

EVER DEAR COUSIN...AN ANNOTATED
HISTORIOGRAPHY OF MID-19TH CENTURY GERMAN-
AMERICAN SETTLERS IN THE MIDWEST UNITED STATES

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By

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Ever Dear Cousin...
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To the Rauch Family.....

and

To my husband Dave, and my children Matthew and Justin,
for their continued support and patience while I was completing my degree

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I. THE STORY BEHIND THE LETTERS

The story of how I came into possession of the collection of letters in this thesis began four years ago. My father-in-law, John Rauch, had brought a stack of letters still in their envelopes, accompanied by an undated family letter giving the entire history of genealogy of the Rauch family. After tracing the family tree, I came to a conclusion the letters were written to Jonathan C. Rauch, my husband's great grandfather of Ohio and keeper of the letters. At first glance, the letters appeared to be no more than pleasant conversation between relatives. An index card noting stamp values as well as another envelope marked "Best of the Lot" gave a clue that the letters and envelopes were kept for the value of the stamps. As I read through the letters, I began to notice references to historical events and activities of daily living pertaining to pioneering the midwestern states of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, as well as parts of Ohio and some Civil War letters from Kentucky and Ohio – the beginnings of my thesis.

The handling of the letters needed to be done with care so as to not be damaged by the oils from the hands. I used cotton and non-latex gloves. The letters were stored in acid-free Mylar protectors and paper and flattened away from sunlight. The condition of the letters was surprisingly good considering they were kept in their envelopes for over 150 years, quite possibly last read by Jonathan the day he received them. After the letters were flattened and scanned, I began the tedious task of transcribing each letter. I kept much of the format and phonetic spelling in the original copy. Handwriting was difficult

in some cases to read as it was very small and faint, or words were not recognizable. Blank lines in the transcribed copies denote places that could not be transcribed. The quality of paper ranged from thin two-fold blue or discolored yellow, to a plain piece of ruled notebook paper. A few of the letters contained logos from churches or military regiments. Also included were newspaper clippings.

In October of 2009, I received an Honors Thesis Research Grant, which gave me the opportunity to travel to Iowa to research the properties and records of the letter writers in Keokuk and Des Moines, Iowa. Beginning in Chicago, I took the 4-hour drive to Keokuk, Iowa passing through Joliet, Illinois along the very same route my letter writers may have traveled in their westward journey from Ohio. After completing much of my research in Keokuk and at the Des Moines Iowa State Historical Society, I found the properties of Samuel Boatman and Martin McCready.

Traveling to these two cities provided me with additional research I otherwise would not have acquired. It also gave me a perspective of what the landscape was like - the cold weather, rolling hills and plains, the bends and twists of the Mississippi and Des Moines Rivers. I traveled to Alexandria, Missouri, the home of Margaret Boatman, which is only three miles from Keokuk, to find no town and/or landmarks, just the after-effects of the last flood – a fallen over water tower, rebuilt makeshift post office, and a few trailer homes. As farms still dot the landscape, just as they did 150 years ago, I thought about the farmers today who have not abandoned their land just like the Boatmans because of harsh weather conditions.

I hope these letters give the reader a different perspective of what life was like

during the 1850s and 1860s in the Midwest United States along and west of the Mississippi River and also how the Germans and German-American literature became a key influence in the area's culture and population during this period.

II. INTRODUCTION – GO WEST!

Early to mid-19th century America was a time when the Midwest offered open opportunity to settlers who wished to take advantage of it. Westward expansion was popular not only to Americans in the eastern region of the United States, but also to foreigners. The early part of the century brought thousands of Germans west of the Mississippi, 88,487 to the Missouri territory and 50,410 to the city of St. Louis alone.¹ They were in search of better opportunity, fleeing an oppressive country whose agricultural technology failed to advance with the rest of the world.² Many other factors can be attributed to the German immigration. Frontier travel literature about western America, primarily the territory along and west of the Mississippi, began to emerge in Germany during the early 19th century.³ Even in America, German authors such as Charles Sealsfield and Friedrich Gerstäcker were becoming popular with their fictional frontier travel literature in English translation. When German author Gottfried Duden came to America from Cologne in 1824, he became the epitome of the phrase "jack of all trades," including traveler to the west – eventually starting his own farm in Missouri. His journeys to America, primarily the west, inspired him to keep a journal from 1824 to 1827. When he returned to Germany in 1827, he published an account of his travels, thus setting in motion the immigration of unhappy Germans to the western frontier of America. The allure of Missouri and Iowa especially caught their attention because of

promotional German-American literature. The influx of European emigrants to Midwest America added to the number of Americans pioneering their way from New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, through the plains of Illinois, to Missouri and Iowa. Some went as far as the prairies of Wisconsin and Michigan, but this thesis's historical context will focus on Missouri and Iowa, with some relevant mention of Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky.

Jonathan C. Rauch lived in Ohio during the mid-19th century. Many of his German-American relatives from the east as well as surrounding areas of Ohio grasped onto the idea of migration west of the Mississippi River. They left their family and friends to settle in unknown territory. Through written correspondence, Jonathan became a primary contact to their previous home. As he read each letter and replied, Jonathan placed each one back in their envelopes. In one envelope, filled with smaller envelopes and letters, he wrote "best of the lot" alongside notations of stamp values. Such notations led to speculation as to the reason this particular collection of handwritten letters were read, saved, well preserved well into the 21st century. The letters provide a glimpse into the life of these Midwestern settlers from 1855 through 1866, representing the everyday hardships and feelings they were experiencing, as well as the economic, social, and political climates over a span of thirteen years. The letters create the setting and mood as each writer, with pen-in-hand, unsuccessfully encouraged their relative, Jonathan, to move westward. Their eyewitness accounts surpass the legitimacy of any history book in that they were writing letters as history occurred – firsthand witnesses and participants to activities of daily living in the surrounding western territories.

Illustrations, historical documentation, literary influences, scholarly and expert opinion, as well as eyewitness accounts transcribed, extracted, and annotated from the

collection of original letters written to John C. Rauch during the early to mid-19th century by his relatives who settled in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois, shape the historiographical narrative depicting the everyday life of mid-19th century German and German-American settlers to the Midwest America.

V. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

HISTORY OF MICHIGAN- WISCONSIN-MISSOURI-IOWA TERRITORIES

Illinois and the northern parts of Iowa were originally part of the Michigan Territory 1830, with the southern portions of Iowa and Missouri part of Missouri territory and Missouri being admitted as a state in 1820 (a result of the Missouri Compromise). As borders reorganized, Iowa became part of Wisconsin Territory between the years 1836 and 1838, then Iowa Territory in 1838; although, “before the first of June, 1833, there were few Americans living in what is now Iowa – probably only forty or fifty [...] on the Half-Breed Tract¹, between the Des Moines and Mississippi Rivers.”² These settlers became known as “the first real settlers in what is now Lee County.” Land sales had begun in the year 1838 through a public sale.³ The first steamboat arrived in Iowa City via the Iowa River in the year 1840.

Frontier literature played an important role in influencing Europeans to make the migration west, especially the Germans who followed the leads of many German authors who traveled and wrote about their experiences west of the Mississippi River, called the Midwest United States, including Gottfried Duden, Friedrich Gerstaecker, and Charles Sealsfield.⁴ Americans were drawn to the territory thanks to promotional literature such as Lieutenant Albert M. Lea’s *1836 Notes on the Wisconsin Territory*; with particular reference to the Iowa District or Black Hawk Purchase. Lea’s primary purpose was “intended as information for immigrants.”⁵ He described the climate as, in winter, “generally dry, cold, and bracing,” springtime a “succession of rains, blows, and chills,” and summer producing “rapid vegetation and yet it is seldom oppressively hot.” He described “neatly hewed log cabins” of the first settlers “with

their fields stretching far into the prairies.”⁶ Lea’s description did not fall far from the earlier expeditions and experiences noted in the journals of German-American authors, Gottfried Duden and Charles Sealsfield, and the additional fictional frontier literature of Sealsfield as well as Friedrich Gerstäcker, who all published their accounts ten years earlier. The impact of these German-American authors related to the German migration westward, as well as their influence on the increasingly large population of first settlers is relevant to the cultural growth of Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois and will be discussed in a separate chapter. A comparative analysis of the writings of these German authors depicting daily life and travels west with the letters of Rauch’s family and friends will help determine the extent to which the German-American authors embellished or accurately notated the travails of midwestern pioneers.

Becoming the first settlers in Iowa and Missouri was a difficult task, especially the travel cross-country. As Europeans were braving passage on trading vessels, Americans out east were looking “to the unsettled and western portions of our country where the land was cheap, and nature was as yet unsubdued.”⁷ Even the national newspapers⁸ could not ignore the rapid migration west:

*For miles and miles," said the Iowa City Reporter, "day after day, the prairies of Illinois are lined with cattle and wagons, pushing on towards our prosperous state [...] during a single month seventeen hundred and forty-three [1,743] wagons had passed, and all for Iowa. From early morning till night-fall, the covered wagons are passing through this place. We should think that at least a thousand persons pass through Oskaloosa every week."*⁸ (Iowa City Reporter)

*...20,000 immigrants have passed through the city within the last twenty days, and they are still crossing at the rate of 600 to 700 a day[...] The ferries at Dubuque were just as busy. "Daily - yes, hourly - immigrants are arriving in this and neighboring counties from Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois."*⁹ (Burlington)

Day by day the endless procession moves on - a mighty army of invasion. They come by hundreds and by thousands from the hills and valleys of New England. (Dubuque Reporter)

A *Teamsters Guide to Iowa* was published in 1838 containing advice for those wishing to move to Iowa by wagon (see Fig. 1). Some of the most popular cities of settlement

were Keokuk, Iowa, along the banks of the Mississippi and Des Moines Rivers and the state's southern border, and Fort Des Moines in the state's northwest region along the Des Moines River. When settlers would reach their destination "the first thing they undertook was the erection of a cabin for the shelter and protection of the family."¹⁰ At first Keokuk seemed, as a traveler noted in 1835, "the lowest and most blackguard place, infested with coarse and ferocious watermen."¹¹ As the years progressed, Keokuk developed into a prosperous town housing many prominent figures, including President Abraham Lincoln's appointed Chief Justice, Samuel F. Miller, as well as Mark Twain and his mother. Fort Des Moines eventually became the capital of Iowa moving from its previous eastern location of Dubuque. St. Louis and St. Joseph Missouri were also popular destinations for settlers, although the cheap, open territory appealed more to the immigrant wishing to own affordable property. Many of the annotated letters that follow this introduction are from settlers of Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois who left the comforts of family and home in New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, to pursue the same dream of their ancestors who left Europe for America in the mid-18th century. John C. Rauch's grandparents were amongst those relatives who left the political and religious persecution of Germany for the free lands of Pennsylvania and Ohio in 1727 and 1740.

¹⁰"In 1820 there came across the Mississippi a man who has been called the first American settler in Iowa - Dr. Samuel C. Muir. He was a Scotchman by birth and a squaw-man by marriage. He was an army surgeon and when the government for the good of the service forbade and annulled Indian marriages among officers, he refused to comply. Dr. Muir built a cabin for his dusky brood on the site of the present city of Keokuk. If the squaw-men were barred as army officers, the half-breed children were so many that they became a problem for both races. Most of them grew up as savages for they naturally associated most with their mothers. Their social status was uncertain...but the Indians were loyal to all who were of their blood. It was at their own suggestion and insistence that the tract of land lying between the Des Moines and the Mississippi rivers, above their confluence, was set aside for these half-breeds and it was known as the Half-Breed Tract." Cyrenus Cole, *History of the People of Iowa*, (Cedar Rapids: The Torch Press, 1921), 76-77.

¹¹Ibid., 152.

¹²Ibid., 151.

⁴“Between 1827 and 1856 over a hundred and fifty titles that could be considered emigration literature were published in Germany...the majority dealt with the United States. Agents representing land companies, steamship lines, railroads, state governments, and manufacturing interests flooded Europe, disrupted enticing literature, and influenced many Europeans to emigrate to the New World...it was the German people who seemed most susceptible to promotional literature.” Gottfried Duden, *Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America and a Stay of Several Years Along the Missouri (During the Years 1824, '25, '26, and 1827)*, (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1980), vii.

⁵Cole, 189.

⁶*Ibid.*, 191.

⁷Gibson, Lamb, Cranmer, Brant, & Fuller, *History of the Upper Ohio Valley Account of Coumbiana County Ohio*, (University of Michigan: Brant & Fuller, 1891), 156 and 190.

⁸ Cole, 239.

⁹*Ibid.*, 239-240.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, 158.

¹¹*Ibid.*, 161.

¹²*Ibid.*, 286.

EARLY 19TH CENTURY IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION: THE GERMAN INFLUENCE

The allure of Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois began in the early 19th century. Territory along and west of the Mississippi River attracted both Americans and Europeans, with the largest population of non-English speaking immigrants from Germany.¹³ German author, Gottfried Duden, concluded in his *Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America*, “that [by 1822] the major problems of the German people in his region stemmed from the political, social, and economic consequences of overpopulation.”¹⁴ He believed the Mississippi Valley was most similar to the landscape of Germany and would therefore be the most ideal for Germans to adapt; therefore, he “concluded that German emigrants headed for America ought to join Americans in their westward movement and try to locate these areas with a low man-to-land ratio that nevertheless offered an abundance of economic opportunities.”¹⁵ His narration of the topography along the Midwest frontier of Ohio, Illinois, and Missouri became very influential promotional material. Charles Sealsfield (also known as Karl Postl or Charles Seatsfield) perhaps became an even more popular and influential author of frontier literature not only to his fellow Germans but also American readers as well. His travel journal reflects some similarities to Duden, although he emphasizes more of the social and political sentiment of the country. His accounts of traveling through New Orleans and up the Mississippi River filter into his fictional works, which were widely popular among other American authors such as Nathaniel Hawthorne. Friedrich

Gerstcker is another author who wrote about his experiences in America through fictional short stories. All the German authors mentioned lived in America for varying years before returning to Germany with Gerstcker remaining the longest until 1862.

The fiction of Gerstcker and Sealsfield share many similar accounts of travels up the Mississippi, although Sealsfield’s *Life in the New World or Sketches of American Society* seems more novel-like compared to Gerstcker’s series of short stories in *Western Lands and Western Waters*. The works of all three created a fantasy-world within the Midwest United States. As Duden passed through Illinois, he was not impressed with the prairies or large meadows and advised “no one should voluntarily leave Europe to settle on these plains as a farmer.” He talks about the fertile soil of Missouri and how he settled down “about fifty English miles above the mouth of the Missouri...about two hundred seventy [acres].”¹⁶ The cost of land purchased from the government at the time was “one and one-fourth dollars per acre (Morgen of 160 square Ruten).” In September of 1825, Duden expressed his observance that “every day during this season immigrants from Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and so forth arrive. If these people had to travel in the European manner, their desire to emigrate would soon vanish.”¹⁷ Sealsfield adds while in Cincinnati, “the inhabitants are chiefly American born, with some admixture of Germans, French, and Irish.”¹⁸ There is overwhelming evidence that German culture made a significant influence on the 19th century population of the Midwest – from the number of settlements of German farmers to the education system to the promotional frontier literature. Duden substantiates this evidence in his

Eight and Tenth Letters describing the territories of Tarlton and Cincinnati, Ohio:

*One meets many Germans in this state. Their farmsteads and their cultivated fields are conspicuous for their excellence. Germans in America have the reputation for engaging in agricultural industry, and the descendants of Englishmen proclaim without hesitation that they like the German immigrants the best... About ten English miles before Cincinnati we entered the beautiful valley of the Little Miami, which is well settled, and mostly by Germans.*¹⁹

Sealsfield's travel log while in St. Louis, Missouri, also establishes the influence of German settlement of Cape Girardeau "in the state of Missouri...The settlement mostly consists of Frenchmen and German Redemptioners."²⁰ At first these foreigners were addicted to town life, especially in the cities along the Mississippi, but later they became more widely scattered and more distinctly rural. Nor was the new American immigration wholly homogeneous. There were two rather distinct currents. One came from the Atlantic states and the other from the trans-Allegheny states.²¹

The German-American population expanded the growth of Iowa before and after the Civil War.²² In 1855, one of the largest population and permanent German settlements of Iowa was in the town of Amana, "scattered over 26,000 acres of land. Colonists from Germany, by way of New York State"²³ built an isolated communal religious colony. Into the early 20th century, most of the residents of Amana primarily spoke German. Further evidence of the influence of German settlement as well as influence and interest of politics were through German newspapers in major cities such as Davenport, Iowa.²⁴ Abraham Lincoln's appointed Chief Justice, Samuel F. Miller, a resident of Keokuk, Iowa in 1850, was recognized as being of German ancestry.

In Crete Township, Illinois, William Rinne was the first Germans to settle on the prairies. Eventually "the German settlement grew most rapidly from 1848 till 1856."²⁵ In Joliet Township, "immigrants were coming in so fast that it is impossible after this long lapse of time to keep trace often."²⁶ In the year 1838, "the great land sale of 1835 caused

a great rush of immigration to this section and a rage of land speculation....”²⁷ German churches of every denomination were being built and housing schools in their basements. Similar to Iowa and Missouri, German newspapers were also established. In Freeport, Illinois, German immigrant, Wilhelm Wagner, purposely founded the newspaper *Deutsche Zeitung* to flee the oppression of Germany and praise the liberties of his new homeland, America.²⁸

The following excerpts begin a brief historiographical narration, a glimpse, into the lives of pioneer families who traveled from the eastern United States in the spirit of their European ancestors - “ordinary people connected with those events we all know from history books,”²⁹ becoming a “sociohistorical study: [that] tries to put the rather personal family events into a larger perspective....to demonstrate their relevance for our understanding of the past and present.”³⁰ By encouraging their relative and friend, John C. Rauch of Ohio, through written correspondence, to take part in developing new frontier west of and along the Mississippi River, letter-writers present a raw point of view of events in history as they unfold, written by “ordinary people” experiencing daily life on the frontier as they saw it happening.

