



James C. Christie and Family Papers

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To all whom it may Concern.



Know ye, That Thomas D. Christie
 a Sergeant of Captain William B. Clayton's
Company (1st) Regiment of 1st Battery Maine St. Art.
 VOLUNTEERS, who was enrolled on the first day of December
one thousand eight hundred and fifty three to serve three years or
 during the war; is hereby **Discharged** from the service of the United States
 this first day of July, 1865, at Saint Paul
Minnesota by reason of Circular No 19 War Dept. May 31 1865
 (No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.)

Said Thomas D. Christie was born in
 in the State of Delaware, is thirty one years of age,
five feet 2 1/2 inches high, swarthy complexion, gray eyes,
dark hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a Farmer

Given at St Paul Maine this first day of
July 1865

*This sentence will be erased should there be anything in the conduct or physical condition of the soldier rendering him unfit for the Army.

U. S. A. O., No. 99.]

Wm B Clayton
1st Major 1st Battery

Wm B. Rose
Capt. USA
Must. Officer

W.D. Christie enlisted in '63 as a Veteran Volunteer; his first enlistment was in October 1861.

99914MPTT
 JUL 18 1865
 MIL. ST. PAUL

To all whom it may Concern.



Know ye, That Thomas D. Christie
 a Sergeant of Captain William B. Claryton's
Company, 1st Battalion, Maine St. Arty.
 VOLUNTEERS, who was enrolled on the first day of December
 one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three to serve three years or
 during the war; is hereby **Discharged** from the service of the United States
 this first day of July, 1865, at Saint Paul
Minnesota by reason of Order No. 19, War Dept. May 30, 1865.
 (No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.)*

Said Thomas D. Christie was born in
 in the State of Delaware, is twenty one years of age,
five feet two inches high, dark complexion, gray eyes,
dark hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a farmer
 Given at Saint Paul Maine this first day of
July, 1865.

*This sentence will be erased should there be anything
 in the conduct or physical condition of the soldier
 rendering him unfit for the Army.

[A. C. O., No. 99.]

Wm B Claryton
1st Maj Genl of Battalion

Wm B Claryton
1st Maj Genl
Commanding the Regt.
Munf. Officer

W.D. Christie enlisted in '63 as a Veteran Volunteer.
 his first enlistment was in October 1861.

12 Jul 1865
 MIL. CO. ST. PAUL

"Soldiers Rest," Chicago)
July 12th 1865-

My Dear Father.

[James Christie] offered
me again, you see
where I was so hand-
somely relieved of the
responsibility of carry-
ing a pocket-book on a
former occasion.

This time I am on
the road home - that
is, by way of Fort Snelling.
We left Louisville at
9 o'clock yesterday morn-
ing, arriving here this even-
ing at 6th by way of Ind.
Cincinnati & Michigan.

city. We are to stay here tonight - Taking the cars
tomorrow morning at daylight. Whether we go by the
St. Western or not I do not know, but it is probable
that we do. Our discharge papers are all ready
to deliver to us on our arrival at St. Paul so
it is probable that I will be home in a week
from now. I send this merely to let
you know that we have gone home.

Your Loving Son

A. H. Christie

Uniontown July 24th 1865

Dear Uncle and Aunt. - It is with an agreeable feeling of pleasure that I take this opportunity to write once more a few lines to you. Your last kind letter directed to St-Louis came to hand some two weeks ago but the great multiplicity of business has thus far prevented a reply. The order that was received at Montgomery to report this command at St-Louis on or before the 1st of June was countermanded and this regiment was stationed at this place. We are in the State of Alabama some 30 miles west of Selma and on a line of Rail-Road that ^{runs} through to Meridian in Mississippi where it connects with the one that runs to Jackson Black-River-Bridge and ^{Vicksburg} ~~Vicksburg~~. My health is quite poor just now owing I suppose to the excessive heat of the weather. Yesterday was the hottest day I ever saw. The Mercury stood at 102 in the shade. - You must understand that in a hot day in summer when the mercury stands at the same degree ^{in the shade} here and in Wisconsin it will stand from 6 to 8 degrees higher here in the bright rays of the sun than there. As the late orders from Washington for the discharge of Veteran troops applies to the oldest organizations first and as there is but one regiment from our State that became a Veteran regiment after the 3rd I think that the chance for us to get discharged is rather poor at present. I do not believe however that we shall have to serve our time out; but expect to see Wisconsin again sometime between this and the opening of another spring. - I was detailed something like one month ago for a clerk at the Freedmans Office. - The government now requires of all who employ that class of persons to make contracts with them in all cases securing House-rooms Food Clothing Medical Attendance and Fuel. A copy of each and every one of which has to be preserved at the Office. My duties consist chiefly in writing out copies of said contracts; but I am occasionally sent to visit

the plantations to explain to the colored people their duties to
arbitrate small matters of difference between them and their
employers and to bring such as persist in refractory conduct
to head-quarters. I have as an individual been treated with
universal respect by all both male and female black and white
but I find society there in a terrible state. A state of things exists
concerning which the people at the free north who have never visited
this country have but a faint conception. There exists not the least
particle of confidence between the white and black portions of the
resident population of the country but they are all gazing at
each other with mutual feelings of dead distrust and animosity.
I get no more wages than the pirate who keeps the canteen though
on duty every day except Sundays. I wish what little money
I have in Green-backs was invested in some sort of government
securities that would be drawing interest. I wish you to do
that for me if you can without its costing more than it
will be likely to amount to. I would try and get a
furlough if it was not so far but as I should have to pay
my own expenses in such a case twelve hundred miles and
back and all for the short stay of 20 or 30 days when the
prospect is that I can come for good within the space of
6 months I have concluded not to try to get any. I suppose
that your boys are at home by this time if so give them
my best respects and tell them to write to me. Business
in the Office will not hereafter crowd us so bad but
that I will have time to correspond with all friends who
may ^{feel} sufficient interest in me to do so - The wheels of
time are rapidly bearing us all away to our last long resting
place in the narrow house; And as years retire sweep
along; more and more important comes the question home
upon the soul, - Does man lie down in the dust never
to rise till the heavens are no more? Or is there to be
the bright dawning of an immortal bloom beyond the
chilling waves of Sorrow? - Excuse all mistakes
for I have filled my page and have not time to
write more. Yours in haste - Write immediately
- by in the receipt of this. Osgood, J. Hayes.

St. Louis Mo. Aug 12th 1865

Dear Friend [Thomas]

[1865]

After so long a
time I sat my self to ans.
your very kind and interesting
letter which I rec. some time
since I wrote once and just
got it away from me and
must muddle it up so I would
not send it - and now I am
writing again and as my time
is very limited I shall have
to proceed with in the first
place nothing interesting has transpired
since your departure but "one
premie" which I did not attend
but I hear that it was quite an
affair" the 4th thing is expected Tuesday
evening and there is to be a

entertainment of some kind
got up for the I expect.
and in "about a time" we will all
have) fed & the are here to day.
Wack has bought a farm joining
our place harvesting has just commenced
here pretty late harvest I think & you
think so I suppose for you have
finished yours down there are
this. Dad is looking for Brother Break
but I do not know how long
he intends staying with him.
I expect though he will buy him
a farm soon and then I will
leave him and then I will see you.
I have been to Church today
saw an old acquaintance and
lots of returned soldiers and so
on. Sam, Summitt's soldier is home
but has to go back soon.
Dear Summitt how I pity him
I saw Agnes last Sunday did
not have a chance to deliver that

message she went to a circus
with a fellow that works at
Mr. Strachan's they made quite a
show. I told Summitt about that
little article of hers she says "it's all
right" harvest hands are quite
scarce you had better come up and
help some of your friends that is
if you have got your hands
toughened by this time. India is
making so much noise I can
never write and there or there
are waiting and I will
not write more this time.
I will make ^{up for} this for better
next time or at some future
time so I will close good by

From Alice Thacker

P.S. don't never let any one see this
letter Willa once sends their love

12 miles east of Portage ¹⁸⁶⁵
11 A.M. Tuesday, Sept 5th

My dear father

While the horses are eating their oats I will report progress. Shall post this in Portage City this afternoon, as we will pass through there and camp tonight two or three miles on the other side. So far, everything has gone as we calculated, if not a little better. The roads have been excellent, firm as a rock and smooth as a floor, till within the last two miles, when we first touched the sand region, in which the road is rather more heavy.

The horses are standing it well, not having started a hair yet.

We stopped for dinner

yesterday at one P.M. within 6 miles of Fox Lake, ~~and~~ fed oats, and gave them an hour to rest. At 5 we halted for the night, some 3 miles west of Fox Lake. The camp was on top of a hill, the view from which commanded an immense extent of rolling prairie, dotted with groves and stack yards, and so we named it "Camp Prospect." You see we had made 26 miles, as it is just 23 miles from your place to Fox Lake by the road we took, leaving Beaver Dam to the left of us. Before camping I stopped at a house & bought 75 lbs. of good new hay, as the pasturage is just nothing, all the road being fenced, and fully occupied with stock. We did every thing in regular army style last night. Boiled a kettle of potatoes, and bought

some butter at a farm house to eat with them. Tied the horses to the wagon, cleaned them off and blanketed them, and let them "wade into" the hay, which they did with a gusto. We made our bed in the wagon, on top of the sacks & boxes, and enough hay to ^{modify} ~~equal~~ the discrepancies in altitudes.

This morning we were up at 4.30, fed, cleaned off & watered the horses, and had some fried potatoes to garnish our breakfast. (There is plenty of stuff for fire to be picked up in the road.) Greased up the wagon & were on the road at 7. We halted at the date of this, and will wait till one P.M. before resuming the road. Have made this forenoon 16 miles, and have done it easily too, without fretting the horses in the least. On account of the difference

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in the roads, we will not travel so far in a day by 6 or 8 miles between here & La Crosse, as we have done these first two.

By the road it is just 23 miles from home to Fox Lake, and from thence to Portage City is 31.

We do not strike the R.R. between these two places, keeping from a mile to 3 miles north of it all the time.

From Oak Grove to within two or three miles of where we are now we passed through as pretty a country as could be seen.

From one point on the road we could count 5-4 large black yards.

Saw also plenty of fine corn & sorghum, Broom corn, field peas & clover, ~~one~~ field of the latter crop containing 70 acres near where we camped last night. We are now about out of the prairie, I think, and the soil is getting more & more sandy, face of the country pretty rough & hilly, & covered with growth.

of scrubby Black or Pin Oak.

The journey has been a continual feast of Wonder to Dave, so far, and he does nothing but take observations of the numerous stack yards, the wire fences, the fine woolled sheep in the pastures, the large Reapers these prairie farmers have, the fine rows of Lombardy poplars & locusts set out along the fences, and the beautiful appearance of the Country, generally.

Of course, where there is so much to see that is strange, he is in raptures nearly all the time, says he would not have missed this trip for anything, and speaks very slightly of Sandy's judgment in assuring him (G.) of the superior interest of the R.R. route to this. Thinks he would like to own

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some of the places we have seen,
and is particularly enthusiastic
on two or three points—viz, sleeping
on army blankets, eating plum sauce
off a tin plate, ad libitum, and the
fine opportunities he has for hunting.
As I have been writing I have heard
his rifle crack 8 times in the woods
on the left of the road, and now
here he comes, with four pigeons &
two squirrels, one of them the largest
"fox" I ever saw. These, with a large
pigeon he shot this morning, will
make us an excellent breakfast, if
I have not forgotten the art of boiling
and frying. He says the woods
are full of fox holes dug in the
sand, and lament more than
ever that we did not bring Bruno
along. There are some other things
we forgot besides Bruno, and I will
enumerate them here, that the
Boys may think of them.

The Archain, a supply of pepper
& salt, soap, and duck sage.

I stopped in Oak Grove, &
got a large box of matches, &
a pound of Candles, — enough of
both to last the trip.

Dave also directs Sandy to bring
a lot of thin cloth for rifle patches,
and I was almost forgetting
to tell you to send on my Ciscah
with the boys. If they are gone
when you get this send it by
mail to Mankato.

Don't let W^m forget his Compass
nor Sandy his Journal.

Postage, 4.30 P.M.

We are just arrived, &
will proceed a mile or two fur-
ther to camp for the night.

Roads pretty heavy with sand.
Passed through Marcelton
soon after noon. Everything
all right as yet, & horses in

some of the places we have seen,
and is particularly enthusiastic
on two or three points—viz. sleeping
on army blankets, eating plum sauce
off a tin plate, ad libitum, and the
fine opportunities he has for hunting.
As I have been writing I have heard
his rifle crack 8 times in the woods
on the left of the road, and now
here he comes, with four pigeons &
two squirrels, one of them the largest
"fox" I ever saw. These, with a large
pigeon he shot this morning, will
make us an excellent breakfast, if
I have not forgotten the art of boiling
and frying. He says the woods
are full of fox holes dug in the
sand, and lament more than
ever that we did not bring Bruno
along. There are some other things
we forgot besides Bruno, and I will
enumerate them here, that the
Boys may think of them.

The Orchain, a supply of pepper
& salt, soap, and duck & age.

I stopped in Oak Grove, &
got a large box of matches, &
a pound of Candles, — enough of
both to last the trip.

Dave also directs Sandy to bring
a lot of thin cloth for rifle patches,
and I was almost forgetting
to tell you to send on my Discharge
with the boys. If they are gone
when you get this send it by
mail to Mantato.

Don't let W^m forget his Compass
nor Sandy his Journal.

Postage, 4.30 P.M.

We are just arrived, &
will proceed a mile or two fur-
ther to camp for the night.

Roads pretty heavy with sand.
Passed through Marcellon
soon after noon. Every thing
all right as yet, & horses in

good heart. Have got
another pigeon for break-
fast.

Yours, travelling.

Thos D. Christie

I send back a photograph
I fetched by mistake.

Send on my mail

good heart. Have got
another pigeon for break-
fast.

Yours, travelling.

Thos D. Christie

I send back a photograph
I fetched by mistake.

