Dear Mary,

I have been thinking about you all, my scholars, man, and I cannot refrain from writing if I would. I have been away from you little over a week. I wish I could see you a half hour in that schoolhouse. I have many things which I would like to say. I wanted to say many things the last day but I couldn't say one. Perhaps you won't understand all this stuff. Teach school—love your scholars and then see if you understand. I never loved scholars as I did then. I wish I could say something here—but I must. I will say someth
and that is, I will teach a better school if I ever teach again.

But this is not interesting. What is? My affairs? Let it be granted
to be so. Well it seems that I am in Chicago rooming with my sister
studying Greek Testament, Chemistry
and Philosophy. Reading some also. Just
commenced H. Kane's Africa Expedition
and it very interesting.

What are you doing? How did
Examination go? Have you a school
engaged yet? I had a pleasant return
time. Stopped in Columbus as I
proposed. Visited the State House
the Dead and Dumb Asylum. Our State
House is truly a fine building. Spent
some time in the Assembly. Was pres
ent at the opening of the morning
session. Enjoyed visit at the Asylum
much indeed. The children interest
ed me much. Besides our conduc-
tress was very kind and agreeable.
of course was something. I shan't attempt a description of either place because it is probable that you have been there yourself or heard good descriptions before this, better than I can give.

My classmates were almost all back when I returned. Wish you could drop in and see them. There are about forty of us. Only seven are girls. We lost two girls this winter. One, Miss May, being emigrated into the state of Washington, so of course she must needs leave us as we allow no such thing in our ranks. She finishes her course at Hillsdale, Michigan. There are eight hundred students here this term and I don't know but there are more than the number. Frank Lord, Myra Allen and Frank came from Columbus when I did. We visited all the place at the asylum to together. Behave they all with the rest of ym
students who are in your parts this winter are doing well, studying hard, etc. It is so pleasant to day I was going to say I wish I were a gable so that I could be wild and free; I'd run and leap if I were one. Well I'm not one. Bring Bowen with a soul improvable. I'm satisfied. Oh you don't know how free I feel this with down thru I feel like an Indian. Before I acted like one sometimes. Will you remember me to your people—your sister & brother in particular? Don't make fun of this letter. I always write just as I feel—without any forethought wanted or miss way. Write soon if possible & direct to Oberlin.

Rg Kindly
E. M. Bowen

Yours Mother Sisk.
Dear Miss No.

March 15

Cousin Elenore spos

of the I came to hand in due
time and found well a
usual Allerlity does not
improve much she looks well
better than ever saw her but
has no strength but Alph
came yesterday with a team
and took her home very much
against my will for she is not
fit to hay the care of a house she
is to old and feeble. She needs
someone to take care of her
My mind to fear, for

I had never

to hear him, for

He was always in the store

And I did not send you word

That he did not like me

She did not know that she

As they were in the fire and

He came to see her one night.

While the rain was light.
to her house she told me that she thought Auntz would not live two days & think she had a notion in taking her there she thought she would die and she would gobble what little property and when she found she was likely to linger a long time she would not keep her any longer.

I could not find out much about their business by Andy but I found out by Alphonse what he is doing & can't tell you all as you really ask & can see you but will do the best I can. He went to Texas two years ago and their neighbours say he took 9 nine hundred dollars of her money was gone till Noven he got a house and Quite a large list for her to cultivate which
She did in early vegetables and potatoes which she sold and got that she lived on and when he came home she had dug and buried 40 bushels of potatoes herself just to think of hurt Lydia harms to do that for to get her living and all that at time & did not know where she was & could not see one that seemed to know.

She never goes to church & is not living miles she has no brother she told me that she had not had any thing but one calico dress and one pair of shoes since she left Saline the county destitute of clothing well Alph left his cattle in Dawson to be wintered but they inconvenient to die and he went and sold what
I done the milking the most
of the I was at about 9 o'clock
one evening a short time
before I came it cold snowing
and blowing Alf. said he
would milk the soon came in
and no one present to say,
Meag wasn't half full for she
was for the last time milked
line out he started and said
the devil was in her and he
would milk her ever if had to
break line next. I told
him that I thought the devil
was in him instead of cow
and then he went on to say
I had spoilt her. I said I
would do it. He came home
I all ways got a long way
with her. She like kindness I
so pat and talked to her
and what was what she like it
she is so cute to dumb cats.
The sobe, the last trial of this winter they look like old, slayy, poverty. Many more when we got moved I will get you some flower seed. Tell Nancy I am glad to hear that she helps her. No. To work at night I think of you all for this time last year was all in Ohio. And I was at Ellons and little did I think of being over. I am so right but you are all just over you though. I you would see the paper that I send you has Fine Robys reading in and Ellons a piece on some right. Uncle Jesse is better. Mary, destroy this when you read it and don't read it to the children. For if you hasn't told you Mrs. Things they might find it out. I have a very bad cold and cough. The rest of the family is well. It is past nine o'clock I must stop writing lest you get more reading it. No more. I remain true cousin.

Eliza C. Pinchbeck.
At home Oakland Gland

April 26th 1856

Dear Molly, P.

I received your letter some days ago and you had better believe I was disappointed for I fully expected to see you at our quarterly meeting but so it is you did not come—Well I am glad to tell you we had a good meeting and it is not closed yet there was the preaching general class this morning as had to go to these appointments but we had a good meeting there was four persons joined the Church this morning I don't know the exact number that has joined about twelve or thirteen I do hope that the meeting will continue till the last sinner in Scotland will get converted I am enjoying good health at present
and have been since the wedding and since I took that long ride in the rain in that new buggy with the intelligent book agents &c. The rest of the family are well except Aunt she has not been very well for some time. Molly you must excuse me for writing on the Sabbath. I thought I would not do so any more. I went to meeting this morning and came home and it set in to rain and I got so alone some I just thought if I had you here how pleasantly the hours would pass as that cannot be a thought struck me that I could chat a while by way of the pen I see you misunderstood me in my last about the book agent but I will just let it stand till I see you. I am sorry to hear that A. J. has gone west. I hope he will return soon. I have no idea he will any how. I was glad to hear that you had the pleasure of the last evening in his company before he started west. Molly I would
like to know something about that matter
and I know you will tell me something about
it when you come do come soon and you must
come soon for if nothing happens I don't expect
to be here much after the last of May and you
must come before that time if I cannot bring
you; you must come on the cars just write and
let me know when you will come and I will
meet you at Holland - let T. T. not to get so
indulgent but what he could go and see his
friends once and a while - Molly when you
come I want you to bring that book I have an
anxiety to see it - Molly I was not married
yet and I don't know exactly when I will be
I will let you more about it when I see you
and I hope that will not be long for I do want
you to come soon it will not take you long
you can come Saturday at one o'clock and go Monday
night and it can meet you at the station.
I would like for you to stay a week or so long
as you can or you can come through the week if you had rather — When you answer Mr. St. J. Letter, give him my compliments if you please. Molly I agree with you in liking to get a long letter and you must excuse me for it is supper time and mother is not at home. Nothing more but come soon write soon and let me know when you are coming.

Give my love to all inquiring friends to your father and mother. Litt. S. H. and Aunt Betsy. Uncle David and P. Lilly and save a stone for yourself. Unease this letter for if you could see me a day of two you would not wonder why I cannot compose a better letter.

I remain your friend

Maggie princes

Miss Molly, P. S. sick. Me
Dear Cousin Mollie,

I have been thinking about writing to you for the last two weeks. I intended writing last evening but angering to company I disappointed you. I have company this evening also one of the number that was here on other writing. I told him I was bound to answer your letter to night, for fear that you might get on to me if nothing to be excused for this delay. I will proceed Mollie. I don’t want you to think that I don’t love you (for not writing sooner) for such is not the case I would be very unhappy if I was sitting by your side and you by mine when I could have the pleasure of thrusting my arms around your neck, and I want to talk about things that I want gets a chance to appreciate Mollie would you have any objections to my hugging and kissing you. I hope not because I give me a satisfactory answer to this in your next. Mollie your letter was received.
and read with the greatest of pleasure also answered in the same manner. No doubt but you have a jolly time teaching school. I wish I was one of your scholars. I would like to know whether you wish me to, if you do, I would decline being one. Although you like children, as you stated in your letter, and I hope it is your wish that you may have the pleasure of. By the way, Mother I was not acquainted with either of the couple that was married in your neighborhood. I hope I may have the pleasure of going through that state of affairs before long. Mother how do you feel on that subject? bestore and give me a satisfactory answer when you write. say what you think of it. Mother matrimonial affairs are all the go now. One of your clerks has gone on one of those expeditions. He is to be married tomorrow Wednesday at two o'clock. He is in Baltimore and will be married there. He will be home on Friday, and will bring his better half with him. "Ahem. Hurrah for him"
Mother

I must bring my letter to a close as my company is still with me and you know it is impossible for a person to write and walk at the same time.