¹³“In 1847, more than 74,000 Germans reached the shores of the New World; and in 1850 there were nearly 79,000. The largest number came in 1882 [when] 250,630 Germans migrated to the United States during that year. General studies have covered areas like immigration from various German regions: the economic and social factors of immigration, and the impact of politics on all those who had decided to leave their homelands.” Andreas Reichstein, *German Pioneers on the American Frontier: The Wagners in Texas and Illinois*, (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2001),1.

¹⁴Gottfried Duden, *Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America and a Stay of Several Years Along the Mississippi During the Years 1824, '25, '26, and 1827*, (Columbia: The State Historical Society of Missouri and University of Missouri Press, 1980), xii.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Cole, 57.

¹⁷Duden, 61.

¹⁸Charles Sealsfield, *The Americans as They Are Described in a Tour Through the Valley of the Mississippi*, (London: Hurst, Chance, and Co., 1828), 5.

¹⁹ Gottfried Duden, *Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America and a Stay of Several Years Along the Missouri (During the Years 1824, '25, '26, and 1827)*, (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1980), 40 & 43.

²⁰ Sealsfield, *Ibid.*, 91.

²¹ Cyrenus Cole, *History of the People of Iowa*, (Cedar Rapids: The Torch Press, 1921), 232.

²² ...most immigrants came from countries whose people cherished American ideals. The bulk of immigrants who came to Iowa during those years were Germans and Scandinavians....The Germans, who had re-peopled the Mississippi River cities and counties before the war [and] after the war, spread over all parts of the state; [although] Four-fifths of the new settlers were of the native stocks from the older states. No mid-western state remained more American than Iowa. *Ibid.*, 408.

²³ *Ibid.*, 319.

²⁴ Regarding John Brown's attack: A German language paper *Der Demokrat* inverted its column rules and appeared in newspaper mourning over the tragedy. In many places the flags were half-masted. Iowa recognized the significance of its German population when it called for all citizens...who formally served in European armies...who know well their duty to God and their adopted country. The concluding words on this flaming poster were: Rally, ye sons of Germany, Bohemia, and France! Cole, *Ibid.*, 325.

²⁵ *History of Will County, 1878*, (Chicago: William, LeBaron, Jr, & Co., 1973), 559.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 370.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 378.

²⁹ Reichstein, *Ibid.*, 2.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 5.

IV. THE LETTERS

Note: The following transcribed letters are only a partial collection of letters transcribed - not an entire representation of all letters in the collection: Ft. Des Moines and Keokuk, Iowa; Alexandria, MO; Tiffin, OH; Standfort, KY. Original grammar/spelling not corrected in transcribed copies.

The following letters come from a collection of over thirty letters, written to Jonathan C. Rauch by relatives and friends. Some of Rauch's correspondents include: Martin McCready of Fort Des Moines, Iowa; Margaret Boatman of Alexandria, Missouri; Samuel Boatman of Keokuk, Iowa; Sophie Brown of Joliet, Illinois; and George W. Rauch of St. Joseph, Missouri during the mid to late 1850s. From investigating the letters, content suggests Jonathan saved the letters to collect the stamps leading to the possibility these letters probably remained in their envelopes for over 150 years. Not much background can be found about these letter writers except a few census records and war records on file at the Iowa State Historical Society in Des Moines, Iowa and the Keokuk Public Library in Keokuk, Iowa. A few are referenced in online genealogy sites. The importance of these letters lie in their recording of everyday occurrences in their lives: weather, crops, politics, social situations. Not every letter is fully annotated; some of the information speaks for itself. What we can conclude from these letters is how people viewed life in the Midwest United States. Floods and freezes became obstacles; politics stirred up their emotions; but most important, vast land and territory were in their grasp as far as the eye could see.

ORGANIZATION OF LETTERS TRANSCRIBED AND ANNOTATED

Placement	Date	Place of Origin	Correspondent
1850s			
	1 January 15, 1855	Joliet, Illinois	S. J. Brown
	2 February 21, 1855	St Joseph, Missouri	G. W. Rauch
	3 February 25, 1855	Joliet, Illinois	S. J. Brown
	4 April 22, 1855	Fort Desmoines, Iowa	Martin McCready
	5 April 25, 1856	Alexandria, Missouri	Margaret Boatman
	6 May 9, 1856	Desmoines Valley	Margaret Boatman
	7 June 8, 1856	Fort Desmoines, Iowa	Martin McCready
	8 March 7, 1857	Keokuk, Iowa	Samuel Boatman
	9 August 7, 1859	Keokuk, Iowa	Samuel Boatman
	10 March 28, 1860	Paris, Ohio	Eva (Faulk)
1860s			
	11 August 20, 1861	Keokuk, Iowa	Samuel Boatman & Amanda
	12 March 8, 1862	Alexandria, Missouri	John Boatman
	13 October 7, 1863	Tiffin, Ohio	H. Myers
	14 October 31, 1862	Keokuk, Iowa	Samuel Boatman
	15 February 18, 1863	Keokuk, Iowa	Samuel Boatman
	16 April 13, 1863	Keokuk, Iowa	Samuel Boatman
	17 January 8, 1864	Keokuk, Iowa	Samuel Boatman
	18 April 9, 1865	Ada, Ohio	M. Palmer
	19 June 13, 1865	Fostoria, Ohio	J.E. Rowe
	20 May 14, 1866	Keokuk, Iowa	Samuel Boatman
	21 February 4, 1867	Keokuk, Iowa	Samuel Boatman
Civil War Regiments			
	22 April 7, 1863	Lexington, Kentucky	Peter R. Faulk
	23 July 12, 1863	Stanfort, Kentucky	Peter R. Faulk
	24 March 14, 1864	Ringgold, Georgia	Wm J Georg

Source: Written correspondence to J. C. Rauch.

THE LETTERS

1850s

My Friend

I received your kind letter a few days
since and hasten to write a few words in reply. I was
much pleased to hear from you - and glad also to hear that this
winter finds you at home. I know you must be happy, and
I often imagine you enjoying yourself as you did when it
formed a part of your family they stay at your house. I
remember with pleasure the days I spent at your house
there are among the happiest of my life. Time with
me passes as much a busy season of duties prevents me
from thinking time long. The immoderate of society
are very busy at this season in this is the social
season - balls parties visits must be attended
to and that is why this season is being for the many
hearts but to me summer is more pleasant. I am
glad to hear that you have good accommodations
for school. I hope that you may progress sufficient to
satisfy your highest expectations. This is the time for
your improvement. Youth will not stay but will soon
be the time to gather in such stores of knowledge as
they by a few years more improve it will let not an in-
stant pass unheeded. I am still desiring what school

soon I must have unimpaired with some

Jonathan Beach

L. J. Brown

P.S.

Ask John if he want send me a
piece of cranberry. Tell Mary Ann not to
get married yet. I get ready to come to the end
ding. Tell ^{her} to write me one sketch of the pen
if nothing more.

Johnst June 15th 1855

in the basement of the First Unit church - have a large
and prosperous school. There are several schools in this
place and soon yet for more. Our citizens are well as the
in regard to schools. - There for I have spent the summer
very pleasantly. The holidays brought with them a great
deal of pleasure. Old Santa Claus visited us on Christmas
but did not have much a society with him as he did
the time he visited me at your house - at least he did
not fill my stocking quite so full. Did he visit you?
what did he bring you? Oh he is a funny old fellow. How did
you spend your Christmas and New Year? you must tell all
about it when you write. What did the girls get for presents?
He has had no laughing here this winter so he cannot
have shared by the merry sound of bells. I should like to
have the opportunity of visiting you this winter
but distance still continues to separate me
and I must be content with a little news brought
me by the ^{slow} winged messengers. Polly is well
and striving to make progress in her studies.
Send love to all. Give my love to your mother
and Brother and the girls tell them that I re-
member their kindness to me while there. It is
getting dark and as I want to send this letter

Joliet Jan 15th 1855

My Friend

I received your kind letter a few days since and hasten to write a few words in reply. I was much pleased to hear from you and glad alas to hear that this winter finds you all home I know you must be happy and I often imagine your enjoying yourself as you did when I formed a part of your family. They stay at your house. I remember with pleasure the days I spent at your house there are many the happiest of my life. Time with me prospers as usual, a busy wind of duties prevent me from thinking time long The inhabitants of our city are very busy at this season this is the social season. balls parties visits rides must be attended to and that strictly. This season brings joy to many hearts but to me summer is more pleasant I am glad to learn that you have good accommodations for school. I hope that you may progress sufficient to satisfy your highest expectations. Now is the time for your improvement - youth will not always last and now is the time to gather up rich stories of knowledge to _____ by for further use. I am _____ it well let not a moment froze unhearded I am still teaching select school in the basement of the Presbyterian church³¹ [and] have a large and prosperous school. There are several schools in this place an room yet for more. Our citizens are wide awake in regard to schools. Thus for I have spent the winter very pleasantly The holy days brought with them a great deal of pleasure Old Santa Claus visited us on Christmas but did not have such a variety with him as he did the time he visited me at your house - at least he did not fill my stocking quite so full. Did he visit you? What did he bring you Oh he is a funny old fellow. How did you spend your Christmas and New Years you must tell all about it when you write. What did the girls get for presents We have had no sleighing here this winter so we have not been cheered by the merry sound of bells. I should like to have the opportunity of visiting you this winter but distance still confines to separate me and I must be content with a little news brought me by the silver-winged messenger. Cally is well and striving to make _____ up in her studies sends love to all. Give my love to your mother and Father and the girls tell them that I remember their kindness to me while there. It is getting dark and as I want to send this letter soon I must close unfinished

write soon.

S. J. Brown

Jonathan Rauch

PS Ask John if he wont send me a piece of ovenshingbre³² Tell Mary Anne not to get married till I get ready to come to the wedding. Tell her to write me one scratch of the pen if nothing more.

³¹ "...in the history of Joliet Township, the erection of the first school house in 1836, which was likewise the first in the city of Joliet...was built...for school purposes, and it was also used as a temple of worship." *History of Will County*, 378.

...1856, School in the basement of Presbyterian church....twenty pupils-all German, male and female. Studies German and English. *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois*, 877.

... “That we commence free schools on the next Monday, April 7, 1856, under the following arrangements:...Female department of grammar...First Ward Primary School, in charge of Miss Edwards at \$250, in basement of Presbyterian church, at the rent of \$50 a year.” Ibid, 878

³² Spelling unclear. May refer to ovenshred bread. Made in an outdoor oven with a small kitchen built over it. Small pieces of wood were thrown into it with live coals. After wood was consumed and thoroughly heated, the coals were removed and ashes cleaned out. An old iron shovel with a long wooden handle was then brought into requisition, with which the loaves of bread, dishes of pie, etc, were placed in position. Ralph Ege, *Pioneers of Old Hopewell*, Hopewell: Race & Savidge, 1908, 180-181.

St Joseph Mo -

February 21st 1855

Dear Cousin

I received your letter a few days ago and was glad to hear that you was well and all the rest of the friends were all well at present and have plenty to eat and wear. Although every thing is scarce - it was the driest summer I ever saw any place the crops almost entirely failed. Corn is very scarce and is bringing a good price. I will give you a detail of our markets Corn 24 to 30¢ per barrel. Wheat 1.25 to 1.35 per bushel. Cattle 30¢ to 34¢ potatoes 1.50 per bushel and every thing else is high - we have had the finest winter ever saw we had but three or four cold days all winter we had but one snow and that was a good one it was about six or eight inches deep but it was all gone in a few days - The roads have been very good all winter. Times have been dull all winter and money scarce. But we sold saddles enough to pay expenses &c we expect better times soon. Boats will be up here in a short time.

We are well prepared for the spring trade we have had six hands at work all winter and have lots of work on hand. Well now for Kansas. I hardly know how to answer you as I have never been to look at the country. But from all reports and the way it is settling up it must be a fine country. There is a great many towns springing up and mechanics of all kinds are wanted. There is a town started about twenty miles below St Joseph called Otter's it was laid out last fall. There is now about 10 or 20 good frame houses put up and there is over one hundred under contract and are just waiting for the shanty to get lumber. They are building a saw mill and have got printing press there and publish a weekly paper, and I think you would do well to come as soon as possible. You can get you a good claim and can get plenty of work and watch your claim. At the same time there is claims been sold from one hundred to one thousand dollars without title. I think there is a good chance for a young man to get a start and I am satisfied that you want here anything by coming if you want to get you a home as you can get one for little or nothing and that I know you want in the free State.

There is some as good land in Kansas as can be found and plenty of timber to fence it and there is some that is very broken and not very good soil. But that is the case in all countries they say there is the finest prairie that is any where. But there is no timber close to it. Enough about Kansas - if you come I think you never will regret it. I may be wrong and want you to act for your self, for all that I know about the country is from hearsay. But if I live till spring I intend to see for my self.

I have not forgotten the father Abrahams, and I think if I had advice of them to night they wouldn't go dead - I wrote two letters to you and received no answer. I began to think you had forgotten us. But it was a mistake. I directed them to Palestine and I hope you did not get them. Lazarus was in town to day he says they are all well and sends his best respects to you and all the rest of the friends. No more at present give my respects to all.

Yours for ever
write down if you please
George W. Hanch

St. Joseph Mo –

February 21st 1855

Dear Cousin

I Received your letter a few days ago and was glad to hear that you was well and all the rest of the friends were all well at the present and have plenty to Eat and wear Although every thing is Scarce – it was the dryest summer I ever saw any place the Crops Almost entirely failed Corn is very Scarce and is Bringing a good price. I will give you a detail of our markets Corn 250 to 300 per Barrel Wheat \$ 1.25= 1 35 = per Bushel Oats 30 cts to 35 potatoes 1.50 for Bushel and Every thing else is high.³³ We have had the finest Winter i ever saw we had but one Snow and that was a good one it was about Six or eight inches deep But it was all gone in a few days. The roads have Been verry good all Winter...Times have Been Dull all winter and money Scarce But we Sold Saddles enough to pay expenses & we expect Better times Soon...Boats will Be up here in a Short time We are well prepared for the Spring trade...We have had Six hands at work all winter and have lots of work on hand ----Well now for Kansaz. I hardly how to answer you as i have never Been to look at the Country but from all Acounts and the way it is Settling up it must Be a fine Country there is a great many towns Springing up and mechanics of all kinds are wanted there is a town Started about twenty miles below St. Joseph Called Atchison it was laid out last fall there is now About 15 or 20 good frame houses³⁴ put up and there is over one hunderd under Contract and are just waiting for the Boats to get lumber they are building a Saw mill and have got printing press there and publish a weekly paper, and i think you would do well to come as soon as possible you can get you a good Claim and Can get plenty of work and watch our Claim at the Same time there is Claims been Sold³⁵ from one hundred to one thousand dollars without title i think there is a good chance for a young man to get a start and i am satisfied that you want for anything by Coming if you want to get you a home as you can get one for little or nothing and that i know you cant in the Buckeye State

There is some as good land in Kansas as can be found and plenty of timber³⁶ to fence it and there is Some that is very Broken and not very good Soil But that is the case in all countrys they say there is the finest prairie that iz any whare... But there is no timber close to it...

Enough About Kansaz – if you come i think you never will [leave] it i may be wrong and want you to act for you self for all that i know about the Country is from hearsay But if i live till Spring i intend to see for my Self ~~~~~

I have not forgotten the father Abrahams and i think if i had a few of them to night they wouldnt go bad --- I wrote two letters to you and Received no answer i began to think you had forgotten us but it was a mistake

i Directed them to Palestine and supose you did not get them Lazarus was in town to day he says they are all well and Sends his best Respects to you and all the rest of the friends

No more at present give my Respects to all.

Write Soon if you please G. W. Rauch

Yours for ever

George W. Rauch

³³ See List of Figures - Agricultural chart

³⁴“The first thing they do may be to build a “quick house” by setting two rows of posts about six inches apart and filling the space between with grass or hay, and with a roof of the same materials...they built a cabin of logs....logs cut the right length, fourteen and eighteen feet were usual...the neighbors came and helped “raise” the house. The logs were notched where they came together and the crevices were “chinked” with mud and later with mortar. Cabins were made seven or eight feet high. Some had thatched roofs others shingled with clapboards...had one door, one window, and one chimney. The window had panes of oiled paper. Pioneer hospitality was expressed in the phrase “the latch string hangs outside.”** Cyrenus Cole, *Ibid.*, 243.

**The door was hung on wooden hinges and it was fastened with a wooden latch. A string passed through a hole served to lift the latch from the outside. At night the latch string was pulled in and then the door was locked.

³⁵ See List of Photographs: Poster example of Homestead Act.

³⁶ ...Sealsfield validates Rauch’s description in *The Americans as They Are Described in a Tour Through the Valley of the Mississippi*. c. 1828 “This state having a temperate climate, possesses many of the southern products. The timber is of colossal magnitude.”

Sabbath Feb 25th 1855

My Dear Friend

Time so soon is passing on around the
year changing taking place so rapidly that after having
passed through the busy season of winter and spring with the
the close of a few weeks we are already recognizing summer and
some of us at least we are glad to get summer and
what we want in winter we shall want that our very feeling
at present than of the state of the air which is such an impor-
tant element in which to dress about friends. I have been
long for a few weeks that I have nearly had a new coat
made. But I have been laboring not in vain but for good
for the improvement of the other and also for myself.

