

February 21. 1857 Paid John Lancy  
Forty dollars \$40 00

August 6.<sup>th</sup> Paid W<sup>m</sup>ille Coast Seven dollars 7 00



Dec 1864  
William Pettijohn

Dr

To one or eight dollars \$ 8.00



Thursday mo[rning] January 18, 183<sup>8</sup>[9?] Lac Qui  
Parle

My dear Brother I am about to send you a letter written by Wamdiokiya, a Dakota and although it is in an unknown tongue it may be interesting to you I have written Mr. G. H. Ponds translation which may need a word of explanation. Where he says ~~let~~ no one <sup>will</sup> be offended at them he means at us not at the truths I suppose the translation of this letter is very literal This Wamediokeya has learned to read & write mostly by himself Dr W. learned him his letters & how to spell in two letters after this he had but little help. Now I suppose he can write any thing that he can speak & write it plainly and if he had a bible printed I suppose he would try to read the whole of it. He cannot read fast as you or I would but if he has a thing plainly written he can read it correctly I have no doubt but this man has felt a pretty strong desire to know what is in the bible It seems very desirable that some part of the scriptures be printed soon Mr R. has been translating the Gospel of Mark this winter but has not got through yet I think something more than half through Dr. W. has been talking of comeing or going into the U. S. next summer to superintend the printing of some thing ~~of-something~~ in the Dakota language if he can have any thing worth comeing with in readiness but I fear he will have to wait another year. The way Mr. R translates Dr. W. reads a verse in the french then Mr R speaks it in Sioux and the Dr. Mr Riggs & Mr Stone all write it down then the Dr reads another verse One Chap is as much as they get in one day after they get a Chap. they read & compere it to see if they all wrote the same thing

One man last winter came to [torn] & listens [torn] another for some days till he learned all the letters so that the first day he began to say letters he could say the names of all the letters These



Dakota men are proud fellows they would hate for any one to think they could not learn fast This pride I think keeps some from trying to learn They fear if they try they shall not get along so fast as others so they will not come Some I think would like to learn in the night when the others would know nothing of it One man was in our house to night till after supper he wanted to know who I was going to send the book too ~~said~~ said he wanted to know the book very much if he could write he would write to his brother says he is brother to the man that learned to write at Lake Calhoun I asked if they had one father he said their fathers were brothers This I believe is true This man lately came up from below his father has been here a year but he is too old to learn This man is intent to learn to write he has been to school 2 or three days this week says he must soon start to hunt as he has no corn here

In school we write on slates We have a black board I write on with chalk sometimes for a copy then the whole school can see it at once For learning to read we have some doz old news papers printed with a brush through copper plates. The letters are so large as to be seen from any part of the room We have also some lessons written with a pen & stuck up on the partition wall The Indians here have had no strong drink since we came here but now they have sold their land all that lies east of the Mississippi and I fear there will be a great change for the worse in this respect Whereever strong drink comes among a savage people it proves very fatal

Mr R's oldest daughter married on the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month to his clerk a little french man [e ~~got~~ <sup>clutter</sup> illegible ] A pleasant little man but a Roman Catholic

We got our mill started and have ground three or 4 barrels of corn We are 10 grown ones besides 5 children to eat corn and two suckling children all dependent on our stock of corn 17 persons & but about ten



bushels of corn[ & very] little flour You may see we have not much bread to spare the Indians. some days ago one woman came to the Dr's said they were starving one man she said was past sitting up the Dr gave the woman some turnips & potatoes & went to see the man he was far gone the Dr thought with the consumption I believe he is still living We can hardly eat a meal but some poor savates are looking on and their mouth watering We have had cold weather lately some of the Indians say they cannot sleep for the cold. Mrs W & Lydia have given nearly all the clothing they can spare to the old women. One woman came here last fall & took the small pocks Dr W gave her medicine and as soon as she was able to go she was started off there were 7 or 8 in all with her ~~she~~ was told to go up stream but she went down a little way & they all took it and as many as 3 died She came back & set up her lodge & came calling for something to eat She has been living all winter on what is taken to her as none will let her come to their house She said that 2 of the children starved to death & one man died of the Small pox. They are talking of sending her away again before the warm weather Mrs Riggs has a son they call him Alfred Longley 6 or 7 weeks old we are all well

A. G. Huggins

March 17 The Mail did not go at the set time if they had they might have been froze it has been 30 below zero more than once this winter

✓ Mrs W. has another son I think he was boen about the last of Jan 1838 They call him Andrew Woods

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Dr W. baptized Katharines children her eldest son is called Lorenzo Lawrence for Dr L. of Cincinnati Their Joseph Elisabeth & sarah the father of Lorenzo is dead the father of the other three is brother to Mrs Renville

Feb 25 Dr W. baptized 3 women the widow Jeffries is called betsy the others Rachel & Din[ah?]



