornfield of 3 or 400 acres of corn about four inches high. On Wednesday the 14th while at Cumberland I recieved two letters from you, one mailed the 25th of April, the other the 6th of May.

Glad to hear that you are all in comfortable health. I also received a letter from Sarah and Aunt at the same time I received yours, mailed the 5th. My family was well then. Thursday the 15th, moved up the river four or five miles to White House Landing. Rained all day. Camped on a large plantation, mostly covered with clover about knee high but it was soon trod down.

Friday 16th, while running among the different Divisions I came across Stockton's Mich. Regt., now called the 16th Mich. of Porter's Division. I had heard that there were some in the Regiment from Plymouth. The first man I found that I knew was Capt. James S. Gordon, that I used to train under in the Lima Rifle Co. when I was a boy. He looks some old but he has that same good natured laugh that he used to have. I think there was a good hearty shake of the hand between us. He is a

private in Co. B. Father will recall him well.

The next man I found was Jacob Lyon, Sarah's uncle, he looks tough and hearty. Says he is. I had not seen him since '44. He didn't know me, he said on account of my long beard. I told him who I was and took him by the hand, the tears started in his eyes. I think he was glad to see me and I know I was glad to see him. He is a private in Co. F and a new recruit. He enlisted the first of April.

Saturday 17th, wrote letters to my family and friends at home.

Sunday 18th, after inspection at 10:00 a.m. I spent in visiting with Lyon and Capt. and some boys of the 13th N.Y. or Porter's Division that live at Hemlock Lake when at home.

At 4 o'clock Monday morning the 19th, our Division took the advance and moved about five miles and camped where we are today. Smith's Division passed our camp in the afternoon yesterday and camped in advance of ours.

Porter's Division is in camp about one mile in rear of ours. General Franklin is in command of the three Divisions that I have named. General Slocum is in command of what was Franklin's Division. Col. Bartlett of the 27th is in command of Slocum's Brigade. Franklin's Corps is on the right of the army that are advancing to Richmond. McLellan in the center, his route is towards Bottoms Bridge. I don't know who is in command of the left wing. There is, I suppose, an army of one hundred and twenty thousand advancing toward Richmond. I will send you a map in this letter by that you will see where we are. You will see the letters P.F. and S which will show you where Franklin's Corps is.

I shall have to stop writing, we have just received orders to march at 3 o'clock this afternoon. It is said that we move about five miles.

My health is good. Never enjoyed better health in my life. I will write again the first opportunity.

My best respects to Father and Sisters and all our friends.

G. H. Cook, 27th N.Y.

In Camp near Corinth, May the 21st, '62

Dear Wife,

I received your kind letter of the 12th last night and was glad to hear from one so near and dear to me. I can tell you your letter found me in good health, although I am some tired. On the nights of the 17th and 18th I stood picket guard within rifle shot of the enemy. We exchanged shots all one day. We in the open field and they in the woods. There was none of our Company who got hurt, although the bullets flew quite thick some of the time. We stood 36 hours without sleep or relief. The two armies lay only 3 miles apart. There is heavy firing every day, we are advancing a little every day and building breast works as far as we advance.

There was a little village 3 miles from Corinth by the name of Farmington, we have torn the buildings all down and made breast works out of them, not that we were afraid of dying but you see we chose to rest unless the game is flying. It looks like we will be having a hard battle here. Our army has gone slow but sure, there is

two of the largest armies here that ever met in the United States but we think it will come out right. We have had to build roads all the way from the river, a distance of 16 miles and some 10 in number, and the most of them have three tracks side by side and a good deal of the way had to be rail and cross way.

I think that the most of the fighting will be close with the artillery. I can't tell when it will come off, but it must be soon. There was four hundred of the rebels deserted a few days ago and came into our camp.

Abigail, you want to know what I think about coming home. I think it will be long. Abbie, it seems like a long time since I left you at St. Louis. I did not think then that it would be so long before I should be at home. You can't tell how I want to see you and the rest of the folks. Be of good cheer and don't get discouraged and I will come as soon as I can. I think we will go back to St. Louis as soon as this battle is over. I was sorry that Father had the ague. I hope he will be better when you write again.

Good morning my dear wife and may God bless you now and forever.

P. R. F. to all

P. S. Amina, I was much obliged for your kind letter, you and Amori must write often and I will try and answer,

Amori, how do you get along and what are you doing? How do your calves look. Write often don't wait for a letter from me for you don't get half the ones I write. I wrote you on 5th, 12th, and 16th have you got them?

From Corinth, 6 miles south of Corinth
June the 3rd, '62

Dear Wife,

I received your kind letter of the 21st yesterday; was glad to hear from one so near and dear to me as you are. It seems almost like being at home to read your letters but when

I shall be I cannot tell. But I hope it won't be a great while when we shall get through with this battle. We have drove the rebels out of Corinth and are persuing them as fast as possible. They destroyed a bridge seven miles south of Corinth after crossing it. I short time or four hours after our troops reached the river they had a bridge completed and it would of done you good to see our artillery thunder over it. We are following the rebels up as fast as possible.

Our Regiment are 20 miles ahead of us. Our Company was detailed for provose guard over a lot of sugar and molasses taken from the Rebels, but we shall go to the Regiment today or tomorrow.

The rebels are deserting every day and we are taking prisoners every day.

Abbie, you wanted to know wheather I had bin in any battle or not. I have not been in much of one but the balls flew as thick as I cared about. Fifteen of our Company, and I was one of them, drove 70 of the their cavalry pickets within four

hundred yards of their breastworks. We were ordered to charge across a field into a piece of woods, when we reached the woods they commenced firing at us. We dismounted left our horses and took after them a loading and firing as fast as possible. When we had fired 3 to 5 rounds they put spur to their horses and left in a hurry. We returned with one prisoner, horse and saddle. Most of their bullets went from 10 to 20 feet above our heads. When I come home I can tell you about it.

Abbie, you say that the time seems long, so it does to me but you must not get discouraged, will you? I would like to see you right well, don't you think I would. Likewise the rest of the folks.

I am well and hope these few lines will find you all in good health. I wrote to you and Amori on the 25th and the 30th. When you receive a letter from me, state the date of it so I will know whether you get them all or not.

This will have to do for all of you this time for I have not got any time to write more.

Goodnight my dear wife, father, brother and sister and may God bless you all.

P. R. F.

I am out of stamps again, but not out of money. I have not drawn any money since I sent that to you.

30 miles south of Corinth, June 17, '62

Dear Brother,

I received your kind letter of the first today. Was glad to hear from you, I can tell you. It has been a long time since I have received a letter from any of you.

You write quite discouraging about the war and it begins to look like rather slow business. I hardly know what to think about it. There was bad management here at Corinth. We had an army of two hundred thousand within six miles of the enemy for a week and then let them march off peaceably.

Amori, you would like it if I was there to work with you. You would not like it better than myself, I can tell you. I am getting tired of soldiering, it is slowish business. How glad I am that you did not enlist. You keep cool and I will come as soon as I can.

I don't know how long we shall stay here but I don't think we shall a great while. A part of our army has left here. I don't know where they have gone.

The rebels drove our pickets in this morning. We shot two of them and fetched in the horses they rode. I don't think we shall go any farther south.

How I would like to set down to your table and have a clean meal. I think I would relish blackberries and plums and there are lots of them.

Your letter found me well and I hope these few lines will find you all well and in good spirits and may God bless you all.

This from P. R. F. to A. B. C.

Mississippi, 30 miles south of Corinth, June the 18th,'62

Dear Wife,

I received two kind letters from you today. One dated the 3rd and the other the 5th. I was glad to hear from one so near and dear as you are to me. I can tel you that I was glad to hear that you were all well and don't you think I would like to be there with you, but Abbie, you must not get discouraged, will you? I know you won't for my sake.

I can't write but a few lines now. I should of wrote before but we have been out fifteen miles south of here on picket guard, three days.

I wrote on the 10th last but don't do as I have done but write often.

I have just come in and got them letters and I can't think of anything but them.

The mail is going out and I must stop writing.

May God bless you my dear wife.

P. R. F.

I have no stamps yet.

Camp near Fair Oaks, Harris Co., Va. Sunday, June 22, 1862

Dear Wife and Aunt,

Yours of the 15th I received yesterday with joy, how glad I was to hear from you. I think Sarah, by your letter your health has improved a little. I hope you are better.

I was glad to hear that the check had arrived safe for I know that you received it. My health is good. I wrote to you day before yesterday, the 20th. I have nothing new in particular to write to you today. Our army is advancing slowly towards Richmond and there is skirmishing between the pickets of the two armies every day. How soon the great battle will be fought I can't say but I think the time is not far distant. It will be a terrible fight, what the result will be, God only knows.

Yesterday I visited the battle ground of Fair Oaks, which is about one mile and a half from our camp. It is the most horrible place I ever saw. Part of the battle ground was in the thick woods and there is hardly a tree or bush that hasn't the mark of a ball or shell and the ground is almost covered with knapsacks, haversacks and clothes of all descriptions, both of our men and the Rebels. And hundreds of groves where the poor soldiers were buried but I see a number of Rebels that apparently were not moved from where they lay and only a little brush and dirt thrown over them and that partially settled down leaving the feet or arms and shoulders exposed. In an open field near the battle ground there is two hundred of our men buried in one grave. I hear that Paster's Division have not crossed the Chickahoning yet but are in camp near the river below Mechanicsville. I.M. Hamilton was over there a few days since. He

saw Capt. Gordon but did not see Uncle Jacob, he was out on picket with his company. I mean to see him the first opportunity. Aunt, I hope he has written you before this time. If he has not he is to blame.

I don't know anything about Capt. Hurlbert falling out behind a baggage wagon for I was not in the battle of Hanover Court House but I should like to see some of those blowing men that I know of about the village placed placed in some positions that I have seen men, placed in here. I think it would start the water from them, if it was nothing more then perspiration. I don't believe Capt. Hurlbert did anything of the kind. What I have seen of him, I like. He appears to be a first rate fellow.

Now Sarah, about coming home, I shall come just as soon as I can. If I ever get to Richmond I shall then try and get home as soon as I can after that. I don't know as I could get away now if I should try. I don't like to back out. I should like to be at home now just as: well as you would like to have me at home. If I should come now I am afraid those courageous blowing men that are sitting in the shade about the village would hint the same about Cook that they do about Capt. Hurlbert, but I should not care much about that. I want to go to Richmond if the 27th Regt. goes there, then I shall be satisfied to come home and stay when I get home. I think I shall enlist in the home guards and serve out the rest of my time at home.

Don't get discouraged Sarah, keep up your spirits and don't get excited. I am not the only man who has joined the army and left a family at home sweet home.

Don't try to work in the garden, let it go. No one will expect the garden to look as it does when I am at home.

I shall use the last postage stamp on the letter. Don't know where the next is coming from. I lent some to the Q.M. but I guess he hasn't any to replace them.

No letters from Michigan.

Loveland is well. He and B.S. Coffin are sitting in my tent reading while I am writing.

The weather is quite warm.

Write often, I will write again soon.

G. H. Cook

Riley, you have not written to me anything about Jenny in some time. Please write when Ma writes again. Be a good boy, Riley. Pa worries about you a good deal, try and be good.

G. H. C.

Mississippi, June 23rd

Dear and much beloved wife,

Again I seat myself to converse with you with the silent pen, would that I could converse with you face to face as in days gone by. Abby, how I want to see you

again and I know you would like to see me as well but when we shall is more than I can tell but I hope not long.

I have not received any letter from you since the 18th when I got two. I wrote to you the same day.

The report is now is that we are going to Illinois to recruit our horses. They are a hard looking lot, I can tell you. If we do I shall come home on a furlow. They are sending for those who want home on furlows. Our Regiment is in three places, A Batalion in a place, one Batalion is ten miles from here, we are where we was when I last wrote.

The people here are almost all rebels. There is not hardly any men at home. They have not got but little to eat. They don't eat hardly anything but corn cake and they don't know enough to make that fit for a white man to eat. They are not raising but a little of anything this season, there is not one acre in ten tilled. I don't think there is one acre of potatoes in a township and they have but few cows and they don't give more than from two to three quarts of milk at a time, in fact they don't live they only stay.

O, Abby, if I was only at home, I think we could enjoy ourselves but we must not get discouraged. There may be such a thing that I will get home before long. I think the fighting is mostly done up. we are taking some prisoneers here. We got 5 yesterday, one of them a Captain.

Abby, I don't feel in a writing mood today so will draw to a close by wishing you all well my dear wife, Father, Brothers, and Sisters and may God bless you all.

P. R. F.

Give my respects to all who enquire.

I shall like to a forgotten to tell you that my health was good and I hope this scribbling will find you in good health and better spirits than you was when you last wrote.

Daniel Miller is not very well. He is so as to do his duty yet.

Hemlock Lake, July the 13th, 1862

Dear George,

I received a line from you the 1st and a letter the 8th that was dated 5th with your warrant and how glad I was to hear that you were well, hoping that you will remain so while in the army but George I take no comfort day or night to hear of the slaughter they are having in this war.

Do try and come home, don't wait any longer for my sake. I expected a letter from you last night but it did not come. If you knew what trouble I have every day, I think you would leave and come home, but I am fearful that you will never be spared to return home. What will become of me and Riley? He needs father's care so much. He has gone to Sunday School but it was hard work to get him started. It seems to me

that I can't stand it a great while longer. I keep trying as hard as I can to have him be a good boy but he seems to spurn all of my and Aunt's advise. Do come won't you? I can't tell my feelings on his account.

Uncle Justus and Aunt Sarah were here yesterday. They were going to attend the funeral of a soldier today in Lima.

The friends are well as far as I know of. I haven't heard from the friends in Michigan in a long time, only by your letters. It is a general time of health in the vilage.

I do not know what to say nor what to do I feel the most of the time as if I should be crazy. I do try as hard as I can to keep up courage but it seems to me that I can't stand it much longer, but I live in hopes that you will be home soon.

George, the garden looks very well, excepting the vines, they don't seem to do very well. We have had one mess of green peas and we shall have another mess today. How I wished you were here to help eat them, how glad I should be but George Ii understood you to say to Amori that you could leave the army anytime, if so, I should think you would.

Davis and family are well. Likewise Kinny and family. Mr. Kinny is waiting for you to come home and keep shop for him so he can go a visiting. I hope you will come soon, not only for keeping shop but for keeping your family together.

I can't but just keep my eyes open, I did not sleep but a very little last night. I suppose you rest good when you are not marching and fighting. It is a very little rest that I get day or night.

Mr. Gregg has cut most of the grass in the yard.

The red cherry trees are loaded and they are ripening fast. I have commenced drying them. The pears look nice and also the peaches and grapes.

I hope the Lord will have mercy on us all.

O, George if you could see Riley when he has anything to do, and he not know it, I don't know what you would do, but I think you would punish him severly if you were here.

You must excuse bad writing and write often.

Sarah Cook to her husband G. H. Cook

Hemlock Lake, July the 14th, 1862

George,

I can hardly describe the joy that Sarah and I experienced in hearing that you and Jacob were still living when you wrote. Where you and he are now we can not tell. We know that you have the same protection, that you had in the engagement. I still hope the Lord will protect both of you and enable you to do your duty to yourselves and to your country and enable you to return home with honors.

George, I thank you for your kindness in letting me know that Jacob was still living.

Please give my respects to Brother. Tell him I wrot to him last Sunday. I haven't heard from his family since I wrote to him. I don't hear from Brother Russeya, I think he has joined his regiments again. Oh, I think he would have written to me. I wrote two letters to him in June.

Mrs. MacMasters and family are well. Mrs. Souland and family are well the last I heard from them.

We are sorry to hear that so many of your brave soldiers have fallen. I fear that many more must go the same way before they take Richmond. The papers state that the Confederates lost a great many more than the Republicans did. We can't tell who will fall next, but we will hope for the best.

Please write often and let me know where brother is as often as you can. I shall consider it a great favor from you. We are well but Sarah, she grows poorer every day.