Send on my mail

Chicago Ill Sept 7th 1865
Freimer & Brother, [James Christie]

"I hope you -
will Excuse me for still Post-
-ponding my visit to Clyman.
for Some Indefinite Period.
- the Reason for this is I have
Been verry ill owing to the
hot Weather & Change of Diet
in a Dutch Boardinghouse.
I have Been verrey Unfortun-
-ate about Getting Work and
then When I have Got it not
Being able to Perform it in-
-fact James I am not able to
-goe to Clyman & Back for Want
-th of Money & I wrote to Eliza -
-for Some & It is no Go there -
I am. Like a Ratt. in a trap.
I Cannot Advance or Retire one
Way or the other, that is I cannot
-goe to Father her, or you, I am
-sorry I have not James to -

- Speake to & then again I know
- he is Better With you for Indeed
- I Do not know What I would
- do With him here, - I have Been
- only able to make 2 Pairs of
- Pegg Boots all Last Week & this
- Which is Insufficient to pay
- My Expences Including Medicine
- I have Nothing more to say But
- you, & your Wife, Sarah, Tom,
- Sandy David & Willey My Best
- Respects - Not forgetting My own
- en Tom, Dave, tell him to keep
- his Warte. Up - & Pray for Better
- times, Give My Love to My Mother,
- er, Tom, Jane, & the Children,
- I have to pay \$1.45 Per Week
- for Board & 20 cts for Washing, a
- Shirt & only \$1.25 Per Pair for
- Fitting & Making & if I was in
- the Best of health I could
- not make over 4 Pairs, your
- Affectionate Brother,

Robert H. Reid,

- Please Write & Let Me know
- how you all are & if the Crops
- is all Right or if the Boys is
- gone a way yet or not,
- Direct to My Boarding House
- 268. Madison St. for Me -



Sparta, Wis. Saturday.

Sept 9th 1865 (90.44)

Dear father,

I again stop the team a few minutes in the woods to drop you a few lines.

Have had rough times since I wrote you from New Lisbon. On Thursday night we stayed with a farmer 6 miles west of N. L. as it rained like split all that afternoon & night.

We got good stabling for the horses, and run our wagon into the Barn where we stayed all night. Made 27 miles that day. Yesterday was fair after we started, but the roads were bad. 8 miles from where we

Stayed over night - we came
to the great Dividing Ridge
of the Lemmonier. Road was
very slippery. Got half way up
& stopped to rest the horses, when
the block slipped, the wagon
backed in spite of the horses, Cramped,
& capsized, knocking our upper
works into a cocked hat, but
without injuring anything else
in the least. The horses, wagon
tools, boxes &c. were not scratched
in the smallest particular, &
both of us were unhurt.

This was at half past nine,
& it took us from then
till one to fix up things.
The rig for a cover was
smashed beyond redemption
so we knocked it all apart
& put it in the wagon, shall
fix it when we get to L.C.
Got over the Ridge with

hard work, & travelled
to within 7 miles of this
place last night, where
we camped, having made
26 miles in spite of bad
roads, accident &c.

From where we started
this morning it was 35
miles to L.C. & I don't think
we can make it today
though the road is good.
If we don't we will stop
at the first station east of
there & get the Boys off when
the train comes.

Horses standing it well,
were keen as robbers this
morning. Bought hay
for them last night - & we
have two feds yet of oats.
I shall get more before they
are gone. D. Well, & enjoying
himself hugely. Yours - Tom.

"Lumberyard Camp," North Saleross,
Sunday, Sept 10th 1865

Dear Father; [James Christie]

According to promise, I write to you from this place, having ~~re~~ joined the Boys, whom we found in good spirits, they having got in last night after dark.

But I must tell you all about it. They made good drives every day in spite of the rain of Thursday, shot several ducks and pigeons, and in fact, everything went well, untill coming to the Simonovier "divide" where they had to go right up a tremendous hill, in doing which the block on which ~~they~~ the wagon was resting slipped down hill on the gutters, and to save there being a general smash-up Tom cramped the team. In the hurry of the rush backwards this proved too much and over the wagon went, a complete upside down ~~it~~ smashing the whole top arrangement to splinters but doing no damage to the wagon itself.

The Plum-sack was such a complete upset that none of it was lost, much to our delight, for its destruction would have caused more real pang of sorrow than twenty wagons in match wood.

They secured the pieces and came in to "Camp Reunion" where we joined them last night.

Had a sweet time of it last night and this morning while it rained and blew our only shelter being a dripping muddy wagon under which the boys, and those who have an undying belief in the doctrine of Future recompense, ensconced themselves. At early dawn we moved out on to the sandy Bottom adjoining the City intending to stay over the day there, but our quarters were so miserable that it was finally determined to "Call it Monday" and begin to better our circumstances.

We took Breakfast a la Campagners and then
set about the business of the day. Suckley ran
across a Good Samuritan in the person of a
Sawmill owner who not only sold us the lumber
necessary, but got us to move camp into his yard,
where he has made us welcome everything - in-
cluding tools. We have got up this new rig with
several improvements, - will cross the Ferry tomor-
row forenoon, and then off for the Frontier.

It is now near midnight, I am on Guard,
Tom and Dave are trying in vain ~~to~~ by their com-
bined efforts to ~~to~~ drown Willie's terrific snoring,
and between the three I can hardly hear the whistle
of the Steamers as they ply up and down the river.

We are perfectly at home here what between the
Kindness of our friend the lumber dealer and
our no small natural ability to make ourselves
so; sleeping on beds that in Sherman's army dur-
ing the Great March would have been envied by
Infantry Colonels. There are so many soldiers
wherever we go now, and such a friendly feeling
is always manifested among them that it
seems as if it was a relationship.

Willie saw to the buying of a coat for me on Sat-
urday at St. Louis & Duval. - A very good one
for 9 dollars.

My pen is so dreadful
bad that I can write no more.

You had better direct all your letters
to Mantato, I am anxious to know how
the wheat will turn out and if Cotton
thinks it "will pay". Don't forget to
those oats to Ettridge at once.

Yours Affectionately
Sandy.

We took Breakfast a la Campagners and then
set about the business of the day. Suckley ran
across a Good Samaritan in the person of a
Sawmill owner who not only sold us the lumber
necessary, but got us to move camp into his yard,
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Tom and Dave are trying in vain ~~to~~ by their com-
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You had better direct all your letters
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the wheat will turn out and if Cotton
thinks it "will pay". Don't forget to
those oats to Ettridge at once.

Yours Affectionately
Sandy.

Camp on Minnesota Lake

Faribault Co Minn. Sept. 18th 1865

(Immediately after dinner)

My dear father,

Our last letter left us near Rochester, and you will see by the date of this that we have changed our Base, and are no longer on the route to Mankato. Our destination is now Spirit-Lake, on the borders of Iowa, where we have been told there are desirable claims to be taken up. It will take us till day after tomorrow to reach there, & from what we have been told of that locality it will not take us long to get acquainted with all the requisites of the place. We will be able to tell more about it when we get there, and if not satisfied will strike northward to the frontier, leave orders the F.M. to go forward, and mail to Spirit-Lake, so you will be direct to the former place.

We arrived on Sunday on the banks of Rice Lake - 11 miles east of Ansonia, and washed clothes & repaired damages generally - we find plenty of pasture for the horses all through this country. Yesterday made 30 miles halting at Wilton, in Waseca Co., on the Le Sueur River.

Today we moved from there to this camp, and shall push on to Winnebago City this afternoon 18 miles further, which will make our march today about 40 miles. - The men in fine order and full of spirits. - All of us well, living on game, and growing fat - Complaining of enormous appetites. - Road like a marble causeway - Splendid prairie

we are travelling through, = Sam Ford Watrig
and Charlie the Blacksmith in Ansonia, looking
well. We are confident of finding places down
where we are going, to suit us =

In haste

Yours affectionately

Thos. D. Christie

P.S. At Rice Lake we killed 20 ducks + 28 pigeons -

1863
N. J. Sept. 13

North Eastern Washington Co.

Dear Sir, [James Christie]

Your note dated Aug.
22, came to hand in due time
but I have been waiting to
get the back pay and bounty
which I received yesterday
and improve the first opportunity
in writing to you and sending
the money which your son has
so kindly loaned and so
patiently waited for.

William Christie
Sole of my husband, on the
7th of December, 1862, to the
amount of fourteen dollars,
and ninety cents, & 17, 20. which
interest added, now amounts to
fifteen dollars, and eighty cents,
& 15, 80 which I enclose minus
twenty cents, for Registering

1885

N. O. Sept. 19

North Eastern Washington Co.

Dear Sir, [James Christie]

Your note dated Aug. 22, came to hand in due time but I have been waiting to get the back pay and bounty which I received yesterday and improve the first opportunity in writing to you and sending the money which your son has so kindly loaned and so patiently waited for.

William paid debts of my husband, on the 7. of November, 1864. to the amount of fourteen dollars, and ninety cents. \$ 14.90. which interest added, now amounts to fifteen dollars, and eighty cents, \$ 15.80 which I inclose, minus twenty cents, for Registering

which leaves 15, 20.

P.S. I wish to write to William to ascertain a few more particulars, in regard to my husband's death. if possible, in order to get my Pension, so you will do me a favor by sending his address.

M. E. H.

I received the Bible on the 1. of June. I did not know she sent it, and consequently did not write to you about it. But when I met Mr. Williams, I told him I had got it. I am obliged to you, for taking the trouble. I do not know how much postage you paid but will send you fifteen cents, and if that is not as much as you paid, please let me know, and I will make it right. I have with as soon as you receive this, and let me know. Please give me Williams, address when you write. I remain yours respectfully.

Maria E. Howland

which leaves 15, £0.

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Maria E. Haviland

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M. E. H.

New Ulm, Minnesota, Sept 30th 1865 -

My Dear Father, [James Christie]

My long silence has been unavoidable, ~~at~~ at least since I had anything interesting to write about, or you would have heard from me often. But now that we have anchored for a short time where the facilities of a Mail are afforded, I will give you an account of our wanderings thus far, prefacing it with the announcement - that as yet we have not been sufficiently well suited to give up the search for a better claim, but will continue up the Frontier till we are suited. ~~Do~~ Do not fret yourself, fearing that we will give the Expedition up without accomplishing the end we had in view when we set out, but rather comfort yourself with the assurance that when it is done it will be done thoroughly. But to my narrative -

Monday morning, the 11th, we crossed ^{the} ferryboat to LaCrosse and all took dinner near the village, after which Tom left us to push on to Clarkson's, he taking the evening steamer to Winona, to go to Elba and see his old comrades at that place. We encountered considerable difficulty rising the long ascent that brings us to the level of the ~~prairie~~ country back of LaCrosse, so much time did it consume that we thought it best to camp for the night only seven miles out. The horses ~~have~~ having done a good half day's work great difficulty obtaining water - bought hay.

Tuesday 13. Started early this morning and made good time until near noon when a heavy rain spoiled the roads for fast travelling. Jogged on however until near night when we began to look out for a suitable spot for camp. But there was no water to be found - wells very low, if not dry entirely until within six miles of St. Charles where we camped by a large, never-failing "sink" on the prairie. These formations are doubtless caused by a crack in the rock, as you say, but some of them retain the water the year round, and are of much use in some localities. - distance about 42 miles.

W. 13. Got up very late this morning, having but a short distance to go. This I regretted, since just as we started we fell in with the father of Ed. Rabbey one of Tom's tent mates with whom I was well acquainted, who told us that Ed was only half-a-mile back, running a Thrashing machine. We were very late as it was, so we drove on to St. Charles. There we left out to go up to Elba to see Blair, so Sam and I drove up to Clarksons. We found them all well and hard at work stacking wheat, the rains having delayed us already late harvest, so we pitched in and gave a hand. ~~that~~ Folks all as good humored as ever, and apparently as well-to-do if not "more so." William came in at dark dusk and Tom just as we had all got fairly to bed - Great Whetbut ensued. Th. 14. Rained last night, putting an end to stacking operations, and cloudy nearly all day. Hunting and visiting. This afternoon I went down with Jimmy

Robertson in the team to where Fry lies nestled among the hills. Shot my first Minnesota duck on the ~~land~~ beautiful little pond there. Tom, Willie and Sam tagging round also. I don't like Robertson's folks near as well as Clarksons - in fact they should hardly be mentioned in the same breath.

Th. 15. Left Clarksons at 8 o'clock AM. with a good supply of Bread of Mr. Clarksons baking, fresh potatoes, onions etc. Road not very good. William staid in Rochester over night at Eastons, an acquaintance. We camped one mile west of town - distance made today 24 miles.

S. 16. On the road at 8 o'clock AM. Camped near Mantoville for dinner. This afternoon Tom and I took the guns and hunted up the valley of the Zumbro, getting a couple of ducks for 18 miles travel. Found the other boys in camp at Rice Lake on the western border of Dodge Co. State at night. This County much resembles Dodge in it is. Distance by team today 34 miles =

Su. 17. Lay over all day - washing, mending wagon, and shooting immense quantities of duck and pigeon. Best camping ground we ever saw - plenty of water, wood, grass and game. The horses stampeded this evening, but we caught at last.

W. 18. Drove 28 miles to Wilton in Hasse Co. on the Le Sueur River, passing through Cratoma in Steele Co. about noon where we saw Fred Matting and Charley Morse. Fred is living a few miles south of this thriving little town, and was glad to see us.

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T. 19. Started at 8.30 AM and drove from Wilton to Winn-
epesaukee Lake in Traubau County, a distance of 22 miles
before dinner, having crossed the corner of Blue-
Earth County. Camped for the night 6 miles west of
Winnepesaukee City - whole distance - 34 miles = "

From thence we struck off still further to the
south, traversing the "Chain Lake" country and coming
up at "Spirit Lake" in Iowa. There we spent a day
looking round it and Lake Oketjig, not suited
there we kept off to the north and east back in to
Minnesota to a small lake north of Jackson on
the Des Moines River. It was there I decided that
William should take the team to New Ulm by
way of the interior - going through Minnabago
city and Mankato to get supplies, while the others
tramp up the frontier. This we have done, and
are now waiting for W., having arrived last
night in a heavy rain. Did not see a house
for 65 miles. Very short for rations.

Have no more time now. So Good By.

Your affⁿ son

Sandy

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William should take the team to New Ulm by
way of the interior - going through Winnebago
city and Mankato, to get supplies, while the others
tramp up the frontier. This we have done, and
are now waiting for Wm, having arrived last
night in a heavy rain. Did not see a house
for 63 miles. Very short for rations.

