



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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John W. Wain

Sept. 19, 1859.

N. W. Van Cleave

Rev

Martinez Thompson
for Mrs C. V. Van Cleave

168, East 21st Street, near 2^d Avenue

New York
N. Y.

Long Prairie Sept 11, 1859.

Friday Evening

My own darling wife

Paul has insisted on my
writing to you, and telling you to come home. Re-
solving my promise to do so, he went to bed, and while
singing his evening song; 'Awful going, awful going,
awful going, go-o-ning'; he fell asleep. I saw my
husband a darling child. He clings to me from morn-
ing till evening, and sleeps in my arms at night.
It is miserable when I am out of his sight, as I
perfectly happy when walking by my side with
his dear little hand in mine.

Amelia went home in a coach on Thursday.
She had a large thumb, some thing like a felon
on it, and, I said, work, I thought it would be a good
thing to let it be. — George Russell also left on
Monday. He is going into a timber speculation.
We have had two men at work on this place
this week; (part of the week), Mr Martin has not
come yet, he told me last week he expected to
come the next Monday (the 12th), but I did not hear
from him. His wife was in a situation that he had
him at home till she got out of it. Perhaps I
shall have some more news from them, but
as it does not sound well you may decide
your own impressions. These women say they

are might of concentration. He may not be here
for a month.

I thought you to eat all the cabbage
in the kitchen, for I thought
stuff. And his whole harvest is one garden. Last
year they peppered it so badly, yellowed
so that it was not one left to eat.

I pitied the poor fellow who he
has in solitary confinement, and I noticed that
he was going away, and losing his life.
I let him out on condition of good behavior.
And this is the way the ungrateful base
treacherous man. I have one constitution: the
bayer has no brains. I have again sentenced
Sir John to solitary confinement; put a bullet
in his back & let him to his cell. That is
chickadee. When after he had told me: I don't
mention that to Cliff if you please. Charles
I have a cousin, Judge & Sheriff. When he was
in the constitution; for when Sir John refused
to accompany me, I called on Martin for
assistance, who hastening ^{to my aid} walked boldly
up to him and said: too-y. On his
way, Sir John felt that all hope was lost,
and walked quietly into his dungeon, where
I left him to remain on the cabbage
head. I will mention here before I go
that the crows have given a great deal more
trouble to day than usual.

Saturday night. Paul insists on coming to you
again, and as an obedient father I shall let him.

It has been raining hard today, but in the afternoon
it turned all in the name of nature, you at least have
dry weather all the time, wd you? I wish that it
has been accomplished. There is that high day
over head - tap, tap, tap. It sounds like a drum
beating. The leaping of a stream. But calling it
a stream to take all the consequence of it. What
a ghost. — I have felt very well for a
few days past, and have been very good. I feel
as good as ever expected, but I shall not
be so. I am anxious to learn what you have
done with Tigger. It is hard to be so good
her. But dear child, she is sadly in need of new
training, and if the doctors had their way
they would keep her at school till she knew some
thing. You will give my love to all at home.
Will she come and spend a year with me? I
will teach him to ride the wild horse, to
manage a canoe and shoot ducks. I think
you will be abundant this fall. I see the
geese & ducks. I wish that Mr. Colman
were here, I think he could supply the table. I am
speaking of Wible. I think a visit to him
would strengthen his constitution and he would
be refreshed after spending a few months in
himself out of doors in the open air.
He is without coat or neck cloth, enjoying himself

I believe he will return home in eight months or
a year, looking so robust, that rather I sister to have
by myself, know. You know that I am not
off my mind, I have dearly to have
the girls visit us, I think it will do them good, but
I fear they will read the journey. I should like to
come over with you. I want some one that we
can get. When you return, you will realize that
there is a terrible business caused by Digger's
Braz. Mary and let John come after her next year.
Now, do you not think that a capital idea? I
11th Sabbath morning, all well. Have strong doubts about
seeing the Brown this fall. I miss you very much.
Digger and Johnny very much this morning. Not but
that we get along well enough, and even better
than I expected when you left. Mrs. Lissan man-
ages first rate. The children I am not particu-
larly fond of. They make considerable capital use
in the house and the elder one is particularly
disagreeable, getting in her conversation with
the others, and very deceitful. My dear Mary,
I have a page from about our dear little daughter
who has said her word, she got him a little
I have said, I am sure that she was the quiet, gentle
one, with a very strong desire to see her home.
I wish to see her here early this week. I have
a good many of the property left by John's
decease, the looking stone & the box stone with many
other things. We can make good use of them, but