I am pleased to hear from your letter that you are all
well enjoying yourselves and also improving the advantage
afforded you. I am glad that you were present with your
school the week I still feel an interest in you all
community. Although I am not with you, and shall always
be gratified to hear of your improvement in every
undertaking. The season of youth should provide around
there are so many good and great things to be done in the
world and will require so many good and great talents
men to perform them we should all fit ourselves for the

high stations in life cultivate our minds and hearts
and then be prepared to perform any duties that come in
our way. My school still continues prosperous I have a
great many scholars and all pleasant and happy. We read
a paper in our school which is called the School Convention
paper is very interesting nearly all the scholars write for
it weekly. We have feeling too by both boys and girls some
house strategies, some times single parties that much like girls
of the school. Last month some of the boys wrote and
called the tongue twister. I do not go away from home again
but this winter that is I do not go to the school although there
is one very few evenings. I have commenced singing lessons
in music on the piano. I have made my progress slowly
and do not say much. I am also studying French a little.
I am now in the hospital and that I can read and write
about with ease. Our next lesson tomorrow is when
I shall teach up to the day I shall be with you reading.
Only goes out this winter considerably for his. He is a
member of a temperance society which he attends some-
times and seems a little of a dabbler on his left side
he also belongs to a society which meets every week to read
for the poor of which there are a great many in this
place. The day now and then there are little parties with

school children. And yet though she goes considerably
I think she improves rapidly in every branch.
Then you think of coming west - well I think you will be
in a happy country with its blooming prairie but yet it will be
a home. And if you come west do not forget to visit me
we shall be pleased to receive a visit from you at any time.
We have been thinking some times of writing but we have been
people do not call it by its right name. Give my love
to the girls your Father and Mother and wish this I will bid you

Yours
Jonathan Bush

Do write to us soon



Joliet Feb 25th 1855

My Dear Friend,

Time as ever is leaving no onward change after change is taking place so rapidly that after _____ progress through the long wind of events transpiring within the space of a few weeks we scarcely recognize ourselves as the same persons at least we are glad to get moments ease in which to recall one scattered recollections. Such are my feelings at present. I am glad of a little time in which to think and a few moments in which to address about friends. I have been so busy for a few weeks that I have scarcely had a moments _____ but I have been laboring not in vain but for a good cause for the improvement of the others and also for myself. I was pleased to learn from your letter that you are all well enjoying yourselves and also improving the advantages afforded you. I am glad that you were favored with a good school this winter. I still feel an interest in your little community although I am not with you, and shall always be gratified to hear of your improvement as _____ in any undertaking. The course of youth should now be onward - There are so many good and great things to be done in the world and will rejoice so many good and great men and women to perform them we should all fit ourselves for these high stations in life, elevate our minds and hearts and thus be prepared to perform any duties that come our way. My school still continues prosperous.³⁷ I have a great many scholars and all pleassants and happy. We ech a paper in our school which is called the School Gem. The paper is very interesting nearly all the scholars write _____ it weekly. We have speaking too by both boys and girls some times dialogue about work and a few days ago they spoke our called the tongue bridle. I did not go away from home a great deal this winter That is I do not go to parties although there is one every few evenings. I have commenced taking lessons in music on the piano. I have made considerable progress already and like it very much. I am also trying to read a little German and have progressed so that i can read and understand with ease.³⁸ You must learn German fast as when I come back (if I ever do) I shall beat you reading Cally goes out this _____ considerable for her she is a member of a temperance society³⁹ which she attends some times and ears a little rose of ribbon on her left side she also belongs to a society which meets every week to _____ for the poor of which there are a great many in this place. Then every now and then there are little parties (not dances) which she attends. I not yet though she goes considerable. I think she improves rapidly in many branches. Then you think of coming west - well I think you will our bright country with its blooming praires but yet it will not be home but if you come west - do not forget to visit us we shall be pleased to receive a visit from you at any time. We have _____ sometimes for supper but we western people do not call it by its right name. Give my love to the girls your Father and Mother and with this I will bid you Adieu

S.J. Brown

Jonathan Rauch
Also write - do do do do write-soon

³⁷ “Around 1850 there were still but few schools in the state, and the average school year consisted of only three months and nine days, on an average.they [teachers] received about twenty dollars a month for the three months and nine days.” Cyrenus Cole, *History of the People of Iowa*, (Cedar Rapids: The Torch Press, 1921), 255.

³⁸ “Evidence that German culture and language was significant. Sophie J. Brown is also a school teacher. It is likely she may have needed to learn German in order to comply with the combined English/German required curriculum.” *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois*, 877.

³⁹ German –American Temperance Movement. (See List of Photographs: German Poster).

“...The likeness of the new Iowa to the old east was noticeable in 1854, when a cultured woman came to Iowa to lecture on temperance and woman's rights.” Cole, *Ibid.*, 319.

“... Reasons for a temperance movement exist to a greater or less degree in all the countries of Europe. impulses from America "American Temperance Society," 1826, first led to the foundation of regular societies ...began in 1850; after a decade it extended to Scandinavia, and after thirty years to Germany. Two main periods are to be distinguished. The first, which began in 1830, was fairly general, but substantially affected only the British Isles and the Germanic countries. The second began in 1850; after a decade it extended to Scandinavia, and after thirty years to Germany. On 13 February, 1826, "The American Temperance Society" was established at Boston. This opened a new era, and paved the way to total abstinence. The year 1840 gave birth to the Washingtonian Temperance Society, a total abstinence organization, which began at Baltimore with six members, and grew to six hundred thousand. Annual conventions of the national union were held in different cities of the West and Middle West. The women's societies were admitted in 1878 as honorary members, and in 1880 as active members.” *Liese, Temperance Movements. ichita.*

“... And the worst of it is, that they will not listen to the good advice which our Temperance Societies are so liberal in bestowing, to keep them sober and steady.” Sealsfield, *Life in the New World or Sketches of American Society*, (New York: Winchester, 1844), 46.

“...Out of the agitations of the Sons of the Temperance and of the Catholic Total Abstinence societies, the first assembly evolved and enacted a local option liquor law. All counties, except Keokuk County, voted *dry*.” Cole, *Ibid.*, 212.

Ne Got ^{Ball to} ~~Dr~~ ^{ing} ~~Low~~ April 22 53

Erer Dear Cousin Mr Jonathan Kouch

I again take my pen in hand to let you know how we are getting along in this western country. We are all reasonably well at this present time and do hope these few lines may find you all enjoying the same great blessings. We are now living about a mile west of Fort Des Moines we have been living here about one month this is the country for a young man the prairie out here is very large you can hardly see timber here at all the prairie is from 2 to 10 miles wide and the ranches are rolling land that ever the sun shines on the soil here is very deep in the prairie it is about 2 to 4 feet deep and in the timber it is from one to 2 feet deep and the richest soil that ever was it is composed of a black soil around the prairie here is so clear that you can see I great ways I can see from where I am now writing to him so that is about 8 miles off the prairie is getting green and pretty so that the cattle and sheep can live very easy I went with the boys hunting last week we had a jolly time at it we took plenty of game we was out about 40 miles from the fort we did not see any Elk but we found

lot of them, having you ever seen and
Wells has my horses you want see almost
Guthrie has got about 5 or 6 strings of land now
it lays between the two branches of Rabbit
Creek about 10 or 8 miles from their lot land
is very high here now I have known some
persons to enter land at Congress price and in
one week there would ^{be} a considerable money
on it and then stop in and enter some more
land is worth from 15 to 18 dollars per acre
and is still rising very fast. The land
in Rich and Valley County is about all entered
I believe all but some swamp land and that
is worth from 10 to 25 cts per acre this country
is settling up very fast there is several new
counties yet to enter there is a part of Boone
and Marion and several other counties to enter
up yet there is a lot of still in this country
there is 5 or 6 miles in about 10 miles of us
and some a good road meander. We have rented
a house and farm for the purpose of raising
a crop and building a house of our own this
summer. Mary attended husband and my self is
a going to make prairie this season we will
commence about the first of May and before the
fall. Well I must tell you something about
the prices of grain now wheat is worth 80 cts 85
cwt 20 potatoes 60 cwt in the lot and in feeders
Wheat is worth 130 cwt 60 cwt 20 cwt 40 cwt 50

potatoes 1.50 and very scarce at that

I got a letter from Samuel Robinson
 the other day he says that they have come
 on from New York to commence the rail
 road from Hudson to Mt Deserains he also
 said that he had no doubt of men from new york
 hunting plans to locate themselves so that they could
 commence buying and spinning. Well I believe
 that I have wrote all that I can think of at
 present you must write as soon as you
 get this and let me know how you all
 get along. W. J. Samuda, and Mary and Eliza
 all send their love and best wishes to
 all the friends of Amore at present but
 with Remains your affectionate Cousin
 Wm. Wells. Nathan and George D.
 At Jonathan's Ranch.

Martin M. Brady

Mr Jonathan Ransom

Wm. & C. Columbus Co. 1855

Ph



Ft. Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa, April the 22, [18]55

Ever Dear Cousin Mr. Jonathan Rauch

I again take my pen in hand to let you know how we are getting along in this western country. We are all reasonably well at the present time and do hope these few lines may find you all enjoying the same great blessings we are now having..... about 6 miles west of Ft. Desmoines⁴⁰ we have been living hear about one month....This is the County for a young man...the prairies out hear is very large you can hardly see...Timber hear t all the prairies is from 6 to 10 miles wide and the beautiful est Rolling land that ever the Sun shined on...the Soil hear is very deep in the prairies...it is about 2 to 4 feet deep and in the timber it is from one to 2 foot deep and the richest Soil that ever was...it is compared to a black rich Sand...the atmosphere hear is so clear that you can see a great ways.....I can see from where I am now writing, timber that is about 8 miles off the prairies is getting green and pretty so that the cattel and Sheep can live very easy⁴¹...I went with the _____ Surveying last week...We had a jolly time of it. We seen plenty of game...we was out about 30 miles from the lot...we did not see any Elk but we found lots of their hornes...you can see deer and Wolves hear cry times⁴²...you want to all most....Father has got about 500 Acres of land now between the two ranches of Walnut Creek⁴³ about 7 or 8 miles from the Lot...land is very high hear...none ...I have known some persons to enter land at Congress price and in one week they would sell it for double there's no one on it and then slip in and enter Some more land in North from 1 ½ to 10 dollars per acre and is Still raising very fast...the land in Polk and Dallas County is about all entered⁴⁴....I believe all but Some Swamp land and that is north from 10 to 25 cts per acre....This county is settling up very fast...there is several new Counties yet to enter...there is a part of Boon and Marion and several other counties to enter up yet there is lots of mills in this county...there is a mill in about 10 miles of us and some a good _____ nearer....We have rented a house and farm for the purpose of raising a crop and building a house of our own. The summer Mary and her husband and my self is a going to brake prairie⁴⁵...This Season we will comense about the first of May and brake til fall...Well I must tell you something about the prices of grain...Wheat is worth 80...corn -25...oats 20...potatoes 60....in the Ft and in Keokuk is worth 1:30....Corn 60 to 70....Oats 4 to 50...potatoes 1:50⁴⁶....and very scarce at that.We got a letter from Samuel Boatman the other day....he says that they have come on from New York to commence the railroad from Keokuk to yet Desmoines....he also said that Keokuk⁴⁷ is full of men from New York hunting places to locate themselves so that they could commence business and speculation...Well I believe that I have wrote all that I can think of at present....You must write as soon as you get this and let me know how you all get along. Samantha and Mary and Eliza all Sends their love and best respects to all the friends.

So No more at present but still remain your affectionate Cousin until Death.

Martin McCready to Mr. Jonathan Rauch

⁴⁰Ft. Des Moines changed to Des Moines in 1857. The city is located in the central region of Iowa.

⁴¹The open territory described as rolling prairies and timber...

“... There were still miles upon miles of almost undisturbed timber, fine white oaks predominating on the uplands, the hard maple occasionally dominating the river bluffs, and the red cedar finding an anchorage on the limestone ledges, while the black walnut and various softwood trees occupied the narrow bottom lands.” Iowa DNR, *Iowa: A Portrait of the Land-A Century of Change: 1800-1900*, 2.

... *I wish that you could see my present location even if for a few moments. The hills and valleys are all covered with forests, but in such groupings that it appears as if an artist had laid out a park. Two hundred and six Morgen of private property surround my homestead. My house is situated on the level area of a hill that rises gently from the rather wide valley...The splendor of the forests...are full of vast multitude of flowering trees...* Gottfried Duden, *Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America and a Stay of Several Years Along the Missouri (During the Years 1824, '25, '26, and 1827)*, (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1980), 84.

... *Farther on, the high banks of the state of Missouri, with some farm buildings of a diminutive appearance, owing to the great distance; in the back ground, the colossal native forests of Missouri; The timber is of colossal magnitude surest indications of an exceedingly rich soil.* Charles Sealsfield, *The Americans as They Are Described in a Tour Through the Valley of the Mississippi*, 80-81, 88.

⁴²...*the deep silence only interrupted at intervals by a herd of prairie dogs, or wolves...* Ibid., 188.

“...Draining the wetlands, plowing the prairie, clearing the forests, and mining the land also destroyed or significantly altered the habitat for wildlife that once lived there. Our wildlife populations declined dramatically through the nineteenth century. The first white explorers marveled at the bison, elk, wild turkeys, deer, prairie chickens, bears, wolves, waterfowl, shorebirds, and other birds and animals that thrived in the fertile prairies and scattered woodlands. "I had never rode through a country so full of game," declared Joseph Street, an Indian agent who traversed the Turkey, Wapsipinicon, and Cedar rivers in northeast Iowa with a survey party in 1833... By 1867, the last Iowa mountain lion had been killed. Bison vanished from the state in 1870, elk in 1871, black bears in 1876, wolves about 1885, and whooping cranes by 1894.” Iowa DNR, Ibid, 4.

⁴³ See List of Photographs: Photos of McCready’s property, 2008.

⁴⁴ See List of Maps –state and county properties

⁴⁵Breaking Prairie: The pioneer farmer on the Iowa prairie faced the task of the first plowing of the virgin ground. The act of breaking was a major step. What had been an investment in land, even a home, now became a farm. From display at *Iowa State Historical Society Museum*.

⁴⁶See List of Figures: Agricultural charts.

⁴⁷“With the secure land titles in the region Keokuk began to boom. From an 1850 population of 2, 117, the town grew to 3,256 by October 1852...With foundry workers, wagon makers, hardware, wholesalers, pork packers, carpenters, and stone cutters all busy, the town could absorb immigrant laborers. Numerous Irish and German immigrants arrived, and values for platted lots rose dramatically.” From J.W. Delaplaine, Alphabetized Transcript of Special Census, manuscript copy, 1901, 131, Keokuk Public Library. Woods and Atterberg, *The 1853 Mormon Migration Through Keokuk*, (Mormon Historical Studies, 2002), 28.

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Dear Cousin

I think they get chosen to name you open times to let you know that I receive you know and welcome with the letter dated April 9 1850 I was glad to hear that you would all the promises they made. We are all well at present as at least so. We have not complained at present I have been good since I came home but I have got so that I can go about again and do a little work you state in your letter that John Palmer has got home I thought he would come out soon before he would leave and you also said that you had been thinking about these girls that I was working and also said that you thought I was going to leave home you are quite right taken. When you think of I want to know what promise I made to you that I have not fulfilled excepting serving my sickness I have not got it taken yet for I have been sick and have not had any chance to go to have it taken if I had made any other promise and had not done according to what I have said I am sorry for it I do not

Remember of making any other promise you said that you was not bound to stick to your promise if I had told you from mine when you write I must go to tell me what it was and if my life and health is spare I will try to do what I promise changes that sickness of you I have got into I want to you in writing or then after I get it ~~that~~ you request me to write and let you know when I get it I must stay for some time to get things to know and come then to me if they please you give in your letter that you had been thinking that it was likely it was along this way but here if it was not it is not here I have seen him about days ago he is in California just when he ought to be he got out of Prison and started for California they had got one of the men that stole the horses they took him and ^{that day} the dogs went with him for a while anywhere. Oh yes you said that you who had I would make you some nice things while I was working so much I think that if some prospect of you leaving home if you are just drop me a few lines before the time comes and let me know a little about ^{it and} how things is there and how

the people are getting along and let me know all about Mr Wilson and Mr Pauls family and about all the promises in the state and you also state of Ohio and the particulars of all I must come to about Chicago I almost got to tell you that Cousin John Perry is here he came this afternoon about 1 o'clock he has been upon some and missouri looking at the country he says he likes the country quite well he talks if he can tell his place where he lives he will come out here to this part of the West. With this I close by hurriedly subscribing my self as your cousin

Margaret A Boatman

To Mr Jonathan Ranch

Give my love to all inquiring friends and take affection to yourself

Mother and father send their love and best respects to your father and mother and all the family
Write soon exchange my poor writing if you please



Des Moines Valley April 25th 1856

Alexandria, MO

Dear Cousin

I this day sit down to send you a few lines to let you know that I received your kind and Welcome epistle⁴⁸ dated April the 9, 1856 I was glad to hear that you and all the friends was well We are all well at present or at least so We cant complain at the present I have been sick since I came home but I have got so that I can go about again and do a little work you stated in your letter that John Palmer had got home I thought he would come out hear before he went home and you also said that you had been thinking about their quills⁴⁹ that I was making and also said that you thought I wis going to leave home You are quite mistaken When you think so I want to know What promise I made to you that I have not fulfilled excepting sending my likeness I have not got it taken yet for I have Been sick and have not had any chance to go to have it taken if I have made any other promises and have not done according to what I said I am sorry for it I do not Remember of making any other promis you said that you was not bound to stike to your promis if I have withdrawn from mine when you write I want you to tell m what it was and if my Life and helt is spared I will try to do What I promise. O yes that likness of yours⁵⁰ I have got it I wrote you in _____ two after I got it you requested me to write and let you know. When I got it I must Mary Ann and Maria to get their likness taken and send their to me if they Pleas you said in your letter that you had been thinking that likely it was Mrs. Mike Margaret here is a _____ it if not him I heard from him a few days ago he is in California just where he ought to be he got out of Prison and started for California they have got some of the men that stable the horses they took him and put him whair the Dogs Won't bite him for a while anyhow Oh yes you said that you Whished I Would make you some nice things While I was making so many I think that if some prospect of you leaving home if you are just drop me a few lines before the times comes and let me know a little about it and how times is their and how the people are getting about and let me know all about Mr. Wilson and Mr. Feilos families and about all the friends in the grate and gone _____ State of Ohio and the particulars of all I must come to a close. Oh yes I almost forgot to tell you that Cousin John Barnes is heare he came this afternoon about 1 week... he has Been up in Iowa and Missouri looking at the Country he says he likes the Country quite well he talkes if he can sell his place Whair he lives he will move out here to this part of the World.