Have no more time now. So Good By.

Your Aff^d Son
Sandy

[ca Oct (2), 1865]

In the Shanty,
{ Advance picket post of Civilization,
Sunday Evening.

My dear Sister;

We are just beginning to find ourselves comfortable - in our own house, with fireplace shining cheerfully, lamp burning on table strewn with papers & books, & everything snug as at home; and here we must again pack up and leave in a few days, leaving Sandy "the monarch of all he surveys." In the unsettled way we have lived for the last two months it has been impossible to write - as we should, and so you will appreciate our excuses. But henceforth you may expect better things from Sandy and from me. I shall not be at home probably, before Spring, but will certainly visit Clyman before moving out here for good.

I need not tell you that my principal reason for going to Elba this Winter is that M. will be there, her last letter - directed to Maunkato - telling me that she would comply

with my request to come West, for which purpose I sent her the means, and she is probably on her way to Minnesota by this time,

I will write more on this subject after I see her,

I have often wondered what you are doing now that your school is out, and think it must be very lonely to you as well as all the rest in the old Homestead. But there's a Good Time Coming, and I hope to see all our dear ones yet united once more, and that in this beautiful spot on the Chippewa,

It is a lovely place, and after a year or two of work and improvement it will be ready for the reception of our whole family, when I hope to have you all here. Until then I would not advise farther to sell out, even at a good figure, for we are not yet ready for that;

Write to me at Elba, Winona Co. and to S. at Chippewa River, Renville Co. via Ft. Ridgely.

Remember me to all - I will write soon again - and now - Good Night -
Thos. D. Christie

That you will all write frequently I hope -
Apropos, why don't I get a letter from William?
= Willie brought up a Tribune from New Ulm, in which I see a couple of Horace's letters from Minn. and must say that the great Wood takes a very truthful view of this State in most things. But he can form very little idea of "L'Etouffe du Nord" by a trip up ~~this~~ Mississippi to Minneapolis and by rail to Northfield - he hardly got on the threshold. And could not see any of the main features of the State. We are very far west here, being only about 40 miles from the State line and almost in sight of the "Coteaux des Prairies" so famous over the whole continent. They consist of a high plateau some 500 to 1000 feet above the level of these high Prairies, extending north and south, about 50 miles long by 20 wide, or their surface being very diversified, sometimes running up into Corral-like peaks, - the Corral being supplanted by a lake. Even in Summer they say that it is too cold to be comfortable on this strange formation,

But I am getting sleepy and will not
try to write further. As to Osgood & Darious -
I think they will go back without making
a settlement. Do tell me if Arnott has been
heard from. I have sent for a copy of the N. Y.
Weekly Tribune, It announced in its terms
that to "Single and Mail (a misspell) subscribers"
it would send a copy for \$2.00. It being a direct
thrust at me I sent the money to avoid further
importunity. Give my love to all.

Yours &c.

Sandy.

Clyman Oct 1st
1865

Sunday Morn.

My Dear Boys

Here I sit, thinking of
what you may be doing about
getting Homesteads, and if
you are doing it in the right
way. It would be strange
if there is not head enough
amongst you. I feel very glad
that you all enjoy good health
and if you are agreeing amongst
yourselves, I have little fears
of you. The idea of going to
Spirit Lake seems good to me
as you there are back of the
Back Country, and open new
avenues to civilization and
market. Being about as near
to Sioux City on the Missouri

as Rochester is to the Mississippi
God Speed You.

Uncle Williams has sold
off wheat at station at 1.25
enough to pay me all he owes
with interest up to date -

390 for Lane, and 170 for
Williams. Mr. Nailand has
lent that 15 he owed W.
and terribly wishes to get his
address. I guess I shall send
it, so that he may not fish
any more in fishers' clothes.

We have had hot and rainy
weather until a few days since
clear and cold nights. And I suspect
you may have seen a frost night
or two. By this time I expect
you are into the troubles of
looking up land, and all its
attendant difficulties.

Patience. Patience and
waiting, perseverance

Can alone end in satisfaction. I trust to hear from
you soon, and hope to hear
that you are likely to make
claims or have already done
it. I have dug all the potatoes
filling cellar on the other side
and two pits outside. Cut a
little of the corn. But must
now begin to the buck wheat
Can not get any one to help
me for Love or money, and I
very nearly broke down.
My working days are about over
to take care of a flock of sheep is
about all I am fit for.

surely it is a hard thing
that just when a man needs
help, his sons must all up
and away. Lately where I get
some of you back again. I
must take an oath of you
that you go not again, unless

You also take me along
with you. Nevertheless Go-
ahead. Make your post
Good if there is a post to it
in that place. My Lucile ad-
dress, is nothing although
Quite natural. Uncle Rob
made us another flying visit
and is again gone to Chicago -
apparently came to get me to write
a letter to his wife, to try and make
up matters, and get her send some
money to take him and the boy
home again. They had a great
and I guess a drunken row
all round, and a family fight -
the old man against Wife & daughter
He told me about more things I wished
to hear. I wrote the letter. He earns
about 14 per week, in Chicago,
and will always be poor. God help
such natures. That time and age
will not teach wisdom.

I will not post this until to next
mail. Waiting to hear from you.
My Love to you all I did indeed
fall very different, yet all the same
God Bless you all.
I. Christie

October 2nd 1865, near Fort
Dear Father, Ridgely.

I am well so are the others.

We enjoy ourselves very well, and have hopes of
succeeding yet in our getting Land ~~from~~ the Landless.
although we have seen nothing as yet that would
overbalance the inconveniences attached to the
localities where we might have settled. There is
any amount of beautiful Prairie land open for
settlement. But there is not timber enough to make
knolling wood for each quarter section for one winter.

Our Route has not been the one usually traveled by
those looking for homes, but I think we have lost nothing
by going as far South and West as we have been. Spirit Lake
is quite a large sheet of water, and good ^{swimming} ~~Prairie~~ but what
timber there is can be used before there will be much
help from the outside. Everything looks dead and trapping
has been the principle method of gaining a living or there
timber would have been used up long ago. From the Lake
we moved over the line into Minnesota, and pro-
ceeded up the Country to a little town ^{of the name} of Jackson.

County Seat of Jackson County is on the main branch
of the Des Moines River. ^{which rises in} ~~from~~ Lake Sisseton.
the timber on it is very scarce. and after the Boys left
me I drove over thirty miles of Prairie with not one stick
of timber. ~~to be seen~~ a house. I felt very lonely on the
Wide Wide Prairie. But there was no ~~place~~ ^{place} to be seen nor
^{claiming} that any of us would like.

The team is doing very well, and we are now lying about two miles East of the Fort, and will not start before tomorrow when we will move in company with a team from the Fort, that is going out on the Chippewa River. The Sergeant in charge of the team, is an old Battery man. Cornell Phelan is here at the this Post in command, we will see him this afternoon. He is at home. Sandy is writing a long letter to Willie so you may learn more from it than you will from this. I am glad Osgood is home, and I guess Mother is the happiest woman out of Jail. Seeing all her boys are safe out of the war. My love to all, and believe me ever your affectional Son.

William J. Christie

Camp on Hawk River.

Saturday morning, Oct. 7th/65

Dear father,

As we have progressed enough to make it certain as to our future proceedings & prospects, and as I am going to Redwood tomorrow, where I shall post this, I will now enlighten you on our situation. We have all got Claims - four of them - on this river, each one having from 50 to 100 acres of fine timber on it, the balance being the best prairie I have ever seen. We are 30 miles west of Redwood, which place is 25 miles above Fort Ridgely, & our Claims will be within four miles of the Minnesota river, of which the Hawk is -

a tributary. It is a perennial stream, & runs through all the claims, the timber being on it, & consisting of Red Rock, & White Elm, Cottonwood, Basswood, Blackberry, fine Burr Oak, with some Soft Maple, the finest body of timber we have yet seen in Minnesota.

The country is settling up very rapidly, as this Minnesota Valley is by far the best portion of the State, and although we are the pioneers on this river, yet every claim on it will be taken before the snow flies. There will be a large settlement here, as there is timber enough to supply all the prairie in the vicinity, a thing not easily got in Minnesota.

The land here is not surveyed yet, but will be this fall, when we can file on it as Homesteads, & will secure one

for Dora. We have hired a Surveyor from Redwood, & started to run the line from the other side of the Minnesota, on the Sioux Reservation, which is surveyed yesterday, & will have all the claims laid out today. Besides us four, there are two other men. - Van-Gordon, an old Battery Comrade, & Grouse, a member of the Old Fourth Minnesota, both good fellows. I can't begin to give an account of our doings since we wrote last, as it has been a season of constant action, of which you will get the details sometime. It is enough to say that so far everything has worked admirably with us, & all our plans have succeeded. It has taken some head work, but we are well repaid by the results. Our programme now is, to

establish the line today, &
then I start for Redwood & the
fort tomorrow, to take the survey-
or horse & get supplies & what
material we need for a claim
shanty. The rest will cut hay
for a yoke of oxen, to be bought,
& get out the logs for the shanty,
& when it is up we will make
further plans. I will leave
this letter open to the last sur-
vey so as to tell you all I
can in it. Our stream is on
the north side of the Minnesota
& empties in opposite the mouth
of the Yellow Medicine. The
settlements furthest west are on
the Chippewa, 30 miles beyond
us, so there is no fear of Indians.

On our river there is a water-
power, & on the Minnesota is the
second best waterpower in the state,
the best being at St. Anthony. This
is about 4 miles above us, where there
is to be a large city some day-

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Our nearest store or mill at the
present is at Redwood - 30 miles
down, but that will be different
next year. We are in Renville
County, but you will send mail
henceforth to Redwood, in Redwood
County, which will be our P.M. till
we can get one established here,
a thing easily done, as the great
Stage & Mail Route from the
East to Fort Abercrombie runs
close by us. On the whole, we
are completely satisfied with
our location, as for natural
advantages it could not be
bettered, & every thing else will
come with time. The prairie is
like a garden, with Blue joint
grass, green yet, growing up to
our necks, the timber all we
could desire, both in quantity

& quality, we have as pretty a little stream as you could see, of clear spring water that never fails, running through our land, & last but not least, our neighbors, if they are distant, are of the right class, and our settlement is to be the same.

Redwood Co, on the other side of the Minnesota, will poll near 200 votes this fall, & every one will be Republican.

I must tell you of a strange & laughable adventure I had last night.

We had some difficulty in finding the section staker yesterday, on the other side of the river, & those we did find, made us run our line ^{across} some 3 miles up the river from the ford, where the water is deep & the river wide. It was 4 P.M. when

we reached the Bluff on the south side, from whence we had to continue the line across a mile of Bottom to the Minnesota, then across that stream, over another mile of Bottom & up the Bluff on the north side.

How to get across the river was the quandary, as we had no boat & it was three miles down to the ford, and it was necessary to establish the line on the north Bluff, as there was no good object there to sight on, before the Transit should cross the river.

The surveyor called for a volunteer to carry across the flag, & plant it on the line on the north Bluff, & as I had been flag man all day, & considered myself competent to the undertaking, I volunteered to do the job, so taking the flag I descended

the south bluff, & crossed the Bottom to the river. Here there was a grand dory, as the stream was deep, wide & with a swift current. To swim across, carrying both my clothes & the flag, was out of the question, so I left my clothes on the Bank, for the others to find when they came down. Took the flag staff in my teeth, & plunged in. Came very near drowning near the north side, as I got entangled in some vines growing in deep water & was almost completely exhausted when I got clear of them. On reaching dry land I shouldered the staff & started across the Bottom, which is a mile wide & covered with a tremendous growth of cane, wild rice & wide bladed sword grass. You can imagine the time I had getting across, for my tender hide was torn & bleeding

in a hundred places when I reached the woods at the foot of the Bluff on the north side. These woods were full of wild currant & gooseberry bushes, and prickly ash, wild locust, brambles & grape vines, so that it was a harder road to travel in my bare hide than even the Bottom. However, I reached the Bluff, & ascended it, planted the staff according to the signal from the Surveyor, two miles distant, and then, as the line was established, sat down to await the coming of the others. They chained down to the river & found my clothes, then, after a half hour wasted in trying to make a raft, they started down the bank to the ford. By this time it was

near by sundown, & they had 6 miles of bad walking to do before I could get my clothes, it was cloudy & threatening, & the north winds blew strongly - not a very pleasant situation, you will allow, for a fellow stark naked to be in, - However, I crawled down under the lee of the hill, & kept chafing my limbs for warmth, & so kept pretty comfortable, till it began to rain, a cold, fall rain at that,

Here was a pickle; It was by this time quite dark, the clouds not allowing even the light of a star to shine, I got in beside a tree & stood up on the leeward side, so that the rain did me but little harm, but you had better believe it was cold, I determined to stay by the flag till they had either relieved me or had had enough time to do so, as it would be pretty

sough travelling over the prairie in my plight, so I kept close to the tree, & halloed at short intervals, but no answer came,

Thus stood matters till about 8.30 P.M., when, not hearing anything of them & the rain having stopped, I determined to try something else, So I mounted again to the top of the Bluff, set the flag staff firmly in its place, turned my face to the east, & set off at a Double quick over the prairie toward the mouth of the Nearek, 3 miles down the river, whose course here is N.E., so I had the wind nearly at my back, & scudded before it, literally "under Bare poles", as the sailors say,

It commenced again to rain, & I was, of course soon "soaked to the skin", but I knew that it was actually "Root hog or Die" with me, & kept on, hoping to meet the Boys with my clothes, In this I was disappointed.

and will leave you to imagine that awful journey of 3 miles, over wild prairie grass, through deep ravines with precipitous sides & their bottoms filled with a growth of brush that tore my legs at every step, up steep hills, losing my way a dozen times, & patiently hunting it up again by keeping the dark valley of the Minnesota on my sight, with witherworn moccasins to guide me, & the wind & rain beating furiously on my bare head, hearing at intervals the howling of the wolves above the storm; and all this time stark naked. — It would be absolutely incredible if I were not so well assured of its reality, — such a curious combination of adverse circumstances makes that adventure more unique than anything I ever heard of before. For an hour & a half I fought on in this way, & then, despairing of meeting anyone on the prairie, I descended into the river Bottom, & struck a road that had been made to haul hay on, which

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soon led me to the door of a French man, who is married to an Indian Squaw & traps at the mouth of the Hawk. He had stopped at his place in the morning, & I had no difficulty in making him comprehend my situation after I had waked him up. He gave me a pair of pants & a shirt, made down a bed in the corner, & I was soon in the land of nod. Before I was awake this morning, however, Sandy came down on the way to search for me & brought my clothes. They had crossed the ford ~~the~~ at sundown & had sent Sandy up to me with the clothes, while the rest went to camp some 3 miles up the Hawk, but it getting dark & the distance being further than he had expected, Sandy lost his way, & only with the greatest difficulty got into Camp himself at ten o'clock.