Prairie View

Aug 22. 1869

Mrs C. D. Van Cleave

CH
Care of Van Cleave
Ann Arbor

~~Spencer~~

Mich

Long Prairie Sabbath eve

Aug 21. 1867

My dear wife

I had a lonely ride home. No wife, no Lizzie, no Johnny to cheer me. We arrived at Little Falls by dusk. Col. Abernethy had been there I left. I started for home Saturday morning; it commenced raining soon after I passed Lees. When I reached Little Falls I was wet enough to call a half. Put my horses for shelter in a stable with a flat roof, made the poles apart 1 1/2 ft. apart. As you might suppose the rain came through a little. I went in the house to dry my self. The bar room leaks almost as badly as the stable. The kitchen leaked as badly as the bar room and the bed room almost as badly as the kitchen. They were in a sorry plight with six small children I saw at the breast. They made me very welcome I treated them very kindly.

I came home this morning and found all well, for which I am thankful to our kind heavenly Father. Paul asked me if mother had come home. They all made many in-

queries about you & Siggie & the baby, and my trip
which were all faithfully & satisfactorily answered.
I crunched on honey clusters & big & butter, and this
evening had a very comfortable supper. I
have seen nothing special in the market
for dessert they show wild cherries. They are very fine.
I consider them a very fine fruit. They are now
ripe, and very abundant. I think they might
be cultivated to advantage and perhaps im-
proved. They taste very much like the common
cherry, but are not so rich and are slightly
astringent. — By the way when you return
you must bring some prickly pears from
St. Paul.

Notwithstanding my large family the
house is very lonely without you. I miss Siggie
& the baby. You must draw a picture of your house
& say "Mamma sent me for some water!" & "How was the
pudding?" I expect he missed me in the stage the
day you left St. Cloud. Was he not very tired before
he reached St. Paul. Kiss the darling for me, & kiss
dear Siggie. Tell her father how much she is
missed. — Jessie has just come in and gone
under my bed to sleep. I have not the heart
to turn her out. She was very glad to see me
today.

I believe all of us are much pleased with
the purchases made for them. Nathan's shoes

were one size too small.

Our family is very large, & we are uncom-
fortably so. I hope by the time you return, or
before, it will be reduced to the peace establish-
ment. I should like it much if Mrs. G. and
her children could live in some house near
it but I am not sure. I feel some what
nervous, and cannot bear the incessant
racket and confusion.

I did not meet the Brown's boys. Perhaps you
did. Will look for them daily.

My journey was somewhat fatiguing but
I think it very well. I think I am enjoying
good nights rest. And as all have gone
to bed and the house is very quiet and
myself somewhat weary I believe I must
have a good night's sleep. What a wonderful
power to help me see to all my ap-
pang.

Good night darling.

Your loving husband.

If this reaches you in Springfield, you
must be so good, & write to my dear
family. Tell them to write to me. I think
she is in my little book. I am not certain.

Monday morning. Over slept myself. All well.

Song Prairie "Wednes" Mar 6. 89

My beloved wife

Have just learned that St. C.
is going to Little Falls I have barely time
to enclose these letters from John & Antoinette
and to tell you that we are all well.
Rec^d your letters and although they did
not bring the news I expected very con-
fidently, am truly thankful to learn
that you are well & in good spirits.

May God bless you & bring you safely
through your trials, and then have
my darling. Your loving husband
A. W. McLean.

The long looked for South wind is
blowing & I think we shall leave Spring
soon.

Mrs C. D. Van Cleave
Swan River

Am
Mr Hammond

Dec 7, 1860

My dear wife

We reached home
the day we left; found
all well & delighted to see
us. Yesterday Mr Hammond
arrived with the balance
of the goods. All came
safe. The children are
anxious to see you. I
will come for you as
early as Wednesday
if a fine & mild weather
permits, snow or no snow,
unless James Martin
brings word from you
to the contrary.

