

LETTERS FROM THE FAMILY OF
WILLIAM AND MARTHA (BAKER) TALBOT
OF ST. CHARLES TOWNSHIP, WINONA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

St. Charles, Minn. April 6, 1883

Dear Brother and Sister:

I received your kind and welcome letter and was very glad to hear from you. I was home Sunday they was all well only had colds. Aunt Pollies folks are all well and hope this will fine you and John and Topsie the same. The snow is going off some but very slowly. Pa said Sunday that he could commence seeding in two or three days. Aunt Pollie and the two little ones has been up to Eva Gates today and has just gone to bed. Ada told me to tell you be sure to take good care of Topsie and give her plenty to eat and every day about one or two o'clock she says I wonder what Hattie is about some time she think you are washing dishes or combing your hair. I wish that you were here so I could talk to you instead of writing I can't tell you half as I could if you were here I suppose I can't help it now.

I was home Sunday and went out to hunt up Topsie I forgot that she was out west with you, poor little thing I wish I could see you all again. I did not realized that you was out west so far away untill I got your letter. I have been thinking about you ever since. Ma says that she get a thinking about you it make her feel bad when she see your pitcher. Pa heard that out to Aberdeen that there are not enough to eat there are so many comming in and he told Ma about it she is so afraid that you are out there and will not get enough to eat. they was expecting a letter from you about Wednesday if it was so you would say something about it. Uncle George says to tell John that he is ever so much obliged for them fish he sent him. and Mrs Gates had some she thought they was awful nice he sends his best wishes to you and would like awful well to call in and see you. Well Hattie you did not tell us how you like Dakota or what kind of a house you have got whether

you can set in bed and reach all around the room or not you did not tell half enough of news to suit us. And you did not even say a word about Art as you said you would write back and tell me all about it I'm getting anxious to hear you know. I had a letter from Alta the other day her father says that seeing John has packed off you he want to know if Sweet William is around yet. Mary has gone out to Iowa City started Tuesday she was down here to see me she said she wanted to see you before you went but she could not get around to come before. Aunt Martha is comming up this Spring if she can and have a good long visit. Mrs. Rowel are comming out the 18 of May if nothing happens. Uncle George says that he is gone to bed and dreaming of you. And Dick send his best wishes and respect to you both and says he has not received that sketch about that beautiful Western land out there

John I want to know how far you are from Clark county please Erford Gates land is there Egglan is the place. Little Ada says to say good night to you and sleep sound and don't let the bugs bit this is where I changed pens and made a bad jot of it. Aunt told me to tell you that you can expect her out there for long if she don't appear in body she will in a skeleton form. I have been Ironing all the afternoon an am pretty tired two white shirts besides other things, Agnes are talking about learning a trade just as quick as I come home so I expect this will be the last Summer for me to work out and am very glad of it. Well Hat you will have to excuse me this time as my pen is very poor I got to write the words all twice. Aunt Polly said if you want any chicken you will have to write down an say so an she will send them up and Dick says that he will

not take them up/ or out rather in a sleigh. Well Hattie Gib was up today and are going to leave Wednesday is the appointed time to pull out he is going to bring his things up here he is going up home tomorrow so he said. Aunt Gubby is better so we heard they had some of the fishes. I believe that I have told all the news that I can think of for this time and I hope you will write good more news then you did this time we want to know all about the country out there. Aunt send you their pitchers to you. Allie and Ada want you to write them that letter you promise them they don't forget it. We send our love to you both and hug and kiss Topsy half a dozen times for me. I have learnt to play are we forgotten when we are gone. Write as soon as you can for we want to hear as often as we can for we cannot talk to you. Good Bye. From your Sister

Annie

St Charles April the 6 1883

wall my Dear Children we see your long look for latter and we all are all very glad to hear from you both and that you wore both wall and happy that is i thought so buy the way you wrot wall hat i am alone and the folks are all gone to bad so i thought it was the bast time for me to writ for you know i am a poor nerves thing i dont know as you Can read it or not i hope you Can wall hat we ar all wall and that is a grat blasing you dont know how often i think on you both i Always pray to our havenley father to pectect you both i hope you will allways poot your trust in him some times i gat a thinking it seemes it Cant be that your so far away i Cant realise it atall i often look down to wardes Mr. patherams but i Cant see you and John Comeing but naver mind i hope we shall all meet again annie was home last Sunday and you dont know how i hated to have her go away i dont know what made me fell so but i did she dont like it down ther very wall hat i spose you got very tierd before you got to pats didnt you i kind a think you felt something like the boy that fell in the swill bath ant that so John you know he didnt have much to say but i do expect you had lots to talk about when you got to pats i would have liked to have been a mouse for a few minuts

you dont know how pleased your pa was with his fish and the fun of it was we suposed thay was to be devided betwen Mr patheram and Mr Vowels and Mr paterson so pa sent Jessie down to Mr patherams with some fish and thay told Jes that thay had a box to so Jes had to fetch them back again pa thinks it is nice to have a sun in Decota but i would rather hav him live near home but we must be satesfide Just as it is pa said if you go on your farm to live mabe we Can send some thing to you to make up for the fish i do expect that butter is very dear it weried me so mutch when i herd what a rush of people ther was goin thru all the time i was afraid that you would Suffer for the want of food but i hope the lord will pervide when you writ again tell me all the newes about your travels i do expect that father Richerson and grand Ma was very glad to see you wasent thay i fancy i Can see the Old Jentelman how he acted is he so punney as he youst to be wall hattie i dont know yat how is going to work for yous yat mabe that gib will it is not desided whather or no hat when you writ again writ to Agness i now she would like to gat a latter from you we are going to Send you some papers yours and the winona you must writ and tell them whare to send your paper to thay dont know you have Changed your name

wall hattie i must stop writing prittie soon for my eyes is giving out and it is half past Eleven o Clock and i do make so menne blunders i am ashamed for John to see it which i suppose he will tell John i would like to gat thre ore 4 pages when he write wall i gass i shall have to Close my scribe by sending our love to you both i want you to writ Just as often as you Can from your father and Mother

Wm and Martha E Talbot

i will have to leve a little room for Cora to wright some trust in the lord at all times and verely thou shalt be fad from your mother

Dear Sister and Brother.

I thought I would write to you. We are well and that this will find you All

well. well hattie pa want to now how them picking of mushrat gos now hattie i wants you to bear this in mind when you write agane i want you to write more about topsy i wants you to write a good long letter with 3 or 4 pags in it i cant think of much i gues ma and Jessie has to wrote most all noze so goodbye forn Cora to hattie and John. so goodby write soon

Utica, Minn. April 21, 1883

Dear Children we received your very welcome letters and was very glad to hear from you both but was very sorry to hear of your sickness i hope and trust in the lord that you will soon be all right again i thought i should hear of your sickness ore some troble for i have had such strange dreams i have wored so mutch about you it has almost made me sick i dont fell half wall every thing i doo it seems to mutch for me i hant got but a very little strangth i dont think i shall aver be very strong again i am weak in body and weake in mind but i am wilint to sumit to the will of the lord this world has no Charm for me hattie we are a grat mane miles a part but i think of you both a grat mane times during a day but i trust in god we shall all meet again i pray for you all ways O blesed promes god has given to the warie paserbuy on the rode from Earth to heven i will gide the with mine Eye those words do so often Come in my mind thay are so incurigan to me hattie i dramt last night that i sa John and you drive up to the dore i thought i was so glad to see you both i hope you well be happie and not gat home sick it would make me fell dradful bad if you was to be i think you will fell batter to live on a farm then you would to live in toun you know you allways liked to be out of doars a good deal it will seem so good to you both when you go Ceeping house

pasaid he would like to Just stape in Just then wall hattie you did not say on your latter that you wrot to Agness whather you received mine ore not nor nether did John i wrote to you the saterday before your Cow was sent tell John i think it was to bad for both to be sick to once but i hope you will be Careful not to Catch a frash Cold it may be wors with you then aver it is elaven o Clock and it is time for Agness to gat up the taders for Dinner i woul like for you both to be hear to help eat them wall hattie i must bring my latter to a Close for this time i hope you will writ to us often from your dear father and Mother

Wm and Martha E. Talbot

I guess tht I will have to finish writing mothers letter Reve says that he isent going out in Dakota any more. Lou was up here to day and we had a very good viset Frank has been quite sick but he is better now. Jessie is doing all of the harrowing and Gib. is seeding Jes. says that he dont want to be a farmer. Cora goes to school. she says that she likes the teacher real well Oh I forgot to tell you that Pa & Jes. caught a skunk in the trap the other morning well Hat the wind is blowing like fun to day Pa went out doors this afternoon and the wind came very near blowing him away and he said that he guess that he would come in a house and stay a while Lou said that you came very near loosing your cat out there how was that well I guess that I will have to close I will have to leave a little nuse fore some other time so good bye for this time and take care of your self and not take cold from your sister Agnes to Hattie our strawberrys is alive and they look Just splended

Utica Minn.

April 21, 1883

Dear Sister Hattie

I now take my pen in hand to write you a few lines hoping that it will find you better then what you was when you wrote to me. we are all well as usual Ma hasent been feeling very well but you know that she dont have very good health the folks is seeding down here Pa comenced last Tuesday he will get through next week well Hat when Pa recieved Johns letter I had to laugh to think that you laugh at Joe Patterson when he went to Dakota and caughed the measles and when you went you had to do likewise, but when I recieved your letter I was very sorry to think that you had been so sick and out there all among strangers. I expect that

you fell discourage I know that I should if it had been me. I hope that you will get along all right and not take cold and be sick again. well Hat I suppose that you heard about Uncle Geo. Talbots house being struck with lighting last week but as luck would have it it didnt catch on fire it spoilt one of his lighting rods and knocked out one corner of the wood house and broke the doors of her little cupboard in the kitchen and granpa was sitting by the side of it in his chair and it scorched a place in the floor well I cant begin to tell you what it did do but Gib said that it tore things about pretty good. well Hattie ma says that she is glad that you got your cow all right but she thinks that she wont be able to have the calf as you told her that she might well I guess that you will have to try and get along with out Nellie this

summer for that man that took your cow said that he couldnt take any thing but the cow and corn so Nellie had to stay at home. but if you want her very bad and if we can get a chance to send her we will for Pa says that he expect that you would like to have her out there but you must hug your cat instead they say that the round house in Winona is burnt down we will send you the paper giving the whole account of it when pa gets through reading it. Mr & Mrs Geo. Persons has gon out west and left Minnie and Arther to run this farm aunt Small is sick a bed yet and she dont seem to get any better. Lizzie Patterson is going to school this summer they have got a Mr Blair for a teacher this year Minnie Stokes is teaching school where Gertie taught last winter. Mary Gilmore came up here to see us before she went to fargo she said that she tried to

get over before you went but she couldnt she is going to teach up there where she did before. I suppose that you heard that Mr Wheeler Brown has gone to Fargo to end his days I should think that Mrs woods would feel very lonesome without them. well Hattie when you write again I want you to give me a History of your travels and Dakota and how your cat behaved itself and besides tell me all about your mansion in the west well Hat in regarde to those rose bushes we will send you a slip of each all but the white rose that you know runs up all in one stalk so that we cant divide it and we will send you some more plants such as we think you would like we havent got only three of our house plants a live all of them roted but the English Ivey and your lilie and the roses that sarah smith gave me

but we have got a few slips that aunt Lib gave me when I was down there about two weeks a go ma says that she will get them picturs taken and sent to you as soon as she can I asked Pa last night when I read the letter to him if he knew that Mr & Mrs. Wm. Talbot he said that he never got acquainted with them yet John said on his letter that Reve and Frank Persons was up to Aberdeen and that he

wouldnt be surprised if they did get home before we got his letter . sure enough
they did they get home last monday and Pa didnt get his letter untill Wednesday

A DISASTROUS fire occurred in Winona about three o'clock on the morning of the 11th inst., destroying the machine-shops and round-house of the Winona & St. Peter R. R., and damaging eleven engines. The total loss is estimated at about \$35,000. Of course a good deal of inconvenience has resulted from this fire; but the Company, with characteristic energy, immediately set to work to repair damages, and the walls of the old buildings left standing will be roofed, and temporary shelter for engines, etc., afforded. It is intimated that in a short time, new machine shops and round-house, double the size of the burned buildings, will be built on or near the present site.