They fired guns, & halloed, & swung torches in hopes of hearing something of me, but it was no use, & they were to prosecute the search at dawn, but luckily found me at old Robineau's. As you may suppose, they were in a perfect agony of anxiety - all night, & I got more sleep than the whole camp.

Strange as it may seem, I took no cold in consequence, & the worst I have is a confounded hoarseness, in consequence of so much shouting. When I reached the camp this morning & took breakfast, it was the first food I had eaten since yesterday morning.

Sandy & I are staying in camp this forenoon while the others finish the surveying, & I is taking Biscuit. We have a tin reflecting Baker we got in New Ulm, & with Saleratus & cream tartar make the best of bread.

Sandy is the cook, & a most excellent one, & further more, is as fat as a hog, so that he can scarcely run out

of his eyes; The horses are in good condition, living on Blue joint & oats.

We had a slight white frost at Elk Ridge, doing no damage to vegetation, & that is the only one, so that grass is as green as in July.

We hear that you have had a severe frost since we left.

We have got enough timber on our claim to supply two or three more farms, so that Sarah or you can, if you wish, homestead a Quarter of prairie, plenty of which will be available for a long time, & we can let you have the necessary timber. I speak of prairie only, as I do not think there will be a foot of this 2,000 acres of timber unclaimed in 2 months.

It will be easy to secure. Dave a Homestead in his own name, & we will each probably preempt & buy another 160 acres of prairie, as that will be easily obtained.

Oct. 9th

Wm is going to Redwood
& beyond, & will post this. Our
Survey was completed day before
yester day, & developed the fact
that where we were to locate
our Chain is partly is School Land.

So we have to take them in
rather different shape, but will
still have about 40 acres of
timber on each. We are to
lay them out & run the lines
today & tomorrow, ourselves.
When that is done you will
hear from us again,

Until then, Good Bye
& keep up good courage,
Thos D.

Oct. 9th

Wm is going to Redwood
& beyond, & will post this. Our
Survey was completed day before
yester day, & developed the fact
that where we were to locate
our claims partly is School land,

so we have to take them in
rather different shape, but will
still have about 40 acres of
timber on each. We are to
lay them out & run the lines
today & tomorrow, ourselves.
When that is done you will
hear from us again,

Until then, Good Bye
& Keep up good Courage
Thos D.

Oregon Oct 13th 1865

My Dear Boys,

Received in Tuesday
letters from B. S. & Co
and Jane, why does
Tom not give me his ideas
of that Country, and its proba-
bilities? Does he think
it cannot be done? and is
simply making a fair for
amusement? before settling
down in Camp for life?

Osgood and Davis
start for the Frontier by
way of Mankato this morning
intending to rig their Wagon
in Shelby Gap Co - after taking
Davis wife to Father's,
I presume they will buy
second handed on the Border

and have the advantages
of position on the Unsettled
lands, it strikes me you
have gone too far then.
Why not have travelled
up the stream, looking
narrowly for unoccupied
spots? But no use talking.
I guess it is not to be had.
I believe you are all coming
home again without being
able to do it. Well no matter.
I presume the thing that must
be done will be to buy prairie
and then timber at speculation
prices, either in Minnesota
or Iowa. I judge it can be
done, and mine I think it
must be done. One inconvenience
must be put up with for the
sake of other advantages -
and it won't do to give it up
so. I guess that speaks of

Land between the
Chippewa and Potomac
Rivers will also be occupied
unless it also is Bare of timber
if the land is Light & Sandy.
I would not take it although
covered with timber -

John Elvinger has been to
see me if I would sell out the
a 7 in of his in New Jersey.
I asked 2500. 1500 down -
he will let me know if accepted
in a few days. Now when I hear
of your want of success I don't
know that I should take it.
I believe my farm is worth
3000 to day, and the more
I hear of the Unsettled County
the more I prize my location.
Wheat 1.30 at the station

Well boys there is Board
for you all here, and if you
come back you can again

that in Spring.
with the advantage of your
increased knowledge -
Come shocked back to his
cut. Carrying Rotten hickories
out of the Clear. He, I smell
like to breed a pestilence
all to do. But plenty
left. Henry Wages started to
rough for me. but he only
skimmied it. and from it I
went home until it should
rain. I guess he should have
gone on. But he could not
skink it because I found fault
with the work Repeatedly, and
he gave it up. They are all
willing to take the money. but
not to work for it.

mine they can't have without
doing the work. - I am anxious
for the result of your further
explorations. Don't any of
you forget that you hoped
a father would come to -
J. Christie

Start in Spring -
with the advantage of your
increased knowledge -
Come packed Back White
cut. Carrying Rotten hickories,
out of the cellar. The, I will
like to breed a pestilence
all to do. But plenty
left. Henry Hayes started to
plough for me. but he only
skimmed it. and finally I
went home until it would
rain. I guess he would have
gone on. But he could not
skink it because I found fault
with the work Repeatedly. and
he gave it up. They are all
willing to take the money. but
not to work for it.

mine they can't have without
doing the work - I am anxious
for the result of your further
explorations. Don't any of
you forget that you have
a father Worn to come to -
J. Christie

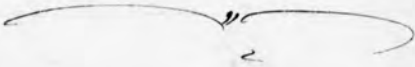
Chicago Oct. 22nd 1866-

My Dear Friend,

"I am again getting
Uneasy about Toney. as I have
not got any Letter from him.
yet. I hope you & him & family -
is all well. I have not heard
from my wife, yet & you may
guess my thoughts - for I think I am
the most miserable man in the
World. I am working Infact more
than injustice. to Myself I ought
- to do it as saving as I possible can
- be. & yet I have only \$30.00. Saved
Since you seen me. If I had 20 more
I would send for Toney. for I think
with you. the longer I am away it
will be the worse. & If I do not
get a Remittance from home. It will
be three weeks yet before I can
- go East & I ought to be there By the
first of Nov^r to Insure Winter work.

- I Do not know how to tell you
When I may. Should Love you
But I Will Strive all I Can this
Week & Write you next Sunday the
Lord Permitting In the Meantime
I would Write Me & Let Me.
Know all Particulars. My Respects
I Send to you all & Direct to No. 268.
- Madison Street opposite the Garden City Hotel
Chicago.

& I remain your friend & Brother
Robert H. Reed.



Chippewa River Minn.
Oct 23^d 1865

My dear father,

William is going to start for New Ulm tomorrow morning, and I take the opportunity to send a letter off to you.

As you will see by the date of this, we have changed our location since I wrote last, and I will tell you why.

The Claims we had on the Hawk suited us in one or two particulars, but the Claims we have here suit us in all points, which is the reason we changed.

We had good timber on the Hawk, and we have the same here; and the prairie here is far superior to the other,

Chippewa River Minn.
Oct 23^d 1865

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As you will see by the date of this, we have changed our location since I wrote last, and I will tell you why.

The Claims we had on the Hawk suited us in one or two particulars, but the Claims we have here suit us in all points, which is the reason we changed.

We had good timber on the Hawk, and we have the same here; and the prairie here is far superior to the other,

Then again, we have the advantage on the Chippewa of a settlement already started, as there will be quite a little village here this winter, the squatters on the claims along the river being all settled together for the winter, and then the Chippewa is a beautiful river, with a good water-power at this point, while the stream we were on is a small creek only.

We have got 3 fine claims here, along the river, with plenty of timber, prairie, and grass-land included. We are at work now in putting up a shanty for the winter; will have it done in a week, by which time also, ~~Wm~~ will be back with supplies, and then, about the 1st November W. Dave, & I, start for home, so

that you may expect to see the two former about the 20th. ~~Sandy~~ Sandy is to stay all winter to hold our claims, and I shall stop at Elba, how long, I cannot say, but shall be in Colman in the Spring.

The team is doing well, & is living on green feed and oats, of both of which the horses get plenty. Our adventures have been numerous & interesting, but the Boys will tell you everything when they go down. We dined off roast wild geese today, which Dave shot. I killed 3 ducks at a shot this forenoon. See foxes, wolves, deer &c. once in a while. All kinds of game plenty. Everybody in splendid health, fat, and with awful appetites. We have got a Shepherd dog pup-

Will fix Sandy up before we leave, so that he will be as comfortable as could be imagined, with his dog, gun, books, pen & ink, Carpenter tools, snug cabin with big fireplace and plenty of wood, flour, meat, potatoes, molasses, sugar, coffee &c. and congenial society.

There are two women in the settlement who are going to stay, in spite of Indian scares.

I have no time to write more, as we have to duck to clean for Breakfast.

Love to all,

Yours affectionately

Thos. D. Christie.

I got Minnie's letters which you forwarded. She is to be in Elba this winter, and I will probably bring her to Clysman in the Spring.

Chippewa River, Minnesota.
Oct. 5th 1865.

My Dear Father:

Your welcome letter of the 1st & 18th October was got by William a few days ago at Fort Ridgely while on a trip to St. Cloud for supplies, which is the latest from home and also the only one for a long time. You see we are settled at last here with a snug little cabin up and a cheerful fire in the chimney & greatest of all, a bright, cheerful Kerosene light to write by. In this beautiful valley we abide — we have thrown down our burdens, "builded an city" and will "go no more a roving". True, we are like Joseph Bonnier Esq. "far away from home" but you know "the head of the Table is always where the Grant sits." We will build up new homes and fresh hopes in this Canaan, and the Clan may thrive here as it never would among the hills and ague ponds of our own State.

You, who has travelled 1300 miles westward on this continent can form little idea of the beauties of this valley, and indeed of all the valleys and prairies of this glorious West.

for nothing east of the Mississippi can at all compare with what lies west of that great river.

At this place we are ninety miles west of New Ulm, in the valley of the Minnesota, six miles up the Chippewa, one of its tributaries, in the most beautiful spot we have yet seen. You may think us too far west, but let me tell you, that you cannot get too far west in the valley of the Minnesota. It is settling up far in advance of the rest of the Frontier and in 3 years the steam engine will be whistling up the valley to this point. But enough of these generalities. Two months ago this was what the writers call a "howling wilderness," — not a hut west of Redwood, 30 miles east of here, save that of an old Frenchman at the mouth of Hawk Creek. Now there are 6 cabins at this point alone, and more in process of construction, with actual settlers in each — two of them with their families with them, so you see, this is not so bad for living after all, and the prospect of neighbors is very encouraging. Our claims are not yet defined, but each will have a splendid place.

Imagine a beautiful stream of clear cold water — the very best of drinking water — running in a southerly and south-easterly direction through a valley averaging half a mile in width. On the banks of this stream is a nice belt of timber, and outside of the timber and nearly on a level with it is the most beautiful of meadows stretching back to the high prairie, which is about 30 to 75 feet above the level of the stream, sometimes much lower. Our claims will likely lie so that on the in square we will have the land is surveyed, so as to secure a choice of position on the river and a choice of timber, although we will likely homestead it a mile long bying north and south, the meadow on the north, then the timber and river, and on the south the high prairie. The River is no objection, as it is little more than a swift strong current during nine-tenths of the year, and will be beautiful for stock purposes — what we want it for. Besides, the best meadow lies on the north side of the creek, where is the poorest prairie — that is, it does not lie as pretty.

The boys will start home in 3 or 4 days - just
as soon as the firewood is hauled up to the
cabin for winter. You see all the settlers
but one have built together at the crossing
for mutual protection & society, and we have
to haul wood about 20 rods. In the spring
all those who intend to farm in earnest
will build regular houses on their own
claims. Very few can be done here this
winter on the claims, and Tom & W. want
to go East - I am must in justice to you
and, as besides, provisions are very dear
so you see I am going to stay alone to look
after the interest of the family. But I have
not space for more, but will write again
soon. I am glad that Uncle W. is
doing so handsomely this fall - & I suppose I
do not think I will need any more help
from you now to get started. If I needed it
but you would give it to me if you had it,
but I don't think that will be necessary, so
rebour accounts with me and take a
good night's sleep henceforth. This is a
beautiful spot, but it will take some time
to make it as comfortable for you & mother
as is the old place, so hold on to your farm.
It is well worth 3.000. I don't expect to
see Chapman for a year, so for the present Good Bye.
Love to Sarah. I will write to her soon. A. S. C.

The boys will start home in 3 or 4 days - just
as soon as the firewood is hauled up to the
cabin for winter. You see all the settlers
but we have built together at the crossing
for mutual protection & society, and we have
to haul wood about 20 rods. In the spring
all those who intend to farm in earnest
will build regular houses on their own
claims. Very little can be done here this
winter on the claims, and Tom & M. want
to go East - I am much in justice to you
and, besides, provisions are very dear
so you see I am going to stay alone to look
after the interest of the family. But I have
not space for more, but will write again
soon. I am glad that Uncle M. is
doing so handsomely this fall - Apropos - I
do not think I will need any more help
from you now to get started. If I needed it
had you would give it to me if you had it,
but I don't think that will be necessary, so
set our accounts with me and take a
good night's sleep henceforth. This is a
beautiful spot, but it will take some time
to make it as comfortable for you & mother
as is the old place, so hold on to your farms.
It is well worth 3,000. I don't expect to
see Chapman for a year, so for the present, Good Bye.
Love to Sarah. I will write to her soon if I like.

Rec'd April 3, 1866, after a very severe winter;

Fort Ridgely Minn.
(Friday Afternoon) Nov. 10th 1865

My dear Sandy;

Got here all right
at noon, and are to start via New
Ulton tomorrow morning, taking Mrs.
Van Gordon and her family.
Luggage will be small. Have
rigged up a cover for the hind
end of wagon for her benefit.