Paul & Johnny sleep
with me. They are dear

little bed fellows,

The clothes & shoes fit
admirably & the children
look very comfortable,
The like apples.

All send love to
mother, and say they
are getting along well.

I asked Miss Camp
to out when you
did.

Good bye, May God
bless you my darling.

Remember to Mr &
Mrs Fournier I fear
ly.

Your loving hus-
band

H P Van Buren

Long Prairie Minn
Aug 27. 1859

Free
H. W. Phelps
Minn.

Wortham -
for Mrs. C. B. Van Cleave
165 East 21st St. near 2^d Avenue
New York

Stephen. The men are getting along very
well in the hay field. I have they think
something over fifty tons but I cannot be sure
all in good order, notwithstanding we
have had considerable rain. I have
much cause for thankfulness to our
merciful Father for all his goodness.
I received a letter from Malcom by the
last mail. It came by the overland mail
and reached here in one month and a day.
I have written a letter to you & intend to mail it
tomorrow. I must bring his letter home.
The Brainerd boys have not yet returned.
I will look for them any moment.

We have now an abundance of
vegetables from the garden. Potatoes, squash,
cucumbers, &c. I will see to it that we
have enough of them in a week.
Flour will be very low
this year. I think I will be able to
get it at the Clearwater Mills, British
Columbia, for \$3.50 per barrel. I
will try to get about twenty barrels.
I will tell you at St. Cloud that beef, butter &
other things are very fresh just also.
I will let Johny meet me in the stage the
day after next at St. Cloud, before you reach
St. Paul. I thought of you much of how
long you were holding him of his debt.

and complaining. I wish I knew how
you too. I do not know how we will get on
this winter without her. I have written
her a great many times for the
Presbyterian brought the same word of
the death of James McFarlane. I wish it
was very much longer in the church.
I was admired & beloved by all
of all denominations, she was a
very good and a letter from you by the last mail
and answer it by this mail. I have
seen him since it was last written.
I suppose you are the only one who
tells him more about you than
I do. I will write him a letter
this time.

I am very anxiously looking for your letter.
I have, although I have had
time to write unless you mind
the Sunday. I will write you
soon. I have your address for
writing, and also wish to hear from you
particularly. I will write you
soon. Tell me how you are. I
am well, and the little ones are
well also. I have now been about two
months hunting for the day you left home.
And now I am at home, yet I miss you.

You must not think that Mrs. Gibson fills your
place, not at all, madam. Neither do her
little ones supply the place of my own children.
I do not know when I must meet you
at Kansas. I will try to be on hand.
Mrs. Gibson has made a shirt for me
and 4 pairs of pants for Nathan, and perhaps
some other clothing for the children, and I hope
I shall be able to send the children, and all your
family, well as you expect.

I hope to sleep in Liggins tomorrow
and I hope to sleep with me. I am happy
as close as possible to me during the day, for
I am very fond of him. He is a dear child.
I am very fond of him, very affectionate, all our
good children. I have heard that he is
singing, I hope so, I have the singing, that
is with you, I hope so. I will get along
very well. They are good children.

I hope to see you by Malcolms letter that
he is coming back by the way of Texas.
If he does, I suppose he will not visit it. I
hope to see him, I hope so, in my hope that may
be blessed. I will look with anxiety for
his next letter. Good bye my dear
wife, may God bless you & my darling chil-
dren, and restore you to us in safety. Much love
to Aunt. I am very anxious to see you in the same
time. I love all the family, I am being kissed
by all the family.

Mrs C. D. Van Cleave

Little Falls

To John Cornell.

Min

Long Prairie Apr. 15, 59

My dear wife

I sent you a letter yesterday by Mr Seeley who came with the Olmstead, — John Cornell carries this & can bring a letter from you.

We are all well. If this winter continues much longer can bring you home in a sleigh. Snowing since yesterday noon. Wrote to your mother last night. — Gave the St. your copy of Cooper, (the Lygia Wilson copy) not our dear Fanny's.