With this I close by humbly subscribing my self as your cousin

Margaret A. Boatman

To Mr. Jonathan Rauch

Give my love to all inquiring friends and take apportion to yourself

Mother and father sends their love and best Respects to your father and Mother and all

Excuse my poor writing if yo please. Write Soon.

⁴⁸Epistle: Formal Letter

⁴⁹Quill: writing utensil made from feathers.

⁵⁰Types of photos: Ambrotype: “Made from the 1850s and up to the late eighties, the process having been invented by Frederick Scott Archer in collaboration with Peter Fry, a colleague. Ambrotypes were direct positives, made by under-exposing collodion on glass negative, bleaching it, and then placing a black background - usually black velvet, occasionally varnish - behind it. Though Ambrotypes slightly resemble Daguerreotypes, the method of production was very different, and Ambrotypes were much cheaper.” Robert Legget, *History of Photography From Its Beginnings Till The 1920s*, (1995, www.rleggat.com/photohistory/history/ambrotyp.htm.)

...also see List of Photographs: Ambrotype of John C. Rauch

And give history of those sales
and also charge and claim
the same I think they have forgot
me as think that I am not worth
mentioning in or something is in my
but I cannot tell what it is I
Wrote to Ebenezer some time ago
and have not got the parcels
of paper from her yet
My Dear Cousin I must
close give my love to all
inquiring friends and take a
touch of love to your self please
write and let me know how
you and Missed Wray are getting
along with this I close by wishing
the friends ship of Ebenezer till death

Margaret A. Patterson

of Jonathan Ranch

since my poor writing for I have been
at home work to day and my hand is not strong
~~enough to write~~ enough to write

and in town and every thing looks
like ~~the~~ summer I also must
tell you that Miss Pamela Brown
is married she was married last
sabbath evening at 8 o'clock
and back to age 20 years by the
name of Taylor Bice he is worth
a few he has about three
thousand dollars worth of property
he says the money he has got
she told me to tell you that
them kisses you had in store for
her she would like to get but
she was afraid she would not
you must give them to your
one else she says when you come
down she wants you to come and
see her she will be living in
Edinburgh their is where her old
man lives their was three marriages
in this sabbath house a sabbath day
and over to be next Thursday
evening at 8 o'clock I wish
you were here to go to it for when

Dennismalley May 9th 1856

Dear Cousin

I this day get down
to answer your kind and welcome
epistle of April 22nd received May 2nd
I was ^{glad} to hear that you and all of the
family was well I am well at
present and all the friends as far
as I know I must also inform
you that it is so wet that the
people cannot get their Spring
work done it has rained almost
every day for two weeks ago
morning has not got their corn planted
yet and will not for some time
I was going to hear that you had
wintered their again I think that
you will have better come to the
West and spend the summer of
your days for we have not had
any snow since the first of March
the trees look as green ^{as they do} and the flowers

you come down all the folks will
be married off and gone and you will
not get to marry maidens here in
this place oh I will except my
self I since all the folks would
be married and gone but I will
not get married for I cannot tell
the time when I shall never
but when I do I will let you
know it and I want you to do
the same you also ~~will~~ see in
letter that Mr Jesse Wilson talks
of coming out here next fall to
see the West I think if he
comes and looks at the country
he will like it quite well their
is a good many Emigrants coming
from ^{from} Indiana and Pennsylvania
and other parts of the world and
all coming to Iowa and settling
and buying farms and getting
them selves for life I want
you to tell Mr Jesse and Miss Barbara
Wilson to write me again times

Desmoinesvalley May 9th 1856

Dear Cousin,

I this day jot down to answer your kind and welcome epistle of April 22th received May the 2 I was glad to hear that you and all of the friends was well I am well at present and all the friends as far as I know I must also inform you that it is so wet that the people cannot get their spring work done it has rained almost Every day for two weeks agrate many has not got thair corn planted yet and will not for some time I was sorry to hear that you had winter Thair again I think that you all had better come to the west an spend the remainder of your days for we have not had any snow since The first of March the trees looks as green as can be and the flowers are a in bloom and every thing looks like summer. I also must tell you that Miss Pamela Brown is married She was married last Sabbath Evening at 5 o'clock to a gentleman by the name of Taylor Beird he is as rich as a Jew he has about three thousand dollars Worth of property he ---- the money so he has got she She told me to tell you that them kisses you had in the store for her she woulda like to get but she was afraid she would not You must give them to someone els She says when you come down she wants you to come and see her She will be living in Alexandria Thair is whair her old man lives thair was them in this Neighborhood Sabbath day and one to be next Thursday Evening at 4 oclock I wish you were here to go too it for when you come down all the folks will be married off and gone and you will not get to marry here in this place Oh I will except myself I said all the folks would be married and gone but I will not get married for I cannot tell the time when probely never but when I do I will let you know it and I want you to do the same you also said in letter that Mr. Jesse Wilson Talked of coming out here next fall to see the West I think if he comes and looks at the country he will like it quite well thair is again many Emigrants coming from Ohio Indiana and Pencelvania and other parts of the world and all coming to Iowa and Missouria and buying farms and settling them for life* I want you to tell Mr. Jesse and Miss B Wilson to write me a few lines and give a history of themselves and also Mary Ann and Maria the same I think they have forgot me or think that I am not worth writing too or something is in way but I cannot tell what it is I Wrote to Mary Ann some time ago and have not got the scratch of open from her yet

My Dear Cousin I must Close give my love to all inquiring friends and take a portion of love to yourself pleas write and let me know how you and Miss A. W. is a getting along with this I close by asking the friendship of a Cousin till Death

Margaret A. Boatman

To Jonathan Rauch

Excuse my poor writing for I have been at hard work to day and my hand is not strong enough to write.

* Reference to emigrants – substantiating the German-American influence to the population of Missouri and Iowa.

Fort Des Moines Iowa, March 11, 1854

Dear Cousin Mr Jonathan Ranch
I take my pen in hand this morn
to write the second letter to you to let
you know how we are getting along & since I
heard from you one are all well at this present
time and do hope these few lines may find
you all in the enjoyment of the same great
Hoping I would like to hear from you this
beautiful Sabbath morn I feel quite boresome
at this present time but I still have a hope
of a better day, receiving well dear cousin I
will try to tell you something about this
country. In the people Iowa is a great place
at this time the Capital of the State has
been located at Fort Des Moines and they are
beginning to work on it this spring
there has been about one dozen of Steam boats
up this spring and there will be more up
yet if the Reefs high in the land offices of
this State have all closed this spring for the
purpose of granting the Railways land
there will be more land yet here now for less
than \$2.50 per acre and the second hand land will
sell for \$1.50 per acre this country is improving
very fast it is going ahead of Keokuk at this
time well I must tell you that Iowa is

going to make one of the greatest places
in the west I Recd. a letter from
Brother Curtis about two weeks ago he is
still in cal. he says that he is well and
doing well he does not say any thing about com-
ing home but I think that he will come
home some of these days after while
we have had a very dry spring so far and I
expect it will continue so the farmers here
have a pretty hard time of it this spring they
have to replant their corn ground all over again
they planted their corn too early the ground was
too cold for the seed to grow well I think
that grain will be worth more than it has been
wheat is worth from 50 cts to 1.00 per bushel corn from
20 to 30 cts per bush (with from 25 to 35 per bush)
well there is going to be a good wheat harvest
here this summer wheat looks very well I am
working by the month for 20 per month I expect
to go to improving my land this fall if I keep
my health Dear cousin you must write as soon
as you get this and let me know how
you are getting along the girls all send their best
respects to you and the rest of the friends
excuse me at this time and I will try and write
the next time I come at present but I still
Remain your Affectionate Cousin Martin M. M. M.
To Mr Jonathan Ranch of Ohio
Oh it has got blue eyes and fair hair and rosy cheeks

Fort Desmoines Iowa, June the 8th 1856

Dear Cousin Mr Jonathan Rauch

I take my pen in hand this morning to write the second letter to you to let you know how we are geting along Since I heard from you we are all well at this present time and do hope these few lines may find you all in the enjoyment of the Same great ____ I would like to hear from you this beautiful Sabbath morn I feel quite anxious at this present time but I Still have I hope of a better day a coming well dear cousin I will try to tell you Something about this Country and the people Iowa is a great place at this time the Capitol of the State⁵¹ has been located at Fort Des Moines and they are begining to work on it this Spring. There has been about one wagen of Steam boats up this Spring and there will be more up yet if the Recd high on the land offices of this State have all closed this Spring for the purpose of granting the Railroads land⁵² there will be ____ land get hear now for the less than \$2.50 per acre and the Second hardes land will Sell for \$50 per acre This country is improving ver fast it is going ahead of Keokuk at this time Well I must tell you that Iowa is going to make one of the greatest places in the west I Recd. a letter from Brother Curtis about two weeks ago he is Still in Cal. he says that he is well and doing well he does not say anything about coming home by I think that he will come home some of these days after while we have had a very dry Spring so far and expect it will continue So the farmers hear have a pretty hard time of it this spring they have to replant their corn ground all over they planted their corn too early, the ground was too cold for the seed to grow well I think that grain will be worth more than it has been wheat is worth from 5 cents 100 per bushel corn from 20 to 30 cts per bus oats from 25 to 35 per bus

Well there is going to be a good wheat harvest hear this summer wheat looks very wel I am working by the month for 20 per month⁵³ i expect to go to improving my land this fall if I keep my health Dear Cousin you must write as soon as you get this and let me know how you are geting along the girls all Sends their best respects to you and the rest of the friends excus me at this time and I will try and ____ letter the next time Nomore at present but I still Remain your Affectionate

Cousin Martin McCready

To Mr Jonathan Rauch of Ohio

Around sides of letter:

Mary Wilson has got a a fine young daughter it is about 3 weeks old
it has got blue eyes and fair hair and rose cheeks

You must come and See it as soon as you can. They have not named it yet.

⁵¹ In 1857, Fort Des Moines was shortened to Des Moines and later that year the city was designated the capitol of the State of Iowa. *dmgov.org, web.*

“...The movement of population into the unsettled portions of the state during this decade was most pronounced up the valley of the Des Moines River - which became one of the factors in determining the location of the final capital.” Cole, *Ibid.*, 289.

⁵² RAILROADS:

“...It had taken ten years to build the road, the first shipment of rails from England reaching Keokuk as early as 1856, carried on steamboats up the Mississippi. What is now the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway, was thirteen years in building from Iowa City to Council Bluffs.” Iowa DNR, *Iowa - Portrait of the Land*, 2.

“...When railroads came to Iowa in 1855, they brought another assault on the woodlands. The state's eventual 10,000 miles of rail lines needed about six acres of oak woods, perhaps 800 trees, to make ties for every mile of track. Early surveyors' notes suggested that trees covered about 6.7 million acres or 19 percent of Iowa around the time of statehood in 1846. Settlers steadily cleared the forests..... By 1857, the Iowa State Agricultural Society had issued a plea calling for more careful use of timber resources.” *Ibid.*

STEAMBOATS:

“...On the twentieth of June, 1840, the first steamboat ascended the Iowa River to Iowa City, ushering in what was believed to be a new era.” Cole, *Ibid.*, 169.

“...Riverboats carried settlers into the country's interior. The steamboats burned enormous amounts of wood, cut from the timber along Iowa's river valleys.” Iowa DNR, *Ibid.*, 4.

...The Teamsters Guide to Iowa advises on moving of furniture: There is only so much room in a wagon. Both wagon freight companies and steamboats offer regular schedules from points East to Iowa. Most steamship companies charge from 50 to 65 cents per hundred...

“...Canoes, piroques, flatboats, keelboats, and even a few paddle wheel steamboats in the lower Iowa River Valley provided substantial river traffic in the 19th century.... settlements were often sited close to the mill locations.” Welcome to Hardin County, www.nps.gov.

⁵³ See List of Charts and Maps: Agriculture and County/State. “In 1865 the relation between them stood at two hundred and forty - one hundred representing normal. That is, it took two dollars and forty cents to pay for a dollar's worth of goods. When they began to decline, some years later, they kept on declining until around 1880. Agricultural products not only went down most rapidly, but went lowest of all.” Cole, *Ibid.*, 423.

Kickuk, March 1. /57

Ever Dear Cousin
I this Day take the Chance
to Answer your letter I Recd a few
few days ago I was glad to hear
you were all well and I was
pleased to hear that Uncle had felt
ing Better of the Rheumatism you
said in your letter that a good many
of your Neighbors talked of going
out & going to Kansas I would say
to them that is the wisest thing
they ever done if they carry
those plans out for they can
be no doubt But Kansas is three
times a better country than Ohio
first Kansas has much a better
Climate & second a better farming
soil and more productive and
third ten times as much so. a. had
and Enterprise if you would
come west and see the Enterprise
and so. a. head of the west you

p.1

Now Would live in such a country as you do this I am sure
of if you want to remain a poor man stay where you are but
if you want to be rich come to the west you can stand a deal
better there many times over than you can in ten in this
and the way has been to have been home from being with you
last summer I have made over four thousand dollars trading and
I did not try hard at that a I could still do better than that
I have just sold my land I had in the country five miles
above the city on the river for one thousand dollars per acre
and by the first of May I expect to move in this city that is
the way to make money 1000 dollars is done for land in the
neighborhood is no money at all the improvement this season
will be so great that there is not over half men to be had
to do the work for 1000 per day so that I will be able to make
the same I will go on with it ready a few days ago he
was well and doing well he is still in California and
he don't say anything about coming home I will get a letter
from him exactly as in Iowa they are all well & Martin & family
is married and is doing well My health at the present
is very good we are all well and in good spirits Father's
condition is all well that life you had so much talk a
but is more or less with a so to it Wilson

p.2

Jonathan One Word about
that I would say to you
that I am far from as poor
and all the papers in the
Nation could not change me
in that matter I take 3
other papers beside that I
will send you one of each
Don't be scared hold to the
Willows in Iowa We don't
care anything about politics
Please I must close so. a. o
more Give my love to all
And Write me soon I
Remain yours most truly
Please Remember that above
Jonathan E. Rauch
Samuel Bootman

p.3

Keokuk, March 7 / [18]57

Ever Dear Cousin Sir

I this Day take the chance to Answer your letter I Recd a few days ago I was glad to here you were all well and als[o] was pleased to here that Uncle was getting Better of the Rheumatism you Said in your letter that a Good many of your Neighbors talked of seling out & going to Kansas I would say to them that is the wisest thing they Ever done if they Carrey thos plans But for thar can be no doubt But Kansas is three times a Better Country than Ohio first Kansas has much a Better Climate & Second a Better farming Soil and more productive and third ten times as much Go a head and Enterprise if you would come west and See the Enterprise and go a head of the west you Never would Live in Such a country as you do this⁵⁵ I am Sure of if you want to Remain a poor man Stay where you are But if you want to be rich come to the west you Can Beyond a doubt make more money here in one Season than you can in ten in Ohio and with more Eas Since I have been home from being with you Last Summer I have made over two thousand Dollars trading and I did not try hard at hat or I could Still Done Better than that I have just Sold my land I had in the Country five miles a above the City on the River for One thousand Dollars per acre And By the firs of May I Expect to move in the City⁵⁶ that is the way to make money \$1000 Dollars per Acre for land in our Neighborhood is no money at all the improvement this Season Will Be So Great that there is not over half men and Mechanics to do the work Carpenters per Day 300 to 600 Bricklays & Stone masons the Same I herd from Curtis McCready a few days a go he Was Well and doing well he is Still in California and he dont Say Any thing a bout coming home I Also Got a letter John McCready up in Iowa they are all well Martin McCready is married and is dong well My health at the present is verry Good we are all well and in Good Spirits Fathers Family is all well that tip you herd so much talk a bout is married two or tree week a go to J H Wilson

Jonathan one word a bout that _____ I would say to you that I am Sas firm as pork and all the papers in the Nation could not change me in that matter I take ³ other papers beside that I will send you one of each. Dont Be Scart hold to the Willows in Iowa We dont Care Any thing about policies

Pleas I must close So no more Give my Love to all And Write me Soon I Remain yours most truly

Please Remember that Above

Samel Boatman

Jonathan C. Rauch

⁵⁵ Samuel encourages his cousin to come west. He tries to entice him with favorable climate, soil for farming, and enterprise such as carpentry and masonry.

⁵⁶ See List of Photographs for images, land plats, Boatman's home, and city of Keokuk. Samuel built and lived a large 3-story brick house, caddy-corner to Chief Justice Samuel F. Miller.

Kekuk Aug 7 - 1859

Unity C.