I hope this will find you enjoying good health. The friends and neighbors are often enquiring after the Major and sending their respects to him.

A. Lyon

27th Regt., N.Y. Vol., Camp near Harrison's Landing on James River, Charles City Co., Va., Friday, July 25th, 1862

Dear Father,

I am almost inclined to think that you have all forgotten me as I have not received a letter from any of you since the 26th of June. On that day I received a letter from Amori but did not have time to answer it till the 7th of July, which you must have received long before this time.

My health is first rate. Good from the 26th of June up to the 3rd of this month which was a hard time for the Army of the Potomac. I have seen some rather hard times within the last four months but the seven days of marching and fighting from the Chickahominy to the James River was the hardest time I ever see, but I have passed through so far safe, sound, and well for which I hope I am thankful. I cannot describe to you the scenes that I have passed through for I hav seen about enough of this war. My patriotism (if I ever had any for this war) is about played out, the state of things now existing in our country is bad and it is hard guessing at what the result will be. Our government has expended millions upon millions of dollars, have lost over one hundred thousand men, besides millions of dollars worth of stores and munitions of war. Have ditched thousands upon thousands of acres of land by building posts, breast works, and digging rifle pits; which makes the land, some of it worth fifty per cent more than it was before and have built a number of extension bridges across the Chickahominy swamp but it seems to me that all of this has amounted to but very little for I can't help but think that the Rebellion is stronger today than it ever was before.

Our Division, Commanded by Gen. Slocum is situated on a very pleasant camp ground on the line of out posts about three miles from Harrison's Landing on

the left or north bank of the James River, about 25 miles below Richmond State line but over forty by River. Our men are busy at work on our line of fortifications which extend the whole entire length of our front, some ten or twelve miles. These works are bristling with cannon of all descriptions from the light field pieces up to ten inch howitzers, 30 & 32 rd. rifle guns & 60 & 64 siege guns. I think we are safe as far as being attacked by the Rebels is concerned and I think too, that the campaign for this summer is ended. I do not think there will be any demonstrations made towards taking Richmond until the army is largely reinforced which will take at least two or three months. You have probably read from the newspapers all the details and descriptions of the recent battles, so it is of no use for me to undertake to describe them to you. If I could see you I could tell you more than I could write in a month. I could tell you some hard but true stories.

The color bearer of the 27th is W. H. McMahan of Co. G from Lima, he carried them at the battle of Gaines Mills and brought them off with 22 ball holes through them. Men can stay at home and sit around barrooms and stores and talk about fighting very comfortably, but when they come to go in where the bullets and shell and grape shot fly like hail stones it is altogether different. At the battle of white oak swamp, Capt. Albert Cook of the 1st Vt. battery got stuck in the mud, the rebels were pressing on to us hard but the Capt. held his ground and fought until he lost 30 men and all his horses but 16, just enough to haul away one gun, the other five he was obliged to leave. Capt. Cook is a young man, smart, and a fighting man. He and myself tried to scrape up some kind of a relationship but could not, perhaps you can. He is from the town of Grandisle, Grandisle Co., Vt. His father's name is Henry.

There is some splendid locations and noble land along the banks of the river. There is a large old brick house near the landing, the place, it is said, where President Harrison was born, which gives the name to the landing. I went down to Porter's Division yesterday to visit Uncle Jacob Lyon of the 16th Mich. He is quite sick and has been since the 7th of this month. He has a kind of camp fever. I go and see him two or three times a week. From there I went to the landing. The bank of the river is covered for miles with troops, army stores, forage tools, etc. A short distance below the landing is an old burying ground, which before our army came must have been a very nice place. It is situated on the bank of the river and ten or twelve feet above the level of the river, about one acre fenced in with brick wall about four feet high. There are many old graves in the yard. I see one that dated back as far as 1656. I saw one slab that covered the grave of a Lieut. Col. of the Revolution and it said that one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence is buried in that yard but I could not find it. Some of the graves have a square piece of mason work built up three or four feet high and a stone slab laid on the top but most of them, the slab is laid over the grave even with the top of the ground and are so covered with dirt that I could not read the inscriptions on them. The yard is filled with noble shade trees and large old grape vines that have grown over and through the tops of the trees and make the nicest shade you ever see. But some of our army officers have converted it into a horse stable, I suppose on account of the shade. The yard was full of horses, many of the slabs that covered the graves are broken and torn from their assigned place and some of the slabs are thrown from the mason work and the brick scattered over the yard thereby destroying the mark to that sacred spot where some relative or friend was buried. Large portions of the wall that enclose the yard is thrown down. The large

gate that hung between two stone posts is torn from its hinges and destroyed and the yard was full of filth. Now if there is a spot on earth that should be preserved and kept sacred, it is the resting place of the dead, and the officer that ordered or allowed this grave yard to be used for a stable is not fit for an officer, neither is he a man possessed of the principals of humanity. None but a black bellied Republican or a black hearted abolitionist would be guilty of such an act.

Now I don't know but I am wicked, I suppose I am, but if there is a right and wrong side to this, I sometimes think that the north is just as likely to be on the wrong side as the other. I am not Secest nor in favor of this Rebellion but I like to see men act like men and not like heathen. When the Rebels left Yorktown I supposed then that it would be an easy matter to take Richmond but I have altered my mind since then. They have more men in t-e field than we have and I find it is of no use to try to believe what we read in the paper concerning the war for there is but very little truth in them. But, enough of this, I fear that you will get out of patience before you get to read it all.

I received a letter from Sarah last Saturday. Sarah worries herself to death about me. Aside from that my family were well.

G. H. Cook 27th Regt. N. Y. Vol.

Washington D. C., Oct. 22nd, '62

Dear Wife,

I seat myself once more to converse with you, a priviledge I have not had for the last four months, but thank you I am in the land of liberty again.

I was taken prisoner the 26th of June near Boonville. Was taken to Macon, Georgia. There was six hundred and forty of us arrived here last night and we are a hard looking set I can tell you. We were all sent to the hospitals to recuperate. I am in the Patent office hospital, in ward no. 2.

I shall come home as soon as I can get my discharge and pay, which I think there will be no trouble in going soon. Abbie you don't know how I want to see you and all the rest. I will tell you the news when I come.

Write as soon as you get this, all of you.

My health is poor, I have had a bad cough but I am in good particulars now I can tell you.

Write who was killed at the time I was taken.

Direct to P. R. Freeman, Washington D. C., Patten Office Hospital, Ward no. 2.

Good night my dear and may God bless you.

P. R. Freeman

Hemlock Lake, Nov. 3, 1862

Dear Sister,

A few days ago I wrote a few lines to Father asking him to come down and stay with us this winter if he is able to stand the fatigue of the journey.

Now sister, as Phinias is away and you of course must be rather lonesome. Just fix your traps and come with father and stay with us this winter. We will try to make you as comfortable as we can. Please come, we shall expect you.

We are all well. Hope this will find you all in good health and spirits. Please remember us to all.

Write soon. From you brother,

G. H. Cook

Washington D.C., Nov. 5th, 1862

Dear Wife,

I seat myself again to write a few lines, not in answer to yours as I expected by this time. I wrote you the 22nd of last month and you can't tell how anxious I have been since to have a letter from you and all the rest. I have not got much time to write to night for its almost supper time. You don't know how I want to see you all and set down and talk together. I hardly know what to write. I want to go home so I can tell you all about how we have suffered this summer. I have applied for a discharge. I think I will get it. I will know within a short time.

My health is poor but I think it is a good (deal) better then it was when I first came here. I can't write, it seems more like writing to the dead than I would like to have it.

Amori, Abigail, Amina, write, won't you? I am in a good place I can tell you. I have everything I want.

I will have to bid you good night for I can't see. May God bless you all.

P. R. F.

Direct to Wash. D.C., Patent Office Hospital, Ward no. 2.

Hemlock Lake, 20 Dec., 1862

Br. Amori,

I have not heard anything from Father's since the first of this month, the day he started to come to this state, but I shall look for him now everyday till he comes.

We are all well, except colds of which almost everyone are complaining in this vicinity. I am much better than I was a week ago when I wrote you last. I am nearly rid of the hard cough that I had. My throat troubles me some yet but I begin to feel pretty well again.

We have had an open wet, muddy, unhealthy winter so far, till a few days ago when the weather changed with a little flurry of snow and we are now having quite fair winter weather but terrible rough roads. How is the weather with you?

Did you have plenty of fruit from your little orchard this season? It has been a great fruit season with us. Thousands of bushels of good winter apples have been left to freeze and rot on the ground in this town. They were worth only fifty cents per bushel when delivered at the R.R. Station. Barrels cost about thirty one cents and help was scarce and high on account of this great Rebellion and the farmers thought it would not pay to barrel their apples for market so they picked what they wanted for their own use and let every bobby else pick what they wanted, made some cider and let the rest rot on the ground.

Did you raise any potatoes from those you took from here last winter? Those flukes are worth here in market, 40 cents per bushel, while the common kinds are fetching only 25 cents.

Amori, I brought home the neatest and best drum that I have ever seen. The shell is rosewood, I bought it in Washington. Paid 20 dollars for it. I tell you it is a clipper, there is nothing lacking about it, except some good player to use it.

Abigail, let us hear from you. What news do you get from Phinias? If he is not coming home this winter, come down and make us a visit. Come, Sis. We would be glad to see you.

Please write soon.

Sarah joins me in sending love and good will to Amina and the little girls, Moses and Charlotte and all of our friends. Remember me to our Good Aunt and Uncle Pike.

My letter is dated the 20th but since I commenced writing I have found out that it is Sunday the 21st.

G. H. Cook

Hemlock Lake, Sunday, Dec. 28th, '62

Br. Amori,

We received yours of the 22nd last Friday the 26th. Glad to hear from you and hear that Phinias has got home but sorry to hear that his health

is so poor. We all sincerely hope that he will recover his health again and be able to enjoy life again after passing through as much suffering and hardship.

Father arrived here last Wednesday the 24th well and smart. He is looking better than I expected to see him. He left his friends at Milford and Allegany all well. We were very glad to see him and see him enjoying comfortable health.

Myself and family are well except for colds. I am nearly rid of mine and begin to feel tough and healthy again.

We have warm meather yet with some rain. Today has been warm and pleasant like spring but the mud is so deep that it is almost impossible for teams to move.

Father says he is sorry he left home so soon for he wants to see Phinias. If he had known Phinias was coming home he would not have left so soon.

Amori, write as soon as you receive this for we are verry anxious to hear from Phinias.

Father wishes you to write how the weather has been since he left. write direct, don't forget.

Our respects & good wishes to Phinias, wish we could do more but cannot. Father thinks Phinias was in the patent office Hospital while he was in Washington. I was in that hospital two or three hours the 22rd of Oct looking for a young man by the name of Baker from co. G, 27th Regt. Had I known Phinias was there I think I should have looked for him but I did not know it. I am sorry but I can't help it.

Remember us to all our friends.

G. H. Cook

Salem, Jan. 18th, '63

Dear Nephew and Niece,

We should have answered your letter long ago but I was bound to wait till I could give you the weight of the hogs. I calculated to butcher sooner but put it off on account of warm weather till the 13th of this month.

I sold three pigs and the old sow, by the lump, two days before I butchered, for \$45.00, calculating they would weigh 1,000 pounds but when I killed them they went 40 pounds over. The pigs weighed 215, 203, and 215, the old sow weighed 407. I killed the other two pigs two weeks sooner for my own use. They weighed 191 and 197. I fed as near a hundred bushel ears of corn as I could get at it, the most of it poor corn. I kept them together until they got so fat. I killed the whole bunch. I am sorry to say I am out of the breed.

You wanted to know about apples. I guess if you had come right back and bought, you would of made money. I picked my apples and kept them about four weeks and sold them for 50 cents a barrel, except the red winters, them I got 75 cents a barrel. In less than two weeks they was more than double. I picked my apples in season but it took me till the 13th of Dec. to husk my corn I had on that acre lot; over

four hundred bushels of ears. As handsome corn as I ever see.

I sold my sheep this fall for \$3.12% a head. I have paid for my buggy and harness this fall and a good many other debts and got lots of money left.

Caroline Smith and Ham Vanetta is married. Ida Howe(?) died very sudden four weeks ago.

I have traded my old mare and yearling colt for a seven year old mare.

Tell the children that Aunt Louisa and Uncle Ed is waiting impatient to see them pictures.

Don't take pattern by me but write soon. My head aches and I must bid you good night for this time.

I received a letter the other day from George and Elizabeth which I will answer soon.

Write as soon as you get this and oblige your Uncle & Aunt.

To Amori B. Cook & Amina L. Cook, from E. A. Simmons & L. L. Simmons.

Newport News, Virginia, February the 27th, 1863

Mr. Cook Sir,

This is the third time I have wrote to you. The first letter that I wrote I didn't send because I didn't have any postage stamps and the next one I neglected to put in the office for three or four days and then I didn't Send it at all. If I have no bad luck I will put this in the office. I commenced a letter last night and couldn't think of anything to write and can't think of much to write now.

I left Detroit the twenty second of January and got to Washington the 26th, fifteen minutes before noon. I got to the Regiment the 26th of January. The Regiment was in camp three miles from Fredricksburgh. We left there the thirteenth of February and got here the 15th. We came down the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay to Fortress Monroe. We are eight miles from Fortress Monroe. I was down there four days ago. I asked the price of oranges; they are five dollars per hundred. When I was in Washington they were two cents a piece. If you want me to send you some I will send them soon as we get where I can get them cheap, if you will send me the money to buy them for I haven't the money except what I borrowed of one of the boys. If you haven't the money now write to me and tell me how many you want and I will send them as soon as I get the money. I think I can get them for two and one half dollars a hundred. There is some talk about our leaving here before long. It is very pleasant here, we haven't had any snow but once this month and it didn't last only two days. It rained last night but it is warm now.

I wrote to Mr. McLouth's folks and haven't had any answer yet.

When you write tell me how Mr. Freeman is. I started to go and see him the morning that I left and got as far as Mr. McLouth's barn and I concluded to wait till I got the chores done and then I didn't go at all. It seemed to take forever to do nothing that morning.

Everything is very dear here, apples are from six to seven dollars per barrel; butter, fifty cents a pound; cheese forty cents and other things in proportion. I got

some writing paper at Fortress Monroe at three dollars and ten cents a ream and that is very dear but when I get some money I will send to New York and get it for two dollars and a half.

No more at present. Give my best respects to all enquiring friends.

Excuse poor writing and spelling.

This from Daniel Dillabaugh to A. B. Cook

Riley, Clinton Co., Michigan

Direct to Daniel Dillabaugh

Co. B, 8th Michigan Vol., Via Washington D. C.

Lima, March the 16, 1863

A few lines to Mr. and Mrs. Cook,

I must say that I am disapointed in not seeing both of you at Lima last month. I am still looking for you, shall I be disappointed? Or, will you come soon.

I have often thought of you since your Father's death. I little thought the old gentleman would leave you so soon when I left there. I hope your loss is his gain. So it tis we all must die.

The letter from Durand brought the sad news of Sovira's death. She was buried the 20th of January. She left a little son two days old. Nett said Mary was there to take care of the baby. He said the rest of the friends were well.

I have spent six weeks very pleasantly in visiting my old neighbors. Many enquired after the Major and his wife, many manifesting a desire to see them.

I have received two letters and seven papers. Please don't send any more to Lima, take them from the office and keep them until I come.

I have received three letters, Brother Rapeyus' letter brought the news of the death of his last daughter. Brother's health is quite poor, he is afflicted with a bad cough. I fear it will end in consumption. I will hope for the best.

I calculated to return to your house the last of this month if I am permitted to.

All's well, yours truly, Excuse all mistakes,

A. Lyon

Salem, Aug. 30th, '63

Dear Friends,

I suppose you are waiting to hear from us and I can't conscientiously get rid of writing much longer. I calculated to write as soon as I got home but I had the rhumatics in the neck so bad about that time I put off writing, and it has been lame more or less ever since. Then I thought of going to Coldwater and thought I would wait till I got back but we have given up going for the present, so I thought I would write a few lines to let you know how we got home.