Our folks are all well with the exception of Father who has been very unwell to-day. His ankle was hin upon a stone than it is and it is. His health is very poor. The rest of this family join me in sending love to all of you dear friends and acquaintances.

Accept my love and much hearty wishes and as many kisses as you please. I wish I could get to appreciate the one you send me. I hope I shall soon.

Answer soon, brother and answer all questions, long letter and I will do likewise. Your loving truly, John C. Smith.

Dear May,

It is so long since I received your letter that I begin to think one from me at this late hour will hardly be acceptable. However, charity likewise a multitude of sins" I remember. Therefore, I shall write as if you had already pardoned my tardiness. I can only say I have been exceedingly busy and have had you just as I have other correspondents.

I just read your letter. It was a good one. Wish you were here. I often think of you and your home in the woods, I call it. I like that woods so much which we passed through from the road to your house.

Tonight I am just ready for some exertion, for I am so tired of doing still. Now
Mon. Aug 6th

You see how some students write letters. It seems that I stopped in the midst of a sentence and new formal theme to commence again until now. You will find my readings. I have been confined by study, and then I had two public papers to write as you may see in my programme. Writing essay always worries me much.

I have just got through with those and now I am free.

I love that word—free. I wish everybody loved it as I do only better, and would preserve their freedom. But this is digression.

I am anxious to hear from you. What are you doing these days? Studying or teaching or at work? Are you happy where you are? I am happy, and I
Love in detail of it. I hardly knew why, except that it seems strange
as the happy, solidly, now you must
understand. Well, years ago I was
not so happy as I am now. That
is all. I saw one the darkest sides
of life. Then I see there is gloom
brightness in living. It is good to
live, if one can live or not;
man and man; more than we are apt to. I
stop writing so, as I knew you will
me to.

Come up and attend your
our literary and commencement
services next week. Frank trelol
went home to tea, about five
months ago. I expect her return
soon. Brother Allen left for a reason
on account of a sick brother. The rest
of the folks whom you know I see
once in a while. All well or
unwise, I believe.
I don't understand about the marriage of Jny. Owens. I am afraid you will be slippery of soon. I know I think I will wait you good time. I wait until you are what shall I say — old enougn — a girl long enough. Please write soon will you. I'd write letter if I had any thing worth writing. My penmanship would be better now that I have this long-hand writing. Phonography is a thousand times better. I believe you don't write it does? I am giving some attention to my now. It obliges me with this slow way of writing. Remember me to your people and write very shortly.

They kindly a friend,

Ellen Bowe.

Willie Sisk.
April 23, 1851

Dear niece: I received your letter a week ago last Saturday and should have answered it, but knowing Alexander wrote in a short time after you wrote letter, I thought best to put off writing till now, and as this is a time of great excitement and trouble on account of war I will say a few things about it. Last Saturday and Sabbath were days that will long be remembered. There was almost as many people in Chili as there were two days ago when Blondin crossed the rope. They were getting Volunteers to protect the rights and liberty of our Country. The company was made up and fitted out. They were called together on Sabbath to Walnut Street Church to hear a sermon delivered by the Elder in the evening. They marched to the boat where they were present with and carried by Mr. Deboyes after which they were each one presented with a Testament by Mr. Smith. And came the parting scene of fathers and mothers with their sons, husbands, their wives, and brothers and sisters where was sad countenances sorrowful hearts and tearful eyes; I did not see it myself but I heard it from a reliable person. Mr. Fryer. I was to see another Hunter Sabbath after preaching she is very sick but was some better than she had been. She had been sick two weeks.
She desired to be remembered to William and family with a request for them to write to her and to write soon saying if they didn't she might not be here to write.

I received a letter from Elizabeth written the 1st of July. Thomas was very sick the rest of the family had bad colds and your mother was worse. I expect Thomas and E will be down soon.

Ann D. stayed till Tuesday week after Ellin left. Went home with her and stayed till the next evening and I was at John Smith's last Saturday. They were all well except the baby it had the hives. I am glad to hear that you are well and that his health is much better. I guess he don't have the blues any more. Hope he will not be troubled with them any more.

As to myself, I am quite as well as I usually am this time a year. Alfred has been very well since he got over the sick spell he had when Alice left. He is working for Mother. They seem to be pleased with each other and are getting along very well with their work. He gives him nine dollars a month and boards him.

I find my own provisions and do my own cooking and eat by myself. It does not take much to do one and of course not long to cook it. We both cook at the same stove. We work in away that it's but little inconvenience we never have to bake both at one time and I am much better satisfied than if we was living as one family what I feel like eating. I can cook and I have a good appetite for my meals generally which I think...
I received Ellen's letter last Saturday. I was so sorry to hear of their safe arrival, but very sorry to learn that Geo. has the whooping cough so bad and a probability of their having the measles. I felt very sad it will go hard with them. I will not answer her letter for a week or ten days. Yesterday was the day that Alex. according to rot. was to appear at court and I want to learn some of the proceedings of court before I write. Besides she will have such a chance of hearing more of the passing events that take place in the neighborhood than the world if I write now. Mrs. Wheeland has been here for garden seeds as usual. She enquired very particular when Alexander was coming back. If he was coming soon we had a good deal of rain the first part of last week and cold one night. The ground froze and Saturday morning there was every white frost it was very pleasant now with a sprinkle of rain now and then which gives vegetation a lively appearance. The trees, fields and all a prospect of abundance. Every little peach tree that was old enough was stuck full of bloom. The pear and apple trees are now in full bloom. The peach and apple orchard have had been trimmed and the trash all picked up and burned. You don't know how pretty it looks. We have gardened considerably, but the cold wet weather has kept things from coming up.
I hope you will realize the pleasure you have anticipated in having your sister to live where you can enjoy each other's company, but don't build any air castles if you have the rest of your relations here according to the course of nature you count not expect to have all of them very long and we may suspect some danger from where we possess delight. I will have to bring this letter to a close or I won't have room to put a word in for B.L. hug and kiss them children for me and give James a double portion of my love, and tell him to give my sincere thanks my love to you and all and remain your affectionate aunt to Mary P. McRoberts.

Lydia McRoberts

Please when you can both of you, write when you can both of you. Dear Son, I must acknowledge that I was somewhat surprised to receive a letter from you as you have not been writing to me here to one another, but little room left I shall have to say what I have to say in a few words, I feel greatly full for your kindly feeling toward me but I must say that I never had a desire to make any home in Missouri I think it would be folly in the extreme for me to sell what little I have and go to a distant land to spend a few years, perhaps months or years and though I have no home yet I intend if I live to try to get before another year I have no doubt but you and Mary would do all you could to make one comfortable and happy but it is not nature to feel that comfort and happiness in any body else's house. You would in your own. I have thought I would like to make a visit to No. 1 but Alexander is not got home yet and I would like to see you all at your own homes also of course I was ready now I would not go while there is so much better I have not had a thought of going this summer (you may look for Samuel Wals. there this summer he has left but I have the best respect for your most of your address, he wants to go to the Bible School farewell for the present to A.J. McRoberts.
Manhattan Co. Nov. 10, 62

Dear Mollie,

I take this the first opportunity to write to let you know how we are and where we are. We arrived in St. Louis the next after we left home, at 9 o'clock we stayed there until the next day 8 o'clock we had nearly all day Thursday to look round. The city business is very dull and not much doing on the levee except army goods and implements of war. The J. Warner was loading with mirrors' guns and sabres, canister grape and solid shot. The lensing to out was lying at the wharf as we was told she would leave the next day for the Mo River. The rebels has been stopping the boats on the Missouri and stealing every thing on board that was of any value to the
consiquently General Scopeld
has tostop boats from going farther
up than Jefferson City,
we had our carpet bags searched
at St. Louis but they did not take
our revolvers from us. We arrived
at Mrs. Poe's on Friday evening safe
sound and well we found the folks
all well here we have not been to
cyphers & Muslemans yet but we saw
Bill & George at the depot. We went
to Ezra Cuse yesterday to see our
Wilson's company. The boys are
in good health but not of good
spirits they don't like their offi-
cers, especially the Captain & colonel.
We intend starting for saline co.
this evening I expect we will
have to walk from secula there.
is three companies of troops
in marshel camp. H. P & L.
P. Martin was mistaken when he
said they had gone south.
I don't think there is much
danger of the bushwhackers and there is a considerable danger of being pressed into the service. They are taking every man subject to military duty and the late order of the Secretary of War makes us liable to be arrested at any time and compelled to perform military duty unless we enlist in the Militia. So I don't see any chance to escape.

I can tell you more news when I get to Saline. I'll say he will write when he gets there.  The crops looks fine. There has been plenty of rain. That is all at present give my love to all of the friends and kiss Nannie lots for me and tell Nannie to kiss you for me. So good by for the present.