Mr Olmstead says an Chief Mewa by the name of "The Soldier". Said that he had killed Putnam & put him under the ice in a creek. The Superintendent of Indian affairs has orders to find out the affair.

Take good care of yourself, keep up good courage. I may God bless you my darling.

Love your dear husband

A. P. Olmstead

I left Amelia's rattles in your room. I guess she can get along, ^{with you & them} till I come after you.

It looks like mid winter & does not
feel like spring. Snowing, blowing, drift-
ing. Cold & gloomy.

^{Let} Kiss my darling boy for me.

The children send kisses. Paul

Kisses me every night, for mother & little bro-
ther.

Sept. 5. 1857

Mortimer Thompson
for Mrs. C. O'Brien & Co.
168 East 21st St. near 2nd Avenue

New-York

N.Y.

We have always thought that Paul resembled Herman.
He was sitting on my lap today, and as he looked up
in my face, I was forcibly struck by the strong re-
semblance to our darling angel. He too was a darling
child, tender hearted and affectionate. I cannot leave
the house without his following me. Take hold of my
hand, get that dear little cap; and he clings to me
from morning till night.

We have now cold autumn weather. The fall of the
year to me is always the most pleasant season, but at
the same time melancholy makes me feel sad. Another
year is drawing rapidly to its close. Another harvest
is past, and the summer ended. And I have made
but few of my advances towards Heaven. What
have I done during the past year? Have I done any
thing for that dear Father, Heavenly Father? There are
things that I must do at once.

The summer has gone by, the sun is again shining
brightly, and it looks very pleasant out of doors. I wish
Mr. C. and Mrs. C. by then. Do you think Mr. C.
will return this fall? What will we do this winter
without him? Our dear Maunie goes, I suppose.
I have almost no one to go with me. I fear he is
leaving and will probably be in London. He may
be making some money, but even in that respect,
I think Mr. C. does as much for him here.

Monday morning. All well. May God bless you all.
Kiss my darling Sissy, John & Maud. Give love to mother &
all the family. Love from your loving husband. H. C. C. C.

Song Prairie Sept 16. 1857

My darling wife I have just
received a letter from your father
dated 12th inst. enclosing a Treasury Receipt
for \$100.00 for the purchase of land.
I have no doubt you might have
been surprised to see him at School. If you
could find a way to get your father's
land in the hands of the family.
I think it would be advisable to purchase
the land at once. He found at St. Paul
that the land was worth the transportation
of them.

Oh my boy when I found at St. Paul
that my dear little son was present at
School at St. Paul; one from Mother
of James & John saying that he was
well; I felt as if all his claims he had
known that father and mother from the
making of him as respecting his last brother
that the mother was living his father in
Cincinnati. This I had been told.
I read your letter this morning, ex-
pressed my deep sympathy for this deep
distress. But I do not see there no infor-
mation respecting their last boy.
I have from your last letter in which

Have you had your teeth examined? If they
may help in moving the rest? I hope you
will have much fun to have. Tell him I
think a lot of him and hope he is well. He
must be a Mark here after the expectation
of being here with us for two or three years.
Nothing but him can put you in a hold in
good condition. Paul will thank him
to hunt fish and fight.

Give much love to all.

If you get an overcoat for me please
be my dog arm. I also need a coat &
light nothing extravagant.

Good bye. God bless you
and your family. Kiss my family for me. I hope
you will stop at I hope to see you
every week. If so please let me hear of
you often.

Love from
John Henry High

Mr. C. P. Van Cleave

Little Falls

For

W. Olmstead,

Min

Song Prairie Min Apr. 14, 1859

My dear wife

2 1/2 P.M.

Reached home last night at
Tattoo, found all well. The Capt. thinks he
may get off by next Sunday. Says he will
go up to Little Falls to see you.

Children disappointed that you did not
come home with me last night. In the
dark mistook Mrs G. for mother.

Will feel very lonesome when the boys
are gone, & wife & baby not home. —

Found the roads hard,

Children very anxious to see mother & little
brother.

Mr Olmstead is here, expect him to leave
this afternoon.