We took dinner at Williamston the day we started and waited 3½ hours for rain and then started. Drove to Monroe's and got there at sun down. The next day we took dinner at Martin Bently's then came home. Found everything all right.

I am plowing hard every day. I think of sowing 16½ acres of wheat and I lack about 4 acres of having it plowed. I want to get it in within two weeks and could, but the horse that was at home when we was out to your place has got an awful sore breast. The one I drove out to your house got well and all right.

I got a letter from John the other day. They are coming out after seeding, now if you all could come out while they was here we would have an old time.

He writes that he thrashed 335 bushels of wheat from 12 acres, but my lot east of the house that Myron sowed beat him a little. It went 31 bushels to the acre. All the wheat I sow this year is on stuble ground, I don't expect to get much.

Our folks here all enjoy good health, except Lucretia ain't very well. George and Mary Lane has been here on a visit. They went from here a week ago. And day before yesterday they went for Alonzo's to go out and doctor him, they thought he had the typhoid fever.

After we came home from your house we had the worst drouth we ever had but there has a great deal of rain fell this month. Our corn slept mighty cold last night, the ground was as white here this morning as winter.

Now all come out and make us a visit and we will pay as many as you make.

Write soon as you get tis and oblige old Simmons-E A.

This letter to one and all. Louisa is making cheese, she has made six.

St. Charles, Saginaw Co., Michigan, November 24th, 1863

Mr. Cook Sir,

I now take the oppertunity to scribble a few lines to you to let you know that I am alive and well and I hope this will find you all the same.

I haven't heard from Riley since I left there.

I haven't done much work yet, I hav worked 16 days and a half for thirteen dollars. I am now doing chores at a public house and if I suit the man and like the place he wants me all winter. He will give twelve dollars a month. Lumbermen are paying from 18 to 22 dollars a month to work in the pine woods.

I have seen Bill Harris twice. I went to where he was at working last Tuesday. He is four miles below Saginaw City and 20 miles from here. I went down on the boat and came back on it. I don't know when I will be back to Riley but I don't think I will be back in time to do your chores while you go to wheelers but you can get someone else and I will pay you the 50 cents.

I got a letter from Joe Tucker and he said I was drafted but they did not keep my name.

When you write, tell me the news. No more at present.

From Daniel Dillabaugh.

St. Charles, Saginaw Co., Michigan

Well Friend A. C.,

I now take my pen in hand to write a few lines to let you know that I am in the land of the living yet. I have been verry sick with the erysepellis. I have been here in this hospital 2 weeks, I have bin vary sick a part of the time that I have bin hear. There has bin some of the time that I did know know anything what was about but my health is improvong vary fast at present.

I hope this few lines will find you and all of your family well. I have waited all of this time for you to write a letter to me but I have not received no letter from you nor heard anything from you so I thought I would write a few lines to you. If you receive this I hope you will write me so that I may know that you are all in the land of the living yet.

I now must write a few lines to let you know what my business has bin since I stopped recruiting. Last fall while the Regiment was at Grand Rapids I was hospital attendant. I was the same after I came to this state all the time the Regiment was at Lexington. After the Regiment came to this camp the Doctors could not get any hospital tents so they could not have an Regimental Hospital. I then went in my company a few days, then one of the head surgeons sent for me to come to his office. I went and saw him, he said he wanted me to be his orderly; well that was my business. Then

I was taken sick, that was a very good place to be. When I got back to my regiment, my company had left this camp and gone to a place called Knoxville in Tennessee. The Regiment headquarters had orders to march the other day but the order was countermanded. There are four of the companies gone, I don't know where they have gone to.

Well, Amori, I will write a few lines on some other subject. First, I will write a few lines to let you know what kind of place this General Hospital is. Some of the wards are made of lumber and some of tents. It is very cold weather here this winter. We all suffer much on account of the want of wood to build fires and for the want of eatables. There has been some of the men froze to death in this place.

I now will tell you what we sick men have to eat. Those that air very sick have some chicken soup and some oyster Soup, not much of that. Those that air on half get some mutton soup and some of the time some get some corn bread and sometime bard bread, once in a while a piece of soft bread, some time one thing and other times something else and not much of anything.

Well, I will not write much more this time. I suppose you will think I am crazy and can not tell what I mean by the way I have wrote. You will have to excuse all of my mistakes in bad writing and spelling. I am very wobbly and my mind is on everything but writing.

I will write a few more lines and you will have to do the best you can in reading it. What you cannot spell out you must guess at and let it go. There are quite a number of Rebels hear in this camp, it is permitted that they go to the table with the men in order to eat. I have not seen any of them yet as I have not bin able to go to the table to eat.

Well, you will have to write,

Salem, Feb. 10, 1864

As I sit down to pen a few lines to a friend far in the distant west to tell you of the arrival of my folks. They got home with the buggy and they was all well but very tired. We are all well at present.

I was up to Adeline's yesterday and they was well. Aunt Louisa is sick with a fever. Aunt Lillis has a bad cold, she cannot speak a loud word. The rest of the folks are well far as I know.

Tell Aunt Lovina that the bunny was very gentle. Monday, Mr. Marion Knapp's horses ran away with him. Ran through a fence twice, knocked over barnway endways and went around the house out to the well and stopped. The buggy stood by the corn crib. They knocked that gaily-west, broke the dashboard and both of the seats and turned it top down.

Father has taken 50 bushels of apples away. He and mother are going to Ann Arbor tomorrow.

I cannot think of any more to write.

This from a friend,

Miss Caroline Simmons

Give my love to all who may enquire, Uncle, Aunt, yours very truly to Mrs. Amina L. Cook.

This from your Uncle to Emory (Amori) Cook.

Wee all got home well, found all the folks well. I send you the receipt in this that I promised.

I will write you soon and send you another of equal value for doctoring cattle.

Write when convenient.

Ephram Simmons

Feb. 21, 1864; Memphis Fort, Pickering, Tennessee

Dear Friend,

According to your request, I take this opportunity to let you know that I am still in the lands of the living yet, hoping these few lines will find you all the same, although I have nothing much to tell you this time for I have not been out but on one raid yet. But, we had a good time Of it. We captured five rebels and two of them was captains and one other officer. we brought them back with us all right. We are in our tents now, the fort is getting filled bout as full as it can bee. When we first came here we had nothing to dew but now we stand guard while the nigers is to work throwing

up embankments to put sum of our little guns on, so we can shell the city if we want to.

There is rebbls in the city; there was hay and oats set on fire last night. It was estimated at fifty thousand. It was a good fire and was supposed to have been set by some rebels but nobody can tell. All I can tell you is that we get enough to eat and that is good too, what more can anybody ask for. If I get as much all the time I shan't grumble at father Abraham.

I & Elmer got left on the way at Cario and we had to eat of our own but we didn't starve for there was enough on board. We maid up our mind that we wouldn't starve so we would confiscate what we wanted to eat all the way down the great Mississippi ditch. It took two days.

No more at this time, for if you can read this you can dew better than I can.

From E. D. Fulmer to A. B. Cook

Please direct to Mich. 3rd Calv. A. B.

Riley, March the 13, 1864

Dear Cousin Riley,

I thought I would write a few lines to ket you know that I am well and hope you are the same. I would like to see you and Uncle George and Aunt Sarah and I wish you was all here to eat warm sugar when we get to making but as cannot be here we will try and send you some.

Viola has the ague every three days but Ida is well. Father and Mother is well and Aunt Abigail and Uncle Phinias is well. But as Uncle Phinias was getting up onto the hay stack he fell and hurt his side so that it is Very lame but I hope he will be better in a few days.

Grandpa and Grandma is well. Cannot think of anything more to write this time.

Answer as soon as you get this.

George R. Cook from his cousin,
Emiline E. Cook

Ida and Viola join me in sending love to you.

Whiteside, Tenn., April the 25, '64
Battery I, 1st Michigan Arty.

Dear friend Cook,

I received your letter some time ago but could not rite until now. I had a fitting on my right hand and on the fore finger.

I don't know if I can give you any news. We have had marching ordrs but I can't tell when we shall leave. It is rumored that this Corps is detailed for to guard this R. Road and if that is the case we shall stay here some time yet. As a general thing the new recruits is hard, the most of them but there is some of them that is getting better now. Wm. Ingram has been hard up but he has reported for duty now.

You spoke of some deaths there. It is someting strange that there is so many dying there. James Pike they say is dead. Now Amori, you see that death is calling at every dore. O, if they were prepared to die. It is better for them but it is hard to part with a friend or relatives that we so dearly loved. Perhaps it will come our turn next, we don't know. It seems that it is very sickly all over the state. There is letters comes to this Battery from all parts of the state and they say the same thing.

A.B. it almost makes me homesick to listen to the sweeter songs of the birds. The woods is green, some of the leaves is most there. The spring is very backwards here, they say it has not been so backward in 30 years as it is this year.

You can get more news there than I can here at the present but it will be better.

You spoke of shugar, I wish I could be there a short time. I think I could enjoy myself very well.

It rained last night and is raining today and the sun is shining. It is a great country for rain. Yesterday was very warm.

I can't think of much to write at the present time. Write and give the news of the times.

I don't know as you can read this as li can hardly hold the pen in my fingers but it is getting better.

From Jonathan Miller to Amori Cook

Forget me not, forget me never,
Till yonder sun has set forever.

Monday, May the 10, 1864

Amori B. Cook, Dear Sir,

I received your kind letter that was brought to me and I was glad to hear that you had got that letter that I sent to you and to hear that you was all well. I am glad that you haven't forgot me yet for I can't forget you.

It is a little time since you last wrote me. You agreed that you would rite to me if I wood to you. I will write to you as often as you rite to me.

I am as well as usual and I hope that these few lines will find you all well and dewing well and looking for the boys, yet you feel that you would like to come and take dinner with me, I wish that you could. I would give you the best that I had Amori.

Give my love to the folks and tell them to rite a line to me in your letter. We are somewhere in Georgia, don't know hardly where. Direct your letters to Knoxville, East Tennessee, Twenty Third Regiment. Write as soon as you get this. I remain your true friend and will write to you.

Otis Reed to Amori B. Cook

Salem, August the 1, 1864

Cousin,

Your letter was received in due time and as it is raining I will answer and let you no that we are all well at present.

Adeline was home yesterday. Ursula is working there for her through the warm weather and busy time of work.

Uncle and Aunt are well. There girl is not living with them now. She is working at Northville.

There has been a man after me today to go and work. He said he would give me 18 shillings per week but I am the only boy pa has got and he said he could not spair me. I have worked through the harvest the same as the men. we have 6 acres of oats and pa says that I hay got to bind them. Corn is very good hear and there is a great deal of it. Oats are very stout and there is an abundant crop of them.

Fruit is very scarce in Salem. We have a good many apples and that is all.

Wal, Uncle Ed has just been along hear and I hay had a fine talk with him and red your letter to him. He laughed just as hard as he could when I come to the "Daughters-daughters". He said tell Uncle that he got his wheat all stacked last Thursday, he has 3 nice stacks, Aunt Lilas has 1.

Alice said I must tell you how much wheat we have got. Pa says if we are saving there will be enough for a loaf of bread and a couple of biscuits.

Tell Ella to take care of them babies for when I come out there I shall want to play with them. I like babies when they can play.

As I cannot think of anything more I will close. I would like to hear from you all and will answer. George, my love to you all. Write as soon as you get this.

From your cousin,

Carry Simmons

Please direct to Summit P. O., Washtenaw Co.
Do not put on Salem.

Camp near Middleton, Va., Sunday evening, November 6th, 1864

Amori Cook Sir,

I received your letter last month (the 13th day) and was glad to hear that you were all well.

You must excuse me for being so negligent about answering your letter because I have been rather hard up for writing materials. I was taken prisoner the 28th of September and the Rebels took my paper from me. I was prisoner four days and got away; came pretty near getting to Richmond. I got back to the Regt. the third of October.

We have had some fighting last month but I presume you have had an account of it ere this and so I will not attempt to describe it. Our Regt. and the 1st N.Y. Cavalry went out to reconoitier yesterday, and went 22 miles to a place called Eddenburo. The N.Y. Regt. fired a few shots at them. I looked acrost the other side of the river and saw a few rebels but they were about one mile from our Regt. We got back to camp alright.

I don't know how lang we will be here (perhaps all winter). There has been some wet weather last week but it is quite pleasant today. The nights are rather cold.

I have not been paid yet, I have nine months pay due me. I have just got ten cents to last me till I get pay, which will be about next January. The Regt. got pay about a week ago. I would of got mine but my descriptive list was not sent here from Mich. till a few days ago.

I got a letter from John Brooks a few days ago, he was at Philadelphia in the hospital, he was well.

I don't know as I can think of anything more to offer this time. If you succeed in reading this you will do well, it is so dark that I cannot read it.

This from Daniel Dillabaugh to A.B. Cook

Direct to Co. C, 5th Mich. Cay.

Addressed to Mr. George Cook & Lady
Father Abraham's Jubilee
Yourself and Lady are respectfully invited to attend Father Abraham Jubilee
At Congress Hall
Avon Springs

On Friday evening, Nov. 18th, 1864.

Committee

E. H. Davis
Homer Sackett

L. Bryant
Geo. W. Swan

C. H. Marsh
S. E. W. Johnson

Managers

E. H. Davis

Homer Sackett

Comm. for Carrages

Geo. Miller

J. H. Jones

Music by Master's Band
Tickets, three dollars

Camp, 5th Michigan Cavl., Sat., Dec. 31, '64

Mr. Cook Sir,

I now take this opportunity to describe a few lines to you in reply to your letter which I received the 18th. It found me well and I hope this finds you and your folks all the same.

You must excuse me for not writing ere this because we started on a raid the next morning and was gone ten days. We got back last Wednesday night and since that time I have been very busy till the present time.

I am on picket, expect to stay two days.

The weather is not very cold, it has been snowing some and there is prospects of its getting colder before tomorrow.

We had a very good time on our raid except the first six days it was very cold and froze up solid but before we got back to camp it was muddy enough. We are in our old camp yet but expect to move back nearer to Harper's Ferry in a few days.

You wanted to know how I got away from the rebels, I will tell you. In the first place I had a confederate hat and then one of them exchanged coats with me because mine was the best and then they gave us over to the provost guard of Major General Pershaw's Division, there were six others besides myself. They were taking us to the Wanesboro Depot to send us to Richmond, it was very dark and the head of the column were going inyo camp for night and of course they gave us a chance to rest for a few minutes and I laid down on the ground. When they said attention I got up before the rest did and went by the guard post and wagon and over the fence. The guard thought I was one of their men and when I got in the woods I was not contented and so I thought I would come back and confiscate a horse if I could. I staid in their ranks about one hour but couldn't get anything but some rations. Then I got in the woods and staid until morning and then I tried to get to our lines which were at Staunton but I found so many rebels between me and there that I was afraid they would arrest me for a deserter so I staid in the woods until night and then I tried to get through but lost the way. Before li got to our lines they fell back down the vally and the rebels followed them. The fourth day I fell in with the rebels and marched all day with them. At night they halted two miles from our camp but I did not know where the pickets were and dare not try and get past them in the night. So, I stopped in a

schoolhouse till most morning and then went in the woods again with the intention of covering a blank movement on the pickets and when I came down the road again where they said the Yankee pickets were but they were not there so I crost the road and was going through a field and heard someone say halt but I did not care for that and then they shot three times. I heard the 3rd ball and then I stopped a few minutes and then they shot again and then I went back part way and could not see anyone and halted the third time when another ball came along and then went back until I got in the woods and went another way until I got to our pickets. They then took me to headquarters and kept me under guard until they were satisfied that I was not a Confederate Soldier and then let me go where I was a mind to.

When I was with the Rebs. one of them asked me what Regt. I belonged to and I told him the 6th Va. Cay. Dismounted. He asked me what Co. and I told him Co. E and then he wanted to know where I was from, I told him Franklin County near Franklin Court House.