Dear Cousin Sir

I Recd yours yesterday and was Glad to know that you and all the friends or was well I have but little of note to write you at the present time but I would say that we are all well at the present time and the friends are all well as far as I have any knowledge you said you had not got any word from me for some three months I am sure I wrote you at least one letter during that time, I you stated in that you you would have a short crop this year in all probability I would say to you that with us it will be just to the reverse we will have one of the largest crops this season that the west ever produced plenty of every thing in the way of grain and vegetables I saw a stalk of corn that was 9 inches in ~~circumference~~ circumference and 16 ft long — times are quite dull at the present and money is still hard to get but I think times will soon be good with us — the weather is warm and pleasant with frequent showers ^{occasionally} I saw a brace of Squirrels ~~that~~ as big as a half barrel

I with you mourn the loss of our beloved grandfather I should have liked to see him but he is gone and we should be glad to know that he died in hopes of going home to glory where sorrow and disappointment never is — say to dear old grandmother for me that if I never see her in this world that I hope to meet her and Grand Pap both in that world where we never shall get old and where we shall sit down in our Father Kingdom and sing the songs of Moses and the Samls for ever — let us all trust more ~~in~~ ^{the} simplicity in the mercies of our God ~~and~~ in the future than we have in the past and all will be well say to John Palmer that I will answer ~~him~~ ^{him} in a few days and to not be ~~anxious~~ ^{uneasy} I will close by giving you and all Enquiring friends my best love and respects yours truly

J. C. Beach

Samuel Boutman

Keokuk Aug 7 – 1859

Unity O

Dear Cosin Sir

I Recd yours yesterday and was glad to know that you and all the friends was well I have but little of note to write you at the present time But I would Say that we are all well at the present time and the friends are all well as far as I have any Knowlege you Said you had not got any word from me for Some three months I am Sure I wrote you at least one Letter During that time, you Stated that you would have a Short Crop this year in all Probability I would Say to you that with us it will be just to the Reverse we will have one of the largest Crops this Season that the west Ever Produced Plenty of Every thing in the Way of Grain and Vegetables I Saw a Stalk of Corn that was 9 inches in Circumference and 16 1/ feet long* ----- times are Quite Dull at the present and money Still Hard to get But I think times will

Soon be good with us – the Weather is warm and Pleasant with frequent Showers

Jonathan I Saw a Head of Lettuce as big as a half Barrel

I with you mourn the loss of our Beloved Grandfather. I Should have liked to seen Him But he is gon and we Should be glad to Know that he Died in hopes of going Home to Glory whar Sorrow and Disappointmen never is --- Say to Dear Old Grandmother for me that if I never see Her in this world that I Hope to meet her and Grand Pap Both in that world whare we never Shal get Old and whare we Shall Sit Down in our Father Kingdom and Sing the Songs of Moses and the Lamb for Ever---- Let us all trust more Implicitly n the mercies of Our God in the future than we have in the last and all will be Well

Say to John Palmer that I will anser His in a few days and to not Be uneasy.

I will Close by giving you and all Enquiring friends my Love and Respects yours truly,

Samel Boatman

J C Rauch

* Likely stalk is 16 and 1 foot long. Condition and price of crops, as well as weather, are a common topics of conversation in letters writers correspondence.

THE LETTERS

1860s

Pier March 25th 1860

Cousin Jonathan

If it were
practicable for me to write whenever
inclination would lead me to do so
I presume you would have no reason
to complain of my remissness.

Now cousin permit me to think hard
of me not writing sooner.

I thought I had so much
to write but I find when
I go to put my thoughts on paper
it would be so silly to write all
I thought. Now I must tell you
I have enjoyed myself very well
this winter. The teacher boarded
here and we had so much company
John is attending Singing School
now in Freeburgh this winter

Mary and I would have
attended but it is so far for
delicate girls like us to go so far
twice a week, it is 3 miles. now
cousin I must talk to you right,
you promised to come out here this
winter and you did not do it, told
me to put props to the house to
take it up. now when I get
everything ready, you did not
come. I won't fix up any
more for you if that is the
way you do but you can come
then I will fix the props. we
will look for you and the girls
this Spring. you did not see
anything of my miniature yet
did you, if you did just take
a peep at it now and see how very
true it is. I will tell you I never
had a chance to get it myself yet
but I think I will get it this
week if I go to Franklin to see

I was to go this evening but
I have got the sore throat, I will
wait till morning to see if it
intends to get better or not I have
been drinking pepper tea for three days
there is so many darning with the
black darning round here mostly
children they die not two hours
after they take it. the doctors
say they would rather have a
case of Cholera than that. they
can't do any thing for it.
Nanny had a severe spell of croup
and lung fever this winter we did
not expect her to live at all. She was
sick four weeks. She is quite well
now we have all been pretty well
this winter. platts children were all
sick some time ago but are well
now. I must close my

letter. I want to write to
cousin John my self

Give my love to mother
and aunts and cousins
accept a portion for yourself
excuse my letter (or myself)
pulling and writing
ink and sharp pen, it is as
sharp as an old mules nose
now cousin I want you to forget
my silly talk for I feel
quite lively this evening
come and stay a week and
we will have some high
turners good by.

Eva

first epistle of John 3rd
Matthew 13th ch

24

Paris March 28 “/60

Cousin Jonathan

If it were practicable for me to write whenever inclination would had me to do so I presume you would have no reason to complain of my _____.

Now cousin do not think hard of me not writing sooner. I thought i had so much to write but I find when i go to put my thoughts on paper it would be to silly to write all i thought. Now I must tell you i have enjoyed myself very well this winter. the teacher boarded here and we had so much company john is attending singing school in Freeburgh this winter. Mary and I would have attended but it is to far for delicate girls like us to go so far twice a week. it is 3 miles. now cousin I must talk to you right, you promised to come out here this winter and you did not do it. Told me to put props to the house to keep it up. now when i get everything ready you did not com. I wont fix up any more for you if that is the way you do but you can come then I will fix the props. We will look for you and the girls this spring. you did not see anything of my miniture yet did you if you did just take a peep at it now and see how very true it is. I will tell you i never had a chance to get it myself yet but I think I will get it this week if i go to franklin to sew. I was to go this evening but I have got the sore throat. I will wait till morning to see if it intends to get better or not. I have been drinking peper tea this three days there is so many dying with the black tounge⁵⁷ round here mostly children. They die in three hours after they take it. the doctors say they would rather have a can of cholra than that. they cant do anything for it. Nanny had a severe spell of croup and lung fever this winter we did not expect her to live at all. She was sick for weeks. She is quite well now we have all been pretty well this winter. Platts children were all sick some time ago but are well now. I must close my letter. I want to write to Cousin John Myers Eve. Give my love to uncles and aunts and cousins & accept a portion for yourself. Excuse my letter (or myself_. Spelling and writing ink and sharp from it is as sharp as an old _____ nose now Cousin i want you to forget my silly talk for i feel quite lively this evening.

Come and stay a weeks and we will have some high times. good by

Eva

first epistle of John zeh 24, Matthew 13 ch.

⁵⁷ Lung fever is a form of pneumonia. The medical term for black tongue is erysipelas.

“...low-lying swampy land, combined with a lack of knowledge about diseases causing mechanisms and proper sanitation methods led to much sickness. Outbreaks of diseases such as malaria (ager or ague), pleurisy, and mild sickness frequently occurred...Epidemics of typhoid fever, smallpox, yellow fever, and cholera were also common, killing large numbers of people”. Excerpt by McDonell, in Bodenhamer, David J., Barrows, Robert Graham, and Vanderstel, David Gordon. (*The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Indiana University Press, 1994), 121.

“... Erysipelas (Saint Anthony’s Fire): A skin disease caused by strep infection which devastates the blood Erysipelas is a contagious skin disease due to Streptococci with vesicular and bulbous lesions. Synonyms: Rose, Saint Anthony’s Fire (from its burning heat or, perhaps, because Saint Anthony was supposed to cure it miraculously).” Dailey-Harings,)19th Century Medical Terms and Disease, ancestry.com).

Aug 20/61

Dear Cousin J. C. K.

The Good Lord has spared my life yet But I am far from being well you must excuse my long delay in writing you as ~~my~~ I have not been able I am better a few days and then worse a gain the chances are a gainst me ever getting well a gain

Fathers & Mother are well and all the friends are well as far as I know it is verrey healthy here this summer and Seasonable, good crops, Excitement in war matters run high here

Hundreds of our citizens were in the Battle of Athens & a short distance from our ~~town~~ City Dear Cousin Excuse my few lines as I am not able to write a full letter and pleas excuse my long delay Pleas write me soon and give me all the Particulars and oblige yours afflicted friend I am yours truly

Samuel Boutman & Amanda, Boutman

Keokuk, August 20, 1861

Dear Cosin J.C.R. the Good Lord Has Spared my life yet But I am far from being well you must excuse my long delay in writing you as I have not been able I am Better a few days and then worse a gain the chances are a gainst me ever getting well a gain Fathers & mother are well and all the friends are well as far as I know it is verrey healthy here this Summer and Seasonable, good Crops, Excitement in war matters run high here Hundreds of our Citizens were in the Battle of Athens⁵⁸ a short distance from our city Dear Cosin Excuse my few lines as I am not able to write a full letter and pleas excuse my long delay Pleas write me Soon and give me all the Particulars and oblige yours afflicted friend I am yours truly

Samuel Boatman & Amanda Boatman

⁵⁸ BATTLE OF ATHENS: "A guerrilla chief, called General Martin Green, was so encouraged by the news of Bull Run that he planned an invasion of Iowa. He advanced on Athens, a town on the Des Moines River, opposite the little town of Croton on the Iowa side. They boasted that they would take breakfast in Athens, dine in Farmington, and sup in Keokuk. Athens was held at that time by a force of three hundred Home Guard troops under Colonel David Moore. From Keokuk he rushed up a few companies of the Sixth Iowa, which were detained there for lack of transportation. General Green came up and opened fire on Athens, but the place was too well defended for him to take it. A few stray cannon balls sped across the Des Moines and fell near' Croton - and that was as near as the Civil War ever came to Iowa." Cyrenus Cole, *History of the People of Iowa*, (Cedar Rapids: The Torch Press, 1921), 344.

"...Pro-Unionists rallied around David Moore, who had raised a force of about 500 men. Moore entered and occupied Athens on July 24, seizing homes and businesses from pro-South supporters to quarter and provision his troops. Loss of Life and Livelihood." *mostateparks.com*

Alexander M. March 8th 1840

My Dear Stephen

I received your letter of 6th Inst. and hasten to reply. I am glad to hear you are enjoying good health and am sorry to say that the times here are much worse. I dare say that week you mentioned at the moment is suffering much. She is passing through one of the most trying ordeals that a Country has ever had to pass even from the Southern extremity to most remote Northern. The last Cotton in our State are every day subject to the most trying humiliation and insults you can form no idea whatever of the enormities and misdeeds that are committed every day. I may say every hour by the U. S. Troops and in Cause whatever can I assign for such evil on our Town? no later than yesterday did those slave musicians for such they are demand of some of the Trustees of the Methodist Church, and that in a most presumptuous manner adding with in each that the men should occupy them

they did as they and could now occupy the Churches and an attorney the made a suit themselves it is a shame or Christianity a most unwarrantable attack on those Churches because there are plenty of unemployed House here that they might have and were told it but for nothing but the Church & School House. but Mr. Dear Stephen this is not like those depredations and acts that they are guilty of, but far worse acts of the most revolting are every day committed almost under our eyes. Men taken from their homes subjected to imprisonment and insult for nothing whatever nothing but to satisfy the Revenge of private individuals. the at present in the position which we occupy in our once happy home and as we are how we shall have to put up with it and bear with. The most Christian forbids that we possess them that our trials I am now speaking of the better Class of Citizens. this is not all evil and time is not so bad as they will be nor are the brutal and vicious instincts of humanity left alone. that there that people are composed of for they are a composition of the worst natural and an always most happy to what

was and rejoice ~~was~~ at the misfortune of their neighbors I hope the day is not far distant when peace and quiet shall once more reign over the Land when that day will come indeed week but I shall have many a heart a rejoice and with it many embrace the returning Soldier from the battle field. I shall with the Blood of his sacrifice will embrace his Wife and dear little one or loved embrace I shall the man that has had to leave his home from fear of assassination or imprisonment and flee to the Lagoon and Wilds of the West for the protection will also return in his dignity and he will embrace his Wife and dear little one convinced that peace is restored, and that the Core Law will protect him, that is at present demolished and amiable (a dead letter). I should be happy to always answer your letter with promptness you will read for John & Charles Boatman & friends the letter, let them know that I am ⁱⁿ good health and also your relation as well.

I am Your Truly
Antislavery
John Boatman

Alexandria Mo March 8 / [18]62

My Dear Nephew

I received your letter on the 6th Just and hasten to reply. I am pleased to hear you are all enjoying good health and am Sorry to Say that the times hear are much worse I dare Say than with you Missouri at this moment is Suffering much She is passing through one of the most trying ordeals that a Country has ever had to face even from the Southern extremity to most remot Northern the best Citizens in our State are ever day Subject to the most trying humiliations and insults you can form no idea whatever the enormities and misdeeds that are committed every day I may Say every how by the U.S. Troops and no cause whatever can I assign for Such even in our Town no later than yesterday did those Same_____ for Such they are demand of the Trustees of the Methodist Churches as there are two and that in a most presumption manner all day with a rath that these men Should occupy them They did as they Said and will occupy the Churches and are altering the inside to Suite themselves it is a Stain on Christianity a most unaccountable attack on those Churches because there are plenty of unoccupied Houses here that they might have and were told So but in nothing but the Churches and Schools Houses would Satisfy them but they

Dear Nephew this is not all their depedations and acts that they are quietly of, but far worse acts of the most revolting are every day committed almost under an eye Murders in every Shape committed almost daily** Men taken from their Homes and Subject to imprisonment and insult for nothing whatever nothing but to Sate the revenge of _____ individuals this at present is the position which we occupy in our once happy homes and as we are here we Share how to put up with it and bear with it which the most Christian fortitude that we possess. I fear that on trials "I am now Speaking of the better Class of Citizens here" and not all even and times are not as bad as they will be now as the brutal and vicious instincts of humanity let loose that these W. S. Troops are composed of for they are a composition of the worst material and as always most happy to gloat ever and rejoice at the misfortune of their neighbours I hope the day is not far distant when peace and quiet Shall no more reign over the Land when that day will come indeed with_____ it shall cause many a heart to rejoice and with it many embraces the returning Soldier from the battle field Stand with the Blood of his Kinsman will embrace his Wife and dear little ones a lover embrace Lover. The man that has had to leave his home from fear of assassination or imprisonment and flew to the Caverns and Wilds of the West for protection will also return in his dignity and he too will embrace his Wife and dear little ones conscious that peace is restored and that the Civil Law will protect him, that is at present demolished and annulled (a dead letter)

I should be happy in always answering your letters with promptness You will read for John and _____ Boatman & friends this letter. Let them know that I am and wife in good health and also your relations as well.

I am Yours Truly and Affectionately

John Boatman

**Specific documentation could not be located in the research of murders and occupation of homes and churches; although, the earlier event recalling the Battle of Athens mentions similar occupation. It may refer to the beginning of the Skunk River Wars, which came to a climax in August of 1863. See Cole, *History of the People of Iowa*, 393.

Keokuk Oct 31/62

Dear Cousin Sir
after a long silence I
lift my pen in answer
to yours and you I have
but little to communicate
to you of interest But I ~~would~~
would say that it has
been the Gods will to ^{spare} ~~save~~
our lives and we are in
reasonable good health at
present the friends are
all well as far as I know
Father has had a very hard
spell of sickness But he
is quite smart at present
the rest of our folks are
well, my health is some
better But I cant do any
work at all and is que
I never ~~will~~ will be able

To do any we have not
heard any thing from Brother
Williams for some considerable
time But the last account
he was doing very well
and making money fast
and they were all well
We have but little ~~business~~ ^{business}
out side Military matters
with us the fall this
far has been very nice
and fine the weather
warm and pleasant
As I have nothing of interest
to write I will close by begg
ing you ~~to~~ to forgive
my delay in writing &
I will try to do better the next
time Believe me to be yours
truly Saml. Boutwell
Please write me soon and
I will do better hereafter.

Amanda Sends her
best wishes and love
to Uncle and Aunt and
the Girls Please give
my best wishes to all
the friends Mrs A. M. B.

Keokuk Oct 31 / [18]62

Dear Cosin Sir

After a long Silence I lift my pen in answer to yours and you I have But little to Communicate to you of intrust But I would Say that it has Been the Lords will to share your lives and we are in reasonable good health at Present the friends are all well as far as I know Father has had a verry hard Spell of Sickness But he is quite Smart at present the Rest of our folks are well, my health is Some Better But I cant do any work at all and is _____ I never Will be able To do any we have not Herd any thing from Brother William for Some Considerable time But the last account he was doing verry well and making money fast and they were all well We have But little quiry out Side Military matters with us the fall this far has been verry nice and fine the weather Warm and pleasant As I have nothing of intrust to write I will close by Begging you to forgive my delay in writing & I will try to do better the next time. Believe me to be yours truly

Samel Boatman

Pleas write me Soon and I will do better hereafter

Amanda Sends her Best wishes and love to Uncle and Aunt and the Girls Please give my Bes wishes to all the friends Mrs A and M. B.

** Almost ten years later, Samuel Boatman is still prospering. Does not wish to indulge in military talks. Speaks of warm and pleasant weather.