I bought the things you
wanted & did them up in a
package to go up when this
does, Bill enclosed, couldn't
get any Buttons. Would like to
send you a thermometer but
can get none here & am afraid
could not send it from where
I can get it. Try to get one
for the winter from St. U. if possible

We took the home letters out
of the Office here & read them,
Will send them with this,
They are all important you
will see; I have Sarah's
proposal to your consideration
without trying to affect your
judgment in any way, as it
is to you particularly she
addresses her appeal; Only I would
say that if I were in your
circumstances I would let her
have the money for the object
she speaks of; do you see, I
think her view of the situation
is correct, and that father is
wrong, I see no chance for
her in future, unless in the
way she proposes, for I know
enough of her character to see
that neither she nor either of us
would be happy were she
dependent on us for support,

I am confident that
were she educated in the
way she wants to be, and
thus given a good opportu-
nity to earn her own living and
something more, in an easier
way than school teaching, she
would get on first rate; and
I have no fears of her conduct;
proving unworthy of our con-
fidence in her, I have no
time to reason the matter, but
I am sure you will believe me
when I say that were I in your
position, I would let her have
100 dollars at once; of course,
with the stipulation that the
money should be employed
in giving herself a business
education, and that it should
be repaid to you, say, in 18
months, Insist on this, for it
will be good for her,

We get oats & stabling here
for the horses, - the latter four - &
will stay with Mrs. V. tonight,

Will write soon again,

Don't feel too lonely,

Write long letters home

Yours

Tom

3 Boxes Army Caps	90
1 Fine Leather	10
12 Lead Pencils	210
Tooth Brush	50
Shaver	50
Soap	15-
Pins & Needles 15-	30

\$ 2.65-

2.55-

Chippewa River, Minnesota.

Nov 11th 1865-

My Dear Father;

I am waiting impatiently for a letter containing all the home news & "Miscellany" especially of how the Election has gone & how it went off in Chippewa. Did you vote on Negro-Suffrage, or is your (mark that) State Constitution so worded as to make that superfluous? Jolly; how the "Cracker" would catch it in that enlightened abode of the "Superior Race".

I got a short note written by T. D. at Sledge, by the hand of a Courier, and he ^(Camp) speaks of home-letters which they read ~~at~~ there and will send some containing matter of importance, which I am in a hurry to see. They are probably done up in a parcel of small things which will come and so Col. Pfander did not wish to burden the Courier with them since he was a special going through from St. Paul to Wadsworth with important dispatches. He staid with me over night. Moreover, he brought some Presses from the Col. which I did not get at until

Tonight, having so much ~~trap~~ talk last night and tramp today, but I have just thrown down the 3rd one to seize traps, and feel as if the equilibrium was established. — You see I thought trapping a little might prove exhilarating during the long months of winter, and possibly remunerative also. So a good chance offering, I bought a dozen small traps for \$6.50 of two old trappers on the way down to the settlements after a sojourn on the Red River and its tributaries of ten months.

They were finally ordered in by the Commandant of Ft. Treadwell on the plea of danger from hostile Indians, but really to give certain parties the monopoly of the fur business, — but of that again.

I was off nearly all day setting my traps and examining the claims and adjoining country, and can tell you more about it now in some particulars. The Timber will not be equally dispensed over the 3 claims, but on them all there are ~~about~~ ^{should judge} about 130 or 140 acres, which is "pervers" for 4 claims. — Dan will want a farm here too. It is just possible that when it is all surveyed we can secure for more by the contracting of the claims which are to slide up River towards the Crossing — and they are almost certain to do so, since we have all

guessed off more than half a mile I think, and it is agreed that we all count from the crossing. This being the case, it would throw us up more into the wider belt. Things are not very harmonious on the Chippewa, so I will make things a little more certain by making improvements of some kind on all the 3 claims — in case, you know. I shall throw up "Claim-shanties," split out a few sails, get up some saw-material from there for augers, &c. in fact go to work on them in a small way.

You see it won't do to split many sails or get out house material this winter, (or I should go into it) since it is very probable that the woods will be swept by the spring flood, but if I can diet for a team to haul up on to the prairie I will chose house-sites and go to work. I think I can. I am helping the old man. Furnison build his house and will get his yoke of Bulls for a few days. If this trapping don't pay I will give it up as a bad job and tear away at the work ten hours per day, but it is just possible that I make a fifty or so at it. Mind you, a fellow need not stave on his claim here — he can get plenty to do on the great lines at 30 to 35 dollars

per month with rats, or he can join a squad
of trappers for a winter and make a pile.

Must be selling at 10.⁰⁰ Ret at 95^{cts} and Fox at
6.⁰⁰ in St. Paul. Trapping is one of the paying
businesses, and if the poor devils should get for the
"space" when they sell their furs they would get rich
rapidly. Small fortunes will be made this winter by
individual trapping and large ones by the dealers.

Don't think though that I am going to turn a trapping
trapper - I might for a winter just to raise the
"wind" but to go into it permanently is too heavy
on the "matash" for me - I think too much of a com-
fortable home and the society of my fellow "humans"
for that. You know I came out with another
intention, and am naturally tenacious of purpose.

I am a great hand, in my own opinion, to put
things through when I understand to, and you will be-
gin to think so too. To ~~strengthen~~ ^{strengthen} you in that opin-
ion, and also to give myself a chance to blow a little
on my own act I will relate a little incident
that broke in on the monotony of our life here.

It was the second morning on the Chippewa I believe
almost before it had got monotonous, that we dis-
covered that the horses were missing. Gave a
partial search along the river, but being impressed
that they had taken the back-track it was de-
termined to send one after them. Considering my-
self the man for it I threw on a haversack tacked
in 12 small biscuit and ^{with} a light blanket buckled
to it, I pushed out on the road.

It was about 11 P.M. and getting cloudy at the
time, but I neither apprehended rain, that it would
take smart walking to take me to the Mouth by night,
so I took it quite leisurely, until it began to rain
and sleet at Black Oak Lake, nearly half way.

Then it looked serious. I shoved my blanket in the
haversack (transferring my short army experience for all
such little items of useful knowledge) looked once
behind, once at the clouds, and then our dirt "for all
I was worth". It was very dark, though not so very late
when I came to the Mouth, on the regular loop,
persistently leaning at an angle of 45° and then
making it my main business to keep from falling
forewards. That's the way to travel to winter.

It would pay in the long run to go head up, carry-
ing the feet as if you were stepping over clothes-lines.

But I needn't carry "coals to Newcastle" (meant as a
compliment to yourself.) I had not been to the
crossing before but knew that the Teepee was south
of it, where the Sioux Scouts & stage hands stopped.
However, seeing no light south, and perceiving a

my chiefest one worth, I made for it. It proved
to be part of a train and part of the family of Joe Brown
(of whom more anon) consisting of square paposes
& superminimaries of a nondescript character
on the way to Fort Wadsworth. Not liking the appear-
ance of things I turned back toward the mail station.
Arriving at the crossing I found 6 teamsters, one
Jesse Taylor, belonging to the Chippewa. They stuck there
and unhitching their oxen, came down to the Tepee
first turning their teams in the yoke to the stage hay.
I was down to the Tepee ahead, but on looking in
I saw that it was uncomfortably crowded by as
molly a throng as only the Frontier can present—
stage hands, half-breeds, Sioux ~~and~~ male & female &
the inevitable paposes. I declined the invitation
to creep in, being somewhat fastidious in my
way but stayed long enough to see the other six—two
of them Sioux—bang in. Ascertaining that the
horses had not been seen, I made for the hay
and collecting a few old boards to keep the nervous
and unwieldy teams off me, I lay down on the
lea side, first shoving the shotgun & ammunition
in the stack and pulling some hay to lie on.

The stack was too solid or I would have got
into it. You will readily believe me when I
tell you I passed a very agreeable night, the Therm
having fallen sufficiently to turn the rain to snow
& sleet, and I being wet to the skin and my boots
full of water with cradling in the tall grass on the
bank of the stream. I had travelled a long 20 to
the crossing besides two miles of extras.

Got up at dawn. "Wonder what made him
wake so early" you will say. "Probably an effort
of the mind on the previous evening" some one will
add. No Sir, it was a dreamy consciousness that
if I lay there ten minutes longer they would bury
me on the Hawk. That was all. I felt as if Jesse
Drost had done the unfair thing by me. Muttering
something in Latin, which I translated into German
and retranslated into English for my own inform-
ation, I took the downstream track to our old
camp ^{my teeth chattering like an old} eight miles below, for if the horses had
fancied-me gone crazy, ^{gone back} they were as likely to go there as any-
where else. But they were not there, so I saw
there was nothing for it but to hoof back to
camp, 28 miles. (I think I hear Mr. O'Keefe, alias

"Hannah" ejaculate "Oh the poor child!" I did not look Billions and millions of its looking profoundly Pensive, but there was no use of stopping to philosophize. So I started immediately "if not sooner" determined to take the best advantage of my only means of obliterating ^{space} ~~the~~ that of putting one foot before the other alternately and continuing the process as fast as practicable and as long as needful.

This resolution I carried out but the rain turning to snow and blowing directly in my face coupled with the fact that the snow combining with the rain & mud already on the ground, making what was termed "slush" in my younger days, made it almost as difficult to do as if it had been over the red Louisiana clay after a week's rain.

Well, I got in quite a while after dark and found that the horses had been away down in the bottom and also that I was pretty nearly "played-out", what between my pedestrianism and the comfortable quarters the previous night.

The fact is I would have sold out cheap during the last winter, but always on stopping in the dark and driving snow my horse to the old gentleman with the Houlglass and sledge (who always looked to me in the pictures as if somebody had thrown him back, moving in fact "hung his shins on the fence" and he was coming home to "recruit up") as I was paying my attention to him cooing my and I pushed to a high degree of panic much condolence and congratulation, so there ends my tale.

Wassaw - Sandy.

"Hannah" ejaculate "Oh the poor child!") I did look
Billious and none, ^{the} of its looking profoundly Pensive,
but there was no use of stopping to philosophize
so I started immediately "if not sooner" determined to
take the best advantage of my only means of obliter-
ating ^{space} ~~distance~~ that of putting one foot before the
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the red Carolina clay after a wet & rain.

Well, I got in quite a while after dark, and found
that the horses had been away down in the
bottoms and also that I was pretty nearly "played-
out", what between my pedestrianism and the
comfortable quarters the previous night.

The fact is, I would have sold out cheap during
the last week or two, but always on stopping in
the dark and driving snow, my horse on to the old
gentleman with the Boob-glass and scythe (who
always hooted to me in the pictures as if some body had
hoped him badly, saying in fact "hung his shins on the
fence" and he was coming home to "Mcruirups")
as I was paying my attention to him over my eye and
I pushed to a ^{rapid} meal of pan cakes much condolence
and congratulation. So there ends my tale.
Thus as ever -
Sandy.

St. Louis, Mo. Nov. 15th 1890

Dear Sir,

... write to certify
you of our progress; Had good
luck all the way, down from the
Chippewa, and got ^{last} ~~hard~~ ^{home} with the
train, last night, all as well as
finding the roads were pretty bad.

At N. P. Stebbins we took our
board. Mrs. Jan. Gordon & 2 children
and landed them at Kinnelon.
Her husband with his company were
sent to Fort Hudson, and we took
our leave to New Britain.

being the case, she would all of a sudden
be ready to say, "is she not
supporting herself, as we can easily
do in the professions she wishes to
leave and at the same time, it is
so more likely to set mankind
than, where she is. I am not a
person to be easily satisfied."

understanding her high social position
for that, and I am not at all
to stop. I wish to be in
a position to assist - but, for that
I would gladly do it, but my
stock of ready cash is greatly
diminished by this time, and
unless I can earn something
this winter, I will have little
money to start my farm in
the Spring. I hope you will
try and do the best you can for
her under the circumstances.

You will scarcely know me
when you see him, he is so fat, and my
face is again as round as of old. I will send
a picture as soon as I get to Vienna.

Yours truly,
J. B. L.

Chippewa River, Minnesota
November 5th 1865—

My Dear Sarah, [Chippewa]

You may think it strange that I have not written to you before, especially since I said I would from time to time let you know what chance there was for you to teach school in that region, so I will try to excuse myself as best I can. In the first place I entirely forgot to ascertain the status of teachers there; and secondly I have never felt so utterly incapable of writing a letter as since starting on this expedition. But now that I am somewhat settled and at leisure I shall write you regularly, hoping in the meantime that you have not left home to follow your profession either in Minn. or elsewhere. Just stay at home with Father and enjoy yourself as best you may. You have many

good friends that you can visit at intervals,
thus pleasantly passing your time. When Dave is
at home this winter you can get him to drive you
into town to see the Fords, or to Lowell or even

Fox Lake, where so many of your acquaintances live.
I know Sarah that it is as you say, you have ^{no} ~~no~~
proper place wherein to receive the visits of your
acquaintances, but just do the best you can and
await in patience the better time coming.

Do you know Sarah that I am fast becoming a
sociable Being - this living outside of ~~the~~ Life's
circles ~~in~~ makes me begin to prize the company of
others, and although I am as much of a Radical in all
things as before, yet have I more Charity for others
in their opinions and actions. - But enough of my-
self; I shall be in Chymau next winter, where I intend
to run around till my friends are as tired of me as
are you & none of my Capital "I". -

It is too bad that the duty and necessity of the day
compels a breaking-up of all our old associations
with friends and kindred. But so it is - we are left
to reflect upon the fact that old times are gone and
new years come, bringing with them new duties. We must

submit to what is unavoidable, looking well to it
that we may have nothing to regret in the future
of our actions now - "Take care of the Present and the
Past will take care of itself" =

This is a beautiful country and a grand one. I have
seen mountains, and I have seen the grand old un-
broken Forest, but these sublime Garden Plains
^{are} ~~are~~ the ^{most} truly Poetic. The breathing of this pure atmosphere
and the contemplation of these great, lofty areas, stir
up a person's feelings of the sublime and the beautiful, -
yes, it even makes me love my country more.