I don't think they will ever get me again but if they do I believe I will stay contented until exchanged.

I can't think of any more this time to offer. Please excuse all mistakes and poor writing, I have a poor pen.

This from Dan Dillabaugh Co. C. 5th Mich.
to A. B. Cook

Tell G.R. Simmons that he never answered my letter that I sent him long ago. I haven't been paid yet, I have eleven months due. Don't know why they don't get it.

Tune- Wait for the Wagon

I conclude of the darkies
We soon shall have our fill
Since Abe's proclamation
And the bigger Army bill
Who would not be a soldier
For the Union to fight
Since Abe has made the Nigger
Equal to the white.

Each soldier must be loyal
His officer obey
Though he lives on mouldy buscuits
And fights without his pay
If his wife at home is starving
He must be content
To wait six months for Greenbacks
At forty five per cent

(Repeat Chorus)

Chorus
Fight for the Nigger
The sweet scented Nigger
The wool headed Nigger
And the abolition crew

Moreover if your drafted
Do not refuse to go
Four equal to a Nigger
And can make as good a show
And when your in battle
To the Union be true
But don't forget the Nigger
Is as good a man as you.

(Repeat Chorus)

When ordered into battle
Go in without delay
Though slaughtered just like cattle
Tis your duty to obey
And when Jeff is captured
Perhaps payed of you will be
If not don't mind the money
But set the Nigger free.

(Repeat Chorus)

Three cheers for honest Abe
He'll make a good man yet
Though he has loaded us with taxes
And burdened us with debt
He often tells us little jokes
While pocketing our pelf (pay?)
At last he has made the Nigger
Equal to himself

(Repaeat Chorus)

Guard well the Constitution
The Government and Laws
To every act of Congress
Don't forget to give applause
And when you meet the rebels
Be shure and drive them back
Though you enslave the white man
Liberate the black

(Repeat Chorus)

March 30th, 1865

Dear Cousin,

I now take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well and hope you are the same. Our folks are well. Uncle Phinias' folks are all well at present.

I sent a couple of little sugar cakes one for you and one for Aunt Sarah. Ida sent two little sugar cake, one for you and one for Uncle George. Viola sent one little cake for you.

I can't think of anymore to write.

Answer soon.

Goodbye,

Estella Cook to Riley Cook

Ida and Ola send love to you all.

Uncle Simmons have got a pair of twin girls most a year old.

Salem, Jan. the 15, '68

Friend Cook,

I went over last Saturday and saw Mr. Murray and Mr. Cook about that business of yours and gave them the minutes of the mortgage and they said they would get it discharged this week and bring it over here. I didn't pay Mr. Murray the interest but told him that I would pay him when they got the mortgage discharged as soon as I get it I will send it to you.

No more at present.

B. S. Knapp

P. S. We got home all right and the folks are all well. Tell the girls that I will send those verses next time.

North Bend, Nebraska, February 23rd, 1868

Amori,

I now take the privilege of writing you a few lines. Although you have appeared to be on the shady side of friendship the last few times I saw you - Although I don't know for what cause. At any rate I will write and if you want to answer all right- and if not- I suppose it is all right.

I left DeWitt the 6th of November and since that time I have had 2 letters from there and one from So. Riley that I got last night.

I am 6½ miles west of Omaha on Union Pacific Railroad. I got here 27 of December and since that time we have had one snow storm which come on 13 of January about 6 inches deep, it has all been gone some time. It has froze very hard ice in Platte River, 18 inches thick but it had most all went out last week (this being Sunday).

There has been lots of spring wheat sowed last week, the ground is very dry and no rain till last night. It is very windy tonight and has been all day but warm enough to do without a fire. My brother is working at shoemaking. I ain't doing much of anything. We rent a room and board ourselves. Some things is very dear and some not. Wood is \$6.75 per cord, potatoes \$2.00 per bushel, flour, spring wheat \$5.50 per hundred.

I hav earned 40 dollars since I have been here for chopping wood. I got 50¢ per day and board. I worked 5 days on the R.R. at \$2.00, board myself.

If it keeps warm I think I will go out to the end of the road, 450 miles from here and from there to the Sweetwater Mines 250 mi. west from the end of the road. They are mines found last summer.

No more at present. This from Dan Dillabaugh

North Bend, Nebraska

Hamilton City, May 28th, 1870

Friend Amori,

I rec'd your letter about one month ago, was glad to hear from you.

I left Cheyenne the 10th of April and got here the 27th. I haven't been doing much since. I have got an interest in a claim here and will probably go to work Monday for wages which is four dollars a day. I can board for 1 dollar a day or board myself for less. The weather is quite pleasant at present but cool tonight and there will be a frost.

You said something about a woman and courting. I don't know where you can find me one to suit you better than Michigan but Nebraska suits me better although I will leave for California as soon as I can make 2 or 3 hundred dollars which will be in 2 or 3 months if I have my health. I think California would suit you for it is the best place I ever was in. It will cost me about 75 dollars from here to San Francisco.

Things are about half as dear here as they were 1½ years ago.

I haven't any news to write and my tooth aches so I can't half write. Please excuse all mistakes and poor writing.

Give my respects to all enquiring friends if there is any.

This from Dan Dillabaugh, Hamilton City, Wyom.

to A. B. Cook, DeWitt, Mich.

DeWitt Lodge

No. 241 I.O.O.F.

Public Installation and Festival
At DeWitt, Thursday Evening, January 5th, 1875
Address by Rev. Mr. Dawson of Ovid, Michigan

Grand Ball under supervision of the Order To which you and your lady are cordially invited, will take place immediately after the installation ceremonies

At the Clinton House

Committee on Invitation	C.G. Parr	H.S. Averill
Committee of Reception	DeWitt Brinkerhoff B.E. Downer	C.A. Sloan
Committee of Arrangements	R.S. Wright O. Brinkerhoff	Spencer Norris
Room Managers	J.H. Ingalls St. Johns	Wm. Appleton Lansing
		L.E. Worden DeWitt
Bill \$2.00	Good Music in Attendance	

(On Back-handwritten)

Misses Van Fleet and Cook:

Can I have the honor of your company to attend this ball? I shall feel highly honored with your company.

E

Hemlock Lake, June 24th, 1875

Dear Brother,

I received your letter of the 18th of May the 20th was glad to hear that you all arrived home safe and well and found your families all well.

I have neglected writing to you hoping to have something to write about or something new to tell you, but have nothing that will be interesting, excepting that we are well which is good so far.

I am sixty years old today, feel first rate except it is a little too warm for comfort, we have been repairing our house a little. Moved the partition so that what was the kitchen and stoop is now one room. Built new stair outside, painted and papered a little so that it is quite comfortable.

The Balls house at Conesus Lake opened the 9th of this month with a boat race. The Livingston Republican estimated the crowd of people at five thousand. Our old Band was there and done the best we could towards making music.

The Rochester Water Company have four or five hundred men at work six or eight miles north of here. I suppose there will be a company at work on this end of the route before long.

The prospect for wheat in this section is very poor, how is it with you? Spring crops are fair, also plenty of potatoe bugs. My grape vines on the north side of the house, a good share of them are dead. Those on the south side are looking well. My garden is rather late though it looks very well.

My wood is all piled in the wood house, except the apple tree limbs that you sawed. Those remain where we left them. I shall leave it there then I can see it just as you and I left it.

Amori, how thankful I am that you come and made us a good visit, how well I enjoyed it.

I was glad to hear that Phinias felt better than he did when you left here. I guess the journey done him good, hope he will try it again and bring Abigail with him.

Abby, write the old gent a line and tell him what time this summer or fall he can look for you to make us a visit.

Please write to us, all of you, as often as you can make it convenient.

Sarah joins with me in sending love and good will.

Geo. H. Cook

Alma, June 9th, 1877

Dear Ola,

Well, school was out one week ago yesterday and we celebrated by going down the river and having a splendid time. We came very near upsetting ourselves two or three times but as long as it didn't quite go over we were all right and enjoyed ourselves just the same.

Last Saturday Mr. Vought and Mr. Cole was here and last Tuesday Mr. Berdell and Mr. Hunt were here. So you see we hear all of the Riley news. Mr. Vought told us about the social at Mr. Park's. I am afraid if I had been there I would have had so many five cent pieces when I went away as when I came for I am sure I couldn't have kept still.

Have Mr. and Mrs. Dills gone to keeping house yet? Is any body dead or married or has any man parted from his wife? You know we used to hear of such cases every few days.

I must not forget to tell you about our little colt, it is a week old today. Of course we had to give it some big name so we named it Prince Charlie. I think it must be a good Baptist being baptized last winter in the well. We all claim it, of course.

Yesterday we went out in the woods and got some winter green and strawberries but got more mosquito bites than we did of either.

I guess I have exhausted my small stock of news so I will stop after asking you to write soon to your friend and school mate.

Ada

Lander, Wyoming, Dec. 9, 1877

Fried Amori,

I now take the liberty to write a few lines to you although I do not know whether you will get it or not.

I am still living at Miner's Delight although I am thirty miles from there now in the Wind River valley.

The weather is quite cold but clear with about 2 inches of snow. I am going to help a man thrash tomorrow. I work at mining in the winter and play winters as a general thing. I go hunting occasionally. There is lots of deer, elk, antelope, mountain sheep and buffalo from five to one hundred miles of here with some hostile Indians. I have got a good gun for them.

I have made some money consequently, did not have anyone to save it for me, although I have got a horse team, new wagons & harness, new sewing machine and several other articles too numerous to mention. All I want now is a house keeper but I don't expect to get one here. I sometimes think I would like to come back to Michigan on a visit but don't think I could be content to live there; in fact, I think I will come next fall if I keep my health.

I hear from McLouth's folks about once a year or more. I got a letter from Willis McLouth a few days ago. He told me that Jane Shaw was dead, which was the first I knew of it. I have not heard from any person in Riley for about four years or more.

Now if you get this write and tell me all the news about everybody. Give my respects to Amina.

Yours, Dan Dillabaugh
to A. B. Cook, DeWitt, Michigan
To Mr. Charles Eversale, Murray, Wells Co., Ind.

Gerard Station, Erie Co., Pa.
Feb. 20, 1878

I am well acquainted with William Randall and Henry Gates. They are, I believe, young men of good habits, temperate, sturdy, honest and industrious. They have long resided in this vicinity and I have often heard them spoken of as good workers.

J. C. Wheeler
Justice of the Peace

To William Randall, DeWitt, Clinton Co., Mich.

Cherry Hill, Mar. 23, 1880

Dear Willie,

I will try once more to write a few lines to you to let you know I have not forgotten you. We are all well, I hope this will find you the same. I don't no of any news to tell. I suppose you have heard that Rose and Floyd were married. Milo and Hat, Floyd and Rose were here the other night and staid all night. We had a good visit. Peter says he don't no if he can get the money for you now or not till he looks around a little. If he gets he will let you know. You talk about mud out there, you ought to bee here once and see the ground, mud aint no name for it. We have not had three days good sleighing this winter. It has been rain and snow all the time and a very warm winter at that. If the roads ever get so we can go anywhere I will go to town and have some pictures taken then I will send you one. You talk about all your lifetime. That sounds as if you was married or going to bee. Now if it is the case I think you might tell me so and send me your girls picture. I think if you can get a good girl it would be the best thing you could do. This working for somebody else all the while is a pretty hard way to live. Frank's folks have got a little boy baby. You said if I had your picture that you had taken before you went away you would like to

have it. I have not got it. Did not no you ever had any taken.

Now I can't think of anything to write, only to tell you I would like to see you but I am afraid I never shall. I feel so lonesome I can hardly stand it. Goodby, write to me often for it does me good to hear from you.

Mother

To William Randall, DeWitt, Clinton Co., Mich,
(Postmark June 29, 1880)

Cherry Hill, May the 21

Dear Willie,

I take this opportunity to have a little paper talk with you. No, I have not forgotten you. I can't say that I am well but I am better than I was a while ago. I hope this will find you and yours well. I have had another attack of the rheumatism, was pretty bad a while. The rest of our folks are well as far as I no. We are having very dry weather here. Nothing can grow until it rains. We have had our corn planted too weeks, it aint up yet.

Now, about my picture, I went to town the other day on purpose to get some pictures but I had bad luck. There is too artists in town but one of them was sick and the other one had gone a fishing so I couldn't get any that day but I will try again before long.

Now answer this soon.

Mother to Willie

(Demaris Randall)

Cherry Hill the 21 Aug.

Well Willie I have been waiting a long time for a letter from you but have not got any so I thought I would write a few lines to you again and let you no I have not forgotten you, if you have me. I am well and hope this will find you the same. Now I want you to write and tell me when you and Ida are coming out so I won't be thinking maby they will come this week all the time and get fooled all the time.

I have got my picture at last and will send it to you in this letter. Write soon and let me no if you get it all right.

Mother to Willie

Mrs. Viola Pike, DeWitt, Clinton Co., Mich

No. 23rd, 1880
Hemlock Lake

Good morning

Mrs. Viola Pike

here is a few lines from your father, just read if you like. He left his home in Michigan of late, and went to visit Olde York State. The object that he had in view, was to visit Brother and Sister too. I might as well own up to that corn. I wanted to see the place where I was born. As I visited the place my thoughts, went back to days of yore. I thought I saw the little chap, a playing around the door. I thought I saw among the rest, teh little chap with striped vest. The next I saw the little fool, he was going up the road to school. His basket full of books and grub, to let the teacher know his name was Bub.

No more at present. George and Aunt Sarah send their love and good wishes to you all.

When this you see remember me.

A. B. Cook

To boys and girls, one and all.

Nov. 23rd, 1880

Dear Children at Home

thes few lines to let you know I am here yet and well we received your letters last night. Was so glad to hear that you was all well. Began to think we wasn't a going to hear from you again. Aunt Sarah's Sisters are a coming here today and I must go out and help her pick the chickens. I will tell the rest when I get home as Tomie says the first you know we will be there.

Good day,

from Ma

Her love to Boys and Girls. Nice winter wether here now.

(F. H.- William & Ida left for Penn., Jan. 26 or 27, 1881)

To William Randall, Miles Grove, Erie Co., Pa.

Feb. 3, 1881

Dear Children,

We received your welcome letter last night. Glad to hear from you, I can't tell you and hear that you got there all right and was enjoying yourselves so much. Ida, you musent think of getting homesick and your visit will do you good. Mr. and Mrs. Chapin was here last night and this afternoon. Stella was taken sick last night with the sore throat, had the Dockter this afternoon. He said it wasn't as bad as yours was so I guess she will be all right in a few days. Ola came over today. Her throat is some sore. She got some medicine so I guess she will be all right. They sit up part of the time and lay down part of the time. They don't feel like writing today but will in a few days. You wanted to know what time we got home from Lansing that day, about 2 o'clock. Stopped at DeWitt a little while to see Lillie, she is getting better. Dockter's folks has got a little boy born last Satterday. It weighed eight pounds.

Well I have just been dopping the girls with kerosene and pork and now I will write a few lines more. The rest of us are all well. Scot says tell Ida he has just took one of them powders. Pa is busy thawing out the pump. He says give you both his love and glad your having a good time. He will write next time. Well Will, I suppose you have seen your mother before this time. I guess she was glad to see her boy.

Aunt Abby was here last night when we got your letter. I comenced my letter on the wrong side of this sheet but I guess you can pick it out. I can't think of much more this time. Excuse poor spelling and writing. From Mother to her Dear Children. Write as soon as you get this.

Lay aside all worry and care
And have a good time while you are there.

Good night your Mother is all right. They all join me in sending love and best wishes to you, Ida and Will.

Feb. 4th, 1881

Goodmorning Ida and Will,

You are well I suppose and having the best of times. I feel better this morning and thought I would scribble a few lines, we had lots of snow since you went away and one awful cold day last Tuesday. Yesterday was pleasant and today not very cold. We did not go to the Grange, it snowed as usual. Stell hasn't got up yet, she is eating her breakfast. She is better. A pack peddler stayed here over night and he is just going.

I haven't been home since yesterday morning. Think I shall go sometime

today.