A. J. McPhee
August 14, 1862

Mrs. Mary M. Roberts

Dear Friend,

I wrote myself to answer your letter which I received a short time since it had been a long time on the east. I had begun to think that you had forgotten to write as you had promised to do. We have had a great deal of excitement since there has been a good many bushwhackers at the door since you left. One scout killed Pat Harkins near or near some ladies old age for and Robert was with the scout and saw them killed it frightens me the people in Haskell so badly that they all for leaving the town when Capt. Winters told them the first man that left the house would serve in the same way. Capt. Winters has orders that if any more devilment was done at Haskell to burn it they had burned a boat-shore and had been cutting up very badly.
I believe that nearly all of our brass-hackers that called on us are dead or have been taken prisoners. I have heard that the man that Mr. Ellick Roberts shot has gotten well but will be a cripple for life. The report here is that Price is trying to force his way back here and I am afraid it is so. Rown Dexter is over the river to bear. Major McCune sent a scout on there a week and a half ago, the last we heard of him they were skirmishing with Rown Dexter. I heard that some of their men had gotten killed and wounded and they had sent them to Lacadio. We also hear that they had killed a good manyables. I will tell you who commanded the scout. Captain Page of the 5th Arizona State Militia with 100 men and Lieutenant Scary of Company H 9th U.S. Horse with 25 men of Company I 25 of Company F and 5 of Company E all of the 9th U.S. Horse. If you see an account of a fight they have had you will know that we are not very safe here and may be thankful that you are safely out of danger.
All Loyal Citizens have under the age of 45 and over the age of 18 is ordered to come forward and send their names and report themselves ready for duty. All the loyal men here except those two boys enrolled their names the old men would not let them. All that does not send their names are to be considered as spies and traitors and are to be treated as such.

Night before last Col Burkner sent a dispatch down to Marshall to Maj Mckin. That if the rebels had taken Independence and should also taken 2 Companies of regulars and 2 of state militia and were advancing onto Lexington he ordered the Maj Mckin with all his men and all the state militia and all the loyal men to Lexington. They all went and we are all alone. We all as union women girls and children went over to Mr Jacksons to bid them goodbye. When we got there who should we behold but Mr CLICK and Jack MRoberts just returned. They walked from Edalia to Mr Jacksons. They were very thin and sick but they had to go to Lexington.
was sick in bed, but they were afraid to leave him so they had to put him in a wagon and haul him to Lexington, the De said that no healings were affected. We met with a great disappointment at Mr. Jackson's, the Major took a motion to send them another way so we dead a motion to send them back or any of the other convalescents. You would like to know what happened next if I'll tell your names I will commence at home. If I write to Henry Rankin fair Martin, Joe Thomas, Bob Bivens, my son W., Robert D. Click, J. B. Roberts, Jack W. Roberts, Mr. Hunter, Dumas Hunter, Mr. Jackson, Gen. Louis Hook, Commander, and Ashley Green. Dutch kill, Johnson, and Chris Bell and Mr. Colburn's best friend, Captain Jacob Wolford. He and George Smith have joined on Charleston of the same regiment.

We are satisfied hopes that dispatch from Lexington, all false, they appeared to think that it was not true they were all in good spirits when they left. Willie Hunter had the Courier very badly the other night but as well now I believe. Kate Hunter was over this evening saying that some one road their horses last night and Mrs. Hughes is in good spirits and thinks that the boys will all be back in a few days. Maggie and Bell would like to see Fannie and Lizzie very much. Rose MClulls Nabe is dead and so is the little Hollidays. Mr. Jim MCluffs talks of going to the same homes he was back if he ever does quit the clow, she intends to go anywhere she lives here sometimes and at Washburn's and Mr. Hughes sometimes she don't stay at home at all, and we are all glad the have been here. Our dear neighbors are very friendly indeed. I expect we will go to Korea if Pappa joins the army. Major W. The other day he will give us a free ticket through if we want to go. I have never been down to your house since you moved away I do not know how the children are doing. I am just as the bottom of my last page. Consequently I will have to bring my letter to a close. I remain your servant.

Lizzie Mclunts

Mrs. Mary M. Roberts
Saline Co., Mo., Sept. 6th 1869

Dear Mother,

I take the first opportunity to act so

The receipt of your letter of the 24th. I did not

receive it until day before yesterday, it went to Lea

but before it left reached there. The 4th had left for

sedalia and if I had not you there would be a letter for

their out fit I perhaps might never have got it

you must correct your letters to marsh but until

further orders, I wrote to you at John Bros but I sup

pose you never got the letter. I have written 3 letters

but I have only received one from you

you wished to know all about all of your acquaintances

The news have told you about all but a few. The

meeters have not invaded their names and of course they

will be regarded as rebels. Mr. Wilson & John Sisson

have not come to cities and they will be treated as rebels.

Hunters & Hughes families are living in the same house (Blain)

That the lineat Renicks while we were at levington but Bro.

James is at home now he is not able for military duty due

at present his back is still out of fit. Harley & Joe. Pitman

have join the rag tag, motilita. That is what they call. The only

uniform that we have is a yellow ribbon round one arm

I have not been in the plains since last Tuesday but I

am going to day. I am tired of the soldier life I would be

glad to re turn home if I could. I would like to see you.
and manic, but I can't get there until the cool head is removed. I have not done any thing since I have been here. But send me a letter so that I can talk to you, and write for the confusion I am in. The court house and the boys are running in and out and talking to me so much that I can't write. Joe, Bob is letting me go to the Plains with them, so I will close this and write another soon.

I want you to take good care of yourself, and I am sorry to hear that Hanie was so sick. I dreamed a night in succession that she was very sick. Her friends here are all in tolerable health. My step are very well. I will try to write you a long letter next time. So good by for the present. I hope you and Hanie with good health and happy and contented minds until I shall be permitted to see you again. That was all.

A. J. McKibben
when I wanted in the fall without having it to pay for but since people has to feed their cows I don't get often it sells from eight to ten cents a quart and that is more than I feel like giving I can make very good like bread without it and as biscuit I don't make them often every thing now sells for a good price wheat one dollar ten cts a bushel corn Forty and a prospect of being higher potatoes in the Stores are selling for one dollar a bushel the most of folks does almost without I rejoice to hear that you have such a rekind of religion in the Neighborhood and more especially in your own family I hope to I have the experience of a change of heart and know for myself that god doe Christ sake has pardened all his sins I fear they have built their meeting house in the wrong place own to prejudice existing against the northern methodist there has been a new church built in Green wood this fall there is five churches in this and many than that many differ
denominations some of them are very pious and strict and regular in attending Church but don't believe that a person can know that their sins are forgiven till they can have the witness of the Spirit within them selves that they are the Children of God. I have not been to meeting very often this winter when the weather was extremely cold I didn't feel like going out and when it moderated its so muddy that I can't get through it the winter so far has been unusually short only two or three days at a time. Very cold and very little snow but a great deal of wind and rain its very pleasant now and so muddy we can hardly get about some well as usual only a bit cold but I never had a better appetite for my meals in my life excuse my not writing I will try to write more next time. My love to you & A. J. and all the children.
and we can't live without it and God will cleans us from all our sins when we come to our death bed.

As for my part I can't see it it don't suit my experience and therefore I don't think I shall join the Presbytery church I have not been to the Baptist church yet it is further off they have the best church and largest society the district school house is only a few hundred yards from here they took up school this morning for three months there is a great many scholars and your teachers if not more have you any school this spring has the children learned much? I have sent my is through the arithmetic tell me where brother Salloway is and who is on your circuit and how the folks are getting along on the Plains.
is peach trees dead and are you going
to have apples the little apple trees here
are budding out but I can't see abud on
peach if they are not killed it will
be along time before they bud out from
present appearances as I do not
know the prices of grain I can only I
have not heard of any chance since I
last wrote the report is the wheat
in the ground looks well but not
as much sowed as other years write
to me soon as you can for I will
be so lonely it will do me good to get
a letter from my friends I close
with my love and best best wishes
for your peace and prosperity

Lydia M. Roberts

to Mary M. Roberts
Cireleville Sep 23rd 1857

My Dear Husband

With pleasure I gather my pen and paper to drop a few lines in acknowledgment of your welcome letter of the 12th which I received last night and it was a welcome visitor indeed and so are all your letters this time seems so long between them I had not had one for two weeks before I have not got all of your letters which you have written you complain of not not writing often I did not know where to direct my letters for a long time but since then I have written every week I think I have written as many if not more than Ell has but she has got the most from Ally I don’t why it is that his letters should come and yours not I feel very sad and lonely this morning I had hoped that you would be here in a short time but I see no prospect of your coming you said you wished I was there well I can come if you want me to but what will I do when I get there I could not live here on the plains alone and you in camp and to live together in constant fear as I have done I would
you need not be afraid of being drafted now
I hear, but very little said about it, but if you
think I had better go back to Mo. I will try and get
along the best way I can, don't think that I don't
want to be with you for that is not the case. I could
do almost any way to be with you but it would
almost kill me to have you away from home to take
your life. But enough of this, I am glad to hear that you
was well, Nannie and I are both well but very lonesome
and and unhappy (I am at least) you wanted to know
all the news I have not much news to write.