There seems to be a craving of the mind to expand
that it may be of the giant proportions of Physical
statue here, and I predict a glorious future to this
great country - a future of Progress, of Christianity and
of mighty minds that shall ~~lead~~ guide this world on
to the lasting happiness of the human race. =

Forgive me if my letter assumes ^a too imaginative
form, for I am just now in that dreamy mood
when I grasp great subjects - perhaps Phantom-forms -
but however, when my mind is so occupied it excludes
everything common-place and practical. =

When you write, remember that I like to hear

all the ~~news~~ ^{chats}, but not the Gossip which ~~you~~ ^{you} prides
into other people's affairs - but of course you will
declare you deal not in such as will every other
woman. Remember that I am but a poor repository
for a secret if you have any that you long to tell
somebody - you had better hunt up somebody else
for a confidant. By the way, is Anne Dunsen still
at home, and if so are you and her as good friends
as ever? I hope so, but I never hear you mention
her of late. Tell me who ~~teaches~~ ^{teaches} our school this winter
and indeed how everybody ~~has~~ ^{has} disposed of themselves
to pass the winter.

Let me tell you how I
have disposed of myself. I am to pass the winter
here in a very cozy cabin alone, although not
minus neighbors entirely. This cabin is very unique
therefore I will describe it. It is situated facing
the east although it looks north to me, which
frosts me greatly. However, I will get right
sometime. My domicile is just 10 in x 12 1/2 feet
on the inside - quite a small place, but large
enough for me, with a chimney on the south, a bed
on the west & a cupboard and supplies on the
north, leaving me a plenty of loose space.

We made it by digging partly into the dry hill
and after covering with hay we have tamped
clear over it excepting on the front, thus
making it as warm as anything could be.
Here I am to pass six or seven months of
winter, working, reading & studying inside and
working & hunting outside. It will be
somewhat lonesome, but I shall keep steadily
employed about something all the time
and so stave off ennui.

[James Christie] Winona, Minn. Nov. 22^d /65
Dear father;

I snatch time to tell you
of my position, plans & prospects.
School teaching is a humbug in Minnesota,
and I have given up that idea.
Have got work running a planing Machine
in Youmans Saw Mill here, at \$2.00 per day,
and this promise of 250 when I get more ex-
perience in this business. When that job is
out will take up some thing else equally
good. Start work at 6 A.M. tomorrow.
Board \$4.00 per week, so you see I shall save
considerably. Will probably stay here all
winter, at least so long as it pays.
Got some photographs taken today & will
send over to Sarah when completed.
Dad left me in Elba on Monday morning,
and would leave Clarkson's Tuesday.
I found Minnie at E. Am. all right in
that quarter. Staid there till yesterday noon
when I came down to Minnesota City with
Southwick & wife, & from there to town
today. Intends to spend Sundays in
Elba, - 20 miles from here. -

Am well, and enjoying myself hugely,
Gained 21 pounds since you saw me,
and now weigh 158, what do you
think of that? This is the most lively
business place in the West, and every body
making money, not by speculation either, but
by supplying the almost incredible demands
of the interior in the way of all kinds of
material for building houses, fences &c, and
for the work of improvement generally,

I am in a hurry, and
must close, My love to all,

I remain

Ever Yours

Thos D Christie

Winona, Minn. Nov. 24th /60

My dear Brother, [Alexander]

I got them down by candlelight this pleasant morning, before 6 o'clock, to give me credit for good intentions anyhow.

After we left Ridgely, (from which place I forwarded you some things & letters by mail,) we proceeded via N. W. Mankato, Wamebago Agency, Willton, Orwatonna and Rochester to Hamilton, in Fillmore Co. where we left Mrs. V. and where we lay over a day to let horses rest. William had gone to Blairs by rail from Rochester, & has got promise to pay me that note sometime about New Year's. From H. we came to Clarkson's in our day, Ridgely

to 16-5 days - average 34 per day. Between Hatfield &

Clarkson I lost my pocket Book with some 35 dollars in it. Stayed a day there and then Dave & I went over to Elba where I found Minnie, who came up on the 7th. Dave went back next day, and they were to start home on Tuesday the 21st. Agnes Gibb was still in the same place, & thinks of staying all winter, all else unchanged since you were there.

Now to myself. I staid in Elba till Tuesday noon - 2 days - and then came to town with Southwick to see about things in general, and employment in particular. Have given up the idea of teaching school though I could have had plenty of chances -

Can't make enough at it; -

I started work yesterday for Youmans, running a planing machine in his mill, at \$2.00 per day, Board \$4.00 per week, so shall save something like it first rate.

Will send photo in my next soon write to Elba Winona. Mill which the will soon round & must close

Yours as ever

Thos. D. Christie

Mem: Tom had \$100⁰⁰ U. S. Bond taken out of his inside vest pocket which he had laid on a shock of grain in Clarkson's field the preceding September when we helped Clarkson finish his stacking. I never had any doubt but that the bond was taken by the Clarkson boys. In 1894 I met Tom Clarkson at St. Charles and looked him over. I settled upon him as the thief. Now if our Tom did not discover the loss of his pocketbook until after arrival at Clarkson's he can depend upon it the Clarkson boys got that also.

Alex. S. Christie

Clyde Park, Mont. Jan. 28, 1921.

to H. - 5 days - average \$4 per day. Between Chatfield & Clarkson I lost my pocket Book with some \$5-dollars in it. Stayed a day there and then Dave & I went over to Elba where I found Minnie, who came up on the 7th. Dave went back next day, and they were to start home on Tuesday the 21st. Agnes Gibb was still in the same place, & thinks of staying all winter, all else unchanged since you were there.

Now to myself, I staid in Elba till Tuesday noon, - 2 days - and then came to town with Smithwick to see about things in general, and employment in particular. Have given up the idea of teaching school though I could have had plenty of chances -

Can't make enough at it, - I started work yesterday for Youmans, running a planing machine in his mill, at \$2.00 per day, Board \$4.00 per week, so shall save something. Like it first rate.

Will send photo in my next soon write to Elba & Minnie. Mill which the wind soon round & must close.

Yours as ever

Thos. D. Christie

Mem: Tom had \$100⁰⁰ U. S. Bond taken out of his inside vest pocket which he had laid on a shock of grain in Clarkson's field the preceding September when we helped Clarkson finish his stacking. I never had any doubt but that the bond was taken by the Clarkson boys. In 1894 I met Tom Clarkson at St. Charles and looked him over. I settled upon him as the thief. Now if our Tom did not discover the loss of his pocketbook until after arrival at Clarkson's he can depend upon it the Clarkson boys got that also.

Alex. S. Christie

Clyde Park, Mont. Jan. 28, 1921.

Winnona Minn.

Wednesday Evening

Nov. 29th / 65

My dear father:

I am still in the mill, and like it first rate, though five O'clock at this time of year is pretty early rising.

I work from 6 to 6, with an hour for dinner between 12 + 1, and the only leisure time I have is in the evening. My boarding place is a half mile from the mill, at Gacy's, on Second St. I like the family first rate, and I am the only boarder, so it is almost like home to me.

I will have employment at the mill as long as they can run the planing machine, which will be till two years anyhow.

Mr. Youmans told me tonight,

I have mastered both the planing and matching business and can run either of the machines.

When this job is out I will secure another one, for I must keep busy all winter.

I walked out to Elba on Saturday night, and spent Sunday and Monday there, walking in again on Monday night. I will manage better hereafter by riding out with the mail carrier on Saturday afternoons.

I have got all the under-clothing I will need for the winter, and a pair of "boot-packs," so that I shall be comfortable at all events.

I weighed myself the other day and found that I am heavier than ever before, viz. 158 pounds, - a gain of some 20 pounds since

leaving home. All my friends remark how "fat" I am grown, and you will see by the photo I enclose that "Richard is himself again."

The eyes look very sleepy, but I was up till midnight the evening previous, and then again the artist made me look so long and steadily that I was fairly wearied.

I am having an "Argento type" finished for Sarah, and will send it soon to Clyman, for I suppose she is still there.

Send my mail to Winona hereafter, "till further orders," and I hope you will write immediately in answer to this, for I have not seen a letter from home since leaving Ft. Ridgely, and would like very much to know what you are

all about, I suppose the Boys must be with you by this time and that the "Great Fall Campaign" is thus closed.

We must be all ready to renew active operations in the Spring.

And now to another subject on which we need to talk together; - Minnie and I are at last engaged, and will probably be married in the latter part of Winter; and in view of this, I wish to know whether or not I shall bring her down with me when I come to Glynn. - I know you are somewhat prejudiced against her, but will change your mind when you become acquainted with her.

She is all I could desire in a wife, and she says she loves me; so what more could you ask.

She brings nothing to me except herself, but that is sufficient, as I never intended to "marry a fortune". I will send you her picture as soon as I can get her to Winona to have some taken, and when you see it if you don't say she is the best looking woman in the world, your opinions and mine differ.

I do not intend to take her out to the Chippewa next Summer, but will go out there and get things ready so that she can come in the succeeding Spring, for I intend to spend next winter, as well as this in the settlements somewhere, perhaps in Clyman. I want to see all our family together somewhere, for I actually yearn now for a re-union that shall be lasting.

But Clyman is no place for us, and even if I had property there I would not live there contentedly. When a Summers work has been done in our new place they will be ready to receive all of us, and I hope, by that time you will have sold out.

My future home is on the Chippewa, and I hope we can induce all of you to emigrate to the same place, for I am confident you will like it.

I wonder how Will is getting on with his Courtship. Please write all particulars. I am very tired tonight, which will account for such a rambling scrawl,

Can hardly write a dozen words without a yawn. Give my love to Mother, and tell her I often think of her. Write long letters to Sandy

to keep him from getting
homesick. Tell Sarah she
"owns me now," and I must have
it, too, or somebody will get
scolded. You do not

need to be assured of my affection

Yours Churily

Thos D. Christie

Winona Minn.

Friday Evening

Dec. 1st 1865

My dear Sister, [Sarah Christie]

I once
promised you a picture
in exchange for the one
I sent - to Rogers, and
here you have it - Say
that I'm not a man of
my word now, will you?

This is an
"Argenotype," or "Alpalo-
type," or "Porcelain picture."
I send you, and is the
invention of the artist-
who took it and my photo-
graphs, one of which I sent
yesterday day before yesterday.
The chief beauty is seen

by letting the light of a
candle or the sun shine
through it from the
back. To do this you
must take it out of the
case which is easily done
with a knife or pin.

It is the same as one I
have got taken for Minnie.

I am going up to
Elba tomorrow and expect
to get mail there from home.
I am completely in the
dark as to what is going
on down there, whether
you are going to Chicago
this winter or not, whether
the Boys have got home
or not - &c. I wrote
to Sandy from Fort Ridgely
urging him to comply with
your request, but whether

he has done so or not, I
don't know. I also wrote to
father on the same subject,
and would have written
to you before this but
for my being so busy all
the time. I staid in
Elba only two days after
Dave left, and then came
down here. I work from
6 to 6, with an hour for dinner
for which I have to walk a
half mile & return, and thus
I can't begin to attend to
all my correspondence.

I found a splendid letter
from Mrs. Greeley awaiting
me at Elba, and have not
yet answered it. - She is
the best letter writer I know
among the ladies.

You must tell me

how Helen is getting along,
and what reason she had for
talking against me to you,
of which you spoke in
your letter to Wm

I did not think she would
have any ill will toward me,
for I always fancied I was
somewhat of a favorite in
that quarter. What are
Willie and Amos Ford doing
since I left the field?

And Jimmy Arnott too; I do
not know actually whether
he is in Chymam yet or not,
please enlighten me on
this and all other interesting
subjects, and expect a
longer letter next time.

Your loving Brother
- Tom -

Olybran Dodge County
Wisconsin Dec.

4th / 1865

Dear Brother

Since I got home. I have been in
a peck of troubles. But I am very glad
to tell you I have got over the worst one,
and that is the difficulty between me
and Mary. I found out after I came here
that there had been a great many of my
good friends, in my absence making
head against me. I talked matters over
with Mary yesterday, and she is all
right, only she will not go out to the
Chippewa. I have settled that point
for Father thought I should. So I done
so. I shall therefore do my utmost to find
a place near St Charles or Rochester
. I am sorry that this should be so,
for some reasons, but we cant have
all things our own way. as my claim
I dont know what to think yet. it
would be perhaps better to wait before
anything is said about me not going

Olybran Dodge County
Wisconsin Dec.

4th / 865

Dear Brother

Since I got home. I have been in
a peck of troubles. But I am very glad
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I am sorry that this should be so,
for some reasons. but we cant have
all things our own way. as my claim
I dont know what to think yet. it
would be perhaps better to wait before
anything is said about me not going

Back, for Congress might so arrange things
that I could have my ^{chain} ~~chain~~ on the
Chippewa as well as what I may buy.
Long before this I suppose you have got
the full account of the death and burial
of poor horse Charles. Unfortunate case.
he blew out on what did not hurt the
mare, in the least. We got along in
first rate style until we got to Portage.
That night we camped one mile or
so from the City turned out in good
season, and the horses preferred grass
that was there, to the hay we had in the
waggon. So I turned them loose,
and they ate quit heartily of it. Next
morning we started early, and the horses
appeared all right. So I took the foolish
notion we might drive home. Dan
was anxious to get home, as well as
me, and so we concluded to do so.
we drove to within six miles of Fox
Lake, fed and, about noon, and every
thing appeared all well. we then drove

to within five miles of Oak Grove,
unhitched, and fed again. Stopping an
hour and a half when we hitched up
and Dan drove on. The horses not
needing as he told me. At least
urging, for you must understand he
wore my coat and I lay in waggon
rolled up in the blanket. in the
mean time the horse was bloating, but
I did not know it. from Oak Grove home
the horses knew where they were, and
went off on a round trot themselves,
between nine and ten o'clock, and
Charles was badly bloated. gave him
Salicatus, and that took away the
bloating, (but I don't believe it is good
for a horse,) but inflammation of
the bowels had been induced, and
so ended fatally. Now I really believe
that the beginning of the end, was that
afternoon. I started for New Ulm
for provisions, but knowing all I
know, I am willing to pay for the

horses although Father thinks I should
not. I desire you to write to me
soon and let me know how you are
doing. I am in good health and spirits
but would feel better if I could be
sure of going to the Chippewas but
Mary has rights as well as I have
and so that ends the matter at present
perhaps there will be a new song before
spring. Sarah has taken a school on
the Hogwash. 4 months at 25¢
per diem. Dollars a month and board
herself. She is now off to sign the
contract. She begins on Wednesday
I believe. Grandmother Bertie is very
frail this winter, or rather semwinter.