St. Charles Union, Wednesday, April 18, 1883, p. 3, col. 3.

At Home, April 29, 1883

Dear Bro. and Sister:

I received your kind and welcome letter to-day as our folks was down St Charles yesterday and got it. I was glad to hear from you and that you was getting better, but was very sorry to hear about your little boy being sick. The wind is blowing to day quite hard but is rather warm for all that. I think some of you folks out there better keep their Western wind to their selfs we don't wan't it but we have had it just the same. Oh! I forgot to tell you that we are all well only I've got a big jaw I catch a cold in my face if my throat was sore I would think it was the mumps. I'll try not to use them so much may be that will help it. Pa got his wheat and oats in but has not got the barley in yet. I went in to Mrs. R. Gates this morning after a yellow rose for Ma she told me I could have one if I came after it. it is quite a nice one.

You ought to see the new songs I got this morning six of them they are The little Spring beside my cabin home. Nancy Lee, You are always young to me Oh! Mother come back to your boy. Over the garden wall. and You've been a friend to me. awful pretty. Eva Gates says that if I come up there when I get a chance and she will give me a lesson every time and tell me what she know about music for nothing. Aunt Polly said that I can. Agnes has started taking lesson again Mrs G. are comming up Wednesday to give her one she is coming up every other time if she can. Na! ought to be here to-day as Ag's old gobbler died last night to bury it and get a tombstone for it and write here lies the remaines of our poor old gobbler died for the want of breath, weep not for he is at rest. Aunt Polly's folks has had the painters the last week or ten day painting the in side of the house. We was pretty well startled when the lighting struck the house you ought to see it that cupboard that was by the door had to put kettles an one thing

and another in it torn the doors down an that shelf and send things all around burnt the boiler in two places and in struck the sink the other side of the stove burnt one spot about as big as your palm of your hand and knock the doors and hit Grandpa on the knee and I was standing in the little hall leaning against the door and the lighting hit the spout that the water runs in about a foot and a half from my head pretty close call melted the rods so they are just about the size of the top of your little finger and burnt the house in several different places on the outside as well as inside torn the shingles up both side of the stovepipe. Most all of us was in the same room. I think we ought to be thankful that we was not hurt some thing hit me on my cheek burnt like fire all the rest of the evening when it bursted the fire flew all around me, and it put out the lamp so we could not see if any one was dead or not until we got a lamp you bet we did not eat much supper that night.

Oh Hat you must bother Agnes about Mr. Walker her friend was up to see her the other day and she was playing the shells we gathered years ago when ma open the door an in pops Mr Walker's head scared her like ever thing. Agnes was down to Mrs Petheram the other day and she gived Cora a little canary bird so we got two now. Allie and Ada do talk about you every day wonder how Topsie is geting along. I don't care any more about the cat I had one I cared for and you had to take it away when you come back next fall you will have to bring her along to. Reave Persons has got back I have not seen him yet when I do I am going to bother him he was going to stay away so long. Well I suppose my cake is

dough now see Art goes to see some body out there will be Mrs Petheram number three. Ma told me to tell you that if there are any robins out there you must think of her because they are

Wednesday May 2. we have got your plants up so we will send them when we send this letter we will send them by mail so you can get them quicker You must plant them as soon as you can for they have been taken up quite a little while allready

A STORM, very threatening in appearance, came up from the southeast on Friday evening last. The lightning was incessant and very brilliant. A wing of Fred. Talbot's house, three miles east of town, was considerably shattered by a stroke. No damage was done here by the wind that we can hear of. Further west, however, buildings were overthrown, as we learn by the following dispatch from Rochester under date of Saturday:

"About seven o'clock last night the wind did damage in the eastern part of town, destroying houses, barns, and hay sheds. The house on C. H. Chadbourne's farm was moved eight feet. The wind came from the southeast."

St. Charles Union, Wednesday, April 18, 1883, p. 3, col. 2.

St. Charles May

Dear Children

We received your very welcome letter last night we are glad to hear that you are well, I have felt quite poorly for a few days but am feeling better again now, your Fathers arm still troubles him a good deal, I think you have done well getting in your garden stuff I hope you are having warmer weather up there than we are having here Sunday Monday and Tuesday nights it froze quite hard

Monday morning the ice was 1/2 inch thick in the trough by the well I dont think the fruit is forward enough to hurt much, it is too late to send you any strawberry plant now but if you would like to have some we will send you some in the fall Lou planted out about 800 plants last fall and they are nearly all liveing and some few of them are goin to blossom, well Johnie you spoke in your letter about Frank coming out there My dear Boy you may as well ask us to let Willie come as Frank as we could spare

one about as well as the other of course Frank cannot do the work that Willie does but such work as he does I dont know how we could get along without him especially as your Fathers arm is so lame, we are goin to send you a 3 gallon crock of butter we cannot pay the express on it as we have no money,, I suppose it will be more than you two will be able to use by the time your cow comes in so if I was in your place I would sell part of it and that will pay the express, you must not think Frank would not like to come out there or that

that we would not be quite willing for him to come if we could spare him, your Aunt Eliza left Frank Pike out with Al[] Willie has been fishing he was gone two days and did not catch a fish Willie John Baker and Joe Paterson went together over by Elba, we are having bad luck with our little pigs we have had 4 die in 3 days

I must conclude for this time with love to you both from your loving Mother & Father

W. & E. Petheram

St Charles May the 10

My Dear Children i thought i would writ to you this smoring while it is quiet but my hand tremble so i dont know how to do it pa has the pants and you know Just how it makes me fell when he is like that it makes it unplesent for all but naver mind ther will be a stope to it some time i shant all ways last hattie i was very glad to gat your very walcom latter which i received last satterday and was glad to hear that you ware both wall and happie and that you ware gone Ceeping house i know it must be lots batter for you but how do you feel when John gose away to work dont you fell lonsom dos he have to walk to Wasport every Morning and home at knight if he dos i pitte him when you writ tell me all about it o hat how i wish i Could see you both but god onley knowse we may naver see Each other again but i trust in god that ail will be wall o that is a Comfort to me and with out that hope life would not be mutch to me wall hattie it is very wat and Cold

things Cant grow very mutch did you gat your ruts all right i am sory about the papers but we sent the box before we got your latter but i will send you some seede and if i Can i will send some paper pads when i can ga[] thay are so good when you have a Cold bot how about the viniger you know how i youst to fix them and how do you gat along with your backing do you have anne hoppes out ther i do Expect it is kinda hard to have to bye every thing for the furst year after that you will be able tarais some things so it wont seem so bad how do your Cow gat along i do expect butter is pertey Dear i often think on you when we have anne thing you youst to like yesterday we had some pigs feet for supper i thought to my self now hat ought to be hear do you gat aplenty of meet and potatos i hope you do i have got a little pig up afatting i am goin to fat him my self so we Can have some pork by the time the other is at up i think i Can fat him without annie Corn you know we hant got but a little Corn it does seem quere to see our Corn Crib so ampety i hope we will have a batter Crop this year

gib is still hear pa gives him a Doller a Day whan he works and i likes him very wall so far i dont know how long he will stay hear i think pa would have done batter to have hierd a man like he youst to you know just how your pa is he wont say ane thing to gib if he dont do avery thing Just right but he gats mad at the rest but your pa is hard to be sooted wall hattie i gass i shall have to leave a little room for Jessie to writ Cora thinks you ought to wright to her the poor Children is allways glad to hear from you tell John not to work to hard and be sick again hattie i supose you would like that little spider of mine it would fit your little stove i spose you have a snug little home i hope you will be happie and not gat home sick wall hattie i will have to stop for this time writ to me as often as you Can with my very bast love to you both from your affectnet Mother and father

Martha and Wm Talbot

you musent fell bad if you dont gat this by sunday good bye

May the 10th 1883

Dear Sister Hattie I thought I would write you and John a few lines to let you now that we are all well. my watch is down to Mr. Brown's to get fixed pa took it down a week ago last satarday we have got all of ower corn ground plowed but

a little and we entend to to fineshit to morrow if nothing happen it rained all night before last steady I was down to my Uncle Bill baken's to day to get some suger cane seed George crowing grow's like a weed Gib and tug are playing no body won't tell me how to spell checker's agnes would not tell me she said she did not no how to spell it, We have killed 6 skunks all ready I gess I will have to stop for this time. I am well same with the rest So good bye from your brother

Jessie

good bye

Utica Minn. May 20, 1883

Dear Sister Hattie

I now take my pen in hand to write you a few lines hoping that it will find you & John both well. we havent had a very nice spring this year it has been so very cold and when it did get a little warmer then it would rain so you see it has put the folks back with their corn planting pa has planted a bout half of his corn. well Hattie we are having a quartly meeting here at the school house and Friend Sweet preached this afternoon and Mrs. Rowel will preach this evening if it dont rain to hard. Libby Whiting has come she came last Friday and they didnt know that she was coming for sure sarah is sick again

the Dr. says that her lungs are allmos gone. but still she keeps up around Mr Roberts or at least Lady Roberts son was up hear the other day and it was enough to make a cat laugh to see him. Oh! and I shall have to tell you that Mr Walker says that all of use young Ladies dont do any thing but Slander the young men. the other day when I went down to Mrs Gates' he stoped me on the road and he wanted to know what maid me stay so long for he said he suppose that I was slandering the men that made me stay so long now dont you think that he is insulting. if I had been acquainted with him I should have told him Just what I thought of him. so you see that if you wait untill I give Mr Walker your best respects you will have to wait some time I told him that I thought that the young men wasent very far behind the Ladyes with their Slander.

Joe Patterson has got back again I was up to see Lizzie the other day and I had a very good visite with Lizzie and her mother. I couldnt see as Dakota had hurted Joe any. Pa was as glad with his shirt as though it was a fortune and those shells that you sent I think is very pretty well hat I think that you have had quite a big increase in your family Niggy caught a little bird last night Ma rund after her and maid her drop it but it died after we got it away from her then after it was dark the cat caught its little mait for this morning we found the feathers in the dore yard and one of its little feet. you said that your Mother sent you some Eng. seeds I got the start of you for Lou give me some and they are up nicely those flower seeds that you sent us I planted

I think that if they all grow that I have planted I shall have a very nice garden we havent got hardly any gardening don yet we have got in some onions and some potatoes Oh I forgot to tell you that our annie dont think any more of Joe now it is all Richard Bains he furnishes Pa with Eng. papers & magazines every weak so as to keep on the right side of him aunt Polly told me that he had offered annie \$[].40 per year to come and work for him when he went keeping house. uncle Geo. says that annie has got it maid up so I dont think that their will be a annie Talbot here so very much longer. Hattie Lizzie told me to tell you that she wanted you to write to her as soon as you could Uncle William Baker is geting offul good again to Mother I guess that he would give mother his shirt if she only wanted it

Fred Talbot is going to comence at his new house to morrow and after it is finished it will be get a way you little stink and go and get supper so as to get the work done up in time to go to meeting this evening

Pa and Jes has killed 7 of those great big milk snaiks on the eighty this spring

and Gib and Jes has killed 7 big skunk and they dug out 5 little ones so all together they have caught Just one doz. annie Wattson has had a brother come out from Eng. this spring and their was a young man that came out with him

Hattie it was to bad about your box being broken so I sent you some other kinds of seeds besides the sweet peas but I dont remember what kind it was Gib said that it was hard work to keep his nose clean now for he had such a bad cold in his head.