Hooker Feb 18/63

Dear Cousin Sir
I Recd yours some time ago
and was glad to know you
and all the friends near, with
the reason for delayed writing
is not been well But I am
better Sir But little of interest
to write you But I would, say
to you that we are all well
as usual as far as I know
at the present time Father
was up a few days & go out
he was well as usual the
boys are well also he got
a letter from Brother John
a short time & go and he was
well he is in Kansas he was
9 months in the army he
now is farming the last

Letter we got from William
in California they were all
well and doing well We
had a verry open winter
up to the present time
not over 6 inches Snow and
it didnt lay 48 Hours it is
kuning today and Muddy &
warm The Crops look Good
at the present time as ~~soon~~
ever I saw them Jackson and
Mary Wilson from Des Moines
have been here on a visit
this winter they are well
Business is tolerably Good
here produce Demands a good
price Money is plenty &
Real Estat rising and in
good demand. the River
is clear of ice and Boats
running daily to St Louis
Corin I only have this to

Say on the Condition of
our unhappy Country and
that is this that I am for
my Country right away
or hang and the Set of
People in the North clam-
oring to be Democrats and
howling about and finding
fault with our President
and Every thing he does
are the Abolitionist and
No one else I would advise you
as one that loves you to keep
Both Sides of the Question &
my word for it you will
change your views I send
a few lines from a Loyal
slave holder in Tenn he
is right on ¹²⁻⁹⁰⁰² excuse my scratching
and write me a gain I am
Ever yours Truly,

Cosin I also send you a few
lines from a loyal Democrat
Just the kind I am and—
and you ought to be

Please write me who of
my acquaintance have gon
to the Wars and who are
at Home and oblige yours

I do think that there is no
Neutral Ground that if we
are not for our Government
we are against it and I then
think that our President is
honest and want to save the
union and I will stick to
him although I did not help
elect him and every true man
will stand by the Union

Keokuk Feb 18 / 63

Dear Cosin Sir

I Reed yours som time ago and was glad to know you and all the friends are well the reason for delayed writing is not been well But I am better Iv But little interest to write you But I would say to you that we are all well as usual as far as I know at the present time Father was up a few days ago and he was well as well the Boys are well also he got a letter from Brother John a short time ago and he was well he is in Kansas he was 9 months in the army he now is farming.

The last letter we got from William in California they were all well and doing well. We had a verry open winter up to the present time not over 6 inches Snow and it didn't lay 48 Hours. It is raining today and muddy & warm The crops look good the present time as we Saw them Jackson and Mary Wilson from Desmoines have been here on a visit this winter they are well business is tolerably good here produce Desmoines a good prise Money is plenty & Real Estat rising and in good demand. The river is clear of ice and Boats running daily to St. Louis⁵⁹

Cosin I only have this to Say on the condition of our unhappy country and that is this that I am for my country wright or rong and the Set of People in the North Claming to be Democrats and Howling about and finding falt with our President and Every thing he does are the abolitionist and No one else I would advise you as one that loves you to Reed Both Sides of the Question & and my word for it you will change your views I Send a few lines from a Loyal Slave holder in Tenn he is write[the goose] on.⁶⁰

Excuse my scratching and write me a gain I am very yours truly

Saml Boatman

⁵⁹ "Riverboats carried settlers into the country's interior. The steamboats burned enormous amounts of wood, cut from the timber along Iowa's river valleys." *Iowa DNR*, 4.

⁶⁰ See List of Photographs: News Clippings.

Kerkuk April 13/63

Dear Cousin Sam
I Recd yours some days ago and
was glad to know you and all the
friends was well I have but little
of interest to communicate to you of
~~interest~~ but the best of all is that
we are enjoying a goodly portion of
health and the friends are all well
as far as I know we had a fine
visit to Father's last week down
to Mo. we found them all well
as usual we also spent some 3
days up on the farm with the
the Boys Hiram & Avery Brown are
busy at their Spring work they
are tending to farm quite largely
this summer they got a letter
a short time ago from Wm. Boston
and in California and he was well.

I John Boston at last account
was in Kansas, and I ~~has~~ been
we have not heard a word from
him since he has been exchanged
and that has been some 4 months
he is some where in the Rebel
army about Richmond - the
Spring is cold and backward with
us and dry wheat looks hard but
still may come about yet times are
good considering all things business
good labor high, in regard to our
country all I have to say there is
but two parties and one are loyal
and the other is disloyal and if
you are not for your country you
certainly are against it you can not
be neutral as for the Copperhead
Democracy I think they are play-
ing into Jeff. Davis hands all they
can they the Copperheads and Rebels
talk and act a like this I know
I am ever yours truly Samuel Boston
write me soon S.C.N

As far as arresting men in the dead
hours of the night as you spoke of
and dragging them off - me thinks if
we had a Jackson for President there
would be a 1000 arrested ~~where~~
~~wasnt~~ one as for Old Vallandigham
and Co. I think they are as big
Rebels as Jeff Davis and twice as
mean men I send you one or two
of a thousand mean and barbarous
tricks of those rebels that I read
of in. I know you read one side
of this thing I want you to read
both sides and my word for
it you will change your views
I was like you till I read both sides
and I've changed my mind but
you must discard Old Vallandigham
and his secesh doctrine the Rebels
dislikes your ~~doctrin~~ doctrine and you as they
do the Devil and still you are in
sympathy with them this is wrong
What I said is true and you see I am right

Where you put Ia, for Iowa
Put Ia as Ia stands for Indiana
or, in other words where you
put two ~~Ia~~ letters for Iowa put
Ia or Iowa in full

Keokuk,

April 13 / 63

Dear Cosin Sir

I Read yours Some days ago and was glad to know you and all the Friends was well I have but little of interest to communicate to you But the best of all is that we are Enjoying a goodly portion of health and the friends are all well as far as I know We had a fine visit to Fathers last week down to Mo We found them all well as usual We also Spent Some 3 days up on the farm with the Boys Hiram & Avery Brown are Busy at their Spring Work they intend to farm quite largely this Summer They got a letter a Short time ago from Wm Boatman and in California and he was well.

John Boatman at last account was in Kansas, and we have not heard a word from Ira Since he has been Exchanged and that has been Some 4 months he is Some where in the Rebel army a about Richmond - the- Spring is cold and backward with us and dry wheat looks hard but Still my come out yet times are good considering all thing Business good Labor high, in regard to our Country all I have to Say there is But two partys and one are loyal and the other is Disloyal and if you are not for your country you Certainly against it you can not be neutral as for the Copperhead⁶¹ Democracy I think they are playing into Jef Davises hands all they can they the Copperheads and the Rebels talk and act a like this I know I am Ever yours truly

Samuel Boatman

Pleas write me soon J.C.R.

as far as arresting men in the dead hours of the night as you spoke of and dragging them of – me things if we had a Jackson for President there would been a 1000 arrested where there wasent. as for old Vallandingham and Cox I think they are as big Rebels as Jef Davis and twice as mean men. I send you one or two of a thousand mean and barberous tricks of those rebels that I read of Cosin.² I know you read one side of this thing I want you to read both sides and my word for it you will change your views. I was like you til I red both sides and Iv changed my mind but you must discuss old Valandingham and his Sesesh doctrin the Rebels Dispises your doctrin and you as they do the Devil and still you are in sympathy with them this is rong. What I said is tru and you see I am wright.

Where you put Ia for Iowa, put Io as Ia stands for Indiana or in other words whare you put two letters for Iowa put I or Iowa in full

⁶¹ “Copperheads: also called Peace Democrat, during the American Civil War referred to any citizen in the North who opposed the war policy and advocated restoration of the Union through a negotiated settlement with the South. The word Copperhead was first so used by the New York Tribune on July 20, 1861, in reference to the snake that sneaks and strikes without warning.” *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*.

⁶² See List of Photographs: Newspaper clippings

Leffin this Oct. 7th 1863
Cousin J. C. This evening
I received your letter and was
truly glad to hear from you.
You intimated in your letter
as though I owed you a letter,
well I am trying to call to
memory whether I wrote last
or not, but I think I did.
If I did not I thought I did.
I was looking for a letter from
you thinking it was your turn
to write. "I hope you will excuse
me if I was negligent." Well
now about the times. Such times
I never heard tell of. "Every body
is crazy with excitement, women
children and all." They fight like
dogs, and every one it appears would
be at the head of the pile." As
for myself I never took such an

active part in a campaign as
I did in this one. "I have
been to all the principal Rallies
excepting one, and then I called
the train that I were within
reach." I was to Ensigns in Chau-
ford County to the largest meeting
I ever was at. "I never saw such
a crowd, I also was to Messersau-
by, Hindlay Lottins, and a great
many other Township meetings. To
day the Branghtites had a meeting
in Leffin it was to beat the Val.
meeting we had. But we had
then to their one. When we had
our meeting it rained a little and
the Branghtites enjoyed it big and long-
ed at us. But to day it rained
nearly all the time, and they had
an awful time. They made their
Progs last night that the Lord
was on their side that they were
going to have a good day.

as the appearance was favora-
ble. "I have been engaged in
selling (Vallandigham's Records,
say Books Val, Trials &c.
until about two weeks, I now
am teaching school near at home
at 1st of the day, and am going
to teach 6 months." Will our
Congressional district is all right
on Val, I would not feel sur-
prised but what we will elect
him in our district with a
majority of 1500. I hope to see
me with him for our next
Governor. So that these damnable
cursed abolitionists get their
thundering, black, wool coated,
throats stopped. I hope the day
is not far distant when these
negro-philanthropists will have
separations enough. Your friends
in the west are all Val. folks.
There are 6 of us & at Haves including

Lena's man, and Joe Harsh and
Deb's man, and Geo. Platt. he
is in the west too moving
that makes 13 in all and not
one that will vote the other
way. (Thank the Lord) Yes we
are going to elect Val. and then
we are going to bring him from
Canada and take him to Columbus
and inaugurate him, and all
the abolition thunder bolts in
hell can't stop us. I am going
for one, and if it is the last
I can do on this earth, I am
confident I shall be rewarded.
Mr Anderson their nominee for
Lieut. Governor, spoke in town to
day. I heard him. They will
say more good words in 5 min-
utes than Anderson in 5 hours.
I know this to be so. We are
still preparing from the College.
Mr Platt has moved to Antares.
I hope this will meet your all
well. Will I must quit as this
sheet is full. excuse all blots.
I have not yet told you all what
I would like to. This leaves me well.
W. H. D. Rev. Yours &c R. H. Myers

Tiffin Ohio Oct 7th 1863

Cousin J.C.

This evening I received your letter and was truly glad to hear from you. You intimated in your letter as though I owed you a letter, well I am trying to call to memory whether I wrote last or not but I think I did, If I did not I thought I did." I was looking for a letter from you thinking it was your turn to write," I hope you will excuse me if I was negligent." Well now about the times, Such times I never heard tell of," Every body is crazy with excitement, women children and all." They fight like dogs and every one it appears wants to be the head of the pile." As for my self I never took such an active part in a campaign as I did in this one." I have been to all the principal Rallys excepting one (and then I missed the train) that were within reach." I was to B_____ in Crawford County to the largest meeting I ever was at." I never saw such a crowd, I also was to Upper_____ KY, Findlay Fostoria, and a great many other Lawnshife meetings. Today the Broughtites had a meeting in Tiffin it was to beat the _____ meeting we had, But we had ten to their one. When we had out meeting it rained a little and the Broughites enjoyed it big and had - _____ed at us - But to day it rained nearly all the time and they had an awful time. They made their Brags last night that the Lord was on their side that they were going to have a good day, as the appears was favorable ---I have been enjoyed in selling Vallendingham's⁶³ Records, song books, Vol, Trials SC, until about two weeks. I am teaching school near at home at 1 40/100 \$ per day and am going to teach 6 months"⁶⁴ - Well our Congressional district is all right on Vol, I would not feel surprised but what we will let him in our district with a majority of 1500 --- I hope to God we will have him for our next Governor. So that these damnable cursed abolitionists get their thundering, black, wool coated throats stoped. I hope the day is not for the distant when these negro-philanthropists will have a sefaws enough. Your Friends in the west are all Vol. folks. There are 6 of us 4 at Rows including Lena's man, and Joe Faulk and Debs man, and Geo. Flatt he is in the west too now. That makes 13 in all and not one that will vote the other way. (Thank the Lord) Yes we are going to elect Vol. and then we are going to bring him from Canada and take him to Columbus and Inaugurate him, and all the abolition thunderballs in hell cant stop us. I am going for one, and if it is the last deed I can do on this earth, I am confident I shall be rewarded. Mr. Anderson their nominee for Lieut Governor spoke in town today. I heard him. _____ will shy more good) in 5 min votes than Anderson in 5 hours I know this to be so. We a re still keeping borders from college, Mr. Flatt had moved to Fostoria. I hope this will meet you all well. Well I must quit as the sheet is full -- Excuse all blots. I have not near told you all what I would like to - this leaves us well. Write soon.

Yours BSC H. Myers.

⁶³ "Clement Vallandigham was a leading Peace Democrat ("Copperhead"), who was one of the most vocal and tenacious critics of the Lincoln administration during the Civil War. Vallandigham adhered to a Jacksonian philosophy throughout his political life—states' rights, strict constitutional interpretation, low tariffs, and anti-national bank. The conservative political philosophy of Edmund Burke and Presbyterian Calvinism were also major influences on his thought. Although Vallandigham admitted that slavery was immoral, he opposed abolitionism on political and constitutional principles and resisted equal rights for black Americans on racist grounds. He was a Unionist who repudiated secession; yet he also opposed the Union war effort and became a leader of the Peace wing of the Democratic Party ("Copperheads"). Nearly all Copperheads were Democrats, but most Northern Democrats were not Copperheads. Copperhead strength was mainly in the Midwest (Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois), where many

families had Southern roots and where agrarian interests fostered resentment of the growing dominance of industrialists in the Republican Party and federal government. *Encyclopedia Britannica Online* and *American National Biography [online] Harpweek*.

⁶⁴ Around 1850 there were still but few schools in the state, and the average school year consisted of only three months and nine days, on an average.they received about twenty dollars a month for the three months and nine days. Cole, *Ibid.*, 255.

Keokuk Iowa 8 1864

Dear Cousin Sir
Not knowing whether you wrote
last or not I thought I would
write you a few lines though
but little to intrust for send
you first. Threw the Goodness
of God we are ~~are~~ all well
at present as far as I know &
my health gradually improving
but I lack a heap from being
stout. Wm. Hasson is teaching
School in Alexandria and he
was up this week and he
said Father and Mother are
well & the rest of the Mc
folks was well, Cousin we have
very good times in the west
this fall and winter money
plenty and every thing bring
a good price our City has
packed about 100,000 hags at

^{myself's name and name of my wife}
Prices ranging from 5 to 6
Dollars per hundred Corn 75 to 80
Per Bus Hay 20 a 22 per ton tim &
Potatoes 80 to 100 Bushel Butter
25 cts lbs Eggs 20 a 25 Dozen &
other things in proportion
We are having the coldest
Weather I ever saw in this
State it has been very
Cold for some 12 day Thousands
of Hogs and Cattle and calves
have frozen to death in
this State and Illinois plenty
of snow and good slaying
and the People are making
good use of it this is all at
Present I will close by
giving you my best love
and wishes Saml Boatman
Cousin Please write me soon
and tel me how the folks
are Write soon dont forget

Keokuk, January 8 1864

Dear Cosin Sir

Not knowing whether you wrote last or not I thought I would write you a few lines through But little of interest to you Send you first threw the Goodness of God we are all well at present as far as I know & my health is gradually improving But I lack a heap from being Stout Wm Hasson is teaching School in Alexandria and he was up this week and he Said Father and Mother are well & the rest of the Mo folks was well, Cosin we have verrey good times in the west this fall and winter money plenty and Every thing being a good prise Our City has packed about 10,000 hogs at Prices ranging from 5 to six 6 Dollars per hundred Corn 75 to 80 Per Bus Hay 20 to 29 per tun & Potatoes 80 to 100 Bushel Butter 25 cts lbs Eggs 20 to 25 Dozen & other things in Proportion We are having the coldes Wether I Ever Saw in this Site it has been verrey cold for Some 12 day Thousands of Hogs and Cattle and Calves have frozen to death in this State and Illinois⁶⁵ plenty of Snow and good Slaying and the People are making Good use of it this is all at Present I will close by giving you my bes love and wishes

Saml Boatman

Cosin Please write me soon and tel me how the folks are Write Soon don't forget

Give my love to uncle and aunt S. Boatman.

⁶⁵ "Of the three last days of December, 1863, a furious storm prevailed over the entire Middle West. It died away toward evening of the third day and the clouds all disappeared during the night. New Year's morning was bright and clear but, oh, so cold. The atmosphere upon the face felt like ice. Cattle perished during the storm. Mr. Walter Thomas lost a cow. New Year's Day of 1864 is remembered as one of the coldest on record." *Taft Speech, 1913*. IAGenWeb Project.

House April 2nd 1865
Mr J Rauch

Respected Cousin I this
evening had myself to answer your most
welcome letter which came to ~~my~~ hand in
due time and found me well and enjoying
a goodly portion of this worlds goods I am
playing carpenter at this time pretty extensively
I am at work on a House 28 by 34 two story
high I have it pretty near ready to raise I
think about 2 days more will make it ready
to raise and have the most of the material
dressed and my frames together I received
a letter from John and Cousin Michael
some few days since they are in Sullivan
Co Indiana well and doing well they
are working at the at \$2.50 per day tools and
boardling found but enough of this well
Cousin we are clear once more of the
draft but how long no one can tell at
least I can't we had a hard time of it
hear there is a good many that would
not pay any thing and that made it
hard on the rest of us it cost me

one Hundred thirty four dollars and
four days recruiting I know of that
well Cousin I will have to close for
this time for want of subject write soon
and give me all of the particulars give
my best respects to all enquiring and
take a share your self

M Salmon

Ada Ohio April 9, 1865

Mr. J. Rauch

Respected cousin I this evening seat myself to answer your most welcome letter which came to hand in due time and found me well and enjoying a goodly portion of the worlds goods I am playing carpenter at the time pretty extensively I am at work on a house 28 by 34 too storys high I have it pretty near ready to raise I think about 2 days more will make it ready to raise and have the most of the material dressed and my frames together I received a letter from John and Cousin Michael a few days since the are Sullivan Co. _____ well and doing well . They are working a _____ at \$50/100 per day tools and boarding** found but enough of this well cousin we are clear, once more of the draft but how long no one can tell at least I cant we had a hard time of it hear there is a good many that would not pay any thing and that made it hard on the rest of us it cost me one Hundred thirty four dollars and four days recruiting but enough of that. Well cousin I will have to close for this time for want of subject write some and give me all the particulars give my best respects to all inquiring and take a share your self.