Osgood has been here. he has bought land
on the reservation 3 miles from Peddler
grove and twenty miles from Memphis.

having nothing further to write at
present. I remain your ever

affectionate Brother

William L. Christie

Winona, Dec 4th /65

My Dear Father: [James Christie]

I recd your
short letter of the 25th ult. on
Saturday, and answer on the
first opportunity, which is, as
usual, in this evening, after our
seven o'clock supper is over.

I intended to tell you in
my others to direct to Winona,
as I am here all the time except
on Sundays. Please write that
long letter as soon as possible and
send it to my address here.

I am still in my old place,
and am getting along finely.
Like my work, my employers,
my boarding place, my comrades
in the mill, and everything in
general, even the cold weather.

Of the past few days. The boys
in the mill are all old soldiers
of the 29th Wis. the 1st Engineers,
the 37th Wis. and other Regts.

There is one of my old comrades
with me besides there, and
altogether we have a happy
crowd. You warned me
about the machinery, and I
don't know but what the caution
was needed, for we have some
very ugly looking, fast flying gearing
of which it behooves a fellow to
beware. But beyond getting my
fingers pinched in putting on
a belt, I have as yet met with
no accident and don't intend

To I stopped work on
Saturday noon, expecting the Mail
carrier to call for me, but he had not
got my notice to that effect, and so I
had to walk out to Celba. I made

the 20 miles in 6 hours, getting
out at 9 P.M. Went to bed at
once in the morning, for when a
chap has only one evening per
week in which to do his sparking
he has to improve every moment.

After breakfast yesterday (Sunday)
morning, Minnie and I went over
to Charlie's, and staid until I
started back at 3 P.M. Southwick
is in his new house now, and has
things snug and tidy about him,
I tell you. I like his wife very
well. She is an excellent house-
keeper, but not over bright, intel-
lectually. I started at

3 P.M. yesterday and got down
at midnight, having been hindered
by the snow storm, which made
slippery walking. I now
intend to work here till nearly
the end of January before going

down to Clyman, About that
time we will be married, the
wedding to be in Elba, as that is
Minnie's wish. It will be a very
quiet affair, and immediately
after it we will start for Clyman,

I want to work and earn some
money, or you would see us poorer
for the loss of my pocket Book, set
and rather short, and Travelling re-
will be expensive. Minnie, though
not very well, is taking in sewing
in spite of my remonstrances. but
she says she can't bear to be idle.

You must keep Sandy
well supplied with letters and
papers, for otherwise he will be
lonesome. Tell Dan to write me
all the particulars of the journey
down and whether he stopped
at Mr. Bailey's or not. I will
write at greater length when I get
one from you. My love to Mother, Sarah
and yourself. Yours devotedly
- Tommy -

It would have done you good to hear
the dominion of the world to you today, in action
at all times. It had the true independent young
to it, and was altogether the best of
your heart, I felt lifted up as I listened

Winona Friday Eve.

Dec. 8th 1865

My dear Father,

I have
just been to the P.O. but no
mail, and am rather vexed
that you and Sarah seem to
neglect me, after I have been
so painstaking in keeping you
posted as to my affairs and
movements. If I do not find
a letter in Elba, whether I
go tomorrow I will begin to
accuse the whole family of
having lost all interest in
this member of it, and that
they do not care much what
I am about. Sarah, I
think, has forgotten that letters
are written to be answered,
and that the obligation does

such eloquence, and such a comprehensive grasp of the subject

not forever rest on one side in
a Correspondence.

The Mill stopped
work on Tuesday evening,
contrary to all the previous
assurances of our employers,
and I was thus thrown out
of a job. Spent one day in
prospecting around the city
in search of employment, and
then bought an axe, put a
helve into it, and started at
the Cordwood. \$1.25 per
cord for taking it off the stump
and making four foot wood
of it. My work is in
the Gilmore Valley, about the
Bravery, some 3 miles from
here, and the timber is all
black jack oak. I walk
out there before day-light and
can average my 2 Cords per

day. It is hard work, of
course, but I am tough as
a "tiled Owl" now, and can
go through anything.

My reason for boarding
so far from my work is
that there is no place up
there that I wish to exchange
for this, where I am com-
pletely at home, and would
rather walk the distance
I do and eat a cold
dinner, than leave Mrs.
Waddy. There are 250
Cords to cut up there, and
I will work on it perhaps
6 weeks, - till I make
enough to pay prospecting
expenses. - There are 3 other
fellows with me, and I cut
as much today, on account
of getting to work earlier

My love to all
Nothing yet from him, How the weeks
I have written twice to Randy, but got
nothing from him, How the weeks
- and I am sure -

And keeping at it more
steadily, as any two of
them, Will take a
Holiday tomorrow, and
ride out to E. in the
forenoon with a man
from Plainview.

Tell Wm that I took part in
a Thanksgiving Dinner yester-
day at Scott's home in the city,

I ran across him on the street
and he immediately carried me
off volume volume to his house,
though I had an engagement
elsewhere, He has a fine wife,
and is one of the best fellows in
the world, himself, I also
ran across Gledstrand and
Nelson yesterday, - the latter as
drunk as usual, poor fellow.

Joe O'Hara has made up with his wife
and they are now living together, and the
reason he left her was because he saw unmis-
takable indications, that she had been "falling from
grace" while he was gone.

Cyman Dec^r 8th 1865

My Dear Sandy

Your last letter to me is dated Nov^r 5th, and I was very much to hear from you, I do not feel altogether pleased that you are left alone. But I can at least hope that it will not be injurious to you, the Boys told me you were in a very fleshy condition a state not very favorable to good health. You will be liable to an inflammatory condition of the Blood and I will enclose a Dose of Pills for you, in case you might need them. Before I can send a Box to you, Besides I am afraid you have got the Stch. Because William has it, and Dune has taken it from him coming down, if so you must keep it until warm weather comes in, and then apply the proper Remedy, it being dangerous to doctor for it. While you may get a bad cold

Asquith Mages has been down here
since being in Minnesota, has
Bought 120 acres at Sellers Grove
in Waseca Co., for 6000 & Wild Land
40 acres of it Timber, he is now
gone up again to pay for it -
and I told him to go up your
way. and he said he would, if the
Weather held out good. He intends
Trapping to pay expenses if he comes
to you, and I would be extremely
Glad you had his Company all
Winter. You must have had
letters from Tom, none in reference
to Sarah. She has got a school
for 4 months at 25 \$ per month
and I do not wish you to give
her one cent. I have many reasons
for saying this. Some of them I can
not tell you of now. She is as far
up in the Social Scale as is good
for her. I have my reasons for
saying so that you do not know

of. But you may believe me
Williams you know by this
time, used Charlie up coming down
and we are looking round for a mate
to Golly. I intend giving him
50 \$ to assist in getting another
Horse, it is right he should
pay something for carelessness
and so learn. if there is hopelessly
attached to error. how or when
would people learn wisdom, still
I am willing to give up a little money
say 50 \$ and that is as far as
I will go. He pretends that he
ought not to take anything for it
from me, but then he would
like to get it out of you and Tom
which just comes to the same
thing. if he should not eventually
come to the Chippewy in Spring. Why
then you and Tom could pay him
for his share in the Wagon and Tools
but he would like to come there
because his money will be too small

for anything else that he would like
to do. I trust you get your
papers by mail regularly and so
keep posted about the world.
I bought Harper Monthly along with
your Uncle Tom to send to you
but I learn from Dave that you
sent for it yourself. You must
positively write to me oftener.
Some of your letters may not come
write oftener, only one letter
on the 5th Nov. it won't do.
I have not as yet sold one seed
of this years crop, it could not be
helped. No team, and perforce
must take by chance in spring.
So write to me, and let me know
all about your neighbours in the
settlement, and how you spend your
days and your nights. I look for
a letter from you every mail, and
while then, write again. Dave has been
much advanced by his journey, in
physique and in energy. [James Christie]

I had got nothing from home yet.
Recd a letter from Henry on yesterday.
Mamma is not very well, had a bad
cold. I am still nearly as a usual.

Winona Minn.
Monday Evening

Dec. 11th / 65

My dear Father, [James Chester]

I write on
important business, and in a
hurry; I have bought a
span of horses, harness, and
wagon, and write to have
you forward to me these
hundred dollars (\$100.00)
with which to pay for them.

I would not take one
hundred dollars and have
you fail me in this as it
is the best bargain I ever
knew of. I got the whole
rig for the 300, on condition
of paying cash down, and I
could easily sell them again
at a hundred dollars advance.

if I wished to, But I intend to use the team this winter in teaming, at which I can make my three dollars per day, clear, and in a much easier way than chopping cordwood.

In the Spring I can either sell at a good profit, or keep the team for our western farms.

I will probably bring them down to Olyman when I come, as we can travel more cheaply in that way than by R.R.

The team are Bay horses, two year olds, and free from blemish. They have been at work all the Summer, and on the thrashing machine this Fall, since which they have been teaming steadily, so that they are pretty poor in flesh, but none the worse of that.

At the present prices, the horses alone are more than worth the whole sum. The wagon is a good one, strong and easy-running, with neck yokes and whiplike traces complete. There is nothing "fancy" about any of the articles, but every thing is strong and serviceable.

The Harness ditto, and there is thrown into the bargain a good Oxchain for use as a lock chain, and a good whip. The man who sells is badly in want of the money, or I could never have got such a trade as this. I assure you that I would rather lose a hundred dollars today than have you neglect to send the money. Send it per American

Express to my address here,
and I shall want it by a week
from tomorrow, so I wish you
to attend to it immediately.

Seven Thirties will do as
well as Green Backs, but I
would rather you sent the
latter. I know this will be
overdrawing my balance with
you, but that I will make
right afterwards,

You must get the money
for me by any means, and
when you see the property
you will say I am justified
in making the bargain I do.

Do not disappoint me, and
I want it as soon as you can
send it, too, or I may not secure
these great advantages.

Yours hopefully

Thos. D. Christie

Clyman Dec. 2nd, 1865

Mr J Hayes,
Sir

Your son
Agro. has been here since
he left the Army.

But he is now
gone up to Minnesota
He has been there previous
this fall in company with
Oscar Hayes. and they
went down all the way
to Ashburn is Iowa.

Looking for you, saw
two letters for you in the
Post Office there. Left them
it is probable Luther
B. Hayes knows where
Agro is gone.

Yours Truly, J. Christie

My Brother is coming regularly
of the Great Western Mail from
of Bull Run: and bad weather.

Copher city.

Dec. 16th 1865.

My Dear Dave; [Christie]

You will doubtless be
looking for a letter from me by this time,
and as I hate to see a fellow waste for noth-
ing, I will spare a few minutes from my
manifold duties of doing my own cooking,
washing, mending and trapping, to give
you a sheet devoted exclusively to the
affairs of the Chippewa. They say that
we live in order to learn. Now this may
be I know not, but certain it is that
by living ~~we~~ do learn sometimes.

That has been my experience, especially
since I have started to live on the Chip-
pewa. Living is no name for this spe-
cies of existence however, which has been
the lesson so indelibly impressed upon
my memory during the past few months.

What I shall not be very apt to forget
it by the time I again get back to civ-

ilization and the society of the ~~Indians~~ Girls.
When I called upon to defend Woman in her
capacity of usefulness, I would prefer a Trib-
unal of old Bach's and would then say
not a word about the many graces of the
sex, &c. My ^{argument} ~~defense~~ would consist of the simple,
yet sufficient sentence, "She darns the stitt-
ings." Any man who has spent a whole even-
ing wearily darning one pair must admit
that the women-folks have by far the
hardest row to hoe in this world. But
wrashing a Cotton-shirt beats that even,
or being entirely too much for me in a day.
By all means wear woolen shirts or get
a wrashing machine driven by horse-
power or steam. - My life is one of inter-
course, although there is more to do than
you would suppose. I am in star-
ving health and good spirits - as hopeful as
ever of the prospects on the Chippewa.

You were very thoughtless - not to say
cruel, to drive so far the last day and should
have staid over night at Two Lake. But
I can't say anything since leaving Tom

on the Bluffs opposite Yellow Medicine.
What do the folks say of that scrape?
I only wish I was down there to embellish
it. My "Gift of the Gab" and lively imagination
would come into play finely. You must
not allow the Novelist to monopolize the right.
- I was going to say, The God-given right -
to make things appear to advantage.
The adventures of a Cumming would ap-
pear tame were it not that the author
has made such large drafts on his imag-
ination. You know I told you to make
yourself acquainted with the women clature
of this country, now I dare say that you
are at a loss to ~~show~~ tell half you know
just for want of the names. But if Willie
thinks the names, you will do, ~~that~~

I bought 18 traps altogether - a dozen for \$6.50
and 6 of Bob for \$3.00. Well I have only caught
one Mink - worth \$8.00 - which I traded to
Jack Taylor for a 10 inch Colt's Navy Revolver,
giving 4 dollars to boot. It shoots with
terrible force & accuracy, and I can put
the six balls off-hand, in a half-bushel measure

at 30 yds distances

Peto Smith, who was a fine fellow, has gone up I am afraid. He was so badly frozen during the recent storm that his recovery is extremely doubtful. The storm raged

fearfully during the whole of Sunday & Monday. The Ther must have stood as low as 25° below and the wind driving a hurricane - the air so filled with driving snow & dirt that it was impossible to see 20 ft in any direction. It was what is called a "Pouderie" by the French voyageurs of the Great Prairie Wilderness. The stage from above is lost on the Cortinas des Prairies and 4 men must have perished miserably ere this. Tuesday was a dreadfully keen day

There must have been 35° below with a light wind. Against this Smith rode on horseback from Astichore Lakes to Long Island, 20 miles, and was frozen dreadfully about the thighs & body. He was taken up to Wadsworth for Medical treatment. He was riding up a team to reinforce the expected stage. Poor fellow, he was recounting to me, just before he left, how bright his prospect in life ~~was~~ ^{was}. His father was killed in the Rebel Army and his only brother in the Union. Write often and believe me
Your Affectionate brother
Samuel.

at 30 yds distances.