May the 23

wall hattie this is wansday and i thought i would take a walk up to uta for i think ther will be a latter from my Children in Decota if ther ant i shall be dis[] pa has got thru planting Corn last night and i am glad the Crops is looking very nice at prasant we have had quit a wat spring but it may be for the best we Cant tell but we must leve it all to the lord for you know he dose all things wall o hattie we had a Meetting last sundy Mrs roulle preached it was a blessed meeting but ther was wone apsent i mist in the young peoples meeting but ther is thing that gives me Comfort that is the lord Can watch over the apsent ones

Mrs rowell toled me to give her love to you when i did writ annie was home last sunday she was Complaining be Cause she dont gat a latter from Mrs John E. patheram you know it is hard to sute every boddy but my little Man Jessie filt prittie big wh[] his you will have to writ one to Cora for you know how much she would think of it hattie i wish you would writ to Lisie paterson and girtie Vowles for thay often inquir for you i know thay would like to hear from you ho hattie Agnesses little rse is out in blosom it is rad and it looes very prittie i wish you Could see it and have a good sniff of it it smell so sweet wall hat i supose you will have a nomber 1 flouer garden this summer but it is to bad you are botherd so mutch with those little birds give our love to John

from your mother

i will write more next time o hat pa thinks that shirt is the nisest one he aver had

this is the last Day of May

Well hattie the Children have Just gone to bed and it is nearley 10 oclock and i am the last 1 up but still i have to Commence my latter to knight and finish it in the Morning for i want to post it to Morra so you Can gat it by Sunday or you will think i am negglackful but you know i am a misable writer and such a poor speller but naver mind as long as you Can read it wall hattie you dont know how bad i want to see you it makes me fell very sad when i gat a thinking and that is pritte often i try to pace it of but Decota is bound to Come in my mind in spite of all i Can do i cant fix my mind on ane thing i wish i ware more brave and not be such a courde i know it is rong to frat but i Cant help it Monday i got tierd staying at home so i thought i would take a walk down to unkle belle and i did and when i got ther thay had gone

to Winona so i thought i would go over and see John and leasya thay was bisse Cleaning house and i was very tierd so i stoped and took Dinner with them and soon after dinner i started back home again when i got home Mr [] was ther shering your Sheape and i was 0 so tierd Agness has ben down to see Lucy to Day Mrs petheram wasent felling very well pa want over to the Mill yesterday with 8 Sacks of Wheat to gat ground and to Day he want and got it we had nearley 6 bags full i think that ought to last us till we gat some new dont you think so pa has ben boiling up taders to day for the pigs thay dont pay onley 20 Ct per bushel for them in St. Ch wall hat i must stop for to knight for i Cant Ceep my Eyes open the Clock has Just struck 11 good night hattie i thought i would finish my latter as the Children has Just started for school and pa and gib has gon down to gat a lode of Wood and after Dinner pa and I am goin down to Mrs hams a little while gib has hierd

to pa for 2 Months and half for 15 Dollers per Month he Commenced last Monday i like gib aver so mutch batter then i thought i should he has got along nicley so far the Crops is looking nice i want out in the Orchard Just now to see if i Could find any hans nestes and to look at the Apel blosoms thay are looking so pritty and smell so sweeat well hattie your uncle George and polley want to winna yesterday and Came back the same day thay want down to by new Carpets for ther new rooms ther is grate praperations makings down to Mr Talbots towards bilding i supose Mrs C will be all rite then well hat has your Cow Came in yat if she has i supose you wont be lonsom ane more but i do Expect John will have to by you an Exter pound of tea dount you think so gib brot home a note from Anne this Morning to say she was Coming home Sunday and Stop a weeak we hant Clend house

yat but i have to wait till pa gat me some lime and then we will have to go at it but i dont fell mutch like it now it has ben so Cold hear that we dar not have our stove out yeat and i dont want to whitwash yountiil it gats warm anof for that well hattie i Commenced to Make pas new shirt i do expect he will think more of that 1 then ane other 1 he aver had ore at lest he ot to after sending it so far wall hattie you tell John that he mustnot work so hard unless he wants to be sick i shall be so glad when he Can be at home more i know it must be lonsome for you but i hope the lord will take Care of you both we must trust in god and all will be rit i must stop soon for i got my beds to make and lots to do before i Can go to Mrs hams i want you both to writ as often as you Can dont gat discourigd i hope we will all meet again this is from your very afectnet Mother Martha E Talbot good bye to you both god blass you is my prayer

all her pets. Agnes and Gib and the two little ones has been out walking, our folks has killed two skunks this Spring so soon, Buttercup an up. Aunt Annie start Monday night for Dakota. Well Hattie they are getting supper so I guess I will have ma finish the letter as I have told all that I know and may be more. Mother Pap and Mother Vowels was up to see ma the other day. send our love to you and John mind and take care of Topsy cute little thing If I had her I would hug her to death just about. now Hat you must write as soon as possible as I allways want to hear from you.

from Annie

wall hattie anne has wrot lots of trash so i shall have to finish it agness has Just started over to see how aunt Gubie is and from ther to see Minnie percens and to get some flour seeds

wall hattie i was glad when i rad annies latter and found that you was batter but was sory to read that John was sick i expect he has exposed himself to mutch and Caught a bad Cold i hope he will soon gat batter we took annie down home last knight and we want round to Mr patherams and told them we had herd from you and that John was not felling wall you dont know how it makes me fell to think how mutch it will Caust John to be bording at the hotell and for both of you to be sick so much it will be anofal expence i hope he will soon be abel to gat in to something you know it is all goin out and nothing Coming in i trust in god that he will pervide i shall be agradel happer when i hear that you are gone to Ceeping hous i know it will be batter for you both hattie you did not tell me whather

you got your things all right ore no i meen your trunks and buroe and if you had manne things broked and how did your sparkey gat along it woried me i was afraid John woulden have anne plese to poot her i thought she would be quit a bother to him but binbye she will be nice when she Comes in i dont think it will be untill June wall hat pa is out in the garden pooting up his grap vins and he is goin to send you one and a rad rose and some other routs you must be Choice of them wall hattie tell John my little man gos out in the feald to plow ore to drag avery Day when it is fine he gats prette tierd when knight Comes we shall soon gat thru plese tell John to writ to me when he Can you must write to me hattie as often as you Can i think of you often and dream of you knights

So now dear Children i will bring my latter to a Close for this time i shall have to leve a little room for Cora i hope you will put your trust in the lord for he has promesd never to leave nor forsake those that trust in him good bye for this time with our love to you both from your faraway father and mother

Martha and Wm Talbot

Dear sister and brother

I thought I would write and tell you lottie Smith had the mumps and i do expect

i will have them for lottie was at school lest friday and at reces in fornoon and
in school ours bartha rote in scool ours that lottie was sick and reces i ask
bartha what was the mather of lottie and then she was coming down with them. O
do you now that mary bare was marde so forless Talbot toll me well i cant write
any more for ma has [] it all up so goob i will write a gane so good by for
your sister Cora to hattie wite soon i have to letters to and you not answer
one of them

My Dear Sister

June 18, 1883

I will now sit my self down to wright to you, We are all well and i hope this will find you and topsy and John all well too, i have Just got home from school and i ame tried wale hate i guess i will haft tell you about nelly wale hat nelly is well to as well as me an agness hase lots of truble to get nelly in to bead at night O hat spoty is ofel offle quet she has her eyes open we have he in a box it is a bee box and i have allmost lerent her to Jump out of the box O hat we are gone to have a picknet here the last day of school i waunt you to fill up a page of paper about topsy next time you do wright to me

i want you to wright and tell me all were you were the fourth of Jury pa has got 30 little pigs and agness has got 21 little tirkes to well hat i will haft to stop here now so goby hat forn your siste Cora to hattie and [] topsy and John wright soon goby hat

Monday 21, 1883 well Hattie you should ought to have heard Mrs Rowel preach last night she preached the best that I ever heard her. it appears that granpa & Geo. & Dick has been desputing about the scriptures as usual and annie told her about it and said that she would like for her to preach about it and so she did. but I only wish that granpa had been their Uncle Geo & aunt and Dick was their and when she was preaching I do believe you could have heard a pin drop if you had been their. I guess that it made some of them put on their think caps Ma asked Gib what he thought of it he said that he thought that she preached pretty plain the school house was just about full. well Hat Jessie has gon to school this morning for the first time this spring. we had a very hard

frost last night it was so hard that all of the pansies was just about flat to the ground when I went out this morning and the leaves on the treas are all wealted I expect that it will kill all of the plum blossoms and currants this year again.

Oh say Hat you can laugh at annie now for last night Mr Richard Bains came up hear and escorted our annie to church and he said that he was going to count him self in the famby now so you see that is just what he has been sending all of the papers to pa for just to get on the right side of pa and Ma then he thought that he was all right then so he didnt want to come very many times befor telling that he was intending to be one of the famby some day I don't know what you and John thinks but I think that we will have quite a wide awake brother

well Hat I am just about frose up so I will have to stop writing and go out and get warm oh I forgot to tell you that we have had a increase in the famby of cats, this is a letter of nonsense from agnes to her sister Hattie P.

Hat I should think that you would put up a scare crow in your garden to keep them black birds away

St. Charles, Minn. Sept. 2, 1883

Dear Sister Hattie:

I received your kind and welcome letter quite a while ago but to-day has been the first chance I have had to answer it as we have been thrashing. so you will please excuse me this time. We are all well at present and hope this will fine you and John and Topsy the same. Well Hat I am home to stay if nothing happens. I am getting tired of it seven months an a half since I went there. It is quite pleasant to-day it was awful warm yesterday I scrubed two floors I thought I would die before I got through with them I was as wet as a rag when I got through my dress was wet through so the blue came out on my back all in strips. We have had

one pretty close call I think of a storm I wish you could see that grove and where the buildings stood it is an awful sight Mr. C. Robbins told dad when he open the door the wind blowed him out against the pump and he seen something up in the air going off he kept tract of it and it was one of his hourses tied to a manger he took the ax and cut him loose and was not hurt hardly any, about 20 feet above his head so he said Ma and Pa has been down to Mr. Vowels and has Just got back they are expecting the thrashers to-morrow. Uncle George got all through but his timothy thrashed he got 1.195 bushels of wheat he took some to Utica and it went No. 2. Dad and I has been over after some corn for supper and they are busy at work at it. We have got \$15. more to pay on our organ to the firm I will be glad when it is paid for.

Oh! Hat you don't know what I heard yesterday. that I was going to step off the fall to the great unknowed I could not find out who it was. John Baker had a dispatch to say that Mary could not live any longer then Saturday we have not heard to-day I hope you will enjoy your apples Pa sent you and John. Pa has got the history of Winona County it is a very nice book I think. Dad took Lue Agnes and myself over to see Mrs. Wm O. Barker last Sunday went way over on Elba line. Agnes and I are going down to Uncle Sam cider making when I come home. Lizzie and Joe has come so I will have to stop and let Mother finished so I will stop good bye Write soon as possible from your sister

Annie Talbot

well hattie i supose anne has told you all the newe i did not read it all i dont know whather Joe Comes over to see Agness ore annie but he Comes over ane how

wall hat how did you like your apples ore didnt you gat them yat we have had a nice lot of Dutches this sesen i have Dride some the are nice i hope you will be able to eat some of them we are goin to have the thrashers to Mora that is if it is fine and i expect to be perety tierd i do hope it will Ceep nice wather i think the grain will turn out batter this year then it has for severl years i hope it will we have had some boild Corn to night for supper we have had some before but it is gating most to old the Corn is looking very wall i think we will have a good lot of Corn if the frost will onley Ceep off to ore thre weeaks longer wall hattie you tell John from me i wish he would writ to me for i Cant gat ane latter from hat i dont know how it is but mabe she will Come and fatch the latter with her that would sut me very wall but i want to hear

from you both i shall have to stop for we shall have to get up yerley in the
morning so good night to you both i hope this will find you all well writ soon
from your aver thinking
Mother Martha E. talbot

TORNADO!

Vicinity of St. Charles visited—Job Thorington killed—Members of his Family Seriously Injured—His House and other Buildings Demolished—Other Damage.

The weather yesterday was threatening all day, it being cloudy and very hot and "muggy." Towards evening, a storm originated to the southwest of St. Charles. It presented a terrific appearance, and many predicted we would hear of a cyclone in some quarter. Later in the evening, perhaps about seven o'clock, the wind blew with considerable violence directly from the southwest, black clouds passed over the city, and when apparently two or three miles northeast of us, formed an ugly looking bank, having a point projecting towards the ground. About nine o'clock a messenger arrived, who stated that Mr. Thorington's house, about four miles northeast of town, had been blown to pieces and all the family seriously hurt. Drs. Clark and Chamberlin were summoned to attend the sufferers. When they arrived, Mr. Thorington was still living, but shortly after breathed his last. He was hurt internally and terribly bruised about the face and head. The family had just arisen from the supper table at the time the wind struck the house, when they made a rush for the doors, but too late for all of them to escape. Those that did get out were hurried they know not whither. Mrs. Thorington, while considerably bruised, is not considered dangerously hurt. Her son George, wife and child, were also hurt. George, it is said, was carried into a tree. The hired girl, whose name we cannot ascertain, was very badly injured, but may recover. Dr. Martin's son Willard (one of the twins) was seriously hurt (at first thought fatally), but he is now better. He was helping during the harvest.