Found a letter in the office at Swan
River for you from West, baby well. Gave
it to Perkins, & one for Mr Lamm. Perkins
said he would send it to you by some safe
hand.

I put Mr Churchills letter in Perkins
box.

Good by. God bless you, kiss John.
Your husband

A. P. Van Cleave

I opened Seymour's letter & envelope
with this but finding he had en-
closed a lock of hair revealed it.



Gen H. P. Vanillie
for Mrs Vanillie

Long Prairie

Minnesota



Cincinnati April 23

Dear Charlotte,

I start for D.C.
in a few moments. Mr. Lincoln
has heard that Mr. Matthews
sister Mrs. Smith is dead, leaving
an infant of 7 days old, and
I thought it was best for me to
go directly home — possibly it
may not be so, but Mr. L. thinks
that it is true — shall write as
soon as I reach home.

Always true and good wishes
good bye and May God
bless you

have left Long Prairie - did.
Mr V. send these St Pauls papers
I was very glad to get them also
to read that complimentary notice
of Mr V. Cherry is quite set up, and
delighted, and should you go to
St Pauling you may expect to
see him in the course of the summer.
Ellen sends much love and can easily
excuse your not writing when she
with her can positively smell family
finds so little time for her absent
friends =

Wednesday 28th just recd. Ziggy's letter
shall answer it in a few days, Malcolm
is still a little better, I wish that you
would write what the little children
need in the way of clothing, and what
sizes for shoes, and Mary will send
them immediately with the things for
Mr. Bumble - your sisters send much
love - I was very glad to get a letter
from Ziggy, and shall remember her with
my best love to all little and big
and believe me your affectionate mother
C. at 5

Cincinnati May 26th 61

Dear Charlotte

Your letter with Mr. Burdett
of the 5th of the present month would
sooner have been answered, but our little
Malcolm has been very ill since then
three weeks, and although the Dr now
thinks that he is recovering it is so
~~so~~ slowly that I sometimes ^{fear} he never
will be well - his disease was infla-
mation of the stomach, now typhoid
fever, he does not get up yet, and
has to be carried from one bed
to another. He is amazingly ill. Malcolm's
visit was as usual short - he went
to Washington with Mr. Mallen,
and was in Cincinnati about three
days - Horace returned with him
He wrote from St. Joseph's, was getting
on well and in good spirits -
Horace was making many friends -

he is to return next year and be
prepared for West Point. Malcolme
intends then to take Nathan with him
into the Indian country - and hopes to
have all his children with him except
Morris, in the course of two years -
he (should he live) will visit you
next spring and then you will learn
all his plans - I am very glad that
Mr Vanleave did not bring the children
down, as I think that they are better and
happier with you than they could be
here and can improve as well -
Malcolme left a dressed Buffalo skin
for Mr Vanleave, he said it made inter-
ests; also a few vest, and some caps
of lined mittens - Mary is going to send
some things to the children in a few days
when they will all be put up
together - Will Gen Vanleave be stationed
at Ft Snelling? - I should be very
glad my dear child to visit you

again this summer and see that tweloth
body; but in these sad times even rich
people have to economise, my money
is in the ^{hands of the} coal company and I have
not yet been able to collect one cent -
Mr Lincoln says that it can be got but
we do not wish to use force if it can
be paid by waiting a few weeks, Mr
Mellen is waiting and hoping every day
to get his pay about \$500 -
whenever I can possibly visit Long
Prairie you may be sure I shall
not lack the inclination to do so -
Mr and Mrs John G. Worthington
called the other day, wished to be
particular in remembering to you
both when I write - Mrs W spoke
of having a very nice Lizzy and thought
her a strikingly lovely interesting girl
I hope Malcolme will get home this
summer, he would be such an
assistance and comfort to you both
am very glad that the Browsers

for
Van Blev
Van Blev
Long Prairie

Minnesota

etc

Cincinnati May 13th 61

Dear Charles,

Your letter to Mary of
April 25th gave us all great business.
Mr Tweed was called on by Mr. Lincoln
he ^{had} just arrived from New Orleans and said
that it should be attended to, I think that
they will do right in the matter - I will
send your letter to Packer Brechard on
Tuesday, as Mr. Mellen knows most about
your business. Mr. Lincoln has written, and
enclosed a note to Mr. Van Cleve, for \$200
on I believe the little Clarke's account.
Mr. Mellen if he has not already written
will write when he gets your letter to
Mary - I hope to see you by the third
week in July, if not sooner, when we can
talk of many things that cannot well be
written. My best love to Mr. Van Cleve
and very glad that his health is better - and
happy to hear that the children are well,
give granddaddy's love to them all.
Horace and Ellen are very impatient for the