Pete Smith, who was a fine fellow, has gone up I am afraid. He was so badly frozen during the recent storm that his recovery is extremely doubtful. The storm raged

fearfully during the whole of Sunday & Monday. The Ther must have stood as low as 25° below and the wind driving a hurricane - the air so filled with driving snow & dirt that it was impossible to see 20 ft in any direction! It was what is called a "Pouderie" by the French voyagers of the Great Prairie Wilderness. The stage from above is lost on the Corlans and Prairies and 4 men must have perished miserably ere this. Tuesday was a dreadfully keen day.

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Your Affectionate brother
Sandy.

To: Alexander Christie
Chippewa Crossing Ramville, Minn
via Fort Ridgely

Winona Minn.

Dec. 18th / 1865

Dear Brother, [Alexander]

Why do you not write to me; I have sent two letters to you, and have as yet recd. nothing from you in return; Tonight I got the first news from home, in the shape of a letter from father and one from W^m, and I see by them that they killed Charlie on the way down, and also, that W. has given up the Chippewa for the sake of Mary; all of which riles me; Well, never mind; we will stick to our claims, in spite of all faint heartedness on the part of our relatives. Do not let the news from Clyman dishearten you, Sandy, for we will push it through yet, and come out gloriously.

To: Alexander Christie
Chippewa Crossing Remville, Minn
via Fort Ridgely

Winona Minn.

Dec. 18th 1865

Dear Brother, [Alexander]

Why do you not write to me; I have sent two letters to you, and have as yet recd. nothing from you in return; Tonight I got the first news from home, in the shape of a letter from father and one from Alm, and I see by them that they killed Charlie on the way down, and also, that A. has given up the Chippewa for the sake of Mary; all of which riles me; Well, never mind; we will stick to our claims, in spite of all faint heartedness on the part of our relatives. Do not let the news from Clysman dishearten you, Sandy, for we will push it through yet, and come out gloriously.

I will not desert you any how,
and I think you and I will
make a full team, without
any assistance.

And now to my operations
since writing you, which
was, I think, a week ago.

At that time I spoke of chopping
cord wood; I did not go on
the job I wrote of, for the reason
that I found another and a better
one in the Gilmore Valley, 3 miles
from here, on the Stockton road.

You will remember an old Brew-
ery at the foot of the Bluffs, that
you passed in going into the
interior; Well, my work was on
the plateau first above the Brewery,
among the Black Oak timber.

I got \$1.25 per cord here, and
had worked at it a day or two,
but the cold weather, and the

necessity I was under of having
to board in the city, and walk
three miles to my work, has not
allowed me to make much.

And then again, I had my mind
on something else, of which I will
now tell you. You know I wrote
you on Friday evening, and on the
next day I set out for Elba in a team
going to near Plainview. On the way
out I bought the team for \$300, horse,
harness, wagon and lock chain, the same
to be paid for this evening; by which
time I supposed I could get the money
by Express from Chymaw.

Well, that was on Saturday, a week
ago, and I staid in Elba all Sunday
and came to town on Monday, when
I wrote for the money. The cold
weather set in the next day, and all
mail connection with the East was
broken up for two days on acct.
of the unsettled condition of the

river, so my money has not come yet, though I expect it in a day or two at furthest, my dates from home tonight are of the 6th and 8th.

Think of ten days from Chipman,

According to agreement, the man I bought of brought in the team tonight, but unless the money came with tonight's Express, which I will ascertain in the morning, he will have to keep them till it does come.

I would not take \$450, for my team when I get it in to possession as it is the very best bargain I ever knew of, and the only reason I get them so cheap is because the man wants the money very badly.

They are horses, Bays, ten year olds, and perfectly sound in every particular. They are low in flesh, on account of hard work and no grain all summer, and hard work this fall on the machine,

The wagon is a good solid one, five years old, and perfectly trustworthy, and the harness, likewise, is not a bit fancy, but strong and durable.

My idea in getting this team was to work out with it during the Winter, and then I can either sell it at a good advance, or take it out with me to the Chippewa in the Spring. I can get \$50 per month and everything found, for teaming on the river to La Crosse, or I can haul wood at Minnesota City, and make nearly as much, if not more. Thus I can do better than at wood chopping or any other kind of manual labor, and not work near so hard. I must make money fast this winter, for in spite of all I can do it will slip away from me, and there are expenses in prospect for which I must be prepared.

~~By the way, I am going up to Elba tomorrow,~~
I am going up to Elba tomorrow,
whether my money comes or not, and
if you have directed to there I
will get your letter;

I hope you have not forgotten me,
my dear Sandy, nor that any harm
has come to you to prevent your
writing, for I begin to be uneasy
on your account, as they tell me
from home that you have sent
nothing there since we left.

Please write immediately on
receipt of this, and tell me every-
thing that is going on up there;

In future, you and I will work
together and will make things buy ~~of~~
~~in that region~~
~~there~~; I am bound to go into something
next year whereby we can turn over
the money fast, and I think we should
have a horse team; tell me your views
on the subject, and above all, keep up a
good heart. All will be well yet, with
courage and perseverance to push things
through; Count on me every time.
Truly Yours, Thos. D. Christie

Winona Dec. 26th /65

Dear father:

Yours of the 21st reached me yesterday morning, - a rather disagreeable Christmas Box to me,

I had set my heart on having the horses, and have been out of work for a week waiting for an answer from you,

The man brought them down to deliver a week ago today, and had relied so much on receiving the money for them that he had brought down his wife and children to send to Wis. Why not having recd. any thing from you made it very embarrassing to him, as he was totally out of means, and volunteered to get him \$25 to enable him to send on his family, and accordingly borrowed it of a friend in town, the man taking the team home again, where I was to go for them when I heard from you.

So you see how I am placed,

I do not complain, though, for I cannot be so selfish when I think of that other awful misfortune of which you tell

me, and I am resolved not to add to your embarrassments in the least particular by any selfishness on my part.

You shall not sell anything to at a sacrifice for me, as I leave it entirely in your own hands as to when you pay me, or whether you do it at all, or not.

I am young and will strike out and push through somehow, by my own efforts, without adding a feather's weight to what already is trouble sufficient for you to bear. Do not think I speak bitterly, for nothing is further from my thoughts or inclination; I say what I mean when I tell you, as I do now, that I will never again allude to any obligation we may have thought existed between you and me. Our family has caused you enough trouble, and has shown enough ingratitude already, if that horrible thing be true of which you speak; I can hardly believe it, for I feel to whom your suspicions are directed, and I hate to think of such a thing as possible. Give yourself no uneasiness on any account, for I will work through without any trouble, and rather like difficulties, if

anything for the real pleasure there is in overcoming them. I have already made my plans in this new contingency, and though they will not be so agreeable to execute as would my previous ones, they will do perhaps as well.

I go out to St. Charles today to see Mr. Merry and collect enough on William's note to pay my friend here what I got of him, and will pay W. when he asks for it.

I will apprise the man I bought of that I am compelled to back out, and will have to give him a check in which to repay the advance I made him, for I know he has not the money at present. All this done, I have already secured a job of work for the present at surveying on the proposed R.R. route down the river to La Brosse. At this I will get \$30 per month and foundry.

As to going down to Chymon, I cannot think of it till I am free from the demands of other present obligations. Minnie is well, and I saw her on Saturday. I took dinner, and spent a Merry Christmas yesterday with Mr. Scott and his lovable family. Am to spend New Years with a small party at Charlie Southwick's, and then to the Winter's work in

earnest, free from the hindrances of
uncertainty of prospects to which I
have been subject lately. Borrow no
anxiety on my account.

I find friends every where here, and
most enjoyed myself more than
I have this winter. I am anxious
about Sandy, as I have not heard from
him ~~for~~ since we left the west, though
I have written repeatedly, and only
hope that the deep snows are the reason
of his silence, by ~~thopping~~ stopping the mail.

I must stay in ~~Winnipeg~~
till I make as much money as I can, before
taking a furlough. Write me a long
letter, and believe me, I am sorry I troubled
you as I rashly did. Give my love to
Mother, and tell W and Dan to write to
me.

Yours affctly

Thos. D. Christie

earnest, free from the hindrances of
uncertainty of prospects to which I
have been subject lately. Borrow no
anxiety on my account.

I find friends every where here, and
most enjoyed myself here as I have
I have this winter. I am anxious
about Sandy, as I have not heard from
him for since we left the west, though
I have written repeatedly, and only
hope that the deep snows are the reason
of his silence, by stopping the mail.

I must stop here. I must
till I make as much money as I can, before
taking a furlough. Write me a long
letter, and believe me, I am sorry I troubled
you as I rashly did. Give my love to
Mother, and tell W and Dan to write to
me.

Yours affctly

Thos. D. Christie

Mind the pageing.

Trempealeau Wis
Thursday Evening Dec. 28th

My dear father,

I wrote
you on the 26th, and since
then have been out to St. Charles.

Went out on the train on
Tuesday evening, and staid
at Clarksons that night.

Folks all well, and busy
at that time getting ready
for Jeannette's wedding
which came off yesterday
evening.

I went
over to Morris's yesterday
morning, and found him
threshing. Could get a
money of him without for-
cing him to sell wheat, which
I would not do. Had a

very pleasant visit there, and
staid till 3 P.M. Got back
to Clarksons in plenty of
time for the interesting event,
which passed off very quietly,
there being none present except
the two families, Abbie, Miss
Mc Culough, the Minister and
his wife, and myself.

At 6 O'clock Jeannette became
Mrs. Strachan, and we all
then sat down to a fine supper.

I brought away a piece of the
wedding cake, a specimen of
which I will send down
according to promise.

After supper we young folks
had lots of fun till 9, when we
went down to St. Charles in the
sleigh, and from thence the
married couple, Miss Mc Cul-
ough and I took the train
for Winona.

Mind the pageing.

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Folks all well, and busy
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over to Marry's yesterday
morning, and found him
there. Could get no
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cing him to sell wheat, which
I would not do. Had a

2
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had lots of fun till 9, when we
went down to St. Charles in the
sleigh, and from thence the
married couple, Miss McCul-
lough and I took the train
for Winona,

3 Tell Mom that Mac McHenry was married about ten days ago to his Sarah and I saw them in town the next day.

They came to town, put up at the Huff House sent for the preacher and were united without any fuss at all. That's my style.

This morning I started at work surveying, in the employ of the Winona & St. Peter R.R. Co. and we made about two miles today, at evening being within 10 miles of this town, and will board here, probably two weeks. The job will take 6 weeks yet and I work for \$30 per month and found.

4 My business is to carry chain and mark stakes with pencil, there being a stake stuck each chain, so that it is slow work, but not hard, as we work only about 7 hours in the day.

The crew are all jocular fellows, and I enjoy myself tip top.

I don't still to Winona, for I will make arrangements to have my mail sent down as soon as it gets there, and will be up there every Sunday probably. I repaid Mr. Cady my friend, who without asking let me have the money ^{with} which I made the advance to Pickett this morning, ~~by~~ the needful being obtained by leaving my watch in the pawn brokers for a month. Looks hard, don't it, and yet I could not help laughing all the time I was at it.

3 Tell Men that Mac McHenry was married about ten days ago to his Sarah and I saw them in town the next day.

They came to town, put up at the Herff House sent for the preacher and were united without any fuss at all. That's my style.

This morning I started at work surveying, in the employ of the Winona & St. Peter R.R. Co. and we made about two miles today, at evening being within 10 miles of this town, and will board here probably two weeks. The job will take 6 weeks yet and I work for \$3.00 per month and found.

4 My business is to carry chain and mark stakes with pencil, there being a stake stuck each chain, so that it is slow work, but not hard, as we work only about 7 hours in the day.

The crew are all jocular fellows, and I enjoy myself tip top.

Direct still to Winona, for I will make arrangements to have my mail sent down as soon as it gets there, and will be up there every Sunday probably. I repaid Mr. Cadby, my friend, who without asking let me have the money ^{with} which I made the advance to Picutt this morning ~~by~~ the needful being obtained by leaving my watch in the pawn brokers for a month. Looks hard, don't it, and yet I could not help laughing all the time I was at it.

And now, you must not think that I did foolishly in buying that team, because I have given up the bargain, for I tell you now, as I did in a former letter, that I consider myself poorer, by at least a hundred dollars, than I would have been were they in my possession according to terms. But never mind, I asked for what I had no right to, and of course had to be disappointed, though I do not see yet why W. could not have let me have the money needed, when there was such good security for its repayment. Instead of \$30, I could then have got \$50 per month, and everything found, and had agreed to work for that through the winter. If any of the Christies can make a better bargain than

the one I was compelled to back out of they will do better than I ever knew any of them to do. I resent the imputation you cast on my judgment in that matter, and think I have discovered better opinions as to my capacity.

However, I am going to try, henceforth, to paddle my own canoe without any one's assistance, and then my success (for success I will) will be due to nobody's favor or friendship.

I do not know but what I am saying that which I should not say, but I had made some very pleasant calculations, and to have them all overthrown is more than I can bear without feeling duped over it.

I was pleased to get a long letter from Sandy this morning, and you have, no doubt, heard from him.

I am going to write to him soon, and will tell him to come down as soon as Spring opens.

I have made up my mind that he and I can do far better in every way by going into something else than we can by exiling ourselves out there the best part of our lives.

As soon as I can get a little ahead I am going into business in one of the growing towns of the interior, where I can make more money, and live a far better life than I could on the frontier.

My eyes have been open since I came to Minna, and I have

learned a great deal.

I hope all the family
are well, and feeling as well
as I do. Remember me to

Mother, especially, and tell
her I do not know whether

to write or not.

Very affectionately, &c.

Remembering that I am all yours, though
very weak, and very infirm, I
am much as ever.

Love & affection, but it will
never call me.

Thos. C. Christ

Thos. C. Christ

learned a great deal.

I hope all the family
are well, and feeling as well
as I do. Remember me to

Mother, especially, and tell
her I do not feel under

much anxiety about my

condition, and that I am

very comfortable, and that I

am not at all ill, and that I

am not at all ill, and that I

am not at all ill, and that I

am not at all ill, and that I

am not at all ill, and that I

am not at all ill, and that I

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Thos. Christie