Ida, I have my new dress all done but the buttons. Scott says to tell you he is all right.

I guess this will do for this time so goodby, write soon.

from Viola H. Cook Pike

To Mrs. W. B. Randall, Miles Grove, Erie Co., Pa.

Monday, Feb. 14th, 1881

Dear Sister and Brother,

It seems a long time since we saw you or heard from you. We thought sure we'd get a letter Saturday night. Ma and Ola wrote you a week ago last Thursday. I wasn't able to write then and since I have been waiting to hear from you again but begin to think we weren't going too. We were afraid one or both of you were sick. We thought Will, that you had the Diptheria as the rest of us have all had a touch of it. Aunt Abby with the rest, I had it the hardest but am all right again. Jerome's throat was cankered quite a good deal but he was not sick abed. Pa was quite sick one afternoon and evening but they are both well enough now so they have gone to work today.

Ma has gone up to see Ola and help Aunt Abby.

Ola thought she had got well so went home and washed last Wednesday, took a little cold & in the night she woke up and the clothes were all of of her and she was chilled through. Scott's throat was sore and she got up to wait upon him, caught more cold and has been sick again. She went over to Aunt Abby's Friday afternoon, her head & side of her face began to pain her and commenced swelling, the Dr. was passing, Scott called him in, he said her cold had settled there, but the next morning her throat was so sore Scott had to go for the Dr. quite early. He came that day and yesterday but is not coming again. I was up there early this morning, she said she was going to get up & dress today so I think she will get along all right.

The next night after you went away Ma and Pa went to the Grange, went home with Mr. and Mrs. Chapin. We expected them home Sunday night but they failed to put in an appearance and Monday it snowed all night & Monday night the wind blew and drifted the snow so that between the house and road the snow was up to your waiste & they stpoosed over another day. But the next day, Wednes, I had got nearly through washing I looked out and saw Mr. and Mrs. Chapin driving up to the house with them & they staid all night with us that night and the next day I had the Dr. so they will have to keep watch for the Diptheria. Ma has just come. She says Ola is up and dresses.

I commenced telling about the weather, I will finish. Last Monday it commenced raining about 3 o'clock, rained all night and nearly all day Tuesday & Tuesday night thawed the snow all off but left the ice in the road. Friday night it

rained, froze, & turned to snow so now we have better sleighing than it was before because the snow isn't so deep. It is splendid today, the sun shines.

Grandpa and Grandma (Simmons) had their Golden Wedding a week ago yesterday. Aunt Lib and Uncle GeOrge, Millard & Ella, Hiram and Carrie are all that were there. Uncle George gave them a \$5.00 gold piece. That was all the presents. I haven't been down there since I went after your gargle nearly four weeks ago. Carrie has gone to Plymouth, her sister is quite sick.

The Grangers & their families have a Dance and Oyster supper the 22nd at the hall.

Well, Mr. Schlee hasn't called for the apples yet.

Ida, I haven't been to Lansing nor don't see any sign of going either.

Jennie, Silas & Carrie move this week.

Ma says tell you she will write in a few days.

Well this is a sort of a mixed up mess. If you can find head and date to it maybe it will sound very well but it sounds flat to me. Hoping this finds you both well & enjoying yourselves.

I will close. We all join in sending love to you. Write as soon as you get this. Goodbye.

From your loving sister,

Estella

To W. B. Randall, Miles Grove, Erie Co., Pa.

Feb. 17, 1881

Good evening dear children,

and how do you do to night? I hope you are well and enjoying yourselves. Ola is almost well again so she came home today, is staying all night. Estella don't feel over well tonight. The rest are well. Pa went a fishing today. I guess he is going to stay all night. I have been looking and wishing for another letter in answer to the one I wrote two weeks ago today but have not got any yet.

We got Uncle Phinias' Lansing paper tonight and read about its raining and the river overflowing in Toledo last week. So there was fourteen mail-pouches water soaked at the Union Depot so we thought maybe your letter was among them.

Estella wrote to you last Monday.

Good morning Will and Ida. I thought I would write a little more. It is snowing quite hard this morning.

Pa hasn't got home yet. I expect he will bring a lot of fish. The first time he has been since you went away. They went to Lansing the other day with three loads of apples.

I should have written before but have ben waiting in hope I would get a letter everyday. Over two weeks since (We) have heard from you, seems like a good while.

Hope shall get one before many days. I would like to see you today you may guess.

Ola has gone back up to Uncle Phine's today. I don't know as I can think of anything more. This is a detracted up mess I guess you will think.

Good bye and answer right away,

from Ma to her son and daughter

Goodbye

Excelcior Cleaning & Removing Fluid

1 quart deodorized Berrgine	1/8 ounce ammonia
1 ounce Alcohol	1/8 ounce of chloroform
1/8 ounce Bay Rum	1/8 ounce Sulpheric
Ether	
1/8 ounce of Wintergreen	1/8 ounce of Borax

To W. B. Randall, Esq., Miles Grove, Erie Co., Pa.

Monday, Feb. 21st, 1881

Dear Children,

I seat myself to write a few lines in answer to your welcome letter we received today. Awful glad to hear from you again, I can tell you, and that you were both well and having such a nice time and not homesick. We are all well at present. Your letter got to DeWitt Friday night. Pa went up to the office Saturday they said there was no letter so we didn't get it till today. I guess we shall go to the Hall tomorrow night. Wish you and Ida were here to go with us.

We went over to Lansing today, the first time I have ben since you went away. I got you some calico and batten for a comfoter and factory cloth for sheets. Ola says tell Ida and Will that she is gay and happy still and she wants to see you pretty bad.

I guess I shall have to stop scribbling and go to bed for I am tired and sleepy riding in the wind today. We shall be awful glad to see you when you get you get your visit made. Get your brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews pictures to bring home with you.

Answer right away. Good night from you ever loving Mother.

I and Pa went to the Grange Saturday night. Aunt Abby says give her love to Will and Ida and ask Will if he transpired any when he had the belly ache. My love to you all and a good big lot for yourselves. Write soon.

Riley, Feb. the 22and, 1881

Goodmorning Will and Ida,

How do you do this morning? All right I hope. We are all well at present and able to eat our rations. Sorry to hear that you cannot find my dog, but keep looking you may find him yet. You will know him if you see him, he has got a short nose and a long under jaw, you bet. We expect to have a good time at the hall to night. Barney and myself went to Lansing yesterday and got a barrel of crackers and thirty seven cans of oysters. I wish that you could step in and help eat them. We are having fine weather and tip top sleighing, we had a thaw but it did not spoil the sleighing.

Give my respects to your Father and Mother, Brothers, Sisters, and all. Tell them if ever they come this way to call. No more at present, write when conenient.

These few lines from A. B. Cook to Will and Ida Randall.

If you can read this you have got all you can handle.

Riley, March the 7th, 1881

Good Morning Will and Ida,

Thinking that perhaps a few lines from your father would be acceptable, I thought I would drop a few in answer to yours of Feb. the 27th which we received Friday, March the 4th. Glad to hear from you but sorry to hear that you had a sore throat again. You must be careful Ida of your health and not expose yourself too much. Health is one of the greatest blessings we have here on earth.

I have no news to write at present and hoping to see you soon, I will draw this to a close so that Ma will have a chance to write.

This from your Father, A. B. Cook to Will and Ida Randall. Write soon and let us know when you are a coming home.

Dear Children,

I will say a f-w words to let you know we are all well and glad to hear from you and that you were both well and enjoying yourselfs as usual. Hope you won't have any more headache and sore throat. Went to the Grange Saturday night. The hall was full. Had a good Grangeli Villie has got home and was there. I shall have to hurry. Scot is a going to Lansing and I want to send this. I hardly know what to write. I can talk more in five minutes when you get home than I can write in a hour. There is a Greenback meeting at the hall tonight also to the school house tomorrow night, a lady from Lansing.

You say you are feasting on fresh fish. Well, you might put one in your pocket and fetch home. Breakfast is ready so I will stop. Hoping to hear from you soon,

Your Mother

We are going to wash, the water is hot. This is short and sweet.

Chicago, March 24, '81
(Or 1891)

Dear Wife,

When this reaches you I will be far away. I have bought a ticket for Green River City, Wyoming. Don't worry about me. I will be back again when I get my pockets full. Bye-bye, hoping you are well.

I remain yours,

W. B. Randall

Lansing, Jan. the 16, 1882

Dear Wife,

I take pleasure in penning you a few lines to let you know I am well and wishing you the same.

Well, I got a ride from Dills to DeWitt, had to walk to rest of the way and was mud from head to foot when I got here. I will be glad when I don't have to walk so far to see my own family, won't you darling?

Mr. Rolph cut his fore finger off from his right hand the fore part of the week. The rest of us men clubbed together and took him a purse of \$5.00 Saturday night and we are intending to do the same every Saturday as long as he is laid up.

I went hunting yesterday, didn't get home until night. I didn't have any paper so I wrote you a letter in my diary but didn't mail it this morning for my money was all silver but I got it changed tonight and will send you three dollars. Won't send the gold dollar for fear it will get lost. I hope you will be up to Stell's Saturday so I won't have to walk so far. How is our little pet getting along, fat good natured and pretty as ever I hope. If I had any way to fetch it I would buy her a crib Saturday but I can't carry it on my back. Keep getting ready to keep house darling, and be good to me this time and don't put it off a minute after the first of April. I have got my bed all paid for. The Whole thing cost me twenty one dollars, the carriage cost eight, paid you three, and have 4.50 for you now. Altogether, amounts to \$36.50. Besides my other expenses I think I have done well on a dollar a day, don't you darling?

I will close for this time hoping to see you and little Edna soon. Kiss her for me and I will kiss both of you when I come. Bye bye

from your faithful husband,

William B. Randall

To Mrs. Ida O. Randall, DeWitt, Clinton Co., Mich.

Lansing, Feb. 19, '82

Dear Wife and Babe,

I am well and wishing you the same. I had just got ready to come up to my room as the fire bell rang so I run about a half a mile to see what was on fire. It was a building about half a mile southwest from here so I gave it up and came back.

Am in bed now so you see I can't write a very good hand. Well darling I was lucky last Sunday. Got a ride from DeWitt to within a block of here with a livery man. I got your seven yards of cloth also bought ma a new dress. It cost .75 cts per yard also bought 2 ½ yds calico of from three diferent pieces for Edna new dresses. It was 8 cts per yard. It is late and I don't know eny news so I will not write eny more to night. I will come over next Saturday if nothing happens.

So good by, kiss little Dot for me.

From your faithful husband,

W. B. Randall

Oh, I suppose Grandma was mad because I didn't wait but I didn't want to be after dark coming home.

Hemlock Lake, January 14, 1883

Dear Brother,

I am sorry to hear of your ill health. O, How I would like to come and see you. I could spare the time but I can't spare the money just now. I am owing for a bill of leather which will be here in a few days. I must pay that in order to keep my credit good. If your health don't improve I will come and see you if it is possible.

We are well. My health is first rate. I am getting old, I am living out the last days of the time allotted to man, it don't seem possible. Never the less it is so.

We have a pleasant winter here so far but little snow. Has been good

sleighting the most of the time since the first of Dec.

Now dear brother, you must not get discouraged, use your will power all you can and I think you will get better. Dr. Green says it would do you as much good as anything to change climate. He says that you had better come and stay with us a while. He thinks it would do you good. I wish you would come. Amori, I shall be very anxious to hear from you often, if you are not able to write have Amina or the girls or sister Abby write.

Many thanks to Stella for her kind letter.

Our love and best respects to all.

Geo. H. Cook

Saturday the 5th of July, 1884

Dear Husband,

I will write a few lines in answer to your most welcome card that I received last night after so long a time. Glad to hear that you got there all right and found George and Sarah well. We are all well and hope this will find you the same.

Scott is to work in his hay. Edna says to tell grandpa to come home and bring her some oranges.

We shall all be glad when you get your visit made and are at home again. Hope you are having a good visit and enjoying yourself tip top. Give my love to George and Sarah and keep a big share yourself.

I guess I have scribbled enough, I cannot see to follow the lines half the time. If you want me to meet you drop a line and I will.

Good bye from A. L. C. to A. B. C.

Good morning Amori, and how do you do this morning? Went to Grange last night, stayed to Scott's and came home this morning to do the chores. Found Estella and Jerome here. We are all going up to Scott's today.

It is pretty lonesome here, I would like to see you today. Quite cold today.

A. L. C.

Sunday at Home

Dear Father,

I thought perhaps you would like to hear from your youngest daughter, we are well.

Glad to hear that you arrived safe.

We have been making hay for the last week, we are not quite through. Wheat almost ready to cut.

Come home as soon as you can. We axe lonesome. Love to Aunt Sarah and Uncle George, Good bye,

Ola

Sunday, July 6, 1884

Dear Father,

As I haven't got much news here I will just drop a line to let you know I haven't forgot you. Love to Aunt and Uncle.

Good bye till I see you.

June 14, 1887

Dear Brother and Sister,

Yes, you are so near and dear to me though so far away.

I owe you no letter but we are all alone and see no familiar faces nor hear any voices that are dear to us and our surroundings are not home like but we have many kind friends here. Our home is in a new place. We have three acres, a good house, not very large but pleasant and Freeman's health is so much better here that we can get along very well. I will write you about the acre we live on, it is only a few steps from the depot, two passenger trains daily, that makes it pleasant.

We have lots of work to do, you will think so when I tell you what we have done. Well, when we went north last spring we had our house built and lot fenced and broke up. Moses raised sweet potatoes on it. Now we have 42 orange trees, 92 peach trees, 2 pecan trees, pear tree, one Japan plum tree, three fig trees, pineapples, bananas. They are just imence, right smart sweet potatoes and good garden watermelon getting ripe and tomatoes. I picked the last of my strawberries Sunday, enough for supper. I have four quarts canned and made some jell; made two gallons of wine, also fourteen gallons of blackberry wine. Canned some blackberries and made jelly. Dear, I wish you were here to eat and drink with us, don't you?

Freeman has: set out 38 shade trees, oak, sweet pine, soft maple and one sweet bay; all growing finely but 2. I have quite a nice yard for a new one, have a variety of roses and other flowers. Freeman is improving this place all the time. He acts like a young man instead of an old broken down soldier. He has a blacksmith shop & tools, a good chance for a blacksmith. I will tell you how he come by it. He gave a man 25 feet of ground if he would build a shop; he did so but soon got tired and wanted to sell out and Freeman bought of course. Now if he had a good man to run it he would be all right.

The town is small but growing, two stores, one grocery, school house, saw mill but all so new. We have a fine Sunday School and a Literary Society meets every

Friday evening and have a jolly time.

There is no cod fish aristocracy here.

I think I had better not write anymore this, I have written more now than you will have patience to read.

Hoping this will find you both well and enjoying yourselves, we ought to take all the comfort we can the little time we have to stay.

Received a letter from Ola last week, they were all well then. Also one from Moses, he is in Tennessee. He went from herein March.

I will close by asking you both to come and spend the winter with us. I will promise a good time and good cheer.

Please write as soon as you get this and let me know what you think about coming. If you don't I will think you don't care to hear from me.

Freeman joins in sending love and good wishes to both Brother George and Sister Sarah.

Abbie Freeman

Miner's Delight, Wyoming, Dec. 20th, 1887

Friend Amori,

I have neglected writing for some time because I had nothing worth writing about and have nothing now.

I left DeWitt the 13th of October and went to Indiana. Staid there a few days and left for St. Louis the fifth day of Nov. and got to Omaha the 6th, left there the 7th and got to Point of Rocks (my nearest R.R. Station) the morning of the 9th where I met my friend with team but had to waite five days for some freight which caused us to get caught in a severe snow storm and we were eight days coming from Rail Road home. A distance of about 80 miles.

I have all of (my) things in except one box of maple sugar of 50 lbs. My apples got in before cold weather.