The fine grove about Mr. Thorington's house partially destroyed. A large oak tree was broken off close to the ground and carried more than fifty yards. The barn was also demolished. The horses were not hurt, although the harness was stripped from them completely. The family were tenderly cared for by the neighbors.

Considerable other damage is reported in the vicinity. Hay, and grain in the shock and stack, are strewn around promiscuously. It was at one time rumored that Alex. Gilmore's house was leveled—a report that happily proved groundless. A part of H. Lybarger's house was unroofed; also part of Chas. Robbins' house. A farm-house belonging to V. Simpson, and occupied by a family named Bluder, was wholly demolished; and the inmates severely handled.

The large barn on the Summit farm, now owned by H. W. Lamberton, was partially destroyed. This barn will be remembered by old settlers as having been erected in 1856. It was then the largest barn in the county, and was built by Wm. Ashley Jones.

In the north part of this city some damage was done. Postmaster Pickert's barn was canted out of shape, although filled with hay, and J. Huckins' kitchen was loosened from the main part of the house and turned over. Other minor damage was done in the neighborhood, such as the demolition of chimneys and shade trees—a pretty close call for St. Charles.

St. Charles Sept the 27

Dear Children this is friday and it has ben snowing most all Day pa and the girls did intend to go down to Mr. Bates tomorra but i dont think that thay will go now for it looks so mutch like a storm Agness thinks she will try the Dress making this Winter she is goin to lyarn of mrs Chancy Smith she is goin to take her thre Months i hope she will like it ther Anne is at home it dos seem good to have her at home again wall hattie how is it have you decided about Coming home ore have you made up your mind to stay with your old man this winter hattie i dont think our Grapes will be ane Count this fall the frost has herted them so thay dont seem to gat ripe atall and our Corn is herted very mutch i supose the frost kild your Coleflours didn't it o hat we have got some of the nicest Coleflowers we aver had i have peckeld some and some Cabages and some onions thay are nomber 1 we have got a splended taters you know i am a grat hand for them we have gote some shuger Cane but it is not as good as it was when you helped stript it that your pa took a lode down to Mr Bruers yesterday and he thought it was pritty good well hattie this is Sunday and i thought i would finish my latter i dont fell very well yesterday the girls and gib want to town and i had to do all the work and i think i don a little more then i ought to and now to Day the girls and pa has gone down to Stockton o i forgot Jessie is gone to so ther is no one at home but tug and me to see to things gib he is gone down to see will and lue and wont be home untill night so it is kind a quiet but you know anne one Cant be very lonsom whare she is she is eather talking ore singing or making a noise on the organ it is hard work to Ceep her still but she is a grat Comfort to me and so is Jes the Dear boy thinks Just as mutch of his mother as he aver did

the dear Children i hope the lord will spare them to me as long as i live well hattie how dos you and John gat alon i supose you both have a plenty to Eate but it is to bad about the frost kiling all the garden stuf but dont be discourigd the lord will pervide some times i fell all most like giving up but it wont do we must trust in god and he will open up a way for us he has promest naver to let his Children hunger nor his seed bag in brad i often think we are not half thankful anof but hattie you dont know how nerves i am my hand tremble so i dont know to writ tell John i would like [] hear from him i have ben looking for a latter some time but it is aplesing that you both Ceep well well hattie you see the folks has got back i supose Annie has told you all about it so i shall have to stop for this time so good bye for this time writ soon from your Mother to her Dear Children

Well Hattie this is Monday afternoon and we just got back from Uncle Sam's we had a splendid time they did not have very many nice apples this year but we thought they was pretty good, and we had some cider and brought home some for Ma and tug Jessie grounded the apples so he think it is better. Oh! Yes we went through one of the big arches and the other is for the water to run through I tell you it is pretty then when we got pass that we got out and went up to see the sand pullies and from there way up to the big iron bridge all iron and they got stones laid down just like steps each side of the bridge we walked down the steps it is splendid we was awful afraid, the engines that help the cars up the grade had gone up with a train we was expecting them back if they come along I don't see how we ever would get out of their way for it was awful far down it was almost a straight steep down, and we seen 4 engines on the trains they was joined together, there was two engines then freight cars then two more engines fastened on to that then some more cars it look pretty coming around the

bend. And we seened a girl out cutting bands the week before when Dad and Ma went down to L[] she was out aploughing then she was handling them so as it was no trouble at all this is Mothers wedding day I dont expect we will have such a time we had last year I will have to hurry up for I have got 6 pair of socks to knit for Dick. O Hat it is cold I am shaking so you must excuse me for not writing better. Uncle Sam is coming out Saturday if he can Mrs are going to preach Sunday. I think I will have to stop for I have not got any more room to write be sure and come home this fall Remember John. good by. Write Soon.

Annie

St. Charles Minn., Oct. 7, 1883

Dear Sister and Brother:

I thought I would write a few lines to you. We are all well at present and hope to find you and John the same. Mother and Dad is taking their Sunday afternoon nap. Ma don't see how it is that she don't get a letter from you it is four weeks ago come tomorrow that we heard from you and that was mine she think you are mean not to write we seen Lue this morning and we ask her if they had heard and they said no. It rain last night some so it is muddy to walk and the wind is blowing pretty good this afternoon and quite chilly. Mrs Rowl preach this morning and again to night at seven we was expecting Uncle Sam out but they did not come I expect they had the thrashers so they could not come

John Baker had a letter from Leola that Mary got her to write begging for him to come it was more then he could stand he started Friday to see her Leola said that she would ask every day once and some times more why don't John come she is deaf and almost blind she cant tell her husband from any other man just a little ways from her, she wear specks all the time, she don't weigh but 40 pounds I think it is awful. Uncle Bill Baker are going to get another housekeeper as this one is going away before long. Agnes are going down to Mrs. Chancy Smith's tomorrow then I will be all alone you see until you come down this fall. Uncle Bill Small had one of his choice horses fall in that old well over on Mr. Harris's land Charlie was driving the other horse give the other a push the well cave in an let him in his hind part went in

first and you could just see tops of his ears above the ground Gib went over and help to dig him out he was not hurt very bad only cut some places it happen yesterday morning about ten and they did not get him out until half past eleven. Well Hat Dick says that he is going to start for the West tomorrow I don't think he will he will be back out when the time comes Erford Gates has been out west and he staid there while he was away. Gardner has gone out West seem to me they are all going out there. Mr. Thornington's folks has got up quite a house again. I guess I will have to stop now and finish tomorrow as it is supper time Well hattie I guess I can finish my letter now for mother will not let Ag. or I peel the potatoes she says she would rather do it herself. John and Hat must try very very hard to come down this fall if there is such a thing as coming for you can have all the red currents black

and white current you can eat and Oh I don't know how many pickled onions Coliflowers Cabbage Tomatoes and even down to green peppers and apples and plenty of potatoes and Dad has got lots of hogs so you can have some pork we have not got any plums this year so come and share with us. Gertie and Bessie are talking about going to school this winter if they get a good teacher Lizzie and I ain't agoing I think we will go as far as they will. Ma and Pa seen Mrs. Hurrings yesterday she says that she is coming up before she goes away if she can. Mr and Mrs Watson are going to leave St. Charles Tuesday Annie is coming back this month she says if her brother and his wife does go away she is coming back to see Lizzie Patterson to thick to last forever. Well Sis we have just got back from the evening meeting. Erford Gates and Gardner has got back he has bought Erford's claim for \$600 and 50 a. broke

There was not very many to meeting to-night. Mrs. Rowel is coming out again 5

weeks from to day. Our school commence the 19 of November it is rather late for school commence. Jesse has sold his guineas to Peater Witty for a pair of little pair of chickens I told ma they was not more then two mouth fulls little red one they ain't as big as Betty and Peter. I can't think of any more to write for now as it is bed time and I hand shake so that I can't hold it still I think I will have to drink hot water like most of the folks around hear.

that is the way to save tea and coffee. so now Hat you must write as soon as you can for Ma she worry so much about you afraid you are sick. besure and come home. Good bye from your faraway sister Annie

remember me to Topsyie and tell her be a good kittie and you must keep her nose clean in readiness for when I come out.

St Chales Oct the 8 1883

well Dear Children tug and i am alone the hol famley is gone to Meeting to Night so we are all alone and the Wind is blooing terable Jess he did not want to go to meeting he did not want to leve me home alone he is terable fraid of the wather aver since the terable stoarm was and it is anofe to make anne one afraid but we must trust in God and he will pertect us i want to Meeting this morning it all ways make me look back and think on the Apsent ones you know ther is a wakeness i have been feeling bad all the weeake Agness has been shoing her ares aver since Annie has been hom you know Just what she is she is allways Jelles but thank God she is goin to start to Morro to Mrs Smithes to stay a while and i shall be so glad o i have had agradel to poot up with her this summer i naver want her to stay at home with me another such a time hat we have don all we Could to make her Comfortable and happye but she is naver satisfide i have got her things she needed and in fact i have often deprived myself of things and got things for but still it was nothing but hat i have got thru she will have to gat her one now ore go without she is goin to lurn the Dress making i hope she will doo well that is all the harm i wish her but she will find it wont be like home she wont be apt to sase other people as she has me well hattie i have been looking for a latter from you so long what is the troble are you sike ore what is it ore dont you Care anne more about home the dear Children thinks you will Come instad of the latter tug says if we should hear a big rumpest some night we Can think it is hat Come home wall John what do you think about letting hattie Come home do you think you Can spare her if not Come to it wont Caust you mutch in board o i forgot to tell you uncle Arter has got him a Wife at last he was Married in Winona last Weeak i dont bleme him for gating him a wife he thought it was gating Cold

wall hat pa took Agness down to St Charles this Morning and now it is all but 9 oClock and thay are all in bed but me and i am quit tierd so i think i shall have to let Anne finish my letter but i want you to writ soon so now dear Children good bye for this time from your aver tru and affectnet Mother

M.E. Talbot
good Night
God bless you both

Tuesday afternoon. Well Hattie I never see the beat I got to finish every body's letter I don't see how it is unless because they can't think of so much trash. Oh Jessie woke up one night and heard quite a rumpust he said Oh hear come Hat I bet, but it was not it was the pigs cutting up. The rest of the folks is finishing their dinner I had to hurry up for I want to finish this letter for I am going to Utica I want to finish it. I suppose you heard about Art. Day being married and gone out on their farm be gone about 6 weeks. Dick did not start yesterday for the West he has got two boils one each side of his head he says he would rather be dead he can't go until they get well. That German over on the Summit farm has gone they said that Mr. Lambertson run \$6,000 in debt this last year. Mr Kopps folks has gone some strangers has come on Mr. Gilkeys has also gone they are in Utica an a man named Witty has come there. Mr Barker was over here one day he did not know that you was married. Alva Hamm seen Dad take Ag. down town yesterday with my trunk he thought it was me going out West when Dad came back he ask him if I had gone West he told him no it was Agnes going to town I think I will have to stop as I have got another letter for to write before I can go to Utica. Tug has gone up to Mamies. now write as soon

as you can for we want to hear from you.