It is very dry not having rained to do any good since
you went away the pastures have all burnt up and the
water is all gone, the horses are all here (as I told you befor)
old Charley looks the best I ever saw him, but they are so
much trouble to feed and water all of them that I don't know
what to do with them, the farmers have not sowed any
wheat yet and if it don't rain they say they can't do now
we have been very busy for the last few weeks drying fruit
and putting up. I got a dozen of bottles, and have been putting
up peaches and to-day I have been putting up plum dam I am
getting very tired and shall be glad when we are done.
Tom has not gone to war but nearly all the whole
neighborhood has gone the 114th Mo. regt. left last Friday.
morning and I heard to-day that they were in
Parkersburg A. Mr Jim Wittgott and Ed Hovey are with
them the people are beginning to look more pleasing since
the late victories. I have not had an opportunity to
see Nannie's likeness taken and if I was to I would
be afraid to start it to you for fear you would never
get it. She is the funniest little thing you ever saw
and is so full of mischief that I don't know
sometimes what to do with her. She runs from morn-
ning till night and is but very little trouble except-
to keep her out of mischief which I assure you is hard
to do. She walked all the way toicals last Sunday
with Arelia this and Lizzie are cutting all kindsides
I was interrupted just by Mr and Mrs Spence com-
ing. They are gone now they enquired very kindly
about you, I was to see Mrs Knowles yesterday
evening she is very low and does not think she
will last but a few days. I have not much
more time to write for it is 2 o'clock and
I must take this to the office this evening. I
don't know what to say about your coming
home I am discouraged, but I would be glad
if you would come soon. Nannie is just
Forgetting you in spite of all my efforts to make her remember you I often kiss her for you you must excuse me for not writing more this time for I am in a hurry write very often and I will do the same no more but remain your affectionate wife Mollie McRoberts
Saline Co., Mo. April 17th, 1863

Dear Mollie,

according to promises I again take my pen to scratch a few lines to let you know that I am still in the land of the living and in good health. I have very much to disappoint for I expected to get a letter from you yesterday but I suppose I hope so after all. I would like to have you and have been with me for I tell you, it is a lonesome and dreary life to remain alone to live without you, but I have concluded to try to get along some how until after the corn is cut and I have agreed to let Frank stay here until then and then if it is practicable here I shall expect you to come out here, but if it is not you had better stay where you are and I will do the best I can. I think I shall be able to live here very comfortably by changing as they will. If I cannot make it one way I will another. I hope we will not have any more trouble here at the west. Most of the union men fear it will the second say they don't have leave there will any bushwhacking here this summer. I hope the fate of Jackson County has learned them a lesson not to be forgotten soon. General Sejan passed through the town and I like you, he made the people feel.

Sincerely, S. McCool
be arrested. Mr. Wilson Martin, Galdoon and several other
organized union men, when he came past their
Webb's several men run from the house to the
brush. He just ordered the house, barn & negro quarters
all to be burned, which was done in a few minutes.
Mr. Martin give them very near losing his scalp
the same day they would have killed him if they
could have found him. He caught a negro that was
in his way to Joan To report on the rebels, and
gave him a thrashing. The negro bit the inside of his
legs & then say—you'll tell the damned fools will you, and
seems men good hear it and it made them desperate mad.
I think the Hunter's family will leave here. They talk
of going to Illinois. They are keeping it a secret. They
want to take their stock along and they are afraid
if it goes out before they are ready. They can't get them
away. If I have not written to news so with of
I must bet with the man. One other man &
they are agree to wait on me, and not just as
long as they see I am making an effort to pay
them. I have not seen Burnet yet but I intend
to go and see him as soon as I get time. They will
not be any bound until November.
I want you to tell them I want him to make
his arrangements to come out here this fall.
I want him to go in co-hawks in a wood yard next
summer wood is worth $3 per cord & scarce at that.
I have lumber enough to make 1200 cords of wood. I must close for the
want of space.
Saline Co. Mo. May 11th 1862

Dear Milton,

All most another week has rolled around since I wrote to you last so I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines in order to keep you posted in regard to affairs in Mo. or in Saline Co. at least. I wrote to you last from Carrollton Carroll Co. I was there attending a military investigation to ascertain whether Jo. Bon Daniel DeShella, George Miles & John Stevens was guilty of stealing 2 Mules from Jo. McBlin to or not. McBlin to proved one of the Mules to be his but the other he claimed failed to prove and the Court could not decided whether the accused was guilty or not. In order to get ahead of the matter Rowne The Boys in Bonds to refer to the Commander of the Post at marshall Saline Co. on the 18th. There is a big eye to mend a bond the a fair and I don't know what the result will be. Perhaps some one will get hurt a bond it ye you need not be uneasy about me for I intend to keep clear of any must.
W. S. Hunters folks have not gone yet.
I was over there this morning and they
were going up their goods but they said
they did not know when they would get
off or where they was going some times they
say, They are going to Carroll Co. some
times to Howard Co. and this morning they
said they was going to stop at Warrenton. I
suppose a few days will tell the tale. My opini-
on is they are going to Illinois. David & Lot are
going a long.

Bro. James & wife has been blessed with
a new daughter what they call it. I do not
know it was born on the 1st. they seem
to be very proud of it.

Tuesday 12th Dear Mother, as I did not finish my
my letter yesterday I take my pen today to
finish it. I don't feel much like writing for
I have no good news to tell you. I feel very
much discouraged this morning I scarcely know
what to do or how to do it. We have lost the
best horse yet that we had. It was a fine grey
mare that I bought from a man from Iowa.
I paided $110 in green backs for her. If she had
lived a week longer she would have had a fine
morgan colt chestnut colt with white hind feet.
I would not have taken 150 dollars for her yesterday.

but now she is gone and so is the money that
I prayed for her. She took the cholera some time in the night and when I went out to drive up the horses I found her so far gone that I could not do anything for her.

One of Barkey's boys brought our table and crocks from Hunters & he reported they leave to day.

I must close for the want of time for I must go and hunt another team to follow with. I have not heard from you since I received the letter. I feel very anxious about you. I hope you will not fail to write at least once a week.

I will write more next time if you will write to me this time. For I am very busy so good by and may God bless you and Nanie.

T.J. McRobert
Camp at Anderson Station
Aug. 1st 1863

Cousin Mary,

Your letter came to hand in due time. I was very glad to hear from you once more. I am enjoying very good health at this time. Since I wrote last we have been moving a great part of the time and are now 70 miles from Murfreesboro right in the Mountains of Tennessee, about 50 yards from the Alleghany line. We came here Thursday last. Our Brigade is near the Station guarding the railroad we do not expect to stay any length of time as the Army is moving up to the Denn river. General Rosecrans went out to the front the other day and it
thought that there will be some
thing of importance done very
soon in this department.
There are not many rebels in this
vicinity to trouble us. we are living
off of the country, now we have
apples, peaches. Potatoes and corn
in this valley and the boys are
very good at providing for
themselves. Samuel is well
at this time. I have not heard
from the other boys for a long
while and do not know where
they are. I do not know what
to write about as there is nothing
of any importance going on
and I feel very lazy this morn
ning. we have nothing to do
and nothing to read. so I have
to put my time in at eating
and sleeping and lazing round
Camp. some times I go fishing
but do not catch anything.
I think that the war will be over before a great while yet and then we will quit solferino for a while at least. I think that we have done about our share of the work. If those that are back yet would come out and do theirs the thing would be about wound to a close. We have got about one year yet to stay in the army unless the war is sooner over which I think will be. Well as I have nothing to write I will bring this scribbling to a close. You must tell the rest of the folks to write to me. I want to hear from Thomas & Alexander and know what they have got to say for themselves Tell Ellen to answer the letter that I wrote to her. Give my love to to all the family and receive a share yourself.
No more for this time. Write soon.

Your Cousin,

Nelson.

To Mrs. Roberts.
Cincinatti Sunday Sept 27th, 1869

Dear Husband,

I have sealed my self this morning for the purpose of replying to your letter of yours the 20th which I received last Friday. I was very glad to hear that you were in good health and had got so far safe on your way, for I have felt very uneasy about you ever since you left. Nannie is getting better but I have been very unwell ever since you went away. But that is of little consequence to me while if you and Nannie are well,

Dear I would be glad now if you had not come to Ohio when you did for I miss you now a thousand times more than ever I did before. It seems that with all the courage I can summon I can't become reconciled to our separation. I am no nearer being contented now than I was the day you started, when I think of the happy hours we passed together in the last month and compare with it my present lonely condition it almost breaks my heart. O! how long will this state of affairs exist? Will we ever be happy again?