I found everything all right. If I had known that things would have been taken care of so well I think I would of staid in Michigan this winter. I don't think the man I left in charge done very well although I got a small dividend. I think they had too much sparking on hand because one of them got married a few weeks before I got back. So you see perhaps I lost a good chance by being gone; but perhaps: I am not old enough to get married; at any rate, I will have to wait awhile because there is not a marriageable lady in this place and only six married ones.

My trip to Central America and the states cost me a little over Eleven Hundred dollars but I think I can make that amount in the spring in a short time.

I am not working at present on account of cold weather but am prospecting a little. I found one piece of gold today worth three dollars and ten cents.

I went hunting a few days ago and killed one elk. I will probably go again soon.

The weather here in quite cold with about one and a half foot of snow but lots of the hills are bare on account of so much wind.

I have four head of horses that are doing well on what they pick.

Give my respects to Varney and all enquiring friends and if you think this worth an answer I will be pleased to hear from you.

Yours,

Dan Dillabaugh
Miner's Delight, Wyoming

Orange Heights, '96

Dear Brother and Sister,

I will write a few lines in answer to your kind letter, it is a shame that I have not written before but I am all tired out. Freeman has been sick so long. Sunday he came out and eat dinner with me. Its the first time that he has eaten a meal out of his room in over three months. He is better but don't sit up all day yet.

I was glad to know that you were yourself again but before I answered yours I heard you were sick in bed. I was so sorry but hope you are better now.

We are having nice weather, peach trees in full bloom and garden truck looks well. We have lettuce and radish and peas in bloom.

I wish you could have come here this winter maybe you would have escaped the grippe.

I shall have to drop my pen, I have a call from Head Quarters. Got through that little job, a few more times and I will not intrude on your good nature anymore this time.

George and Elizabeth went to Tampa; report a very good time. Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff have not got back yet, they are having a good time.

I guess I shall have to quit, it is almost mail time. My news is all played out but please answer this soon for I feel anxious to hear from you all and I will write Scott and Ola and the girls soon but your came first and the old adage is First come, first served.

Love to all, good bye,

A. M. Freeman

Orange Heights, Fla., May 4, 1896

Dear Children,

Received your long looked for letter at last, almost begin to think you had

forgotten us or that I had written something I ought not to but I see by the time of your kind and loving letter you are all right.

I am so sorry Ola you don't gain faster but you must have patience. You have been so very sick it will take a long while before you will be yourself again. You don't want to worry yourself about work but take every thing easy and look on the bright side and I hope you can lay aside your crutch soon. Don't seem as though I could bear to see you so low.

Your Uncle is a little better today; is sitting up now, did not sit up any yesterday but he is very weak and feeble.

I am glad to hear your pa is gaining, hope he will continue to until he is his old self again.

Sorry that Uncle George is so sick and Agnes and Eva. Hope when I hear again they will be better.

Very warm and dry here, 86 this morning, probably way up in the 90's before night.

I am not washing today, did not feel well enough. I am like an old foundered horse, stiff in the joints but I am thankful that I am able to get around and take care of Freeman and to do my work on the half hitch anyway.

I received a box containing a very nice apron and handkerchief when I received your letter and very many thanks for the same.

O, by the way, is Maud sick, she wrote me that Uncle Scott was going to make sugar and I asked her to eat some warm sugar for me and I didn't know but after she had eaten all she wanted and what she thought I could eat, it made her sick as I have not heard from her since.

Please write soon, it does both of us good to hear from you. Write all the news.

From your loving Uncle & Aunt Freeman

Mrs. Ida O. Randall, DeWitt, Clinton Co., Mich.

Cheboygan, Nov. 24th, '82

Dear Wife,

I now take time to write you a few lines to let you know I am well and wishing you and little Edna the same.

We arrived up here all safe but had to wait a few days for our things to get here. Hired a team to take us in the woods. Oscar & Angals got sick of it in three days and went out of the woods and left me all alone. I hunted a day or two alone and made the acquaintance of a man that owns 40 ackers of land and lives here in the woods. He told me if I would leave my dog with him when I went out I might come and stay with him and we would hunt together. So, I took him up and we are having lots of fun. We have killed 3 deers and might have killed a dozen if we had snow to track them by. We have got about 2 inches of snow now and that is the most we have had yet.

I expect to work for Mr. Wixon part of the winter or longer if I want to. He is

the man I am hunting with. He offers me \$20. per month. He wants to clear off some of his land and he jobs it a goodsale building in Cheboygan.

I am going to look at some land next week. Perhaps I will take it up if it suits me. It is about four miles from here. There is an old man that lives on 160 ackers homestead land but he hasn't done according to the law and if someone doesn't rout him out before I raised \$200. I will have that to or part of it for 100. It is nice land, well located and worth at the present time, \$5. per ack.

Well, how is little Dot by this time? She wasn't well when I came. I hope she is well and good now. I would like to see you both tonight and hug and kiss you.

Well it is getting late and I will not tire you with eny more of my scribbling this time. Excuse me for not writing before. I presume this will not get out of the woods for a week so good by for this time. Write as soon as you get this.

Bye bye Darling. Be good & true to me and I will be the same to you. From your husband,

W. B. Randall

Address: Cheboygan, Cheboygan Co., Mich.

Cheboygan, Dec. 31, 1882

Dear Wife,

I now take pleasure in writing you a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter which I rec'd last Friday. It found me well and wishing you and little Dot the same. I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I haven't heard from Oscar since he went home. Haven't seen Pike's folks. Have to pay \$3. per week for board. I intend to cut wood all winter. Am boarding about 30 rods from where I was when I first wrote you. There, I have answered all your questions in a roe and I wish there was forty more of them. I'm sure I never would get tired of answering them if I could only see you I believe I could talk you crazy but when I undertake to write I can't think of anything. The greatest Present my heart could wish for tomorrow would be you and my little girl if only for a day.

Tell me all the news in your next letter. What the folks are doing and who is doing it.

I am laying in bed and the oil is nearly all burned out of the lamp so I will make this a short letter darling.

I hope your next writing paper will be larger sheets and you will fill them full of goodnews. I'm so lonesome tonight without you, I don't know what to do but I'm bound to stay away this time until you can come with me in preferance to eny other place.

Goodnight love, have pity on me for I'm so tired of this life. Kiss Edna for me.

Write soon from you no judgment
husband,

W. B. R.

Luck may strike the peddler yet.

Oh, please send me your and Edna's gem (picture?). I left mine in my trunk. I'll take good care of it. Bye bye, be good.

Cheboygan, Sunday, June 3, '83

Dear Wife,

I read your loving letter today and was glad to know you were getting along so nicely. I am a great deal better than I was when I wrote you before. I am still fishing and like it very well. They have got three pound nets. The pots to them are 32 feet square and the leads are 50 rods long and 32 feet wide or deep. They fish in 40 feet of water about ½ a mile from shore at a place called Point Sable about six miles north of Cheboygan in the Straits. My sickness and board bill put me in debt a little. I had to pay 4½ per week for board but I am pretty near square again and will send you a little money in my next letter. You must need a little change by this time don't you? Maud Demarris suits me to a dot. I think they will go well together. I thought about it before but didn't know whether you would like it or not. I would like to see you and our little one awful well. Our little mischief Dot must look cute toddling around out of one thing into another. I will get my picture taken the first opportunity darling and send to you. We have got our net in the water now and will put the other two in this week. It is quite a job to get them all arranged, we had to cut 90 tamarack poles 55 feet long, haul them to the shore and drawl them out to the fishing ground with a boat and drive them 7 feet in the ground with a spike driver. All the boats that pass through the Straits are in plain sight from our fish house. I can see 20 steamboats and vessels at a time some days. The most of them run within a mile of us. They don't generally catch many fish until about the 15th or 20th of this month. They cleared 11 hundred dollars last season, their fishing rig cost about 12 hundred, that is pretty good interest. Two men could do well with one net and a person could get a second hand, one cheap to start with.

Well darling, I will close for this time. Write to me every two weeks and I will do the same. Kiss our little ones for me, bless their little souls.

Bye bye Darling,

from Willie

Cheboygan, July 1st, 1883

Dear Wife and little ones,

With pleasure I seat myself to pen a few lines to let you know I'm well and wishing you the same.

I hope you are over your colds by this time.

I am at Mr. Andrew Tromley's in Cheboygan, the man I work for. We came down yesterday noon. We lift the nets every other day and it takes us about a half day to take care of the fish. Then we have a day and a half to lay around. So, you see I have got a pretty soft job. We are not catching many fish yet but when we do I will have to work a little more. When we get to catching lots of Whitfish they will be cheaper. Then, I will send you a keg by express. They are worth about \$6 per package now, but I will let you know when I send them. Yes, I get \$1.00 per day and board and no lost time.

I intended to have my picture taken today but it is dark and rainy and it wouldn't be good so I will wait until the first opportunity. I will speak in your favor when I write down home. I never spoke any other way did I? I sent the paper when I wrote you before. If you haven't read it tell me in your next and I will send you another.

Yes, pay up our dues and get our demitts (?). But, if you don't get a demitt don't get me any nor pay my dues either. Perhaps you have already got a demitt, write and tell me. I will send you some more money after a little.

I can't think of anything that would interest you so I will close. I wish I could spend the fourth with you and our little ones but I can't and must make the best of it. Maybe I will come down after the fishing is over this fall. Would you meet me at grandma's with our little ones and stay a day or two with me? Write and tell me. Bye bye, kiss little Edna & Maud for me.

From your faithful,

Will

Cheboygan, July 11, '83

Dear Wife,

I am well and wishing you the same. Haven't rec'd any letter for two weeks. I sent a package of fish to you today by freight. They will be at North Lansing, Friday. Be sure and get them Saturday for they might be left in the sun and hurt.

Yours, W. B. Randall WOD

Cheboygan, July 17th

Dear Wife and Little ones,

I now take pleasure in writing you a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter which I rec'd this morning.

I am well and wishing you the same.

I come down last night from fishing, going back as soon as I can write this letter. I was down here the fourth. It was a dark day but I had my picture taken all the same. It looks like a nigger. I am taned up some but not quite so black as the picture. Get your picture taken as soon as you can. Never mind our dues yet awhile and I will send you some more money for that as soon as convenient.

I sent you some fish the 11 of July. I forgot to state on the postal card which end to open. You ought to opened the end that is numbered and got W.R on it. They are not solid ot heavy on that end. They were caught the day before I sent them, except the trout and a few white fish and tofa. The top ones were caught the day I sent them. The trout are mixed through the keg about a half dozen I guess. They had been salted about a week. We don't think they are as good as the white fish eny way, do you? I picked the white fish out of about 8 hundred pounds. They are not (large?) fish. We catch lots of larger ones but I thought about that size would take the salt more even. Put them in the cellar. They will keep all right if they didn't get damaged on the way.

I don't expect I can come to the fair. We won't be through fishing before about the middle of November if nothing happens. If I hold my bynes I will fish for Randall next summer. I know a man that paid \$400 for a fishing rig last fall and he made \$500 in about 7 weeks which paid for his rig and he had \$100 left. He caught as high as 20 packages in one night and sold them for \$3.50 per pkg. They don't catch anything but herring late in the fall. A gentleman told me the other day that he would buy a rig and let me fish it on shares, give me half if I wanted to. I will take him at his offer if I can't buy one of my own. Write soon and tell me if you got your fish all right.

Oh, if only I could see you and our little ones, I would give enthing. You can hope that I will come after fishing is over but I won't promise for sure. If I do we could stay at the hotel at DeWitt couldn't we? Bye bye darling. Kiss little Edne & Maud for me.

From your faithful Will to my angel, Ida

Cheboygan, July 31, '83

Dear Wife and Little Ones,

I now take time to write you a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter. I wrote you a few lines the other day and sent \$5. in it. I hope you got it all right. Use it for just what you wish and when you want more let me know. You are welcome, darling. Oh, how I wish I could be with you and my little Darlings, it would almost be heaven.

Yes Darling, I expect to fish all summer. No Ida, I never wrote to Elmer. Perhaps I will. Is he staying with Frost this summer? No, I haven't heard from eny of my folks yet. When I do I will let you know.

I had to pay \$5.50, including freight, for the fish.

I sent you a Chicago paper when I wrote you about the fish. Did you get it?

I don't think of enything more that would interest you only I don't chew eny more tobacco. Perhaps you will be glad to hear that.

Bye bye, darling. I hope you are all happy tonight. Write as soon as you get this from your Faithful Will to my Darling, Ida.

Hamonds Bay Town, May 19, '84

Dear Wife and Children,

I will drop you a few lines to let you know I'm well and hard at work. I didn't go to the north shore fishing as I expected. The man wouldn't have been ready for me for two or three weeks so I went to work for his brother at Hamonds Bay on Sunday, May the 4 and have been here ever since. Haven't had a chance to send to the Post Office since I came. I am sure there is a letter in the office for me from you. I am not having as nice a time as I did last summer. Have to work very hard and my hands are so sore I can't hardly hold a pencil, pulling on tarred lines and nets that are wet makes them sore. We have got in two nets and expect to feed in five more. I don't know wheather I will stay all summer with him or not. He is a crabbed old Dutchman and don't know when a man has done a days work. He never fished but one season. I am going to tuff it out as tong as I can for every day is a dollar.

I hope you and our little darlings are all well and bless you all. How I would like to be with you. One of our neighbor fisherman is going to Cheboygan some day this week and will get my mail for me.

I can't think of anything more that would interest you so I will close hoping to hear from you soon. Direct to Cheboygan same as before in care of Barker Folsma.

Don't forget to send some of your pictures if you have them taken. Bye bye my darling Ida, be good and kiss babies for Papa.

From,
Will

Hamond Bay, Nov. 8, '84

Dear Wife and Children,

I will write you a few lines to let you know I'm well and wishing you and our little darlings the same.

I wrote to you a couple of weeks ago but haven't had a chance to get my mail since. I presume your answer is in the post office now. I don't want you to worry yourself any poorer on my act. If I can help it so I thought I would drop you a line and tell you how I'm fixed. I'm still working at the same old trade, fish, fish, fish. Yesterday we got twenty three hundred pounds of white fish and today twelve fifty. We expect to do better in a few days but we are doing pretty well now. From fifty to a hundred dollars a day is pretty good. I wish it was mine. But, I must wait and hope maybe I'll strike luck after a while. I'm getting \$30. per month and board this time. I made them raise me four dollars before I would go back to work for them. Talk about farming but don't talk to me. I'd rather fish all summer than work a month on a farm. A young man is a dam fool that would work on a farm for \$20. per month.

I would be so lonesome here I would die if it wasn't for my dog and gun. I have killed 3 big buck deer this fall and sent one up to Cheboygan last week that weighed two hundred and twenty pounds with his guts out and I shot one about 3 weeks ago that would weigh 240 pounds and the other one would weigh about 190. We sold the last one for \$12.

You can look for me about the last of this month. I expect to get through work about the 20th but I want to hunt a few days and try to get a deer to bring out there with me. But, I will write again when I get your answer. I don't know when that will be, but be sure and tell me where you can meet me darling. Well, I must go to bed. Good night Darlings. May God bless and protect you. Be good. Write soon. Kiss my little girls for me.

Bye bye my own true Ida
From your Willie

Cheboygan, Feb. 22, '85

Dear Wife and Children,

I will write you a few lines to let you know I'm well and wishing you the same. I wrote you a letter in January and haven't rec'd any answer. Are you sick or what is the trouble? If you are sick, tell Ma to write me a few lines and let me know.

I am working in a lumber camp and there is about twenty men all around me so I won't write much until I hear from you. I am about 40 miles from Cheboygan but direct as before in care of Vorce and Embury, Fromley Camp. I have Sent a dozen times to the Post Office and have worried night and day. Don't worry me any longer, God knows I have trouble enough don't worry me to death.

I hope and pray that you and our little darlings are well but I know

something is wrong for you always was good to answer my letters. If you are alive and well answer this in haste.

From your Faithful,

Willie

Cheboygan, Mich., May the 21, '85

Dear Wife and Children,

I will write you a few lines to let you know I'm well and wishing you the same.