Mr R has got through Mark On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March Mr R got a letter from Lake Traverree The Indians at that place have had the Small pox this winter Mr Brown the trader writes there is one hundred of them dead One half breed who was educated at Mackinaw went last year to Lake Traverre to assist in trading he was killed this winter by an Indian His father is a trader at Traverse de Sioux & has a Dakota wife He was not killed at Lake Traverre but far off where he had went for buffaloes or something else Mr Brown got shot in the neck at Lake T so that the ball went two finger breadth under the skin April 2 We got some news yesterday Dr W. got 3 letters & Mr Riggs 2 we also got some papers & Missionary Herralds we expect to start letter today Wamdiokiya has been inae few days Mr G. H. Pond started with him this morning to hunt rats he will probably be gone 2, 3, or 4 weeks The are better off for corn at this place than the were years~~past~~ a great part of them were gone all winter have all their corn yet their prospect for next year looks dark the water is now over their fields & is still rising the water is not to our field yet I think likely it will be over part of it The water has never been[seen]so high but once as it is now by any one living here.

We have one printed spelling book or perhaps 100 but they are not very correct they are of some use



Michael Spauld did not go at the ~~season~~ if they had they might have been frozen it has been 30 below zero more than once this winter  
Feb 15 Dr. W. baptised Katharine Spalden her eldest son is called Lorenzo Lawrence for Dr. L. of Cincinnati  
Feb 20 Dr. W. baptised 3 women the widow Jeffries & her 2 daughters Rachel & Dine  
On the 18th of March Mr. W. got a letter from Lake Superior The Indians at that place have had the small pox this winter Mr. Broun the trader writes there is one hundred of them dead One half breed who was educated at Mackinaw went East year to Lake Superior to assist in trading he was killed this winter by an Indian his father is a trader at Travers de Sioux & has a Dakota wife He was not killed at Lake Superior but far off where he had went for buffalo or something else Mr. Broun got shot in the neck at Lake Superior so that the ball went two finger breadth under the skin April 2 he got some news yesterday  
Dr. W. got 3 letters & Mr. Dist. 2 we also got some papers & newspapers the Herald we expect to start after today  
Wandickiya has been in a few days Mr. G. S. Bone started with him this morning to hunt rats he will probably be gone 2, 3, or 4 weeks  
The are better off for corn at this place than the many years past a great part of them were gone all winter have all their corn yet their prospects for next year looks dark the water is now over their fields & is still rising the water is not much & yet I think likely it will be one part of it  
The River has never been so high but once as it is now by any one living here



[illegible]



Letter by Alexander G. Huggins, January 18,  
18[38], describing Renville's method of  
translation.

The letter was turned upside down and  
the writing inserted between the lines.

My dear Brother I am about to send you a letter written by Wamdiokiga, a Dakota  
and although it is in an unknown tongue it may be interesting to you I have written  
the English translation which may need a word of explanation. These messages  
are to you for the very work done by you and my friends in the way of  
one, he is offended at them. He means at it not at the truth. I suppose the translation of the  
letter is very literal. This Wamdiokiga has learned to read & write mostly by him  
self. He learned from his letters & how to spell in two letters after this he had but  
little help. Now I suppose he can write any thing that he can speak & write it plainly  
and if he had a bible printed I suppose he would try to read the whole of it. The same  
read last as you and I would but if he has a thing plainly written he can read it easily  
I have no doubt but the man has felt a pretty strong desire to know what is written  
in our paper many to copy our words upon their own paper. It seems very desirable that some part of  
the scriptures be printed in the Dakota language. I have been thinking of this for some time  
something more than half through. Dr. W. has been talking of coming to go into the Dakotas  
summer to superintend the printing of some thing in the Dakota language. If he can have any thing  
worth coming with in reading that I feel he will have to wait  
another year. The way Dr. W. translates Dr. W. reads and in the French then Dr. W. speaks it in  
Dakota and the Dr. W. says it all written down then Dr. W. reads another word. One thing  
is as much as the other in a day after they get a thing written he can read it. I feel if things all written  
the same then they can read it more easily than now.



[illegible]





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