Ma told me to tell you you must try to come home for to make he some more candles
as they are most all gone

St. Charles October 18, 1883

Dear Sister and Brother

We are all well at this time and hope that this will find you and Jhon the same
i finched the dolls to day mary Patterson helpt me to do them Jessie and pa
thought it would be fun if i sent the dolls to Jhon Jhon they are for you to
look at when you con not see me that big doll is a [] Girle and that little
one is tomthom the baby wright soon i hope Jhon will be glad with his bibys
wright soon form Cora to John an hat

love to you both

Annie is not at home

Oct 24 - 1883

Dear sister Hattie We are all well and hope this will find you the same. Mr Vowles took up a big load of barley and going up the bridge of the elevator John Ludrick had a telefome a crossed the road from his house to the elevator and took Mr Vowles right under the chin and throad him between wagon and elevator & cut to holes in his head and skined his shoulders and back & noise and fingers & hurt him offel betsey had to do up all the chores and I had to cut wood for him & he give me 20 cts for cuting the wood & yesday he went over to Uncle bills small to see Eade harris

to try to hire him to work for him untill he was better, I shot a prairie chicken yesday morning and killed it to the first one I shot this year. Ma is peaceing a block to send to Mrs. whearler brown in Dakcota Mrs wood is getting up a quilt to send to her it is called the old maids Puzel. Gertie Vouwels is coming down a week from next tuesday and mirt is coming the midle of Nov, You must try and come if poisble but if not why I supose it is no use to try. We have shot 6 prairie chicken this year I have shot one. Pa and Gib fond a wolf den yestday and the wolf is their yet. Ma is not weeling very well to night Annie is down to Mr gates she is comeing home to morrow.

We have got ten acers to plow be sides our corn ground for next spring and corn stocks. John if you have a pair of rubber boots this winter why come on down and hust corn pa says

Good by from Your brother. Fifteen minutes to 7 Bed Time.

My Dear Children Jessie has been Writing to you so he thought i would have to writ a little but i dont fell muth like writing for i have got a very bad cold ore i think it is we have been having some very damp Cold wather it is a nof to make ane one sick Agness was home last Sunday she was well and she said she liked it wher she was quit well i hope you will writ to her she allways is glad to hear from you poor girl you know what she is well hattie them picters hant got started yat but you must have a little pashence and thay will Com by and by so dont giv up it will be all rit after a while Annie will be home to Morro and i wont have to work so hard so now dear Children i must bring this to a Close but i will try and writ more next time you know how one fells when thay have a bad Cold good bye for this time plese to writ to me soon for it allways makes me fell bad if i Cant hear from you once in to weeaks i must stop now this is from your aver tru and afectnet

Mother M.E. Talbot

be faithful to your Mishon in serving of the lord and then a golden Chan[] will be your just reward

Utica Minn. Oct. 31. 1883.

Dear Sister and Bro.:

I thought I would answer your kind welcome letter I received a while ago and was very glad to hear from you; We are all well at present and hope this will find you and John the same but I suppose little Topsy is somewhere else I think you was mean to take her out there if you left her with me been all right. Well Hat I wish you western folks would keep the wind out here for it blows like sixty today. Oh I just tell you Hat I am glad I am not an old married woman for I keep house for Mrs Gates for two weeks it was the lonest time I believe I ever seen, they expect her back Friday I could not stay any longer for Ma wanted me at home she has gone to St. Paul to see her sister and Jose Brown went with her, Eva Gates I mean.

Gib is plowing they expect to get through to night but the corn ground. Betsey was up yesterday she said that her father is good deal better then but have not heard today how he is Mr Walker has gone batching he has got a farm of his own this side of Rochester so you see he has got the house all ready for Agnes, Lizzie give it to him one day I will tell you when you come down as it would take the rest of the paper to tell it I don't want to do that for I want to write some more trash. I was to see Aunt Sarah Talbot last Monday and she wanted to know if you was coming down this fall she took me all over her house she has got quite a nice house but the rooms is most to small to suit me. Did you know that Jennie Codman's mother is dead and buried she had her life insured for \$3,000 to be divided between her daughters. Mr. Boyles has got to go to Stillwater for two years hard labor I suppose he has got his head shaved before now. he can learn a trade now for nothing

you need not think that you are going to get out so easy as not to have any my long letters for you are and here will be another one for you Mr. B. went as far West as Mr. Lyon's and settle down there he did not have courage to go any farther, he has got a nice little span of black colts their are four and five years old Agnes has not been home since week ago last Sunday she is not coming until week come Sunday the day that Mrs Rowl will come out. Ma and Pa are talking about going down to see Uncle Sam next Sunday and I will be here all alone. Lizzie Patterson has had her cousin John out to see her he went back Tuesday morning I did not see him and he was here two weeks. Oh be sure and come down this fall Hat if there is such a thing for we expect a grand wedding I will not tell you now who it is for I will leave it for you to guess who it is. Jess has been off try to get some squirrels this afternoon but did not get any he did not see but one

Hat I don't hardly know how to stop to write for I have got so much to do I don't know which way to turn. but Jesse was going to Utica and I thought it would be a chance to post it. Year ago today we was so afraid Ma would small rat, tomorrow is my birthday, how stupid they are they can't see anything Tug has been talking about it for the last month about my birthday I hope she will forget it she says I will take it in the morning for I get up. Week come Monday school commences but has not got any teacher yet. Aunt Sarah said that she is not agoing to let her children go this winter for Mr. Edwards their Englishman are going to teach them at home in the parlor and he gives Florence music lessons some body pulled his plow out in the middle of the field one day and the whipple trees where he left them he blame it to me for Uncle told him I was up to such

capers as that, he said that he was agoing to have some fun with me but I told them it was not me

Well Mother is talking about getting potatoes for supper so I expect I will have to finish this tonight O I will ask you for I forget it does John know a man by the name of F.L. Dilly out to Aberdeen I think he said in the lumber trade he is Gardner cousin and the young lady that is there is his step sister you know them you can have a talk about him to them. And did you pack off my little knitting needles I can't fine them any wheres I thought may be you put them in some of your things in a mistake, so you need not think I am coming out there after them for I am not agoing to come out unless you come down. Remember this old lady. Mr Vowels folks are expecting Gertie home about next Tuesday.

Well I guess I will have to stop before long as I have got my paper just about full and Ma told me to leave her a space to write some but I think she will have to get another sheet of paper. Tug and Jes has been putting pepper on the stove and has got us all a sneezing and choughing Dad is busy driving in his pigs as usual and every little while he gives a large big grunt I will close now hoping you will answer it before long. from Annie

did John get his dolls Tug sent him.

OBITUARY.

Died, in this city, Tues day, Oct. 23d, 1883, Mrs. JANE A. CODMAN, aged 50 years, 2 months, and 13 days.

She had been a resident of this place about 17 years, was a consistent member of the Baptist church, and was respected and esteemed by all. Quiet and unassuming in manner, she was faithful to every trust; one of those good women, whose loss leaves such a terrible gap in the family circle. The family have the sympathy of the entire community in their great affliction.

well hat i do expect Anne has told you all the newse so the ant mutch left for me to tell but ther is one thing that is i fell a greadel batter then i did a fue days ago well hattie Just one year ago to knight you girls ware all at home all Joly and inJoying your selves bye this time and to knight whare are you O so far away Just Anne and I sitting up alone Anne she is bisse knitting for Dick what a change since a year ago to knight we cant tell what the next year will be ho nose but mabbe ther may be another wading before next year this time i dont know whather i have Agnes anof ore not you know hat ther is to ore thre young Mann round hear that thinks Anne is Just right but i dont know which will gain the Day but one may i must stop for it is most ten oclok so good bye to you both for this time from your Mother

god bless you both

Now Hat I got to hurry and fill this out as Ma could not think of any thing else to write so I guess I will have to think of enough to think Hat don't you believe what Mother told you on her letter for she just think so and that is all and Hat what do you think Jesse said when he came in after the letter he was mad because it was not finish he said that if I give him the letter he should throw it away just think of that. Last night at midnight I was eighteen so you see I can take up land now. It froze pretty hard last night, Gib could not plow this morning and it frozed the pump. I have got to put the roses down today for it freeze any harder Pa has got his grapes vines all down Charlie and Nettie is querrling like ever thing over their food. Jes says he just wish he was out there so he could hunt and kill something but can't kill any thing out here but chickens and black birds, they went out in the corn field yest and seen a hawk and dad was in the bottom of the wagon and when they shot at it it frighten the horses and dad went out head first in the stubble and they went on they did not know it, but all at once Jes thought of him

and look around there was dad in the stubble kicking to get up they went quite aways Jes said they would went all the ways if he had not thought of him Jes had to carry him his stick to him quite a joke we keep alaughing at him

I think I have enough for this time if you can read it, bring it down if you cant. Annie

your lillie did not blossom this year but it look nice

St Charles Nov the 15 1883

My Dear Children Anne wanted me to writ to you so i suppose i shall have to but i dont fell like writing for i thought i would not writ anemore untill we had our picturs taken but you musen look for another untill then but it is not my fouldt for i keep telling pa we must have them taken i gass i shall have to gat mad at him yat well hattie Agness was home last Sunday Mrs rowell preached she Camed to our place to stop this time she spoke of you and said she would like to see you Monday pa and Jessie went down to Mr Gatess to gat sum seead Corn and some Appel trees and the Wather has been ferful Cold aver since and O how the wend do blow hattie i will send the peces of your old dress next weake if nothing hapen

hat Mr Gardener Worden is gone home so that has left Annie athinking she wanted to go up to utica to Day so you Can think the rest but the Wind blue to hard and i had not got my latter wrot so you Can sympiths with her for you know how you youst to fell when John was in Dect and you at home well hattie i must stop this trash for Annie will gat mad at me your Ant philes and Mary bar as was was hear last Weeak i was a little supriised to see Mary she looked as tho Dick did agrie with her i dont think she lost mutch time how is it with you hat you know i am not mutch of a hand to inquier in to peoples bisness but still i thought i would like to know if you was all rite yat when you writ tell me wont you i often think of you and wonder if it is the Case with your are not

i supose you have herd that ther is a border expected down to Mr Frads this Winter i was ther last Weeak i thought it would take please about the last of next Munth thay are rather shoshable with Mrs p now you know what it is for she wanted me to Come down i thought what it was for she sent word several times for me to Come down so I want she was quit franley she ask me if i would Come at that time she told me that Mrs p was goin to be ther wall hat i think Annie will have to finish this so i think this will have to do for this time writ to me soon for i want to hear from you often tell John i dont bleme him for not wanting to sleep alone this Cold wather i want down to uncle bills and staid 1 night pa thought it was terable

god bless you both from your Mother

Well old girl I see Ma has been telling you some more trash about me but don't you believe it Hat for they are at me all the time even Gib has as much to say as any one else. the reason I wanted to go to Utica for was to make Ma hurry up and write to you. I am taking music lessons again from Eva Gates I have taken two I went down yesterday I have learnt a Grand Russian March and now I am taken a song Baby's gone the Cradle's Empty and another march besides. Mrs. Rowell told me to give her love to you when I wrote to you and Uncle Sam and wife says that they have a Album that will hold two more pictures we send ours to them Doa says that Uncle Sam think more of them then she does. Hat I can't think of much to write for I am lazy I done a big ironing this morning and until half pass three this after noon so I am little bit slack I have not even made my bed and -----. It frozed up last Monday the folks has not plowed any since. O yes we send the last \$5.00 to Dyer and Ho[] last Friday but the means things they are calling interest now. but Pa says we shall not pay it Uncle Hank says that Mr. Miller will have to pay if he said there was not any the interest is \$5.40. Hat what shall we do Gib is so down hearted we don't know

what to do to him last Sunday evening when we was to church who do you suppose came in but A[]y Coleson O my what a sigh he gave he think his nose is put out of joint now for Lue was there and I seen her yesterday and she look as happy as a Grasshopper as when he is chirpping Mr Fred Talbot and Mr T. Edwards was up here the other evening he give us a tune he can play awful nice he is near sighted he for got to bring his glasses along. I think I will have to stop as it is potatoes time Gertie has got home but is down to Uncle Fred's now sewing for them. Myrt is not coming until next Tuesday I wish you was coming along with her. now Hat write as soon as you can and tell John be a good boy a keep his nose clean but if he was down hear he would have hard work to do it

Annie

Nov 30 1883

Dear sister and brother we are all well and hope this will find you the same. Thanks-giveing day we had some beef and it was nice to. Gib and I went hunting yestday I shot 1 squirrel and Gib didn't get nothing and tonight coming home from school and I seen a tree squrrl in the west tree of the to big tree's and I went to the house and loaded my gun and went out to the tree and shot him and when he fell I see that it was a Fox squirel and I showed it to Pa and he said that it was a fox squirl Give me an answer who that is as quiet as you can who is in the picture and if you dont no why you have to come down and see who it is.