O my Dear! do not prolong your stay a moment longer than is absolutely necessary. I have been deprived of your society & protection so long that my fortitude is nearly exhausted and I don't feel like consenting to your being absent any longer than you promised me you would.
you ask me to let you know if I was willing for you to accept a cohabitation. I almost wish you you had not said anything about it for I have no wish at this time without having that to add to my trouble. I have studied over it day and night since I got your letter and am not nearer a conclusion now than I was at first, you will have to do as you think best but don't ask me if I am willing. I think we have been separated long enough now. It is long enough for me at least. I can't say that I am tired of my friends (as some others have said) but I am tired of being alone and of being dependent on the charities of other people. If you go into the army I shall abandon all hopes of ever having you with me again, if I could see you we could talk it over but I can't write any more. I did not name this to any one not even to Alta for though he groveled enough about your affairs without knowing that.

I hardly know what to write for I have no news to tell you to day. I understand that the war democrats held a convention in Columbus last week and denounced Poland as a traitor and all who voted for him as such.

Nannie cried for nearly a week after you left but she is getting over it now, there is not a day but she talks about Pa coming back and goes to look if you are coming but I fear she will look a long time before she sees you and Betsy came home last week and Nannie thinks she is all the one there is now.

I am just told me that the post office at Jefferson is dropped on account of some of the post-
masters copperhead talk. They had a union meeting at Wilminton last Friday and it was very largely attended and some able speakers. Some of the Copperheads (Bell's name) got very much offended with Dr. Drew because he said there was more loyalty in Shelby to Penn than there was in some parts of Wayne township.

Monday evening. I did not finish my letter yesterday so I will try and do it to now. I have been so unwell to-day that I could hardly stand up and so lonesom that I felt like all the friends I had was gone, you have no idea how I miss you. Nannie wished last night when she went to bed that Pa was here to sleep with Nannie and this morning when she got up she said, "I expect it will be a long time before Pa comes back." I afraid it will she tells me every day that Pa will bring her a doll baby & the will dress it up & Nannie will love it.

I hope you will not neglect to write often don't put it off to once a week if you have a chance to write often and let me know how you are progressing with your studies and all the news generally for I am so lonesom and feel so desolate that I want to know all about how you are getting along. So if you have any idea how long you will be absent. Oh I would be so glad if you could get back against the first of Nov for the more I think of it the worse it makes me feel. I must close this time. Can say the does Pa 3 dollars and sends you two kites take good care of your self and don't forget your unhappy wife and child. Mollie all Robert write soon
Saline Co.
Oct. 16th 1863
Dear Mother,
I take this the first opportunity to write for one week there has been considerable excitement here since I wrote to you last. Orders came to Miami last Thursday to Capt Burnsia to march his company to Marshall and turn them over to Capt. B. Wood of arrowroot a man that served 6 months in Pacific army. Elzy & Bennick was also re-appointed with our company and rebels appointed in their place. The company was then ordered to Sصادia where it now is.

The 4th was all ordered from Marshall and Bringen was ordered to hold the post until orders came
for Colen. To organise his old company again next day orders came for every man to report to Capt. Bringed for duty and all that did not would be dealt with as enemies. I had went to marshall to get some papers to write to you but the excitement ran too high for me to write that day. The news came that the rebels was coming and had captured arter vil tifton suacuse & 4 Boon hill and was on their way to marshall Hughes & I came home to make arrange- ments for the fight to get our guns & ammunition we did not get back until next day but when I got there I soon found that fight was not the order of the day. The stage driver came in under whip having spun 3 horses down a get here he said they captured him and the mail between arrow
rock and Bennet paroled him but kept his carriage horses he also said they would train Marshal by morning. Council of war was held and it was decided to evacuate. The rebels had about 3000 men and 3 pieces of artillery and we only had about 150 men and no artillery so we could not hear of any reinforcements coming. So we took up our line of march about 4 PM for lexington but when we got to the plains Hughes & I concluded we would not go to lexington so we left the ranks and went home and from there to nyes and stayed all night next morning we crossed the river with our horses we had not got all the horses out before I heard the artillery thundering at marshall and they kept it up until after 12 o'clock when there was a secession for an hour
but it commenced again
and approached nearer than ever
we could hear the rattle of small arms but all ceased again
and in a bout an hour it
opened again louder and clearer
than ever but that time it
only lasted about 15 minutes
and all was quiet again a bout
that time my suspense was all
most past endurance we soon
Andrew Nye over came to get some
news he came back in a few minutes and told us that Coffy
and Shelby had just past their house
with from 3 to 500 men. The
rebels told Nye's folks that they
had been fighting all day and
had been all cut to pieces
and had lost one half of their
men and all their artillery
next morning Hughes and 400
see the river the river and went
to Marshall to see the destruction maid

The door continuing partialy

[Signature]
When I got to Marshal I learned that the fighting had been done by the 2nd U.S. M. They had been following and preceding with them from Saratoga to the Saratoga there. They left them and took another road and lead the rebels to Marshal. The road was here just at day light and taking breakfast when the rebels came they came chargeing in to town. Expecting to capture Bingen's men but to their sad dispair and misfortune. They charged on a 1000 men and 9 or 7 cannon. The batle was fought between Marshal and Salt Fork along the Arrow Rock Road when the fight first commenced the adversary was in town. A redoubt battery opened fire on the town. Dances fell received a twist the court house one manate store one it a doctor shop one and one killed a horse at the corner of the court house yard the most of the soldiers went too high to do any damage.
The 7th, made a flank movement and after a fierce fight turned the left wing of the enemy, but they only charged from their left wing. Moving round towards the creek their lines then extended up and down the road and their battery flanked in the road they fought in this position for about four hours but they found it was a getting too hot for them and they fell back North and finally retreated. Major Kelly charged their lines and cut them in two and captured one of their guns cowby with about 500 men was cut off from the rest and he retreated in the direction of Clear Creek; he then turned and went past Jonesborough and struck the road Shelby Crossland fork on which The bridge on the Miami road
There, the Federals came up and had a fight, but when the rebels got over the burned bridge, they drove up the bridge which held our men, and they did not come up to them until they got to a muddy bridge below. Shortly, they had their last fight or at least the last that I have heard of. The Federals followed the rebels to Vanmeeters, and camped for the night but the rebels did not stop. They went through the pine woods and on up the bottom to wards waverly and that is the last that I have heard of them.

Mr. Myers folks knew a great many of them and will give you the names of some that Myers knew. Pete Martin and some John Little he was wounded in two places. J. Rockwell 2 Polymers.

2 coopers P. Frazier. They had several men all of which were wounded and one man shot in a ball hole in his leg.
I walked over the battle field, but I did not see many dead men. The wounded and nearly all of the dead were removed before I got there. I could not learn how many of the rebels was killed. I think some where between 15,000.

I counted 3,241 wounded in the hospital we lost one killed and 92 wounded. I never was so surprised in my life when I went to marshal and found so small a loss of life. I thought there the tremendous amount of shooting they was doing. They, surely would kill at least 1000 men. They took several prisoners but I did not know any but one. Mr. Daniel & John White was the only man that I knew among the wounded. Dr. Benson was tried by court martial and shot yesterday week.

I told you in my last that I could tell you more about when I could leave but times have been so small for the last week that I have not got to do any thing so I can't tell you any more now than I have told you. I wish you will have for news and I will be there as soon as I can. I must close and send you your love. Marrow all the kindest wishes.
Saline Co. Mo. Oct. 23rd 1863

Dear Mollie,

I seat my self again according to promises to send you a report of what has hap-pened the past week, but it is with a heavy heart I write for I have not heard from you for more than three weeks. Well to make the matter plain I have only receive 2 letters from you since I left you and the last one was dated the 27th of Sept. I can't imagine what is the reason I dont get any letters. I am almost out of patience waiting. I dont think you are to blame. I shurely you have not forgottten me yet.
wel, if I can't get to read letters I have one consolation I can write one occasionally so I will try to fulfill my promises as near as I can.

well I suppose you are anxious to hear how we are getting along here. We are doing some better since the rebel raid is over it has been some ad wantag to the country. I think for it has taken all the bushwhackers and of this country if not out of the State as to what has become of the raiders. I can't give you much information for I have been at home for the past week & have not had any opportunity to get news. The last I heard from Shelby he was south of the Osage on his way to Rockenバック.
I stay at home now and have no fears of being assassinated by bushwhackers. I have succeeded in selling my hogs; they will be taken away next week. The next thing will be my tobacco; I don't know what I am to do with it. For it will not be ready for marked for some time yet. The cows I could sell at any price as for my horses I can take them to sell. So you see the only thing that keeps me here is the two horses and cows. It would be too great a loss to go away. I leave them for I don't want to come back here again until the war is over. So I will try to get something for them before I leave. I have been tried in some since I came back and have started 100 miles.
I have no new news to tell you this time. The company Bro. James belongs to have moved to Clinton Henry Co. and I think they will stay there this winter the 11th M. S. M. will winter in Saline Co. I heard that 8 of the wounded rebels at Shiloh have died and perhaps more will go soon. Old Bill Thomas, some time was killed in the fight.