Remember I am still smiling so as I only wait
for them - keep up your spirits - my dear child
I hope that pleasant days are yet in store
for you even in this life - and in that
higher and better life, you have the
glorious assurance of eternal felicity.
The Lincoln is waiting for this letter
to take to the Office - I shall write again
as soon as I have the answer to my
letter written last week -

Yours affect.

Mother

C. A. Clarke

Peack Orchard March 5th 1858

My Dear child,

Your letter of July 30th together with
one to Mr. Mellen from Mr. Vanclave, came only last
Mail; we were very glad to hear that you were all well
and that the Indians had not been troublesome. I hope
that the very cold weather which we have had for the
past three weeks, has not affected you unpleasantly.
I expect to go to Cincinnati next week to remain
probably until the middle of May; if your direct
letters to Mr. Lincoln's care I shall get them much sooner.
Mr. Mellen is going down with me, and will see the
Long Prairie people, and write Mr. Vanclave upon the
subject; I hope all may turn ^{out} according to his wishes, it
would be so much more pleasant to have him at home
what Malcolm will do with his children, I do not know
if you give up the care of them; if Mary takes them
of course they will be educated Catholics. I am willing
to do all that I am able, but that would only be to
have a general supervision, in the neighborhood of some
school - we all feel that you have done more than any
one else would have done, and much more than you
were able, and that it is time for you to rest - we do
not know what ~~the~~ may happen when the pleasant weather

comes do you know when Malvina will be down?
Mr Mellen will tell Mr Danclève all about his
business, which is I believe prospering, according to his mind,
but as I do not understand all the details, I shall
say nothing — Ellen has just returned from a visit of
a few days to Mary, or rather from a trip on business,
she was delighted, says she never saw Mary so pleasant
and sisterly before — she is very urgent that I should
make this visit, that I have been promising for a long
time, and from Ellen's account I anticipate much pleasure.
I think that the death of our precious Isabelle has been
blest to dear sisters, and that in answer to her prayers
"it may unite them in a closer bond of union" Mary
speaks kindly of you and Mr Danclève and I trust
that my visit may do her good, I shall ^{write} you again soon,
after I reach Cincinnati ^{March 10th} — my health is as good now as I
can expect at my age; Ellen and the dear children are
all well, she makes an excellent mother, and seems
very happy — this place is so much improved you
would hardly know it — if it could be, I should be very
happy if you were here, and if the way was open I
should rejoice, but at present can only hope that if
it is the will of God, some time before I go the way

of all the living, my children may all be near each other,
and have interests in common — I feel more, and more,
how much happiness has been lost, by our being so far
separated, how much ~~of~~ affliction might have been alleviated
by domestic sympathy — give my love to Mr Danclève
and the children — all the children here remember you,
and speak often of aunt Charlotte — our little Malvina
has been quite ill for a day or two, but is now we
trust getting better, Anne & Mort have neither of them
upset us, altho Ellen has written them I have written,
and a short time since, Ellen wrote Mrs Thompson —

Ellen sends much love, and will write next mail,
as it is better than writing at the same time with me —
good bye my dear child, may Heaven protect
and bless you, prays ever yours

Affectionate Brother,
C. F. Clarke



Horatio Seymour Van Cleve
Long Prairie
Minnesota

Dear curly Sammy.

I have been away
along time darling, haven't I.

But I am in a real parlor & a nice
carpet on it but our own parlor
is nice too.

This is two parlors together & two
doors between that push into the
wall and pull out again when
they want to shut them.