well hattie Jessie thought you would like to gat his pictuer so he thought he would not wait for yous to have ours taken so he went down and had his taken yesterday i think it looks quit natueral you must still have a little pachence it makes me feal real pervoked at pa to think he donet have it don but it will Come when you ant looking for them well hattie did you and John gat anne turcky thanksgiving we did not gat anne but pa got us a nice peece of beeaf i would have benn glad to have had you and John to helpt Eat it but i thought of you both i hop you are both well pa has goat a very bad Cold it is like the folks have avery winter i think it is the Infuwensa hat you must writ ore i shall think you dont want to but we want to hear from you good night from your aver true Mother Talbot. god b'less you

thay are all gone to bed and it is goin for eleven o Clock and i am tierd so i must stop

St Charles. De. 8 1883

Dear Sister and Brother,

We are all well now, I hope that this will find you bouth well to. We are haveing O so nice wather out here now we did not have a bit of snow here aver since about 3 weets ago and that was not much it only jest mead the ground whit but it did snow yestearday a little in the after noon and all night i guess it did but i was not up to tell for i was a bed the ground is white this morn but the sun as come out so it will go away agan, it has been O so nice it is ben so hot that when the boys has come in the house suting wille bake chis us little

girls he has been a offull bad boy a schools he says that he want kisse mary and Caroline Witte that is the peple that leivs on robeins place she is as big as me her and i get a puling and some time she pullis me over and some time i pullis her over. but Willie he says that he wants me and lottie Smith and Besty Cottining but he said that he could kisse Besty going home and he could not kisse us going home. Bertha Person is going out west monday she come to school and bid i school goodby she came and bid me goodby and she wanted me to wright to her. O hat wont you hunt me and lottie a peace for to spick at Charmis night a good one to a funy one to as soon as you get this letter please wright and tell cearch the house for one

St Charles Dec the

well hattie as Mis tug is writting i supose i shall have to write a little but i do Expect she has told you all the news we are all quit well but Jessie and he has gone to bed with a very bad yearake you know somthing about that by what you said on your last letter you wrot to me but you will have lots of akes hat if what is that troble with you i think is but that wont last long i hope John will be kind to you and do all he Can for you i wish i Could be with you but i Cant i trust in god that all will be rite i hope you will try and take Care of yourself as well as you can hat i hope you will writ to Annie for she is all ways glad to gat a latter from you well hattie we was down to Mrs. petherams last wensday thay was all well and the day before we went to St Charles and had our picturs taken you Can look

for them in little over a weeak it takes Mr stebens quit a while to gat them radey i dont know how thay will look for i Could not gat your pa to fix up at all so i had to be satesfide Just as he was but i do expect you will be suted as long as it is pa i did intend to have ours and the two Children taken together but thay was at School so thay dont know anething about it i expect ther will be a grat disapointment when thay find it out i shall have to gat pa to give miss tug a Doller and let her go down to Mr Stabins and gat her picture taken when pa Can spare the Monne it may be be fore long i hope you well gat them all rite hat did you gat the peces of your dress i dont think thay would do you mutch good for thay wesent very big but i sent all i Could find this is saterday night and the are all in bed but me and it is half past ten o Clock and the fire is gone out and it is Cold

well hattie this is Sunday Morning and i have to finish my latter so Jessie Can take it up to utica this Morning this is a butiful Morning oh hat my hand tremble so i Cant half writ the boys that is gib and Jes and Cora is out haveing a little fun thay have gat ther Calvs yoked up and hitched on to ther slay and thay have a box on to it and sis has quit a ride. thay wanted to gat the good of this bit of snow we have we have had some of the nices wather this fall we have had for a nomber of years Just think hear it is onley to weeaks to Cristmas and we hant had one winter yat well hattie last weeake i want down to St Charles and had tht Dress of mine Cut and fited Mrs Smith cut it for me it is ther yat for i was in a hery to gat home she Charge seventy 5 Ct for it i gass it will be all rite well hattie i shall have to stop for this time i left a little room for Annie to writ i want you to write as often as you Can good bye dear Children

from your Mother

trust in the lord and all will be well you know it is so o presesh promes god has given to all that trust in him

Well Hattie I suppose I will have to write a few lines to you as Mother left room for me Oh! what do you think Hat Betsey Ann and Emily Jane has come to see Jesse. and from Gib. he begin to think that his cake is dough I tell him I think the best thing for him to do is to go and see Lizzie now.

Our Lizzie is out with me when she give Mr Walker such a talking to I was with them and she ask me if I thought she said anything wrong I just told her what

I thought of a girl that would talk to a young man as she did she has been mad every since she brush by me then she give her nose a turn up. Annie Watson came back week ago yesterday and was to Pattersons a week she did not come over, she went away yesterday and to Casson where her brother is then next Spring she is going back to England I think they all better go back to the little Green spot that there is no other one like it. O yes Mr. Tennant came up to see Ag before he went away he was very sorry when he heard she was not home. We are going to have a Christmas tree down to the tree we are going to let our organ go if it is good going and let us have \$2.00 the folks did not say any thing about having one until I started about it I went to see Mrs. Lyon she is willing to take hold an help all she can I think I will have to stop as this is most full

Dear Johnnie I am sorry you worried because I had but so little money but I had a great plenty I have a little over \$1.00 left now 20 cents is all I spent coming down you know Agnes always said I was so stingy but it is a good thing to be stingy sometimes you know. your father & Mother has just come & are going to start for Dakota in a day or two Uncle Arthur & family came up last week & I am glad of it your mother wont have so much to do now Cora has come up Father P. asked me if you wanted some peas & seed corn but I told him I could not tell for I didnt remember whether you told me if you wanted it after you let Frank have the land or not Uncle Thomas got your letter or rather dispatch & said he didnt know where to send to so he didnt answer it & your father went over to the office to telegraph back & saw Mr Buckley & he said he had written to Zimmerman the same week & so father thought

you certainly must have got my first letter by that time so he didnt send & I have been sorry so many times that I didnt telegraph when I got to St. Charles but I thought you would laugh if I did so I didnt send but it is all right now When Father bid me good bye he put \$5.00 in my hand I told him he hadent ought to do it but he said it was all right, now dont you think he was good please John dont send me much money if you send me any for you know I dont kneed it. I am going to send to St Charles when the folkes goes for a little thing or two that I will be apt to kneed when I am sick but I shall not get more than I can help for. I suppose you heard that Laurie & Lew was married Laurie was terriable mad at Louie because she didnt ask her to her wedding your mother said Laurie could hardly treat her desent when she seen her I think she was verry foolish to get mad at that, Gertie has got our school for this Summer she is to get \$30. per month

Gib has bought that 80 acres of land near the school section it is the one his father bought you know. he is staying with Uncle George yet Aunt Polly got home a week ago last Friday & she brought back a young Englishman with her for Uncle. It is thawing like sixty today last Tuesday night we had a regular Dakota blizzard I really think it was as bad as the one we had in D.T. that Monday they say it was the worst storm they had had this winter & now it has been trying to thaw ever since John you asked me which I like best D.T. or Minn. I must say that I do really think I like Minn. the best but dont want to live in Minn. or any place else where you cant be I can live any place with you but cant live happy without you I could used to but I cant no more & I hope the Lord will spare you to me as long as I live. Agnes is staying with Sallie now & doing some sewing for her while Fred is in Winona Fred is in the Jury & court set last Tuesday

he expects to have to stay two or three weeks I called in there one morning when I was going down to your mother to see the baby & last Sunday they came up here & spent the afternoon I think she has such a sweet little baby you would think so to if could see it I know you would. Annie sayes if ours is a little girl she will like it but if it is a little boy she wont have anything to do with it ma told her she thought she was great to talk like that I told her one would be just as nice as the other to you & me it will want it. I am getting so tired I dont think I can write any more or much more Ma said she would write a little to you. Well Joe has come over but I dont know which of the girles he came to see for he talkes to both of them & I suppose he's going to see which he likes

best but Joe & one of the English boyes talkes about seeing which is the best man & the one that comes out ahead is to have Annie & Mr. Walker said he would stand by for witness they have big times when they get to geather, I must close with love & kindest wishes to you my dear husband give my best wishes to Mrs. H. & Mrs. R I remain your loving wife Hattie or Peggy

Married.

OLDS—MILLER.—Feb. 27th, 1884, at the house of the bride's parents, by Rev. D. H. Bicknell, **ALFRED S.**, son of T. T. Olds, of this city, to **IDA E.**, daughter of John Miller, also of this city.

Congratulations.

LYBARGER — PERSONS. — March 1st, 1884, by Rev. H. L. Crayen, in St. Charles, Mr. **LEWIS LYBARGER** and Miss **LAURA PERSONE**, both of St. Charles, Winona county, Minn.

St. Charles Union, Wednesday, March 5, 1884, p. 3, col. 4.

St. Charles Minn March 16 '84

Dear Husband

I am just as happy as I can be this morning for I got two letters from my dear Johnie last night I was sitting in the rocking chair feeling most bad enough to cry for Jessie walked to Utica to see if there was a letter for me & he said there wasent any & I was feeling rather blue & the dog began to bark & I looked out & see Art coming I jumped up & said I got a letter I know I have for Art has come & I run out & met him & asked if he had a letter for me & he said yes two of them, he said he jumped on the horse & come right up as soon as the folkes came from town I sent one of your letters down

to your mother for I was so excited I couldnt tell Art any thing you wrote & she is most sick worrying & getting things ready for your father to go west & he is so nervous your mother says she can hardly get along with him you know how he is when any thing worries him I have been most sick ever since I have been home I think my cold was most as bad as it was when I had the measels & such a bad cough you dont know how it hurtes me to cough so & your little (--) bothers me so much I have to take a rest most every day & some times twice a day but ma & the girls wont let me do any thing only sew & I cant go down to Mothers any more for the roades are so bad I cant stand the jirking & ma said it wasent safe for me to go out now so Mother said she would come & see me when she could, father talked of coming up today but I dont think mother is well enough to come there has been a terriable time

with coldes down here & I was so sorry you had had such a cold & couldnt keep warm in bed I tell you Johnie it aint what it is cracked up to be to have to sleep alone in the winter, but you go to the little trunk & get the two quilts & put on your bed & you will find some clean sheets & pillow cases in the beauro drawer & your clothes you will find in your trunk, have you got any grub left I wish I had baked up more for you before I came away I am glad you have got rid of the cow & dick -- I hope you will soon get rid of the horses, tell Old Mr Roff to take good care of Sparky, I miss my cream in my tea as our folkes dont have any coves to milk yet, My Nellie had two little lambes but one of them was dead & the other is a great big fellow ma calles it Dick I have got most of my sewing done for our little stranger I have quite a time to keep things from Tug she

watches me like a cat would a mouse & several times she has asked me what I was making Ma has given me several things & Pa gave me calico for two little dresses & your ma sayes she is going to get me some cloth for a little cloak John when you go to Aberdeen dont forget to have the tailor cut you a pattern of a pair of pants & send me so I can make some for you for I know you will want them bad enough. I do hope you will take care of your self & not get sick you know what a bad time it is in the Spring for sickness I have thought of you so manny manny times lately & I just thought to myself, this is the first & last time that I will leave Johnie out in D.T. & me come home I will not do it any more unless it is something worse than it is now, & I will be ready to come back to Dakota when you are ready for me for I do want to see you so bad my dear boy God bless you & keep you from sickness & pain while I am away from you & I do hope you will write to me as often as you can

for it cheers me up & makes me feel so much better to get a letter from you dont worry at all Johnie for our mothers are capeable I think of taking care of me &

our (--) still there is no one that can take your place you are nearer to me than anyone else in this world parents are near & dear but husband is dearest I think. I must rest a little while & then I will finish this on another piece of paper

Well John as Hattie was writing I thought I would have to say a few words to you to cheer up. Hattie is well but when Hattie comes home again to visit I want you to come home with her. It isn't what it is cracked up to be. There is a big Gulf between each other but John don't you worry any more than you can help for we will do all we can to make her happy. But I know she is with you every night in her sleep. Your Mother and father was here to day we was very glad to have them come. I shall feel bad to have them go so far away. They will be missed more than any family that will ever live.