I have been down the shore to Hamonds Bay for the last few days after a fishing rig. Just got back tonight & am going to fish down the shore about fifteen miles. Will fish my own nets for Chas. Corlett. He furnishes me with boat and rigging and funds to carry on the business but I pay all the labor and provision bills as soon as we ketch fish enough. We each receive half of the fish weight. I am going to try it on a new ground. Don't know wheather I will make enything or not but I am bound to stick to it. I will win after a while. It will take me and a hired man about a month to get the twine in fishing order and put it in.

Oh darling, you don't know how lonely I am. I don't hardly know which end my head is on. When I go up street and see so many ladies, then I think of you and it makes me almost wild. Oh, I do hope I may have good luck this summer. I am trying so hard to get ahead. I will write you a short letter this time darling but will write a long one next time. Send my little darlings pictures as soon as you can and yours too, won't you dear?

Maybe you can't read this. I am trying to learn to write back-hand. Bye bye darling Ida. Kiss little Edna and Maud for me and write as soon as you get this.

From your ever faithful, Willie to my own dearest Ida.

(Written on Sammons & Corlett stationary)

Prentis Bay, Sept. the 4, '85

Dear Wife and Children,

I will drop you a few lines to let you know I'm well and wishing you the same. I rec'd your kind and loving letter last Saturday. I had to send to Cheboygan for it. I have got my net in, expect fish next week. Have got to help Mr. Havens my partner first in a 50 ft. net. Got it nearly ready. We are very busy.

If I can do enything at all out of my net this fall we will come out all right for I have got some good promises for next season.

You ask me to forgive you, I do darling; with all my heart.

I am in a hurry. Will write more next time. Please write as soon as you get this. Send the pictures if you have them taken.

Kiss my pets for me.

Direct to Prentis Bay, Mackinac Co., Mich.

Prentis Bay, Sept. the 28, 1885

Dear Wife and Children,

I rec'd, your welcome letter last Saturday. Was glad to hear from you and that you and the children were well. I am well but sad and lonely as ever. I am about thirty miles from Cheboygan. My partners name is A. W. Havens. He is a married man, lives at St. Louis, Mich. He promised to buy a new net this fall, fifty ft. deep to run with his gill nets next summer and agreed to give me half to go in with him but I have since found out he is not worth enough to buy a new net.

I haven't caught two dollars worth of fish since I came over here and the way it looks I don't expect but a few this fall. If I only had money enough to buy me a new net 50 ft. deep, I could make some money. I have found a good place to set such a net but it seems as though fate was against me.

Don't forget the photographs darling.

Bye bye, be good. Kiss my little pets for me and above all don't get discouraged for I will be true and faithful and keep trying to win after a while.

(Will Randall)

Cheboygan, Dec. 6, 1885

Dear Wife and Children,

I will write you a few lines to let you know I'm well and wishing you the same.

I am working in the woods ten miles south of Cheboygan. Commenced to work the 28th of Nov. I made total failure fishing and have resolved never to fish any more. I am working for the same man I cut pine a year ago last summer. Wages are from \$16 to 22 per month up here. I am getting \$24 per month. I will work in the woods this winter, go on the drive in the spring, and go in the harvest next summer if nothing happens. I can save quite a stake, then look out for me darling for I can't stand it much longer without you.

We have got about 8 inches of snow now. Take good care of yourself and our little darlings. I hope your limb won't pain you this winter. Tell how it is.

I will write more next time.

Cheboygan, Mch. the 29, '86

Dear Wife and Children,

As there is a team going to Cheboygan tomorrow, I will write you a few lines. I don't know wheather you will ever receive it or not or wheather you are alive. I haven't heard from you but once this winter. I wrote to you about two months ago but never rec'd an answer. You never neglected me before, I what to think. Your last letter was a good and loving one. You didn't hint that anything was wrong. If you are sick it seems as though you could get someone to write me a few lines if you tried. If you are well it seems as though I never could forgive you for you don't know how much I have suffered. It is worrying my life away.

I am staying in a lumber camp 25 miles from Cheboygan on the upper Black River. Came up here the 9th of Mch. I cut my foot the 12. Cut off an artery and bled untill I was so weak I couldn't sit up. They had to cord my leg untill it cut into my flesh; oh, how it did pain me. How I longed to have you and our little ones with me, it wouldn't hurt half as bad. I am getting along nicely. Can get around on critches but am pretty weak yet. Oh darling, I do hope and pray that nothing has happened. I can't doubt you for a moment for I know you love me. I dread to hear from you but hope and pray that all is well. There is a continual knowing at my heart night and day, a craving for you and our little girls. Oh my darlings, it seems as though heaven and earth are both against me. God knows I have never been wicked enough to deserve all this suffering.

Please write as soon as you receive this if you ever do. May God bless and protect you and our darlings. Kiss them for me.

Good bye, from your almost broken hearted,

Willie

to my own true Ida.

Indian River, May the 21, '86

Dear Wife and Children,

I will write you a few lines to let you know I'm well and wishing you all the same, for I suppose you are getting anxious by this time. I came up here from Mullet Lake two weeks ago yesterday, am working for George Kitchen getting out railroad ties, putting them on the bank of the Pidgeon River four miles east of Indian River. The mosquitos are very bad in the swamp. This is the first work to amount to anything that I have done since I cut my foot.

I don't think I shall stay here but a few days but you can bet I won't go any farther away from you. I want you to write and tell me where Villa (?) lives, what her husband's name is and wheather you would like to go there and see what I can do. I have got a million things I would like to write but I will wait and tell it all to you

between now and fall if nothing happens.

Write as soon as you get this.

Kiss my little darlings for me. Tell them they will see Papa before long. Bye bye darling, have faith in me for I'll do the best I can.

From your own true,

Willie

Direct to Indian River, Cheboygan Co., Mich.

Cheboygan, July the 24, '86

Dear Wife and Children,

I suppose you are getting tired of looking for a letter by this time. I expected to be out of this God forsaken country long before this but I can't get money enough ahead to take me out as I would like to go. But I'm going anyway and that very soon.

I have got tired of laying idle about half of my time and that is what a man has to do up here. When I get through one place I have to pay out all I've earned before I get another job. I am well darling and hope this will find you and our little girls the same. I think I shall go to Ashtabula, Ohio and try and get steady employment either in a shop or on the railroad. I am so tired of living like this that sometimes I am tempted to drown myself. Don't think darling that I forget you when I don't write for there isn't a day or night but what I think of you and long to be with you and our darlings. You are all I live for. If I didn't believe we would be together again I would die but I have faith in you and with the help of God and what little I can do all will be well yet.

I postponed writing as long as I could stand it hoping to have good news for you but it is the same thing over again. I promised to be with you this fall and I must be flying around if I keep my word. Now darling, I will close. I am dying to hear from you but don't write until you hear from me again. Then you will know where to address. I will write again within ten days.

From your own true,

Willie

to my darling Ida. Kiss Papa's little girls for me.

Cheboygan, 29 July, 1886

Dear Wife,

I'm well and wishing you the same.
I have got just five minutes to write. We have got to go right back.
I will write again the first of the week.
I will send you five dollars.

Good bye from,

Will

Cheboygan, Aug. the 10, 1886

Dear Wife and Children,

I promised to write in ten days but I guess it has over run a little but you will forgive me for that, won't you darling? I was just about ready to start for Ashtabula and I got a chance to go to work so I took it. I am working on the upper Black River, 25 miles from Cheboygan. Am going to work as long as I get steady employment. As soon as I have to lose any time I will leave this country without delay for a man can't save money unless he has got steady employment, and it costs half I can earn to keep from freezing it is so cold up here. I am making cedar railroad ties at present, getting \$26. per month. It is pretty hard work I can tell you but I don't care for that if it will only last.

I would like to earn enough so I could send for you as soon as I get located in Ashtabula or where ever I locate I suppose little Edna and Maud have changed since you had their pictures taken. Oh, how I would like to see them and you but I don't want to see you and have to leave you for it would kill me. I am well and hope this will find you all the same. Now write me a good long letter and I will answer it promptly. Goodbye my darling. Don't get discouraged if I don't. Kiss my pets for me. From your own true,

Willie

Direct - Cheboygan, Cheboygan Co., Mich.

Levering, Jan. 11th, AD 1887

Dear Wife and Children,

I will pen you a few lines to let you know I'm well and wishing you all the same. I just read your letter a few days ago. I sent t- Cheboygan and had it remailed. I didn't cut the pine I wrote you about but came up here soon after t wrote you before. I am foreman for a Mr. Larson, getting out hardwood logs. I have full charge of everything in the woods. Keep a crew of about twenty men. So, you see my time is pretty well occupied although I don't have much hard work to do myself. I sent to the State Land Office yesterday for a homestead. I understand there is pine and cedar on it. If it isn't worth buying in I will let it go back to the state again if I get it.

I wrote a letter to Ella Randall the other evening. Intended to write to you the same evening but had other business that prevented me.

I did receive a letter from Rose but never answered it, but will before long if I don't have another stroke of hard luck. I begin to have a little more hart to write again. It is a quarter past ten and I will close for tonight. I am writing this in a hurry but I guess you can make it out.

I wish I was able to give my darlings and organ but under the circumstances, I can't. A home first and then as organ. Don't you think that is proper? Good night my Ida. Kiss my little darlings for me and answer this immediatly. Ask me all the questions you wish and I will be pleased to answer them.

Bye bye from,

Will

Direct to Levering, Emmet Co., Mich.

Levering, April the 7, '87

Dear Wife and Children,

I will write you a few lines to let you know I am well and wishing you the same.

I haven't done anything for two weeks, don't expect to do much before the first of May. Then, I am going to load a lot of lumber on cars for Mr. Fisher. He hasn't located any lumber land yet but expects to comence operations about the first of September and promises me steady work for three years. The price of land that I expected to get was returned homestaed land, 80 acres, in the town of Monroe, Cheboygan Co. It would only cost me two dollars to homestead it but I was just one day to late. The original homesteader reclaimed it the same day I sent for it. There are lots of good farming land here that can be bought for \$2 to 6 per acre. I was getting \$1 per day loading teams.

Angilo left me the latter part of January and went over near Black Lake and

went to work. How long he staid there, I do not know. Know, I haven't answered Ella's letter yet. No Darling, you needn't send her letter back to me I am ashamed to say I have never written to Rose yet. It is in the neighborhood of thirty miles for here to Petosky on the same railroad.

Ask me all the questions you wish darling. I love to answer them. It helps to fill out the letter when I haven't any good news to write. The snow is about two foot deep in the Woods on the level. I wish I could fly. I would fold you and our little darlings in my arms before many hours. Do you remember how I used to walk twelve miles nearly every Saturday night to see you. I would gladly walk four times that for tonight to see you if there was no one to interfere with us. Well dear, I will close for this time.

Tell Edna I haven't forgot her organ and some day she shall have one. I wish I could be with them and hope and pray that I may before long. I suppose little Maud is a great big girl by this time aint she. Bless their dear little souls don't let them forget me or forget they have got a papa.

Good night my own Ida. Kiss my little girls for me and write soon.

From your own,

Will

Levering, June 24, '87

Dear Wife and Children,

I will write you a few lines to let you know I'm still in the land of the living. I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same. I do not call this answering your letter for it has been so long you probably have forgotten what you wrote. I have been to work only about half the time since I wrote you before. Was down to Cheboygan a couple of weeks. Am working now on the section T (?) this place for the Gr. A. J. R.R. Co. Only get \$1.10 per day but get full time. Am boarding myself, it is much cheaper. Can board myself for about \$8. per month. That leaves \$20.00. It isn't very big pay but it is a ready and sure pay.

I have been waiting for Fisher the lumber dealer to comence operations but it will be probably two months before he will do anything in the woods. And I don't know as I will leave the road for him unless he offers me something pretty good.

The foreman that I am working for has got a brother-in-law foreman on the next section north of here at Carp Lake. I expect to go up there and work for him after a while.

Is Angelo at home? Have you seen him since he was up here? And what kind of a recomend did he give me? Where are you going the fourth? I hope you will go somewhere and have a good time. I aint going anywhere. How is Edna and Maud getting along? Don't let them forget me. How I wish you could come up here and make me a visit or live with me. Now darling, write and tell me all the news and ask

as many questions as you please and I will answer it by return mail if I am alive and well.

I have made excuses untill I am ashamed to conjure up any more for not writing. If you haven't forgotten me or grown cold through might, answer this immediatly. You always did write twice if I neglected answering your letter but this time for the first you didn't and it worrys me to know the reason. But here after if I don't write as often as every two weeks don't own me as a husband.

Bye bye darling. I wish you could know my feelings then I'm sure you never would doubt me. Kiss our little darlings for their lonely papa.

Good night, my own true Ida.

From you,

Willie

Address Levering as before.

Levering, Mich. July 9, 1887

Dear Wife and Children,

I will write you a few lines this morning hoping it will find you all well. I am well as usual. You didn't tell me what the nature of your sickness was. I hope you are all right by this time darling for I don't want to lose you now after waiting and suffering all these dreary long years. I have got just twenty minutes to write this letter in before time to go to work.

The section foreman and me batch it together. The reason Fisher hasn't comenced operations are because he has had so much business on hand he hasn't had time to locate lands. They do a very large business in the lumber trafick, handles about one hundred thousand dollars worth per month I have been told. Owns a large tow barge on the lake, two sail barges and a large tug. They are about buying two million and a half of birch logs on the north shore. They are already cut and in the yard. I went up to Carp Lake the fourth and played second on the violin, got \$4.00.

This is all for this time. Write soon.

From your Willie to my darling Ida. Kiss my little darlings for me.

Bye bye

A. D. Loomis

Dealer to

Drugs, Medicine, Groceries, Provisions, Tobacco, Cigars, and Confectionery

Levering, Mich.
Sept. 6, 1887

Dear Wife and Children,

I will drop you a few lines to keep you from worrying about me. I have been working night and day for over a week. Intended to write to you a week ago last Sunday but had to go out and watch fire on the track Sunday night and have put in double time ever since Sunday and all until tonight. So, I won't write much, won't undertake to answer your letter am too sleepy.

Am well and wishing you all the same. I will write again when I get rested up.

Write soon, from,

Will

Bye bye. Kiss my little one for me.

Levering, Mich.
Sept. 23, 1887

Dear Wife and Children,

I almost dread to write you these few lines for something must be wrong. You never neglected to answer my letter before. What is the trouble darling? Didn't I tell you to answer my last short letter? If I didn't, I must be mistaken. I think I asked you to answer and said I would write again an answer to your last letter.

I will not write much at present. Am worried most to death to think you don't write to me. I have been unable to work for the last week. Sprained my foot jumping from one boxcar to another while breaking. Don't know wheather I will go back to the road or not. Fisher is here and has the refusal of about two thousand acres of hardwood and if he can buy the sawmill, will comence Operations soon.

I don't know what to think or what to make calculations on until I hear from you. I hope you and our little darlings are well. Please Write as soon as you get this and let me know the worst. Kiss our pets for Papa.

Bye bye, from your,

Willie

Pines P.O., Mackinac Co.,
Oct. 30, (1887?)

Dear Wife and Children,

I will drop you a few lines to let you know I haven't forgot you. I read yours of Oct. 9. It found me rather poorly. My kidneys and back has been pretty lame but am better now. Am hunting deer at present, killed two today. Am going to stay up here about ten days longer then am going back to Levering and work for Fisher. He is operating there. When I get back I will answer your three letters all at once and tell you all the particulars.

Bye bye, kiss our little ones for Papa,

Will

Levering, Mich.
Dec. the 4, 1887

Dear Wife and Children,

I will drop you a few lines in answer to your ever welcome letter which I received in due time. Am well and wishing you the same. It rained nearly all night last night, is warm and cloudy tonight. I have changed boarding places. Am boarding at the hotel now. Fisher has discharged lots of men since I came here and he is going to let more go soon. He has got nearly through cutting and skidding. Will commence hauling as soon as there is snow enough. I am going to be head loader.