The wall is all covered with pictures
and there are two little

images one of a horse all white
and the other of a boy, making
a creek & a girl on his back. I

kiss little Paul for me I would
like very much to see you all give
my love to Nathan & Molly &
tell her I don't forget her doll.

Kiss Father and don't forget Lizzie

N. Y. October 4th 1859

Dear little Mortie

It is your turn to
get a letter from me now I believe, &
so I must begin.

Mort went off to Buffalo today to
report a prize fight. Little Mark has been
quite sick cutting teeth but is much
better now Saturday & Sunday afternoon
I had fever but I think I will have
it no more Mother will start
for home in two weeks if Mark is
well enough.

Seymour must take care of ^{the} colts
tell him & you must take care of
Storey and her colts, Sam must
take care of Jessie, & Paul of the pups
Nathan of the chicks, & Molly of
eggs. Let me see. I believe that is

Write, now.

all. no it is not Father must take
care of all of you and you of him.

Give my love to all of the little
ones kiss darling Paul & his pups for
me all send love Johnny too give
my compliments to Mr. Boon & best
wishes for his health. I cannot write
any more than afraid I will be
sick so

Good bye your sister
Lizzie.

Starting boy

Mother will be home
soon. You must all be good
children. I think of you and pray
for you every day and I shall
have much to tell you when
I see you. Kiss all the little folks
for me.

I wish I could bring Frank out
to see you. His little black eyes
would set you all wild. They
are so handsome - Be patient
and don't cry for mother or
money dear Father - Tell Seymour
I want him to take good
care of you all of Father in
particular. Tell Annie I
often think of her, and wish
she could take a walk down
Broadway now. She would
be enough to keep her think-
ing for the rest of her life.
Love to all, and may God
bless and keep you.

Love Loving Mother
H. A. Crampton

Suburban
May 17

Mr. Horatio P. Van Cleave
Long Prairie
Todd Co.
Minnesota

over has been. She weighs
130 lbs. Grandma is
well & all Uncle John's
family.

Horace is a great big
boy, runs about all the
time & does just as he
pleases. He is an un-
commonly good boy to be
allowed to do as he wishes.

He has never gone to school
yet, but I suppose will
next summer.

I wrote some letters some
time to you at Long Prairie
& as you had spoken of leaving
there I had waited a little
to hear from you. I
think however this will
reach you.

Give much love to all
& believe me most sincerely
Your nephew
Wm. D. Davis

Louis C. M.
15th Jan. 1859

Dear Uncle Horatio
Your letter of
late Oct. I just rec'd a short
time since from Ellen, &
indeed long that I did not
go to them to spend the
winter with you. I know
I sh^d have enjoyed it &
then I so long to see you &
Aunt Charlotte as ^{often} for a few
days. It seems but a mo-
ment that I saw you in N.Y.
& with exception, I have seen
none of my other relatives
since then. I feel that
to write to them at least
I must be almost a perfect
stranger. And then I
have been so long from

Sister, I all my relatives had
wished to be with me to all
relates to me to be a source
of satisfaction & pleasure.
How much more than to be
with you toward whom
I feel almost as a parent.
But I do not have left the
week this winter, but had
intended, if nothing else had
taken place to prevent, to
visit you next summer.
But I know not what
I shall see there.

Aunt Mary had written
in the last week for me to
come to N.Y. & as I can not
go now I may have to
go in the Spring.

I hope however I may
see there. I wish to see
him & very truly yours

ing to a true above all I
want to see you & Aunt
I know of nothing
that is transpiring here
that will interest you.

Mr. Sumner's family are
all well & Mrs. S. always
asks concerning you.

Mr. Lillard was quite when
he did when you were here
perhaps the same as ever
& rarely was at home

Christmas here. I
believe has been a season
of greater joyous
than usual.

There were suppers & par-
ties & trees in abundance
warm weather, wind & mud
by road.

Sister is well. Much
larger & stronger than she



Mr. Horatio P. Van Cleave
Long Prairie,
Todd Co.
Minnesota

All kinds of food and
grain are low. While my
I notice our father right

Mrs. & Miss Gamble & fam-
ily are all well. Fanny
Gamble goes down and
to Tex. They (Mrs. & Miss G.)
always enquire about you &
wish to be remembered

I will write to you again
for Tex. if it be true I ever
arrive there. But if you
feel disposed I sh^d be very
glad I will receive any
letters directed to

Care of Charles Carter
Milford Ellis Co.
Tex.