This settlement I hope your Mother's health will be better but she stands it a gradual better than I ever thought she would. It was pretty hard for her to have to go the only girl she had left but Mother's must give up their girls but I am very glad that my dear girl has got such a good kind husband. O John I trust in God that it will always last. It is a great comfort to me. I will risk it on Hattie's part. Well John I have wrote all that is needed to knight. You know I am a miserable writer. I trust in the Lord that he will protect you and keep you from all danger and harm. John do try and be good so if we never meet again in this life I trust we will meet where parting will be no more. Good by from your
Mother T

Dear Johnnie I am glad to tell you that you are Papa. Hattie has a pretty little blue eyed girl weighs 8 1/2 lbs. Hattie says it is just like you because it makes so much noise. The girls want you to hurry up and send a name for her or they will give her a name themselves. I must say Hattie is real good to mind me. I was up here yesterday and told her to hurry up. Emanuel came after me at daylight this morning and Baby was born at 8 minutes after 12. Hattie and the Babe are both doing well. I can tell you we are all proud of your girl. You must send a pretty name or it will not be accepted. We shall find one ourselves. This is Monday the 17th. We will write again soon. and let you know how they get along.

Mother

St. Charles, Minn., Nov. 17

Dear Sister and Brother:

I thought I would answer your kind and welcome letter. Well Hattie I am ever so much obliged for yours and John's invitation but I am sorry I can't come, for you know that \$25 is not very easy to get. I would like to come awful well but you must wait. I'll come sometime I hope, I would rather not come now for I think if any thing should happen you could not get me in an hour or so. I think home is the place for me. but menny thanks just the same, but how I wish I could see my little stumple. I am afraid I shall always call her that.

I am feeling a good deal better then I did three or four weeks ago, I felt pretty bad then. My lungs has quit bleeding that is one good thing, I am still troubled with the chills and the fever. There aint any trouble for me to keep warm by night fore I can wake up almost any time and will be sweating away to beat ever thing.

The folks is all well at present and hope this will fine you all the same. Mother wen't down to Uncle Bill Baker's to-day Mrs Crowling went away for good this afternoon, they are going to keep back for a while as they have not got any housekeeper yet. Our school was to commence to-day but did not on account of not having any teacher yet.

Tuesday night.

Well Hattie I had to stop last night so I will try to finish it now. We had the pleasure of having Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain to-day, and Mr. . . Mrs. Vowels but they did not stay long. Gertie was up last night, brought up a cough receipt for me she has been up three times since she has been home. Aunt Sarah has not come home yet she is having quite a stay. Pa had over 800 lbs. of buckwheat he had over 60 bushels of seed and we had 45 gallons of sirup so I think we will have some thing to eat. Cora has gone to bed she has got an awful bad cold. Mrs R. Gates and Erford and Josie has had the Dutch Measles its different from the other kind Mr Roan's family are all down with it Gertie went down to Mrs Hills they was just came down with them she came up here day or two afterward but she aint had them or we haint but I expect we will.

I think I will stop now as I can not think of any thing else to say for I want mother to try to finish it. Mr. Smalls are going to move back in their old house this fall. Mrs Wood is not better Mr Leonard is able to get around. Kiss little stumple for me for I can not come. Write soon

from Annie

well hattie Annie has left room for me to writ a little i suppose i will have to but i dont fell mutch like writing to knight for i have been washing to Day Agness and I had quit a big wash and we had Company to and you know that ant very nice washing days to have to talk and wash to well hattie i suppose Annie told you all the newes so ther is no need of my saying mutch Annie has to writ when the poor girl fell like it so it had to be to night for she has the Chilgs avery Morning and after that she has the feaver so you Can think how the poor girl fell she is no batter then she was when i wrot to you last so i dont think she is mutch fit to travle so far from home poor girl i think that home is the place

for her it was kind of you and John but i Could not think of letting her go so far away from me i hope she will be batter when we write again so now dear Children i must bring my latter to a Close for this time hoping this will find you all well and my dear little pat this is not avery long latter but it will have to do so good bye for this time writ as often as you Can i hope you will gat some ink for i dont like to see latters wrote with pence11 with love to all from your Mother M.T.

St Charles, Minn. July th 28, 1887

Dear Sister,

I thought I would wright a little, We are all well an hope this will find you all the same, Ag was home last Sunday. She was well and had lots of work. Hat I tell you it look hard to look over on the 80 an 12 acres piece and see 35 acres of wheat not cut. It is what John Baker put in but the chinch bugs got in it pretty bad but John told Mr Vowles that there was quite a nice bit of wheat in it but he said that he would not cut it for he would not get only half of it and he said it would not pay him so you see what kind of a renter he is. Pa says he will not get it again. Pa has got all his grain cut they finished last Monday. Pa had a nice piece of barley

Pa oat was pretty good, and he has got quite a nice bit of thimmey. The chinch bugs has taken one piece of Pa corn an Pet is cutting up some off another piece and the bugs has got over half of another piece. Pet is not here now he is halping Mr Morgan thrash but when he gets threw there he is coming back again. Pet says he thinks Jessie must be a pretty smart boy to be able to talk so soon. Tell Hattie that we are ever so much oblige for them cards and think they very pretty, But she fooled Grandma pretty good for she thought she had Hattie and Jesse picture but hope they will come soon. She could hardly wait till she got home before she opened it. I suppose you heard that Mrs. Cottingham had another little baby, She has only 10 children. Did you hear that Mrs David Brown dropped dead at the Ironing-table th 6 of July. And when they fond her she had the flat-iron in her hand an she was dead, It was awful shock to her

children. An Mr Hardwick died very sodden. In the after noon he walked around Mr Persons corn and his neighbors corn and then he came back and wanted to drive the binder for Mr Persons but Mr Persons told him he hadn't better to he would have the tooth-ache again so he went to pick up the nick-quiet and he kind[]dy stombed Mr Persons said let me help you to the shed so he did and he ask him if he felt any better and he said yes a little and Mr Persons said he would go an call Lucy and so he did and when Lucy came he said you better helf me into the house and they did and they sent for Uncle Tom Barr and when Uncle got there he was jest breathing his last. Lucy felt awful bad. Dick Baines has got back from England and brought back an English man. with him. Ma is going to wright a little I will send you a piece of my lawn dresses and fall dress good-bye love to all and expect it yourself kiss Hattie and Jesse for me wright soon good bye

all well at home well hattie tug has toeld you all the news i spose but still ther is a little rum for me to writ a few words one is that i am feeling quit smart for me now it dos seem quite good to be able to work and not to have it drag so and hattie how is your helth is it anie batter then it was and how is my preshes little pets o how i would like to see theam and dos John Ceep well this warm wather it has been so very trying to anneone that isent very strong well hattie we have Just been having a nice little shoure of rain this afternoon and i think we will gat more but it is to late to do anne good on the grain we havent had a Curnel of Wheat to but it is all gone but we must trust in god he will pervide my dear girl i often think of you all May god bless you all and take Care of you is the prayrs of your Mothers hart good bye to all

MRS. DAVID BROWN, of Utica, died of heart disease on Wednesday evening of this week. She was ironing at the time, and fell with a flatiron in her hand.

St. Charles Union, Friday, July 8, 1887, p. 3, col. 2.

MR. CHARLES HARDWICK, a farmer living northeast of St. Charles, died on Tuesday forenoon, from the effects, it is believed, either of sun-stroke or heart disease. Mr. Hardwick was well known here, an Englishman by birth, and well advanced in years. Funeral services yesterday afternoon at the M. E. church. The remains were interred in Hillside cemetery.

St. Charles Union, Friday, July 22, 1887, p. 3, col. 2.

St Charles June the 1 1889

Well Dear One far away i thought i would writ you a few lines i am alone the Men are afencing down in the pastuer and Cora is gone to utica well Angnes your father and Jess went to Winona last Wensday with the Woul he got 20 Cts for a pound it it Came to 40 three Dollers he bout Jess a sute of Cloes and me a Dress and tug a avery Day Dress that was the furst Day he talked to me aver since you have ben gone it makes me fell bad some times but it wont all way last and i am thankful it wont i often think of poor Aunt rose i dont wonder about her goin Crasey and sometimes i am afraid i shall but i trust in God he will Ceep me from it i think i have had a nofe to make me this world is fool of troble last weeake that

Sleepe Mans oldiest sun hung himself in the Barn his Mother was gone to Winona at the time it hapend O what a site for that poor Mother to behold it would ave kild me and ther was another terable think hapend in Winona the same Day a Woman poard Oiel all over herself and then set fier to her Close She was buried the Day your father was in town thay would not let aneone see her thay said she was Cresey and Bessey Akings Babey is dad i think that was a grate blessing when god all mighty took that preshes one it was a grat suffer Mrs lyiens toeld me she expect it bled to death well Angnes i ame sory to tell you that all you aver loved in the World is gone away that is your Cat it has ben gone over a weeake gone

away we have inquierd of all we new and Cant find her ane place i was very sory to have her go ofe and not knowing whare well she may Come back yat maby she is gone visiting. -----

when i see Mrs lyiens i will tell her about the plants and if i Can gat them i will send them next Weeake well Ag we are having some terable Cold wather hear i am shivering with the Cold now yesterday Jes and I went to St Charles and when i got back i shuck with the Coeld we have had some terable hard frostes for the time it has kield all of our Grapes and it frosted the taders thay begin to look a little batter now but a weeake ago thay was all black we ant goin to have mutch frute of anne kiend we have had quite a nice lot of sparagrass

but it is about all gone the froast herted that a grael well Angnes tell hattie i am very glad she is feeling batter i know how to pitte her i sufer a gradeal with Weeakness and when i doo a little more then yousel i ant anne Coun for Days after wards i dont feel very well at present we have got all Clend but the back room and we are going for that next weeake if nothing hapien well Angnes i think it must agre with you out ther i am very glad it dos i hope you will Ceep well i have not herd from Mrs Vowles but once and that was Just after she gote ther we got your latter wensday knight when thay got back from town and was glad too hear from you give our love to hat and John and the loved ones and save a good share for your self write as often as you Can i must stop for this time from your far away Mother one that often think of you good bye writ soon

WILL HARMS, son of Wm. Harms, known as the Sleeper, committed suicide on Monday at Utica by hanging himself in a stable. After breakfast, he went out to milk, and not returning in due time, search was made for him when he was found suspended from a beam. It is said that he received a sunstroke a year or two ago, and his mind had been more or less affected ever since. The young man was twenty-one years of age.

St. Charles Union, Friday, May 31, 1889, p. 3, col. 2.

MISS LENA WINEBERG, for more than thirty years housekeeper at the Huff House, Winona, committed suicide on Monday morning last by setting fire to her clothing. She has shown signs of mental aberration for some time past, and had been watched by friends to prevent her from destroying herself. She died shortly before 11 o'clock on Monday night, after suffering great agony. The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon from the residence of Col. Cockrell, Rev. Dr. Gilbert officiating.

St. Charles Union, Friday, May 31, 1889, p. 3, col. 3.

Dear ones all i thought i would writ a little to you Day we are all well and i hope this will find you the same we have got thru with our thrashing it wasent mutch to thrash it didnt pay expences but ther is one thing i am thankful for that is we have Wheat anof for our brad and seead we have had to by our flour for this last 3 years i hope God will pervide he will if we poat our trust in him well hattie how is my little pattts all you must kiss them for me

well hattie if i Could see you i Could tell you more then i Can writ Ang has to have her ugley spels as usel avery little while she has to brake out tug Cant doo ane thing rite to sute her i told her the other day i was sorry that i sent for her i gass you had a nofe of her she hates to see anne one take a bit of Comfort she is so crase but the is Coming when she wont have a Mother to gat mad at then i think she will think on some things she has said to me when it is to late i would be glad to see her have a home of her one for she is never satesfide anee place i do all i Can for her it ant rit

well hattie i must leve a litte room for tug how is John is he wall i hope so with love to all hattie write to me when you Can from your loving Mother

I will try and write a few lines to you to let you know I haven't forgotten you but I begin to think you have forgot me. Well Hat the new railroad will soon be done along here, The grading is all done to St Charles and the track is all laid this side to Mr. Key's they will be down to the school house to morrow. It is jest fun to watch them work. It will make Utica start growing. I guess you will think it has growd the next time you see it. Ma, Ag and Jes went down to Mr Bates two weeks ago to day. I stayed home with Pa he wasn't feeling very well. Mr and Mrs Bates was

well. They enquired for you and they went and seen Mrs. Banning. They were well and Mrs. Banning beg to be remembered to you. Did you know Mr Green was dead. He has been very sick and he had been out of his head some times. And he hadn't been able to hardly walk a cross the room, but he got up one morning and he felt so much better he said he was going to take a walk and he refused all company and he walk down to the water and took off his had and placed a stick on it and jumped in the river and when they found him he had his cane in both his hands. It was a sudden blow for the family. Well Hat I must stop for Uncle Hank and Fred has come. so good-bye with love to all write soon from your loving sister

Cora.

