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1/7/41

Osawatomie Kansas

February 5th 1865

Dear Parents

As Roxanna has been writing to Kate I will write a few lines to you I dont know what I have anything of interest to write but will endeavor to say something if it is not quite so concerning my health continues good and I am having very pleasant times this winter teaching I have the pleasantest school that I ever had and am advancing them very rapidly and giving the very best satisfaction. I am attending singing school this winter and think I am learning very fast we give a concert in about two weeks and I sing tenor to four quartetts alone. you had better come out and hear us I will give you a free ticket

I begin to feel some encouraged for Government is trying to make a law equalizing the bounty to all Soldiers and as I never had any it will help me three hundred dollars and that with my winters wages and a good turn and a happy home will be a good start till father I have a better span of mares than I ever in that neighborhood and they are going to bring me colts in the spring. I have not decided what I shall do next summer but rather think I shall teach I can get the school in town and get 60 dollars a month if I cant do any better I shall do that and then go on a buffalo hunt in the fall

and if I do that I will send you some robes and a
piece of buffalo meat. The school land that I wrote
you about has been appraised at 4.25 and some of
it sold I could go on to a quarter by paying the annual
interest but think I can do better by waiting until I have
the money to buy with I do not like the idea of paying
interest for a thousand years.

I dont suppose that this lingo will interest you much
and will bring it to a close. Sometimes I think of you that are
living back there in that rocky rough and cold country
almost with pity and although I am poor very poor
I would not come back to live for the best farm in the
country. and now Father and mother I want to ask
you if you dont think you can rent your farm and
come out and see us next summer it would just
be a pleasant trip for you to come to Illinois and
see our friends there come here and see us and go
up to Wis and see Helberts folks. you are amply able
while your children are out or me at least and you
would pass the time pleasantly for yourselves and carry
happiness to the homes of those to whom you are dear.

do now conclude to come and what our home
lacks of luxury we will make up by the cordiality
of our greetings. Tell Mary I am obliged for her photo
and will send mine to her when I have some taken.
write soon and tell me all the news
Believe me as ever

O. J. Laddell