Stelly threw six wagon loads of baggage in the river below Waverley the next night after the fight. I believe that is all the news of interest at present. So I will close by saying I will hear from you soon. May God bless and protect you and Nannie is the daily prayer of an affectionate husband & father.

A. J. McPhie

[Handwritten signature]
Iacked No. 18th 1863

Dear Mollie,

I take the first opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your letter which came to hand yesterday and you cannot imagine my surprise as well as my joy when I heard the glad tidings of the new born. all I have to say is bully for Mr. Roberts I should object to paying the bed. I want you to take mighty good care of him for you have no idea how proud I feel of him you said you wanted me to send a name. I don't know whether I can suit you or not I have the naming of him I shall call him Jim Cain and the first thing I shall
Teach him will be radicalism and to hate rebels. Nothing would please me better or make me more happy than to be with you and the children to-night for I feel very anxious to see you all & Hub, especially. I feel very uneasy about you for I fear you are in the old house yet. and if you are you must be very careful of your self or you will take cold.

I sent you four hundred dollars a few days a go and I shall send you more soon. I sent it to John sick. I want you to let me know whether you have received it yet or not. I shant send any more until I hear from you. I think I can send 300 more. I have sold 2 horses 100 each and I have another that I can get 100 for any time that I am
willing to take it. Then I have another horse and a mare and
colt. The horse is blind in one eye and I don't know whether
I can sell him very easy.
I think I can arrange my
business so that I can live
here in the course of a week or
two. I want to hunt some
place to move to be sure I
go to Ohio.
I am going to start to
saline to-morrow. Mr. Renick
and Geo. Bunn are going with me.
Mrs. Renick says if Jim Sain
other don't suit you for a name
you must call the boy Ben
Soam
I must close for the want
of time. I will write again soon.
May God bless you and the
children. Is my daily prayer.
I send kipes enough for all.
R. C. G. McColl.
March 14th 1869,

Dear Sister,

I received your letter about two weeks ago, and was glad to hear from you all again. I thought I would of wrote to you sooner but have not had an opportunity of doing so you will please excuse me this time as I have been very busy, we are well with the exception of colds. Mother and aunt Lydia have both had very bad colds but they are getting better now, Eliza and myself are as well as usual and about as saucy as we can get, we cut up and romp when we please, it is quite healthy now, we have had some very cold weather this month and some snow which has been a great protection to the wheat but it has turn it yellow, the wheat has very good roots so I don't think the prairie will hurt it very much. R. C. Forsman died one week ago last night, he died of dropsy I suppose it was brought on him by drinking liquor uncle Hershbach has been to see us and said a week or two he'd talk of going to Sarah
Mrs. this fall if he don't go this Spring.

Atmosphere teaching school and talks of
taking a home in Kansas. Nelson is to be
married this Spring to Miss Sanepta Orr.
This is a beautiful day and our preaching
day too, how I would like to go, but it is
so muddy and wet I will have to stay
at home, we don't have the good meetings
at union that we used to have, we have
a very good preacher but he is not revivalist.

Schreyer has sold his farm to George Duncan
and they have all gone to town but he is going
where Vancuran lived and
is going to teach school. Mrs. Stufflebeam
is very poorly her cancer is eating very fast
with out relief. She will not last long for
as soon as the main artery is ate she is
gone. Eliza and I have been to Williams
front to church, we went in the wagon
at night a load of us and it snowed on us
all the way there and back, aunt Betsy
at uncle Davids and has been for 3 weeks
they was all well the last I heard from
them I saw Sidie when I was there. She
is well satisfied and they are doing well.
Dora is not satisfied at uncle Davids. She goes there. She will cry to go back home, John Ashworth to sell and go west. He Miller starts this week he goes to sell, there has a great many gone west and more are going but none from this neighborhood. Mother says tell Arelia she thinks she has forgot grandma. She is setting home with the Advocate and she has been thinking how she used to come on Sunday to read and she wished today. She was here to come and read again aunt Lydia is here and is going to stay till July comes after her, he is to come in August, he says as soon as he gets time he is going to pay you a visit. She is not very well and says you will hear from her. Some of these days before long. I am very well satisfied with your boys name and I want you to have his picture taken, and send it to me, and then I will have all only jimmies and Arelias. She said she was going to send me her picture but I have not seen it yet or her letter either. Tell Lizzie and I want them to hurry and learn to write for I think she will write to me then I am glad
the children has got well. I felt very uneasy about them, Eliza says she will write to you soon & I will have to dis- 
count Lydia and Eliza join Ella and I in love to and all the family write soon and tell me all the news so no more at present but remain as ever your sister and Mother. H. and C. H. S.ick.
May 30, 1869

Dear Niece,

It has been so long since I received your letter that I have forgotten the date of it. I should not wonder if you think I have forgotten you but not so I don't forget my friends. Though I have been silent along time I have pass'd through a great many changes since you and parted twice. I was taken with intermitting fever followed each time by the ague which I have been keeping off for some time by taking quinine. When I feel the symptoms I have hot but one chill since I came here. I hope it is whipt now and forever but I don't feel like I did two years ago. I have so much stiffness in my limbs last year was a bad one from early spring but had two hot fires some times four and as many as seven or eight in the thong of work nearly all of them was dandies you may be sure.
I was tired enough of them though it was the best we could do. Some of them were good hands and worked well while others had to be watched all the time. I done my house work and tended the garden, wass and doved we got up early and got breakfast while they fed and geared they was generally ready to go to work by sunrise. The consequence I was when the crop was laid by hand hands discharged I was broke down with intermitting fever but I was only one slick confined to the room when I look back at what I have gone through the two past years I can but wonder I feel well and do. Abbie was not quite down then but had a very sick time. Soon after he had made up his mind not to live on rented land a mother year but would have a home of our own. He hunted for miles about both in Pickaway & Ross Counties.
but could find no place big enough for us to make a living on but what was so high a price we could not make the payments I did not want a home of any.

Never again and that is what caused to go west there is nothing that I desire of the things of this world so much as home.

Alfred has bought 80 acres of praire loc

paid eight hundred down and five in

November and next 880 year eight 880

there is asmall frame house on it alone

on one side and one end he is not farming

it himself he rented it to the man he bought

it of for $200.50 dollars there was thirty

five acres of sod which the man broke in the bargain also gives him two more

board and much ground for truck he

wants he is having a quarter of a mile of

which he thinks it is the nicest

place that can be found I guess he
thinks it is the eden of the world, he has been offered 40 dollars an acre for it by the man he bought it of which is nine more than we gave well Mary if I live to get out there I shall expect AG and you to make us a visit again also to H and Ellen it is in Jackson County near the line of Clay County. Greenwood is the nearest town 3 miles Lee's Summit is five miles twenty-four miles from Kansas City and thirteen from Independence.

June 1 AG has wrote to AG and I Roberts but received no answer did he get the letter he wants to hear from you very much write to him his post office address is Lee Summit Jackson County is yours. AG is a little better than when you left this here are you getting along as well to succeed in buying for his farm he has the prospect for a good crop of wheat and corn will you have any for apples and peaches will be plenty or both we are all as well as usual only I have the back ache your mother and Elizabeth joins me in love to one and all write soon I have not wrote all I wanted but must close for want of time.

Yours affectionately said to Mr. Roberts to AG McC Roberts
December 31st, 1871.

Dear Sister,

I received your letter some time ago but have had no chance to write. Mary Ellen has been sick 4 weeks but is up now but not able to do but little. She had the Diphtheria, they had no one to do any thing and we had to be there nearly all the time we are as well as usual except she is suffering a good deal with her head and neck, the Dr. says it is rheumatism but I dont believe he knows what it is aunt Betty has been at uncle Davids 3 weeks they was well the last I heard from them, it has been quite healthy this winter in this neighbourhood. Mrs. Dowden has come back
and brought girl with her but I don’t think she will last long. She is the awfullest looking sight I ever saw. She is sweled all over till she looks like she would burst, her sufferings is awful, her and grandmother is both lying at Osias and they don’t know which will die first.” Sam Garner died 4 weeks ago he was strick with the palsy from his hips down he lasted 4 weeks from the time of the stroke, we have had some very cold weather, I think some as cold weather as I ever felt the last two or three days has been warm and today it has been thundering and raining all day, we have not had much snow yet
I am afraid when this time we will have it colder as green it has been very hard on the wheat, we have not heard anything from Chillicothe for a long time. Sarah Hall has a girl 3 weeks old. She came very near dying last week. She is better now. John Deel lives in Mrs. Dowden's kitchen. They were married in August, and they have a boy a week old on the first time. I have not had any work this winter to make anything. I have a coat for Geo. Dunbar. The first I have heard this winter give our love to Jack and the children. This winter and tell her I would like to have a letter from her. Tom says he thinks it is time he had a letter from you it is so long since he had any from you.
write soon and till we all
our love to your one
the news and more at present
but remain your Mother and
Sister till death A.B. and E.A. Sick
a happy new year to you all
December 31st 1871.