JOHN GREEN, a market gardener living near Winona, committed suicide by drowning in the Mississippi river on the 10th inst. The body was found in the river near the mill of the Winona Lumber Co. He was 72 years old. Has been despondent for some time. Leaves a wife and three daughters.

St. Charles Union, Friday, August 15, 1890, p. 3, col. 3.

St Charles March the 5 1893

Dear Children this is Sunday and as I am all alone i thought i would have to writ a little to you i would have wrote before but i have put it of thinking i would make up a few things for the Children but my heilth has been poor and my Eys has botherd me so that i did not make them up so i will have to send to you without them ben made you will know what ones to make them for Augness gave me a nice Dress Skirt for hattie but i thought mabey you Could gat something for hattie and fix that for yourself you Can do Just as you plesse about it and Augness gave me 50 Cts and Jess gave me 50 Cts so that is for some Cloth for 1 of the little boys

for a wast and panties so i will send the parcell Just as quick as i Can you will be apt to gat it one Day of this Coming Weeack well hattie i will have to tell you some newse unless some one has toeld you before which i dont think thay have. Augness was Married to Alva ham the 1 of March thay was Married at our home in the Evening Just me and Jes was present thay ware Married by the Methets Minister and then went back to ther home so you Can think it was rather quiet.

well how dow you all gat along and how is that little pat has miss hattie found a name fore him yat tell her to write and tell whate it is i do expect my little Man Jess thinks lots of his little brother

well hattie i will have to stop prete Soon for i do Ceep making such blunders when you gat what i am goin to send you Can writ and tell me if it was worth sending i hope you wont take it as an insult with love to all we are well but Colds

good bye for this time
from Mother Apsent but
not forgotten

Well Hattie Mother wants me to write some so I will. We have got lots of snow down here last Sunday & Monday. It snowed 2 1/2 ft deep in Rochester but done here It rained & snowed both there were more snow fell in a short Time then I ever saw and Thick. Well Hat there were an unexpected wedding took place here last Wednesday to me that I hardly thought of, but they will do it no use of talking. But the worst of it iz I am left all alone and am liable to be alone untill my intended gets ready and that will be some time yet in future How is Frank P and all of them getting along J.W.T.

MARRIED.

HAM.—TALBOT.

At the residence of the bride's mother, Mrs. Wm. Talbot, in this city on Wednesday evening, March 1st, '93, Rev. O. H. P. Smith officiating, Mr. ALVA G. HAM and Miss AGNES M. TALBOT.

The young couple went to housekeeping at once on Mr. Ham's farm east of town. The Union joins their many friends in hearty good wishes for their welfare and prosperity.

St. Charles Union, Friday, March 17, 1893, p. 3, col. 3.

St Charles May the 21 1893

Dear ons all this is sunday and as i have a little time to spare i thought i would writ a lattle to you well hattie my girl i do Expect you think it takes me quit a while to gat readey to answer your letter but i have been so very bissey thes last Weeake that i hent felt any bit like writing we have Just started to Cleene house well hattie the both Girls was hear yersterday and so was ther husbands and thay all went down town to see the biggest hoars in the World so they Claim him to be thay Said that he waid 27.100 thay said he was a monster well hattie how dos John gat along with your new house and how are you all well i hope and how is all the little folks are thay all well and what kind of wether

do you have out ther this has been a very backerd spring but we have our Gardien stuf all in quit a while and most of it is up Alta Gilmore was hear to see me last Weeake what a grat big lumicks she has got to bee i dident knew her from Adem so she interduced herself as Miss Alta Gilmor Dick Banes has soeld his farm to Uncle tom Bar and so thay have bouete a place in town and are goin to moove in to morra if nothing happien it is Just a little ways from our pleace we Can see it quit plain Augness Banesis helth is very poor she has gote to nice little Children a boy and a Girl. well hattie when is my little pat hattie goin to writ to me tell her to hery up for i want to see how she Can write

well hattie i want Jess to finish this for i am so tierd so i must stop i will try and doa batter next time writ soon with love to all from Mother

Well Hat I guess Ill have to write a little to you. That big horse that weighted 27 hundred pounds and over started yesterday for the Worlds fair he is owned by Nevius & Pat. Murrey of St. Charles, Nevius of Winona, John knows them both I guess they say he is the largest horse in the world, he was a white horse. Dick bought Godlup Huebacks place north of gages old place. I expect they will hold the celebration of 4th of July here this year.

Well Hat how is Madison getting along is things lively it has been quite dull down here this Spring it has been so backward, but every thing is growing nicely lately, have You made up your mind when you all would come down yet, is there many prairie chicken & jack's & ducks & geese This spring. I would like to make a flying trip out there this fall again if I could & fetch my gun & dog & ma if I could & the rest of them but I guess it is de[]. We have quite a pretty plase here now we have been fixing it up a little. Agnes is not very well she seems to have poor health but her nerves is better. How is John, Hattie, Jesse, Johnie, Jasper and the other one, good bye may God be with you till we meet again JWT

St Charles Oct the 24. 1893

Dear Children one and all I thought I would Writ a few lines to you to let you know that we are all well but tug and she has the backtore trot it has been around quit a grad deal i think it is oin to the wather it has been so very Changeable well hattie have you herd that your big Brother went to the big Citye to see the Wonderfull sits he was gone Just 1 Weeak he Came back safe and was well plesed with his ride Jess brot back a present to each one and he did not forgat you it was all he Could aford the Dear boy don all he Couid we all went out to Alls Sunday he Came in and got us we had a nice visit Aug is quit well She has got a very pritte home i

think All thinks a gradle of her thay seem to gat along very happe together we all went over on the aithe and we picked up lots of nice little stones we would have been very glad if you had been with yous but poor tug she was sick and Could not Come i did not know it but lue Came in and told us but she is batter now well hattie how is all the little folks and the big folks are thay all well i am sorry i Could not see you all this fall you must kiss them all for me and tell them uncle Jess send them each a hanchef to wipe ther noses and a pocketbook 1 for you and 1 for John this is Arll persens berthday and Jess he has gone ther this evening

so i ame goin to leve a little room for he to writ to morra night so now i am gating very sleepe i washed to Day and i fell kind tierd i hope that little miss hattie will writ to her gran Ma. Talbot well my Dear Girl hattie i must stop and i hope you will writ to me with love to all

from your loving Mother
that often thinks of you

i must stop for i do make such blunders

Dear Sister & all,

Ma wants me to write to you and tell you some thing. I am still in the shop yet I had a lay off of 2 months this fall but I got a job helping Alva harvest & thrash and other places so I made as much as though I had been in the shop. How is John getting along & the children & what is he doing. I went down to the worlds fair when Uncle Hank and some more went down we saw great sights & had quite a time. I cant tell you much about it on a letter or tell haff I saw if I could talk to you. one young man got killed with the cable cars down to the fair he lived over in fremont Scot Robinsons boy he was 28 years old. J.W. Talbot

\$11.45 World's Fair. \$11.45

The Winona and South-Western R'y. will sell World's Fair Excursion tickets to Chicago and return for \$11.45, commencing August 1st. Limited to thirty days.

Low Rates to the World's Fair.

Now is the time to visit the World's Fair. The North-Western Line is selling excursion tickets at exceedingly low rates. These tickets accord holders all first-class privileges, and are good for return passage within thirty days from date of sale. Fast train service and elegant accommodations. For tickets and full information apply to Agents Chicago & North-Western R'y. 31-7t.

St. Charles Union, Friday, September 15, 1893

ACCIDENT AT CHICAGO.

THOMAS ROBERTON, OF FROMONT, MINNESOTA,
KILLED BY A CABLE CAR.

Mr. Thomas Robertson, who was visiting the fair at Chicago was fatally injured by a cable car on Lincoln Ave., on Monday night. He got off on the wrong side of the car and did not discover the approaching cable car until too late. We understand the remains will be brought to his home in Fromont for interment.

He was 28 years of age.

St. Charles Union, Friday, October 13, 1893, p. 3, col. 2.

Fargo, N.D. Jan. 5, 1901

My dear Hattie:

Your good kind letter came quite a long time ago, and so often have I thought about writing to you. How good it seemed to hear from you again. And we had not heard of your baby girl. I think you all will make lots of her, and enjoy her every day. We heard of Cora's baby in the paper, and also of the twins. It seemed hard that they should have to part with the mother. But always when children are left there seems to be a way provided for taking care of them. Here we

have one of the children's Homes and so many babies and young children are received into it to be given away, and they always go into good homes. I noticed in the paper one night this week that Minnie Morrel Tibbetts was here, and had come from Ellendale to adopt one of the little ones from the Home. You remember Billie Morrell's folks from over in the Harding district? Minnie was their only daughter.

Today I had a letter from Lizzie Patterson. Like all the rest of us she seems to work hard. Addie Roan writes some times, and at Christmas I had a very dainty

little apron from her. Santa Claus brought us all more than we expected. John gave me a very lovely little clock. Leola writes, and not long ago sent a picture of all the family in the sitting room. Her 2 boys are quite good size and the girl is 3 years old. Leola is thinner than when we knew her, but I hope is the same jolly girl. Her husband is very grey, and looks many years older than Leola. Mrs. Lyon wrote, too, not long ago, and though past 70 years old, seems to take the same lively interest in things she always did.

You spoke of your second boy being your right hand man. The same can be said of my second boy. Last summer he worked in a grocery store all the vacation, and while I missed him ever so much I knew it was good for him. He earned \$4 a week, and learned lots in more ways than one, besides growing faster than he could wear out his clothes. Now he is the tallest man in the house, and last week actually went to be shaved. I can't feel that he is my little boy any longer. Both boys deliver the daily papers now before school mornings. It makes them get up at four o'clock mornings, but does not cut into their school. They have been out with the New Year greetings this week, and Max has cleared \$20

and Guy nearly \$40. But Guy had twice as many to go to as he carries an evening paper, too. Guy is great on learning to speak other languages, and can talk and write Norwegian, and talk pretty good German, too. He is studying two or three other languages now. Guy will be 18 years old this month. Your mother Petheram lives near you, I suppose. I should so enjoy seeing her, and all of the others.

Hope you had good growth and some blossoms from your plant, and next year you can expect many blossoms. Think I said it is best to put a little protection over

the roots during the winter. It will come up again in the spring almost as early as the pie-plant.

Mary Bale's boy - Archie Cornwall - has been boarding with us over a year, but went back home at New Years, and will go into an office at Jamestown. We miss

him, for he was such a very nice boy.

Not long ago I was out to see Geo. and Felicia. It was the first time for two years and a half, though it is only little more than forty miles on the train straight west. They had been here twice. Geo. teaches school, but is having vacation now. Their three little boys are very bright in their lessons.

Felicia's sister Ida, spent most of the summer in St. Charles. She lives in Butte, Montana, and on her way home, about the 1st of Nov., she stopped off one day to visit us. Mr. Hill is very poorly and they do not expect he is ever going to be any better.

Do you take the St. Charles paper. Now and then there is something interesting in it but we can't help seeing there are many changes for so few of the names mentioned are those of people we knew. Your girl is almost a woman now, I think, and the boys are no longer little ones.

Time goes along fast, and the older we grow the faster it seems to move.

Ivy said old Mr. and Mrs. Patterson had been married 50 years this month. Few people live to see their golden wedding day.

I should be so glad to hear from you again, and will promise to write sooner next time. All summer I was very miserable following a sickness in March and April; but am quite well lately.

With kind regards to you all.
Your friend sincerely
Gertrude Vowles.