Remember me with great af-
fection to Aunt Charlotte &
all my friends. I believe me
most sincerely Yours &c
H. M. Davis

Louis Co. Mo
28th Oct 1839

Dear Uncle Josiah

Yours of Oct
1st was rec^d Sunday and
as I had not heard fr. you
for so long I was in great
glad to hear fr. you. and
am again under lasting ob-
ligations to you for your great
kindness in again offering
me a home during the
winter. I was extremely
desirous last fall to make
you a visit and have since
very much regretted that I
did not do so. But I did
not see at the time how
I could best do. This fall
- Mrs. & Mr. prefer spending
the winter with you to any
other place. I can not do it

as I have made positive
arrangements about going
to Tex., and will prob-
ably start ~~Nov. 10th~~ ^{7th Monday}
and from some place there
I feel I must have a
home somewhere. Now I
have already - two or three
to study from - neglected
sister, and almost my-
self to be separated from
more than I ought; and
I go to Tex. with two in-
tentions - if I like it - of
immediately making
my home there, and if
it is not like it - of
getting back here by spring
and making my home
permanently there.

I am perfectly sure God disposes
how far I may be able to carry

out my previous intentions
I know not, but with God
helping I think to be enabled
to carry them out so far
as will allow me to be
with and take care of sister
which I feel was only to
be my duty but my very
great pleasure.

I understand that I will
not see you this fall, but
hope that sister & I both
may be able to visit you
some time soon.

We have had a most
beautiful fall - Indian
summer weather for
more than a month.

Corn crops have not better
than they have been for
several years. No wheat
and now there is almost a

Milford Mass
Jan 19



Mr. Goratio S. Van Cleeve.

Long Prairie.

Sold Co.

Minnesota

Very common to find
Honey Suckle (Lycium) as
much as 10 lbs per acre
The country is rapid
rising up. The great natural
drains in this immediate
part of the country have
only been here about five
years. In this Co. was one
of the latest series (i.e.) among
those that far East

How plain (and unimproved)
can be brought for \$2.00 per acre

The chief disadvantages
under which the country
suffered from lack of water
& timber. Reliance for
my water is placed on cisterns
very few springs

Please write to me soon
& I will give you all the
information I can concern-
ing the country. If you can
please visit come by all means to
St. Martin's & I sincerely hope

Jan 16th 1860
Wm. Ellis
Tex.

Dear Uncle Horatio

I wrote to you
a short time before leaving
Mo. informing you of my
intended trip to this State
and I believe of my expect-
ations of living here. I
have seen a considerable
portion of the State, and my
very sincere pleasure both in
insouciance that I expect to
make in my home

I have been disappointed
disappointed in the winter
here. Almost as much cold
weather as this winter as
there was last winter in Mo.
The fact is that to have been
the coldest winter since
known here. Over

Wm. Ellis
St. Martin's & I sincerely hope
W. M. Davison Milford Ellis Co. Texas

the first day of Dec. in
suddenly changed very
cold. Last considerable
snow & sleet. I was colder
and felt longer than
before by the oldest inste-
ments. I felt about
a week. I the mercury
was at 10 as 10° above
zero. I suppose this is was
not cold as to what is
has been in Ohio.

Please when you write
tell me of your cold spells.

When they commence &c. &c.

The country here
is as different in different
parts of the State as it is
different from other States.

It is now chiefly a graz-
ing country & many farms
if it will ever be confined

to some employment.

But many farms are
very rich & productive &
only need some way
of transportation to send
them numerous grains
growing countries. But
even here large numbers
of all kinds of stock will
be always raised, as they
do not seem to feel the
cold here. The soil is black & very
rich. The wheat, barley
(as it is called) grows well
corn oats wheat barley
& will produce cotton. But
it is you have seen cotton
trees in some of the country
of Kansas. There is a
certain crop (the corn) is
considered leading here.