Dear Nannie, I expect you
think I am not going to write
to you and it looks something
like it, I have not been at
home very much since I
got yours and have no time to write I am
glad to hear that you and the
other children are learning
so fast and hope you will
improve every moment,
I thank you very much for
the collar and those pieces
they are very nice the pie-
ces I shall put in my log
cabin I have a hundred and
fifty squares done and it will
take fifty more your grandma
join me in love to you and all
the children so good bye for this time
a happy new year to you all E.A. Sick.
January 8, 1873

Dear Mary,

I received your letter two weeks ago. I was very glad to hear from you though I did not think you would write to me until I wrote to you but had been looking for one from Ellen but did not get it till the day after I got yours. I found from the date it had been written about six weeks I wonder I got it at all. I am alone today and think it my best chance to write to you. We moved from the old box the sixteenth of Nov. It was a little cold that day but we did not have far to go only a mile and three quarters we are in a good house a story and a half high two rooms below and one above it a frame weather boarded out and sealed inside its not as warm as plastered house but quite comfortable. I appreciate the change very much there is a quiet stable very conveniently placed all horses have the epizootic but in amiliform. We have used them for two weeks they realize the benefit of a good stable this cold stormy weather it commenced snowing and storming Thursday before Christmas and it has snowed every few days or nights since it rained last Thursday night and steered on the snow and on the young fruit trees and everything ice to clings to and a great deal of it is still on and to make it worse it rained like it snowed and stormed all day Saturday and part of the night till the snow is quite deep and drifted in.
immense piles the weather it is said was colder the day before Christmas than ever has been known before twenty degrees below zero it has caught the farmers in a bad spot not one in a dozen has all their Corn gathered Alf has not quite done gathering his he has not sold his only load now and then he trades for groceries at twenty cents a bushel there is no demand for Corn now and it is not known now what the price will be there is a great many cattle in the country but not a great many to be fed for spring market Alf has not bought any stock he only rented this horse till the first of March he talks of going to Bates County where he can get land for less than one fourth what it could be bought for here there is plenty of timber and coal there and the land is good too I have no objection to going there so we get alone and don’t have to be moving two or three times a year I like country here very well and the people far are I have made acquaintance but there is no small places here to sell and prices are to high there is a great may came here the four or five years ago and bought large farms at high prices paid all the money they could at that time and expected to raise enough on the land to finish paying for it and the lower prices of produce caused them to fail and their land sold to pay for its self it is not the fault of Coventry people was too greedy they bought too much land more than they could
improve or lay taxes on the land produce all kinds of 
grains & vegetables if it's put in in good and half worked 
we raised vegetables nearly enough we planted cucumber seed they 
done well I put up a bit of pickles I could have put up more but I thou 
got it was enough we planted cabbage plants a week or more after 
I come they are pretty good we have them bunched here Alf had planted 
butter beans in his corn we had them to our hearts content Alf 
says he never had as many as he could eat before I gathered more than 
several of dry ones we have half a peck of brown peas that are good in 
winter and some over two barrels of dole bounds we gathered them 
all by hand and I pounded them out in the wash tub with the roll 
ing pin so they are clean and nice and few faulty ones among 
them I saved turnip seed and had them plenty while we stayed there 
but turned so cold destroyed them before he had a chance to take care of 
them but we get all we want at Cold well's Alf got his early rose 
Potatoes dug and buried in good time he thinks there's between fifty 
and sixty bushels he bought three bushels and a half of peaches they 
were all things I cannot twelve half gallon cans and more quarts and 
made five quarts of butter he got two bushels only of winter 
apples they sold from seventy five cents to a dollar they was not as plen 
ty as they was last year I have been very busy most of the time So 
we moved we boardedolumn and his son nearly two weeks they 
were corn gatherers and left when the snow fell I dont 
think we made any thing by it Alf agreed to board the two for five
Dollars and they could drink coffee enough in twenty-four hour to satiate a small stout. The old man took three and a half cups and often four. The boy two and sometimes a half and other things in proportion. I was glad when they left. I got up at five and had breakfast by candle-light and fix their dinners for them to take to the field. I have made my carpet and have it on the floor. It lacks one width of covering the floor. It's a large room, it makes four widths. It looks very nice. We have the clock fixed. It runs good as ever. It strikes so loud and has such a clattering. It is admired by all that hear it. The man that fixed it says it's the best clock he ever handled. He cleaned it but did not oil it. He says it makes the dust stick to it and gums it and causes them to stop. Mrs. Coldwell is gone to Ohio. She started 6 of 87. She intends to stay till spring. You don't know how much I miss her. She came so often to see me and is such a good neighbor. Sarah A. Jones sent me colder to send your or five weeks ago that Tripp ella Orr had sent to her. She was quite unwell with sore throat. She said they had never been well. Two weeks at a time for five years and Amanda Birdum was dead and Eliza was no better. But still got worse. Have you heard from her and Ann? I have had no letters from this time I came to Jackson County.
Greenwood Jackson
County Ind
April 9 1875
Dear May,
It has been a long time since I received your letter and you think no doubt that I am very slow in answering it which is true. But I will now try to give you a sketch of our moves and removers. We moved into Greenwood the 3 of March but could not get the house we had rented for 8th months till the 15. We got a house down in the heart of town that no one had lived in for a long time where a hotel had kept it very dirty. Every place in every room was covered with dust but we did not unpack our things only such as we could not do without and therefore I did not clean only the rooms we occupy well on the 15 we moved in the house we now live in which made a week or two of scrubbing unpacking and fixing up. I got very tired. I assure you yours.
We rented this for six months and have the privilege of renting it six months longer if we need it, we pay 25 dollars for the six months. Alf says he will have a home of his own and not make but one more mess of a place lot more than an acre and a half with apple and peach trees, blackberry bushes, gooseberry bushes, and seven bunches of jicquelant it's not very thrifty looking. I have too one pie there is some young shade trees set near the house it's a good comfortable house with roof rooms and a nice cellar but it's alone, people here don't seem to know how to use almost it is of I don't know of one in this place and only here and there one in the county. Alfred planted nearly all the ground in potatoes only a small garden place I have made nearly all my garden in lettuce and yolk cabbage onions and peas have been up some time. My early beets are coming up but the weather has been so cold that nothing can grow much week before last it snowed nearly two days and nights and was cold
nearly all the week and last week from Tuesday morning to Saturday evening it was cold and froze some nights considerably. It commenced raining yesterday morning and rained all day and part of the night. The ground is very wet and the air quite cold and chilly. All left home three weeks ago this morning. Right. He went to Coldwater that night Wesley and him and two others were going together and a half dozen or more tres to start from See's Summit at the same time. The man they bought of was going along they pay four dollars ahead for yearlings and they got two years old they got a hundred head a piece they give all together in coming back and each pays and equal share of the expenses they then they will double their money but I have no such thoughts but I hope they will come out on the safe side. I put off writing to you thinking I would get a letter from him but none has come yet you don't know how lonesome I am
I have no settled work to do of my own, and no one has given me any to do as yet. I put in my spare hours in reading. I have read the Bible about one-third through since we moved to this house, and more than half the Repository, besides other books and papers. I have my bed cloths to wash, but I will not do that till the weather gets settled. I have plenty of rain water to wash with. I have not heard anything from Ohio since you wrote to me if you hear from there, tell me in your next.

I have been to two of the churches since I was here: the Presbyterian and the Congregational. The last named preaches Methodist doctrine and sings Methodist hymns, but the other denominations don't like him because he preaches stiffness of heart and that is too strong for them. They think we must find some
Dear Cousins,

Don't be surprised to hear from a stranger. It must seem that I am getting to be, for it has been a long time since we met, and a long time since we have heard from each other and yet we are not so many miles apart. I have thought so much and often about writing to you but lack of time prevented. Sister Lizzie Rose is now with me and she joins me in this to you desiring very much to hear from you. She has been with me since October but will go away in a few weeks more, either to

Osceola, Kansas
Jan 19, 1886

J. D. McRoberts
Dubuque, Iowa or Jefferson, Wisconsin. As her husband, Mr. Robs is now there and has not decided on which place he will accept in discharge of his pastoral duties, he is a Minister of the Presbyterian Church, and has been preaching for the last three or four years in Massachusetts and Vermont. Lizzie started West last spring for her health since he decided to come too.