Get our little darlings some nice dolls and tell them they are Papa's Christmas presents. You ask if it is right in the woods here. No, not exactly. There are quite a number of clearings around here. The town will be as large as DeWitt soon if it keeps on growing. There are twenty-two families here besides about thirty men, one dry goods store and post office, one drug store and grocery combined, and two blacksmith shops, two saw mills, R.R. station, telegraph office, school house about a half mile out of town, have eight months school yearly. No, I can't say that I like this better than railroading but it is better pay and won't use a man up as quick as railroading but if I get thrown out of one I am pretty sure of the other. And, don't think I will lose any more time very soon. I freely forgive you for asking that question you spoke of for it did not offend me in the least. But, I won't burn the letter, you bet your pants. A man by the name of Crandle is running the hotel. He is a school teacher, has a daughter teaching the school now.

I don't think of anything more that would interest you. Will send you a (?) and when you want any more don't be afraid to ask for you are just as welcome as you could be. Remember, next spring darling and make preparations for keeping house. Be good and true to me and I will be the same.

Bye bye my love. Kiss our little pets for Papa.

From,

Will

Levering, Mich. Dec.18, 1887

Dear Wife and Children,

I will answer your kind and welcome letter which I rec'd, last Wednesday. It laid in the office three or four days before I got it. Didn't expect an answer quite so soon but was just as glad to receive it. Thought I wouldn't answer it until today. I am generally pretty tired, I expect to work Christmas. There will be a dance here Friday night but I don't think I shall attend. Mr. Fisher has got all the logs out that he thinks he can have so he let his cutters and sawyers go so I am going to load teams. Mr. Fisher has bought four hundred acres of land, mostly cedar and hardwood. Isn't going to cut any cedar this winter because cedar is very low. He also bought the biggest saw mill here and is repairing it. The reason I changed boarding places was because Mrs. Jones, the lady of the house, was taken sick with the lung fever. Yes, I say the same. I am thinking of changing places again. There are no accommodations for drying my socks when they are Wet. The young man that is going to load with me says he Will pay half the expenses and we will rent a shanty, furnish it and his sister will cook for us. She is a grass widow with one Child. No there ain't any Grange up here. Haven't heard from Hat nor Rose. Haven't read my answer from Elmer Smith yet.

Well darling, I can't think of any more that would interest you. Will send you a (?) and you are twice welcome. You make as many excuses as one of the Queens subjects pleading for their life. Goodbye my love. Kiss my little pets for Papa. Write soon.

From,

Will

Cheboygan, Mich. Jan. 17, 1888

Dear Wife and Children,

I will drop you a few lines to let you know what has become of me.

I had a row with the foreman and left Levering. Am working for F. H. Stinchfield the same man I worked for a year ago last summer. Am thirty miles south of Cheboygan on the Upper Black River. I have charge of the snow plow and sprinkler. I can have steady work here as long as I like to stay but don't know how

long that will be. When I settled with Fisher & Co., Fisher said he hated to see me go. He told me that they were talking some of starting two or three camps to work in cedar three or four weeks and if they did he wanted me to come back and take charge of a crew.

The foreman that they have at present is half nigger and the boys are all down on him. Fisher also told me that he wanted me to take charge of his men next winter in hardwood so I guess I stand in pretty well with the Co.

I am well and hope this will find you and our little darlings all well. Did you go anywhere during the holidays? I came down here a week ago last Thursday. Will close for this time. Kiss Edna and Maud for me.

Bye bye. Address Wm. B. Randall
Cheboygan
in care of F. H. Stinchfield.

Pellston, Mich. Mar. 11, 1888

Dear Wife and Children,

I will drop you a few lines to let you know I'm well and wishing you the same.

I came to Levering a week ago last Thursday. Mr. Fisher seemed to be pleased to see me. He told me that I could go to work any time I liked. I intended to go to work for him Monday but he rec'd, a letter from A. P. Willits Thursday asking him to send him someone that was capable of taking charge of a crew of men and running a camp for him. So, he gave me a letter of introduction to Willits and I came down here and got the position at \$35. and board per month. Mr. Fisher said he wanted me to take charge of his crew about the first of August unless I could do better here than he could do by me. Fisher discharged his colored foreman while I was down to Strickfieldscamp. He said if he had known the circumstances when I left that he would have discharged the foreman and put me in his place. He is going to reserve a house for me to live in. His present foreman lives in at now so you can take courage again and if nothing happens we will be together before long. The snow is about 3 feet here. Rained yesterday afternoon and snowed last night.

Will close for this time, have got too much on my mind to write you a good letter.

I hope our little darlings have got over their colds ere this. Kiss them for me and may God bless you all and bring you safe to me.

No More, yours with love from your own true,

Will

Address: Pellston, Emmet Co., Mich.

Levering, Mich. Jan. 25, 1891

Dear Niece,

I rec'd, your welcome letter in due time. Was pleased to hear from you but sorry to think you form so poor an opinion of me. I know I have done wrong but believe I have done as any man would do under the circumstances. The Lord knows I have suffered enough for my folly without being centured (?) by anyone. I would sooner die than pass through what I have in the last two years again. I had trouble enough before for which I bare all the blame but as I said before, anyone would do as I did under the same circumstances. I always said, and always will say, that Ida's father was to blame for nearly all our trouble and separation. I don't blame Ida nor never did, nor never shall, for any sensible woman would not nor could not leave home surrounded with the influences that she was.

I am sure Ida loved me and God knows if ever a man loved a woman, I did her and always shall. But, if a man has a wife, he wants her to be with him and go with him to the end of the world if need be regardless of anyone else. It isn't my nature to live alone nor will I any great length of time. I hope when you marry, you will get a better man than I am. Ella, I wish you would send me the picture of my little girls. The one I had has been destroyed. You may want to keep them but please let me have the picture for I am lonely without it. Let me know when you hear from Ida. I am a thousand times obliged to you for Ida's letter. It done my soul good to see her hand writing once more. The only little token of her and the children that I have got is a lock of each of their hair and I have kept that secreted or it would have went with all the rest.

I am decking logs in a mill yard at present. The snow is about one foot deep on an average, not very cold.

Levering is a small place. Two saw mills, two stores, P. office, RR Station and about a dozen dwellings. I intend to go to Chicago in the spring. Good bye. Please write soon for I am lonesome, homesick, and almost discouraged. Am oblige, a loving uncle,

W. B. Randall

C. J. Pailthorp
Attorney at Law

Rooms 1 & 2, Masonic
Block
Petoskey, Mich.

DeWitt, Mich.
March 9, 1911

To the Postmaster of Harbor Springs

Dear Sir:

Do you know or have you heard of a person named William B. Randall, about 56 years old, living in or anywhere around Harbor Springs?

About 27 years ago he left home thru some family trouble, I think, leaving a wife and two little girls. I am one of his daughters and would like very much to find him and see him.

A friend of his said he was seen in Harbor Springs. I think that was seven or eight years ago and I decided to write you about it, thinking perhaps I might find him there now.

Please, answer as soon as possible and I do so hope you know of him.

Thanking you in advance for the trouble, I remain sincerely,

Mrs. Maud Cutler
DeWitt, Mich.

(Typed on Back:)

Mrs. Maud Cutler, DeWitt, Mich.

Dear Madam:

Your letter rec'd some time ago, but failed to answer as soon as I should. Have enquired of several people new and old residents but they do not seem to know any such person. A few years ago there was a Randall here but his name was Warner.

Wishing you success in finding your father, I am very sincerely,

R. Frank Lemon Postmaster

DeWitt, Mich.
Mar. 28, 1911

To the Postmaster,
Levering, Mich.

Dear Sir,

I am trying to find my father & received a letter from a niece of his, written in 1891- 20 years ago, from Levering then a small town. He has not been heard from since & I thot that possibly you might in some way have known or heard of him, of course that's a long time ago and you might not have been there at that time at all, or

you might be the same postmaster that was there at that time, you see I don't know so that as one more chance of finding him I write you, asking if you knew of him or anyone that had ever known him perhaps possibly where he is now. His name is Wm. B. Randall, would be about 54 years old now. He left home about 27 years ago threw some family trouble & has never been heard from since except this once. I care a great deal about seeing him & learning where he is if possible. So, if you will please answer my letter and tell me all you can learn about it. At the time he was decking logs there in the mill yard & someone might remember him if you do not and perhaps know where he is.

I know no one else to whom to write & you may be the very one that can tell me, who knows. Thanking you in advance for the trouble & hoping to hear from you very soon.

I remain,

Mrs. M. D. Cutler
#27 DeWitt, Mich.

(On Back)

Mrs. M. D. Cutler Dear Madam:
3/30/11

If you will write to Mrs. Geo. Thornton, Pellston, Mich. she will give you the information desired. I remember Mr. Randall quite well but have lost track of him. Am under the impression he is dead. At one time he was married to the lady above.

Yours, P. M. Levering

Cleveland, Ohio
April 3, 1911

Dear Cousin Maud,

I rec'd all 3 of your good letters. I am well. Tell Aunt Ida I will send her a birthday card first time I am down St. where I can get some pretty ones. I wish I could help you in your finding Uncle Will but I don't see how and I didn't know I had that letter. I was down home a couple of weeks ago, was going over a lot of things I had taken out of my trunk & found that one. I have never heard anything from him since & its been a long time since I've heard from any of you only through Brother Jerome's one letter. I am thinking some of selling my rooming house here and take mother & Alvin my boy, and going west to Seattle where Gene is & then I would start in the rooming house business there. Its hard work but far better than to go out & work by the day for everybody else. This way I am my own boss & if I don't feel well everything goes on just the same. I was sick in bed 9 weeks this winter then went to

the hospital for 3 weeks. Everything went along nicely here. I have a lady friend who took care of the house and see to things. I have 14 rooms, 11 that rent out as you can see I have something to do. I got a nice letter from Mama Saturday, she is well. April is hard. I do hope we get some decent weahter. It snowed here every night for ove a week & the wind comes off the lake & is so cold. I would like to have you all come to visit me when the boats start running. I live right down town about 10 minute walk from the square. I wouldn't know you but we could get acquainted, I think. I have seen you picture but the only picture I have of you girls is when one of you had long curls, I believe you were both small. I think that is home, and the one I had of Will, mother says she sent that to you. We may run across him sometime. I found a man in Chicago this last summer I hadn't heard from in 15 years. I went there and found his address in the Directory. Took me 4 days to find him but I see him and talked to him. He told me he thought I was dead & it was Mr. Spencer a party told me he was living in Chicago so I took the train & went up there. Well Maud, I have some more writing to do & it soon will be supertime.

I will say goodbye. Remember me to all & write to me again.

From,

Ella

PARK HOUSE

Corner of R.R. & Bay St. Opposite G.R. & I. Depot.
Open Night & Day

W. W. O'Neal, Prop'r.

Petoskey, Mich.
Dec. 29, 1911

Dear Mrs. M. D. Cutler,

I received a letter from you some time ago and answered stating I think from the description, your father worked for me some 20 years ago at Pelston, Mich and later one winter at Seney on the Upper Peninsula of Mich. and left me to go on further up to Rainy River. Since that time I have not heard of him. I have inquired since getting your letter from parties I thought would know. He married a widow woman in Pelston before I knew him. They did not agree so they parted while I knew him. She married again, her name was Mrs. Walters. I do not think he ever wrote to her after they parted. I do not remember the woman's name now but a letter addressed to W. Walters, Pelston I think would get there. Now, this is all the information I can give you now.

Jas. Wm. O'Neal

Seney, Mich.
1/15/12

Mrs. M. D. Cutler
DeWitt, Mich.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter of Jan. 2 asking for W. B. Randall, nobody here remembers him.

Rainy River is not near here it is in Canada near Winnipeg.

Yours Truly,

Geo. M. Falkhagen
Post Master

Rainy River, Ontario
May 2, 1912

Mrs. M. D. Cutler,
DeWitt, Mich.

Dear Madam,

Yours of April 14th to hand and beg to say that it is the first communication received from you. Since receiving yours of Apr. 14 I have made diligent enquires from some of whom have been in the district of Rainy River for thirty years and I have been unable to secure any information as to the whereabouts of William B. Randall. There is one James Smith living here however who may know something about him but I have been unable to get him at home since receiving your letter. He has sailed on the river for over thirty years and would likely have met your father if he has been sailing on this river. I will however notify you if I should get any trace of him.

Yours truly,

Hugh Carson
P. M. Rainy River
Ont., Canada

A. L. Devel & Co.

Law, Loans, Insurance, Real Estate & Collectors

Harbor Springs, Mich.
March 15, 1913

Mrs. M. D. Cutler
DeWitt, Mich.

Dear Madam:

Replying to your favor of the 14th of January inquiring as to the address of Fred Lawrason, we are informed by the members of his family here that his address is as follows: Irmulco, Nond Co., California

Trusting that this will give you the desired information, and that same will help you in the search you are making, we remain,

Yours very truly,

A. L. Devel & Co.

Irmulco, Calif.
Mar. 26, 1913

Mrs. M. D. Cutler
DeWitt, Mich.

Dear Madam,

My husband asks me to answer your welcome letter in regards to your father. My husband, Fred Lawrason knew your father, Wm. B. Randall well, and they always were the best of friends. The last time they met was in the year 1900, in Seattle, Washington. They talked together only a short time. You father went on shipboard bound for Cape Nome, Alaska. Fred said to tell you, if he were you, he would write a letter to him addressed to Takoma, Wash. as he had been staying there with a man by the name of Leon Leally, and also write one addressed to your father, Seattle, Wash. as he might be back from Nome.

This as near as Fred can put you on his track now, and at anytime you wish to know anything more about your father, don't be efraid to write, and we will be glad to tell you all Fred knows about him. And also, if you ever do write please tell us who give you the kind information of Fred knowing your father. We have a great many friends in Michigan.

We wish to remain your friends,

Freda & Fred Lawrason
Irmuleo, Calif.

P. S. Let me know when you hear of or from your father. Fred would like to know

very much.

Irmulco, Calif.
Apl. 14, 1913

Mrs. M. D. Cutler
DeWitt, Mich.

Dear Friend,

Rec'd your welcome letter a week ago today, I would have written sooner but I have been making garden, fixing up my flower beds, and also planting vegetable seeds. Our garden is looking fine. We are living at a mill camp. There is about forty familys living here and each house has garden spot with it. We got about as pretty a place as there is in camp. My husband is working on the mill pond. We have three boys, two are married and are living here, the oldest and the youngest, and the other boy is staying at home with us. They all work here, for Irmine & Muir Lumber Co.

If ever you should come out West as far as San Francisco you must be sure and come up here to see us. We live about 138 miles north of San Francisco.

Well, we hope you have had some news of your father by this time. Fred eat and slepted with your father for many a day and night and he also boarded with him after he married Mrs. Walter. They were running a boarding house in Pellston, Mich. and at the time the boy was born she never liked the poor little child. Fred says she used to be awful mean to him. You know she had been married before she married your father and she had two girls by her first man, and she thought them just right. She used to call the boy Bill the second. Fred thinks the boy left home because his mother had no use for him. I never knew any of them but Fred knew them well. The last time he seen the boy he was 10 or 12 years old. Fred said if he were you, he would write to the boy and let him know he had one friend in the world, the poor boy. We sure feel sorrow for him, and he looked just like his father, and he seemed to be an awful good boy.

Well, I guess I will close. We wish you all kinds of luck in finding your father, and hope you will find your brother too.

Your truly,

Freda A. Lawrason

OFFICE OF WILD GOOSE MINING & TRADING CO.

Nome, Alaska
June 10, 1913

Mrs. M. D. Cutler
Rt #27
DeWitt, Mich.

Dear Madam:

Your letter of April 16th, enquiring for your father (Mr. Wm. B. Randall) was received a few days ago.

The books of the company for the year 1900 are not at hand but I am unable to find any record of his working for the company from 1902 to date. There was a notice in the local newspaper here which may bring you some information. I am very sorry to be unable to assist you in this matter but should anything turn up regarding his whereabouts we will be only too pleased to advise you of it.

Very truly yours,

Wild Goose Mining & Trading Co.

by G. R. Jackson