M. Palmer

**Cost of labor and tools. First name of M. is not defined. Likely a nephew Jonathan's mother, Mary Palmer.

June the Thirteenth 1865

Dear Cousin I at length find myself enabled to send you your money. I got the money immediately on presenting the due bill but had to send to Lifford for the stamps which brought about the delay. I retain three of the stamps for to pay expenses incurred by getting the stamps. I have nothing new to write. This evening I still work at Sears occasionally; John and myself have purchased the lot which we talked of putting a shop on. and now we shall proceed to build. John started on a tramp last Tuesday.

Tuesday I hope you may be improving
in your health by this time

I should like to make you
a visit but can not do so
from a pressure of work.

Yours with respect
S. O. Rowe

Fostoria, OH to J.E. Rowe

June the Thirteenth 1865

Dear Cousin

I at length find myself unable to send you your monney

I got the monney immediately on presenting the ____ bill but had to send to Tiffin for the stamps which brought about the delay I retain three of the stamps for to pay expenses incurred by getting the stamps I have nothing new to write this evening I still work at Sears** occasionally, John and myself have purchased the lot which we talked of putting a Shop on and now we shall proceed to build

John Started on a tramp last Tuesday

I hope you may be improving in your health by this time
I should like to make you a visit but can not do so from a presence of work

Yours with respect

S. O. Rowe

To: J.E. Rowe

Berlin Heights, Eerie Co. Ohio

** Sears Roebuck was not officially founded until the year 1893. Before the 1860s mail orders houses allowed people to order merchandise by mail. Scholarly research does not place Sears in the 1860s, although some non-scholarly sites do reference its presence since the 1860s.

Keokuk May 14- 66

Dear Cousin Sir

I want you to Excuse me for not
Writing you sooner as I am feeling
Bad most of the time I have but
little of interest to write you I do
thank the Good Lord I can say to
you that we are all well and doing
the best we can in this world of
Sin and Disappointment Father
Was up last Sabbath and he and
all the folks was well they had
a hard time last winter with the
ice and water from the Des Moines
River the ice jayed in the River
and flooded the whole country
and a Grade dele of stock had to
perish the River has been
very high this Spring we have
had quite a cold and backward
Spring But the weather is fine

at Present Brother Ira has got
Home from the Rebel army safe
and Sound But Ragged and Dirty
and not a dollar of money to help
him self But he has gon to work
to try to make a Raise a gain -
~~the~~ the Crops wheat look Bad ~~now~~
Most places Rye look Better oats
tolleably - the Last we herd of Bro
William he was Captain of a Steam Boat
on the Sacramento River Com you
said your family was all well
Please Explain your self a bout
your family if you have a
family tel us something a bout
it and how long you have had one
Give us all the particulars and
dont leave us in the dark
any longer I will Close by Giving
you My Best Wishes and Love
truly yours Saml Boatman

Please write soon

J. C. Rauch

Keokuk May 14 - [18]66

Dear Cosin Sir

I want you to Excuse me for not writing you sooner as I am feeling Bad most of the time I have but little of interest to write you I do thank the Good Lord I can Say to you that we are all well and doing the best we can in this world of Sin and Disappointment Father was up last Sabbath and he and all the folks was well they had a hard time last winter with the ice and water from the Demoines River the ice gorged in the River and flooded the whole county and a grede dele of Stock had to Perrish the River has been verry high this Spring* We have had quite a cold and backward Spring But the weather is fine at present Brother Ira has got home from the Reble army safe and sound but Ragged and Dirty and not a Dollar of money to help himself But he has gon to work to try to make a Raise a gain - the crops wheat look Bad most places Rye look better Oats tolerably** - the Last we herd of Bro William he was Captain of a Steamboat on the Sacramento River Cosin you said your family was all well Please explain your self a bout your family if you have a family tel us something about it and how long you v had one. Give us all the particulars and done leave us in the dark any longer I will close by giving you my Best Wishes and Love

Truly yours

Saml Boatman

Please write Soon

*The Des Moines and Mississippi Rivers often were the cause of much hardship. The lowlands, such as Alexandria, suffered from flooding many times due to the thawing ice in the spring.

**Freezing weather often affected cattle, farm stock, and crops.

Keokuk Feb 4/67

Dear Cousin Sir
I received yours of the 30-
and was glad to hear
that you and all the
family was well and
that the whole country
was healthy. Cousin I have
but little of interest to
communicate at present
a word about our winter
so far. it has been mild
and pleasant but little
cold and few storms &
but little snow. Not over
three day laying so far
to day the weather is as
fine as a May day the
coldest was 8 below zero

The River didnt close
til a few days ago and
at the present time there
is ~~no~~ no crossing crossing
~~it~~ only a foot and not
safe at that. Enough of
this father was up yester-
day and he was well &
mother is well the folks
are all well as far as I
have any knowledge of
father has made a home
in the Pork house all
winter we have had a
letter from Brother John
and William John is in
Kansas near fort Kearney
he was well its the first
time ever heard from him
since the close of the
war

William is in Calif^{ornia}
they were all well
and he likes the west
very much But I think
if he was back to Missouri
he would stay Cousin
I wish I had you out
here in the west a while
and you could see what
a country we have. I
think you would like it
I am as well as usual
But I lack a good deal
of being well and I
thank God that I am
as well as I am Cousin
let us trust in Him
who died that we might
live and the end will
soon come and then we
will go home to rest

with our dear friends
who has gon before to
enjoy the smiles of a Savior
I have nothing more
at present to say and
I will close by
giving you my best
wishes and Love
Saml Boatman

Keokuk Feb 4 / [18] 67

Dear Cosin Sir

I Received yours of the 30 and was glad to here that you and all the friends was well and that the whole country was healthy Cosin I have But little of interest to communicate at the present a word about our winter So far it has been mild and plesant but little cold and few Storms & But little Snow, not over three day Slaying so far. So far to day the wether is as fine as a May day the coldest was 8 below zero

The River didn't close til a few days a go and at the present time there is no crossing only on foot and not Safe at that Enough of this Father was up yesterday and he was well & Mother is well the folks are all well as far as I have any knowledge of Father has made a hand in the Pork house all winter we have had a Letter from Brother John and William John is in Kansas near Fort Kerney he was well it's the first time we herd from him since the close of the war. William is in California they were all well and he likes the west verry much But I think if he was back to Missouri He would Stay. Cosin I wish I had you out here in the west a while and you could See what a country we have. I think you would like it* I am as well and I thank God that I am as well as I am Cosin let us trust in Him who died that we might Live and the End will Soon come and then we will go home to rest with our dear friends who has gon before to Enjoy the Smiles of a Savior I have nothing more at present to say and I will close by giving you my Best Wishes and Love,

Saml Boatman

* Over 10 years later, Samuel still encourages his cousin that it is well worth it for him to move west.

THE LETTERS
CIVIL WAR REGIMENTS



Hospital No. 2. Ward 7
Lexington Kentucky
April the 1st 1863

Dear Cousin, I have
skated my self down to
write a few lines to
you and to answer your
letter which I received
a great while ago. I got it before
I got sick and when I got sick I
could not write at all. But as I
have got pretty stout again I thought
I would write an answer to the one
I received from you I was glad to hear
that you was well at that time and
I still hope that these few lines may
find you well and doing the best
you know how. I am trying my
best to get my discharge from the
hospital to go to my Regiment
again I am getting very tired of
staying here at the hospital it is

such poor living and I will give
you a list of what we get to eat
here. in the morning we get coffee
made out of corn meal and a little
Bull Beef and dry Bread. and at
noon we get a piece of dry Bread
and a little gravy and as much
of Adams Ale as we can drink.
and at night we get some tea
made out of peach leaves and some
corn meal boiled just enough to do
for corn Stops and a little molasses
mixed with vinegar and a piece
of dry Bread laid by for about
5 years. Well if a sick man can
get well with such grub as that
why it is more than what I ever
expected and I cant see how
they can at all. Well I must leave
off of this subject and tell you
some thing about the regiment
it is at the present time at
Lexington Kentucky and is waiting

for the Convalescents from the Corps
and as soon as we all get up to
Regiment the 1st Brigade will take
off for Tennessee and get into an
other place where there is nothing
to eat. But I must stop here
this war will be over between now
and the time cold weather sets in
if it dont it is an awfull mis-
take in me and a great many
more Union Men. I hope it will close
again then so as I and all the rest
of the Soldiers can get home again
and enjoy our lives at our homes
I would like to see you and a great
many more of the Calcutta folks
Well I wonder whether you have
heard about some of our Company
was taken prisoners if you have
not I wont hurt to tell you any
how. there were five of our Company
taken I will give you a list of
their names. James C. Caggett

our aduly Sargent from Calcutta
and prisoner Mr. Barton of East
Fairfield H. Frederick Baker of Ohio
Nirsh Williams of Williamsport
and James Mc. Shorn of Calcutta
but they are all paroled and sent
to Camp Chase Columbus Ohio
I guess they will be sent home too
until they are exchanged prisoners.
of war Well I will tell you I want
to send one of my blankets home
and I will send it with Samuel
Earls blanket and over coat and
you can get it at his house
and you can know it by it
has only one black stripe on it
across one end of it. and the
other end is not mended at all
When they come please get mine
and use it all you please there
are plenty more in the Army of
Uncle Sam. Well I must close
for this time. By sending my
best respects to you and all my friends
yours until death
Curtis R. Paulk S. F. C. Caggett

Hospital No. 2 Ward 9

Lexington Kentucky

April the 7th 1863

Dear Cousn, I have Seated my self down to write a few Lines to you and to answer your Letter which I received a great while ago. I got it Before I got Sick and when I got Sick I could not write at all. But as I have got pretty Stout again I thought I would write an answer to the one I received from you I was glad to hear that you was well at that time and I Still hope that these first lines may find you well and doing the Best you know how. I am trying any Best to get my discharge from the hospital to go to my Regiment again I am getting very tired of Staying here at the hospital it is such poor Living and I will give you a List of what we get to eat here in the morning we get coffee made out of Carre(Chickere?) Seed and a Little Bull Beef and dry Bread and at noon we get a piece of dry Bread and Little gravy and as much of Adams Ale as we can drink and at night we get Some tea made out of peach Leaves and some corn meal Boiled _____ Just enough to do for cont Slop and a Little molasses mixed with vinegar and a piece of dry Bread Said By for about 5 years. Well if a sick man can get well with such grub as that why it is more than, I ever expect and I cant see how they can at all. Well I must Leave off of this subject and tell you some things about the regimen[t] it is at the present time at Lancaster Kentucky and is waiting for the Convalescents from the Hospital as soon as we all get up to Regiments the whole Brigade will tack off for Tennessee and get into an other place where there is nothing to eat. But I must _____, I think this war will Be over Between now and the time cold weather sets in if it don't it is an awfull mistake in me and a great many more union men. I hope it will close again therr so as I and all the rest of the soliders can get home again and enjoy our selves at our homes I would like to see you and a great many more of the Calcutta folks

Well I wonder wheather you have heard about some of our Company was taken prisoners if you have not It wont hurt to tell you any, how there were five of our Company taken I will give you a list of their names. Parnes C. Taggert our orderly seargent from Palestine and Benjamin M. Barton of East Fairfield Dr. Frederick Baker of Elkton Uriah Williams of Williamsport and Parnes M. Thorn of Calcutta But they are all paroled and sent to Camp Chase* Columbus Ohio I guess they will Be sent home too until they are exchanged prisoners of war.

Well I will tell you I want to send one of my Blankets home and I will Send it with Samuel Earlys Blanket and over coat and you can get it at his house and you can know it By it has only one Black stripe on it across one end of it and the other end is not marked at all When they come please get mine and use it all you please there are plenty more in the Army of Uncle Sam Well I must close for this time. By sending my Best respects to you and all inquiring Friends no more But I remain yours until Death

Peter R. Faulk to J. C. Rauch

Side note along left margin of letter: good Bye and write soon

*Camp Chase – Confederate military prison in Columbus, Ohio. Chiefly for political and military prisoners from Kentucky and western Virginia. During the winter of 1863-1864 a small pox epidemic caused many deaths:

APRIL 1863:

On Hand at end of proceeding month	534
Joined during month	421
Total	955
Transferred to other stations	479
Delivery or Exchanged	39
Died	3
Escaped	0
Released	0
Total Loss	521
Sick	30
Citizens or Political Prisoners	117

courtesy of <http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/Quarters/5109/history.html>

Camp near Stamford Ky.
July the 13th A. D. 1863

Dear Cousin,

John of
The 30th came to hand last evening but I did not get it until at the time it reached camp but it was preserved for me until I came in off of grand grand and I perused its contents with the greatest of pleasure I was glad to hear that you was all well. I am at present in a good state of health but considerably worn down on the last two marches we were obliged to make during the past two weeks we came from Mount Vernon Ky. to Somerset Ky. the distance

of 48 miles and almost no passable roads and went into a camp 4 miles beyond Somerset about 6 miles from the Cumberland River and we received a dispatch that the rebels were in our rear with 8000 of a force near Stamford Ky. and we were ordered on a retreating expedition to reinforce our men that were at that time we started to our rear on double quick time and the roads was very bad that we were obliged to leave part of our train behind but the most of our train came with us though we were lost two days coming from Somerset to Stamford the distance being 60 miles and the Ky. miles are as long again as those of Ohio but when we reached

Stamford there were no rebels there they had all hunted some other hole to crawl into and night before last a party of rebel citizens (we are supposed to be) burned three of our trains that were left back and were coming this way. Dear Cousin the crews are cheering on our side. if I was with you I could tell you both good and bad news of this most horrible war. I think that this war will close by next spring any how if not sooner as near as I can learn General Lee of Virginia is gone up with all his force it was reported some time ago that he was going to take Harrisburgh Pa. But I rather think

that he is taken himself and our flag is truly waving over richburg miss. our men here and Bear an excellent game since the fall of that city. Well as I think the war so near to a close I expect a time soon to appear to us both that we can talk together face to face and have a happier time to gether as we can do with pen and ink. Well my sheet is about full so I will close by sending my best wishes to you and all inquiring friends so no more but still remain yours as ever Peter R. Stank

To Jonathan C. Branch
Direct to Stamford Ky. Co. C,
104th Regt. Inf. in care of
Capt. H. Sturgis / White Lion

_____ Near Stanfort Ky. July the 12th A.D. 1863

Dear Cousin

Yours of the 30th came to hand last evening But I did not get it right at the time it reached camp But it was preserved for me until I came in off the grand guard and I perused its contents with the greatest of pleasure I was glad to hear that you was all well. I am at present in a good state of health But considerably were down on the Last two marches we were obligent to make during the Past two weeks we came from Mount Vernon Ky to Someset Ky the distance of 48 miles and almost impassable roads and went into a camp of 4 miles Beyond Someset about 6 miles from the Cumberland River and we received a dispatch that the rebles were in our rear with 8,000 of a force near Stanfort Ky and we were ordered on a retreating expedition to reinforce our men that were at that time we started to our rear on Double quick time and the roads were very Bad that we were obliged to leave part of our train behind But the most of our train came with us through over were Just two days coming from Somersset to Standfort the distance Being 60 miles and the Ky miles are as Long again as those of Ohio But when we reached Stanfort there were no rebles there they had all hunted some other hole to crawl into and night Before Last a party of reble citizens (or are supposed to Be) Burned three of our trains that were Left Back and were coming this way. Dear Cousin the news are cheering on our side. If I was with you I could tell you Both good and bad news of this most Horrible war. I think that this war will close by next Spring anyhow if not sooner as near as I can Learn General Lee of the Virginia is gone up with all his force it was reported some time ago that he was going to take Harrisburgh Pa. But I rather think that he is taken himself and our flag is truly waving over Vicksburg Miss. Our men have Bear an excellent name since the fall of that city. Well as I think the war so near to a close I expect a time soon to appear to us both that we can talk together face to face and have a happier time together as we can do with Pen and ink. Well my sheet is about full so I will close by sending my best wishes to you and all inquiring Friends so no more But still remain yours as ever

Peter R. Faulk

To Jonathan C. Rauch

Direct to Stanfort KY, Co C. 104th Regt _____ in care of O.F.L. in care of Capt. H. Sturgeon / Write soon.