Now something about myself. I have been here in Kansas it will be four years next March, I was married to my present husband Mr. Hild in November before in Chicago and stayed in Illinois all winter. Then came to here to Gabelle County, Kansas where we purchased a claim as it is called here of 124 acres of land on the prairie we have built a house put up and a large orchard and hedged it, and every year raised...
near a hundred acres of wheat
my husband farms in summer
and teaches school all winter
and has been Justice of Peace near
three years here and has a great
deal of law business to attend to.
We have five children four boys
from Hills and not mine, I have
just one a little curly headed
bright girl of nearly three years
she knows all her Alphabet and
can spell some words. Our oldest
boy is seventeen years old and
is now in Oswego Medizing medicine.
The other three are home attending
school now. My husband is a native
of Ross County Ohio living at Clarkburg
and one of my old friends of years
ago before his first marriage.
he is a good kind, true faithful
husband and respected and trusted
by all who knew him in the
Community I met your brother.
James McRoberts the first summer we came here I accidentialy met him in a crowd at a fourth of July celebration in Oswego. We recognized each other in great astonishment not knowing and we were a thousand miles apart but we discovered that we lived within five miles, his wife and family were with him. Soon after that I went to Ohio and stayed a month after coming back I met him again in Oswego he was anxious to hear all about Ohio and promised to visit me the next Sunday with his family but before that time he was taken sick with heart disease and never came from again. In December he died and I did not hear of it for some time after since his wife Catherine has been to visit me and I have been to see her. She has three children, a black boy and two little girls one ten years old and one four years old. Nearly two years ago she married a much younger man than herself named Harkness and last fall he stole some of her property and ran away and left her. Her father has wanted her several times and paid for and hedged her farm and planted an orchard.

I have written this more nearly as
Greenwood July 19, 1874

Dear Mary,

I received your very welcome letter some weeks ago but put off answering it I don't know what else but for a more convenient time as you truly glad to hear from you once that you are all well I think as it the first time since I been on Jackson Co. I am pleased to hear that you are getting along so well & that it has a prospect of a good crop the bugs has been doing their usual work of destruction here they have destroyed a great many acres of corn and late boiled wheat and oats & the extreme heat and dry weather has nearly parched the gardens to death I had very nice peas and beans but they are done now and other vegetables are at a stand. The little bugs and green worms won't let the cabbage grow the tomatoes has stood the dry hot weather very well we have some of the early kind that will be getting ripe
S. B. Wood 20 June 1868

In the evening of the 20th of June we had a very heavy rain. The whole day was dark and gloomy. After the rain the sky was clear and the sun shone bright.

Before long we had a good rain last Friday evening the first. For three or four weeks I have been feeling very sad. I was home the 22nd of April. He was gone only three weeks when he got to Kansas where his cattle was. He learned that cattle was dying very fast and some of his had died. He sold to the man that winter they had been well kept, but fearing that he would lose more of his as it was a general thing all over the State and in Missouri too. He sold soon as he could and on time and trade he brought a new wagon and a good team of young horses and the horse he had on and set of good harness and quite a lot of bacon that was ready to be sold. He sold it in two days after he came back at some more than what he gave the other things are not so to get money is scarce. He had to get and he don't like to sell them on time unless he sees a prospect of getting it without any trouble. His leading horse he don't want to sell now not that he wants to
He came down to Long Creek last Wednesday but didn't see any of the cattle again for I think he is perfectly satisfied with what he has done on his lot and had no fence around it when he bought it and when he came home he put a good substantial board fence around it so we are not in dread of stock breaking into the planted green potato beds the after he came home but the dry weather has been so hard on them that we have only had a few mashes he planted a hundred and 25 sweet potatoes they look splendid we have patches of beans and some late potatoes of rains enough to bring them through we will have enough to do as we have our front yard mostly made up in flower beds and set in flowers I wish you could see my bed of moss it is covered all over it blooms out early and closes about ten o'clock I have one hen and thirteen chickens as big as quails but I fear I will have to coop them when the tomatoes begins to ripen I would like to have some of your early apples and peaches and grapes but it is too far to go to sell our cans these hard times
Sister can now get better things

You can now get letters from all the other places.

Dinner and wine were

There has been some apples brought in at 80 cents.

and a dollar a bushel.

There is plenty of peaches of

the dry weather to keep them and abundance

of grapes.

Three weeks ago Christian Jones came to

see me for the first time. She has got a good

home and plenty of quiet the year. She looks

well. She got a little some and by a few days

before he is on Montana Territory on the mount

cross mining. Wesley is in the valley farming

but not far apart well and hearty.

Alexander in Pennsylvania he is located and they have one

child. I have not been as well this summer

as I was last. I have had the rheumatism

in my arms and shoulders all summer.

and I can learn on stick. They

are civil as one but I am better of the

rheumatism than I was some time ago.

but I still do the work I have to do and

could do more if I had to do it forever.
Osceola, Kansas, May 1st, 1876

Dear Mrs.

Your kind letter of last Sunday I received three days after it was mailed. I am here all alone this evening. The family have all gone to a funeral to bury a granger. I believe that they will have the grangers funeral sermon. I wanted to go but I have been to Sunday School and gun fired besides the wind howled so hard that I might take cold. I got a little chilled this morning going 600 feet or a distance. It is about 10 miles...
to the house and then right back to the graveyard on this farm. And am not feeling well at all have the worst diarrhea all the time now and have had ever since I have been here. I don't cough so much as I did. Those sores hurt me a good deal yet.

It had a great time getting ready this morning. We were all ready and Nancy had her skirt done up soon, but such a time as it took her to get that young one ready. She mind kick and run and then come back and scream at her another to hurry and get her ready. She was as you would be getting all if you were ready.
She got mad and scolded
but it did on good. She
says that women surely
have no worse Hell than
the Hell of having young ones.
Lizzie is more bother
than half a dozen children
ought to be. She is real
smart though.
I hate to hear Nancy talk
the way she does about
people having children. She says
that it lowers a woman to have
children. If this is true they
are a low lot around here for
nearly everybody has five or six
boys and most if them one girl.
It is a great place for boys
but few girls. People visit here
more than they do at home. The
women go out in the week and
then on Sunday they all go.
more or less, Mrs. Hill doesn't go about much, and when she does it is only to certain places that suit her. I met a man, or he overtook me rather one day when I rode out. I asked him what his name was. He said it was Greene. He seems like a good, old man and when he turned off another road he asked me to come and see his wife. When I went home I asked Nancy what kind of a woman Mrs. Greene was. "Oh, she is one of those very zealous Methodist who shout and carry on at big meetings," this was her answer and she said it in sarcasm.

She talks specifically about the church members all the while. She is very kind to me though. Joe is a good boy in his way, he teaches a class in S.S. Robert is about well again.
Oswege Kansas
May 24th, 1876

Dear Aunt,

I just got a letter from Ma and she told me the news about the baby, another girl and what will you call it, not for one I know so I don't ask it. I would like to see the dear little girl and with newcomer does it look like little Marie did and has it the same faculty of doing funny things in people's pockets that Marie had? Nan can explain I suppose that Marie can walk and talk by this time. Sister? How does she seem to like the little
You ought to sell out and come down here. I know you would like it here. The people are so much more sociable than there. These all from the free states. There are but few colored people here. I have not seen one. There are no negroes, but there are plenty of white girls who work out. Nice girls too. I know two hired girls near here whose fathers are very well off but there are not so many at home that there was nothing much for them to do so they hire out. They ask from one to two dollars a month. Land here is cheap. There is a farm of 100 acres about two miles from here that can be bought for 16 dollars per acre half in bottom and the house stands on an elevation that commands a view of all the surrounding country.
a great many persons have come here and taken claims and spent every thing to improve them and now have to sell some to get out of debt. All the farms on one or two improved. They just out such large orchards and only trees. Mr. Hill has a great variety of shade and ornamental trees and a large orchard of all fruits and black berries, raspberries, gooseberries, grapes & strawberries. Strawberries don't do well here. We were visiting Sunday when they have several acres in blackberries. There will likely be considerable emigration to this county during the coming season. Mr. Hill gets letters every once in a while asking about the country. The principal crop here is wheat, but good corn can be raised in this season, and always in the bottom. The stalk is not so large but the ears look as large as the ears at home.
ills oldest boy will be home on Saturday.

Joe the second one is a young man in

size and appearance he is 18 years old.

the next one Willie ran away about a year

ago. Robert the youngest is 14 and can

do a man's work. Nancy's girl is 5 and

sucks in the second reader. She is a spoiled

child. Nancy don't whip her for any

thing but telling lies.

She is a strange child acts and

talks like an old person. Since she

has been going to Sunday school she goes

around reflecting verses about Jesus and Heaven and

Nancy wonders how the child

like 8 years get filled with

such orthodox ideas.

We have been some where nearly

every Sunday since Aunt have been

here. People visit here a good deal.

There is a Mr. McLean Carey here tonight

I must go down and talk him talk a

while before I go to bed. With when

convenient. Love to all the family.

Yours Respectfully Anselma