Written On Envelope: *Soldier's Letter in last march*

P Ringgold Georgia March the 10th 1864

Cousin I this morning set my my self to answer your welcome letter which com to hand this morning it found me in reasonable health and I sincerely hope these few lines may find you ~~and~~ enjoying the blessing of good health Cousin you wanted to know whether brother Adickal was in the army or not hea was doing time in Carintony and I heard that he was taking a prisoner but I it was all a mistake he was not but he left there and went home for his health he was not well while he was there but after he went home he got well he had the scirfulas in his throat and they fear the last letter that I got from home they stated that that the procast marshal was after him fore to make him serve his time of draft out but I dont think they will get him he has kept hid from them all the time he has made about 3 hundred dollars the last ~~2~~ 3 months I am afraid that they will get him yet and if they do they can make him serve his time out and then they can hold him during they was I am satis fide off that I got a letter from home the other day and they was all well Cousin I will have to bring my letter to a close soon for I havant got time to write any more as I am on duty please excuse me for a short letter I remain your friend til life shall end Hoping to meet ager please give me all the news perwell rate soon soon Yours P. Ringgold

Direct to 1st Brigade 3rd Division 14th Army Corps
Ringgold Georgia

Ringgold Georgia March the 14th 1864

Cusin I this morning seat my myself to answer your welcom letter which cam to hand this morning it found me in reasinabel health and I sincerly hope theas fien lines may find you enjoying the besing of good health Cusin you wanted to know Whether brother Michal was in the armye or not he was training teams in Caintuky and I hurd that he was taking a prisoner but it was all a mistake he was not but he left there and went home for his helth he was not well while was there but after he went home he got well he had the orisifilas in his throat and they fever. the last letter that I got from home they stated that the proust marshal was after him fore to make him serve him time of draft out but I dont think they will get him he has befr hid from them all the time he has made about 3 hundred dolars the last 20 months I am afraid that they will get him yet and if they do they can make him serve his time out and then they can hold him during they was I am satis fid off that

I got a letter from home the other day and they was all well Cusin I will have to bring my letter to a close soon fore I havant got time to write any more as I am on duty pleas excuse me for a Short letter I remain your friend til life Abel end hoping to meat agen pleas give me all the news

farwell write soon soon

Wm J Georg

Direct to 1st Brigade 3rd Division 14th Army Corps Ringgold Georgia**

****SERVICE.**--Engaged in operations on borders of Virginia and participated in action at Ivey's Mountain November 8, 1861, before muster. Garfield's Campaign against Humphrey Marshall December 23, 1861, to January 30, 1862. Advance on Paintsville, Ky., December 31, 1862, to January 7, 1862, Occupation of Paintsville January 8. Abbott's Hill January 9. Middle Creek, near Prestonburg, January 10. At Paintsville until February 1. Expedition to Little Sandy and Piketon January 24-30. Cumberland Gap Campaign March 28-June 18. Cumberland Mountain April 28. Occupation of Cumberland Gap June 18-September 16. Tazewell July 26. Operations about Cumberland Gap August 2-6. Big Springs August 3. Tazewell August 6 and 9. Big Hill, Henderson County, August 23. Richmond September 5. Evacuation of Cumberland Gap and retreat to Greenup, on the Ohio River, September 17-October 3. Expedition to Charleston, West Va., October 21-November 10. Duty in Eastern Kentucky until May, 1864. Johnson County December 1, 1862. Floyd County December 4-5. Louisa March 12, 1863. Near Louisa March 25-26. Operations in Eastern Kentucky March 28-April 16. Bushy Creek April 7. Expedition from Beaver Creek into Southwest Virginia July 3-11 (1 Co.). Actions at Sayersville Oct. 10, 30; November 30 and December 1. Rock House and Laurel Creek, Wayne County, February 12, 1864. Laurel Creek Gap February 15, Forks of Beaver March 31. Quicksand Creek April 5 (Co. "I"). Paintsville April 13. Half Mountain, Magoffin County, April 14. Louisa April 16. Pound Gap May 9. Ordered to Join Sherman in the field and reported at Burnt Hickory, Ga., May 24. Atlanta (Ga.) Campaign May 24-September 8. Kingston May 24. Battles about Dallas, New Hope Church and Allatoona Hills May 25-June 5. Allatoona Pass June 1-2. Operations about Marietta and against Kenesaw Mountain June 10-July 2. Pine Mountain June 11-14. Lost Mountain June 15-17. Muddy Creek June 17. Noyes' Creek June 19. Kolb's Farm June 22. Assault on Kenesaw June 27. Nickajack Creek July 2-5. Chattahoochie River July 6-17. Decatur July 19. Howard House July 20. Battle of Atlanta July 22. Siege of Atlanta July 22-August 25. Utoy Creek August 5-7. Flank movement on Jonesboro August 25-30. Battle of Jonesboro August 31-September 1. LoveJoy Station September 2-6. At Decatur until October 4. Operations against Hood In North Alabama and Middle Tennessee October 4-26. Ordered to Kentucky November 15; at Bowling Green, Ky., until December 30, and at Louisa, Ky., protecting Virginia line until September, 1865. Mustered out September 15, 1865. Regiment lost during service 5 Officers and 49 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 5 Officers and 142 Enlisted men by disease. Total 201.

VI. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF LETTER WRITERS

MARTIN AND JOHN McCREADY (son and father) – Fort Des Moines, Iowa

- Martin lived 6 miles west of Fort Des Moines - only lived at this location one month.
- Father, John, had 500 acres of land between 2 ranches of Walnut Creek about 7 or 8 miles from the lot mentioned in the letter.
- Per land plat: March 12, 1856 Deed coordinates: W 153 SW"SE Sec. 13 & SE"SW
From June 21, 1860 Census: Puts Martin in Boon Township, Dallas County

Age: 24	Sex: Male
Value of Real Estate: \$200	Value of Personal Estate: \$200
Place of Birth: Ohio	Occupation: Farmer.

Civil War Service Record:

Enlisted: 6 March 1862
Side Served: Union
State: Iowa
Service Record: Enlisted as a Private on 6 March 1862 at the age of _____. Enlisted in Company K, 17th Regiment Iowa 16 April 1862. Promoted to Full 3rd Corporal on 10 March 1864. Promoted to Full 2nd Lieutenant (est day) June 1864. Mustered out: Company K, 17th Infantry Regiment on 25 Jul 1865 at Louisville, KY.
courtesy of ancestry.com

Martin's Obituary (spelled as McCrady):

From *The Farmer's Advocate Newspaper*, Rockwell City, Calhoun County, Iowa. 17 November 1892; page 4; column 2:

Died, at his home in Lohrville on Friday, Nov. 11 at 11:30 o'clock, Mr. M.P. McCrady. The cause of his death was from a wound received in the war. He was well known by the residents of Greene and Calhoun counties. The funeral was held in the Methodist church Sunday at 11 o'clock, conducted by Rev. Flint. The funeral was the largest ever held in this locality. The family have the sympathy of the host of friends Mr. McCrady made while he resided among us.

SAMUEL BOATMAN

Keokuk, Iowa

More information is available about Samuel Boatman in the Iowa State records than Martin McCready or any of the other letter writers from Missouri, Illinois, and Ohio. The following statistics give a small sketch of his life as a land-owner and prominent citizen of Keokuk, Iowa.

- Samuel Boatman owned a farm 5 mi north of Keokuk, Iowa (Lee County). He sold it in March of 1857 for \$1000/acre per letter.
- John Boatman, came to Clark County about 1842. Resided around Alexandria (Churchville). His son, Samuel, was born 1822 (d. July 27, 1875). Samuel was married to Amanda Hafferty Smith.
- The only land plat in county records show his father, John Boatman purchased land March 4, 1846 - coordinates: fr NE ¼ 833.Tp 65.5. It also seems he and his son, Samuel, may have sold land back and forth from each other many times, which could have been a result of the Half-Breed Tract land dispute of the 1840s. (see *Samuel Boatman - Historic Dispute of Keokuk*)
- Samuel moved to the city of Keokuk in 1855, where he eventually built a 2 story house on the southeast corners of High and 5th Streets. Samuel is listed as a lumberman who resided in Keokuk. Brother William in California, and Ira around Alexandria.
- Samuel's obituary confirms he remained at his residence in the town of Keokuk until he died:

*Boatman – Tuesday, July 27th, Samuel Boatman, age 65 years.
Funeral this morning at 10 o'clock, from his late residence, corner of
Fifth and High streets. Friends of the family invited to attend.*

- Samuels' published Will and Testament from the Lee County Records lists his wife, brothers, and sister. He allocated \$1200 as a marker for his wife, Amanda Boatman.

Keokuk, Iowa, is a town full of the nostalgia from the 19th century located 200 miles above St. Louis on the Mississippi River. During the year 1855, the population was about 6,500.⁶⁶ Samuel's former home is still located in the main historic district, which included neighbors, Supreme Court Chief Justice, Miller and Mark Twain's mother. Samuel

Clemens (Mark Twain) younger brother, Orion Clemens married Mary Eleanor (Mollie) Stotts who was a Keokuk native in 1854. Orion sold his shares in the Muscatine Journal and the couple moved to Keokuk, June 9 1855. By June 16th that same year Samuel Clemens followed suit as “List of Letters” went unclaimed at the St. Louis post office.⁶⁷ The Dispatch gives a vague description of a man that very well could be Clemens establishing him as a resident by the year 1955:

*We know a man in this city who would make a prime editor, and we believe that if he has any “genius” at all, it runs in that direction, “ ‘cos” he says there is not a single paper published in town worth reading and he says that not one often has any news – and if he published a paper, he says he would make news, and lots of it, and spirited news, too... What do you all say about hiring this editorial genius? Our private opinion is that the thing must be “did,” for he is the only population in the country.*⁶⁸

On June 10, 1856, Clemens writes his mother and sister, who now live in St. Louis. His mother, Jane, likely lived a short time in Keokuk with her two sons Henry and Orion before residing with her daughter and son-in-law, Orion.⁴ Based on Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) move to Keokuk around 1855 and correspondence, the chances are likely he and Boatman were known neighbors and local businessmen who knew each other well. Alexandria, Missouri - Keokuk is located only three miles from Alexandria, Missouri, where many of Samuel’s relatives wrote letters and whereupon he frequently visited. Keokuk is very high up and borders along the Mississippi and Des Moines Rivers. Alexandria is in very low-lying plains subject to flooding. The town was nearly destroyed in 2007 during the heavy rains and floods. It is easy to see why life only three miles away would be considered harder than living in Keokuk.

⁶⁶Editorial narrative following 5 March 1855 to the Muscatine Tri-Weekly Journal. From the *Mark Twain Project Online: Letters*.

⁶⁷Ibid.

⁶⁸Ibid.

⁶⁹Ibid. *SLC to Jan Lampton Clemens and Pamela A. Moffett, 10 June 1856*.

SAMUEL BOATMAN – A Historic Dispute In Keokuk

The following historical accounts and excerpts are from the dissertation of Faye Erma Harris, who mentions Samuel Boatman of Keokuk during a dispute regarding the Half-Breed Tract.

During the early 1830s “the New York Land Company and the St. Louis Company together owned nine-tenths of the Half-Breed Tract.”⁷⁰ The *Western Adventurer* placed the following advertisement, published at Montrose:

*The farming lands in the Half-Breed Tract are now offered for sale...Terms of payment are one-fourth cash at the time of sale and the balance , half in two and half in three years with interest at six per cent, per annum.*⁷¹

In 1837 the New York Company employed two agents to procure land on the Half Breed tract and “secure titles to half-breed lands.”⁷² The New York Company agents platted the town of Keokuk during the summer of 1837.⁷³ Squatters in Keokuk opposed the sale declaring “the whole proposition to sell lots one great fraud.”⁷⁴ They were ready to fight. Legal rights and controversy ensued. In 1840, a Dr. Galland returned to Keokuk with 50 families planning to settle on the Half-Breed Tract.⁷⁵ His opposition to the New York company caused some concern among the settlers in Keokuk and on the tract⁷⁶ ...records showed that Galland had sold nearly 40,000 acres of half-breed lands.⁷⁷ Petitions were filed, the first by St. Louis Claimants to be considered by the Territorial Supreme Court...[which were to be filed] with the clerk of District Court by April 1840.⁷⁸ When the courts sanctioned two different titles to the half-breed lands they were met with “dissension, unrest, and mob violence among the settlers on the Half Breed Tract.”⁷⁹ On some parts of the tract, lawlessness and violence were the rule.⁸⁰ In Keokuk around 1847, following a similar situation when two men claimed the same lot, Samuel Boatman became a victim of violence due to the Decree Title law of possession. Harris records that *G. M. Marshal, while renting a house from Samuel Boatman, bought the lot under the*

*Decree title and denied his landlord's right to the property. But a group of townspeople marched to the house, threw out Marshal's furniture, and placed Boatman in possession of the house.*⁸¹ Boatman must have been a prominent, well-liked resident of Keokuk to have had such support of the townspeople. His ownership of the property also coincides with several land exchanges between he and his father during the 1840s up until the sale of his farm to live in the city at the Northeast corner of High and 5th Street during the 1850s. The problem of land titles in Keokuk was finally solved in the 1850s. In 1850, the United States Supreme Court upheld the "Decree of Partition,"⁸² and in 1855 gave final sanction to the Decree title.⁸³

⁷⁰Harris, *A Frontier Community: The Economic, social and political development of Keokuk, Iowa from 1820 to 1866*, 44.

⁷¹*Ibid.*, 45.

⁷²*Ibid.*

⁷³*Ibid.*, 46.

⁷⁴*Ibid.*

⁷⁵*Ibid.*, 49.

⁷⁶*Ibid.*, 50.

⁷⁷*Ibid.*, 51.

⁷⁸*Ibid.*, 53.

⁷⁹*Ibid.*, 55.

⁸⁰*Ibid.*, 56.

⁸¹*Ibid.*, 58.

⁸²*Ibid.*, 63.

⁸³*Ibid.*, 64.

Jonathan C. Rauch of Ohio

Jonathan C. Rauch lived in Columbiana County, Ohio. He lived in the townships of Unity and Palestine Ohio during the span of these letters. He is the grandson of German immigrants, making him a German-American by his German parentage. His relatives came to the United States from Germany during the late 18th century settling in the states of New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. According to the estimates noted in Albert Bernhardt Faust's *German Element*, the total number of Germans and their descendants in the Colonies in 1775 was estimated at 225,000 [...] the [U.S.] population of 1790 increased about ten and one half times until 1900. This would make the descendants of the 600,000 Germans equivalent to a population of about 6,300,000 in 1900."⁸⁴ "The rate of increase of the foreign immigrations in the nineteenth century, as compared with the native population, estimates to be the increase of the German immigrations from 1820 to 1900. The period when immigrants coming in at the ports of the United States were counted for the first time, namely was in 1821."⁸⁵ The twelfth census of the United States, taken in the year 1900 "gives as the total enumeration of white persons of German parentage, having both parents born in Germany (including foreign and native-born), the figure 6,244,107."⁸⁶ Rauch's is a descendent of relatives who came to America for the very reasons his 19th century relatives migrated west to Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois: opportunity not afforded to them in their native country and acquisition of cheap land. Faust summed up the increased contribution to the population of Germans in the United States:

...10,000 represents the number of Germans entering the United States between 1821 and 1830, including a ten per cent increase within the decade. In 1831-1840 the number of German immigrants [...] was 157,265, plus a ten per cent increase, 15,726, making a total of 172,991. The 10,000 of the first decade and the 173,095 of the second decade would increase at the rate of thirty per cent for every ten years. Thus would also every succeeding immigration, and taking the totals together he gets 12,266,291 as the number of Germans and their descendants of the first, second, and third generations surviving in 1900.⁸⁷

Jonathan's mother, Susan Palmer, married Solomon Rauch, the son of Philip Rauch and Eva Marsteller – grandchildren of German immigrants who came to the United States in the years 1727 and 1740. Jonathan's age when these letters were written is uncertain; although, in his possession and passed along with the letters is a family history written by his mother, Susan (date unknown). A copy of the letter is included in the appendix of this thesis.

Jonathan likely lived on a farm or his relatives in Ohio, as his son Clarence is known to later in life inherit and live on a large farm in the Palestine, Ohio area. Jonathan's grandson, John Rauch, recalls his father owning a set of tools with the initials JCR – substantiating evidence of Jonathan C. Rauch occupation as a carpenter. As noted in some of the handwritten letters, relatives enticed Jonathan to travel west with opportunities of carpentry and masonry.

⁸⁴Albert Bernhardt Faust. *The German Element in the United States With Special Reference To Its Political, Moral, Social and Educational Influence. Volume II.* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1909), 12.

⁸⁵Ibid., 18.

⁸⁶Ibid., 7.

⁸⁷Ibid., 18-19.

VII. GERMAN-AMERICAN FRONTIER TRAVEL LITERATURE: AUTHORS AND THEIR WORKS

Many German authors also gained popularity in the United States beginning in the late 18th century. German language and literature eventually became increasingly prevalent in the early to late 19th century studies by such American authors as Longfellow, Hawthorne, Coleridge, Carlyle, and Emerson among others. “Books written in English by Germans in this country have often been of very great influence.”⁸⁸ Franz Daniel Pastorius created one of the first German-American literary works by authoring a scrapbook about the life of Pennsylvania-German farmers called “Beehive” in 1700. “Travel literature produced by Germans visiting this country dates back to an early colonial period”⁸⁹ with poems by Carl Follen and Bayard Taylor. During the nineteenth century, “when German travelers came in great numbers,”⁹⁰ they recorded their experiences. Some German travel authors included Charles Sealsfield, Gottfried Duden, and Friedrich Gerstäcker, among numerous others. One of the most popular among American and German readers alike was Charles Sealsfield (Karl Postl). His novels, published in Germany, “were translated, and found their way to America. They furnished suggestions to writers in America and abroad.”⁹¹ Some of his books, describing “the types of American character such as had existed between 1820-1840”⁹² included *Trans-Atlantic Sketches* and *The Cabin Book*. “Longfellow read the German-American romancer with great interest calling him “our favorite Sealsfield.”⁹³ Faust attributes Sealsfield’s success to:

...[his]appreciative view of American conditions...exceptional among European travelers in this country at that time. Sealsfield was proud to call himself a citizen of the United States; though he went back to work and die in Switzerland, he clung to the proud title

inscribed on his tombstone: *Burger von Nordamerika*. The very purpose of his books was to hold up to view the vigorous, self-reliant types of American manhood as models of imitation for the cultivated European.⁹⁴

Sealsfield's literature appealed to a broad demographic, influencing both Americans and German immigrants. His interest in world literature included "an illuminating reference to Gerstäcker's writings about California, who by this time was widely read in the German literary world."⁹⁵ They two authors shared similar affinities for telling short story-fiction of life and travels along the Mississippi River; although, Sealsfield stylistically catered to the approach of a novel. Sealsfield's fictional *Life in the New World or Sketches of American Society* (1844) and non-fictional travel journal *Americans As They Are* (1828) were probably the most influential of his works to Germans interested in immigrating to the Midwestern territories of the United States.

Friedrich Gerstäcker made his mark on American frontier literature with several fictional works including *Nach Amerika* (1855) and *Western Lands and Western Waters* (1864). Gerstäcker's *Nach Amerika*, although highly popular, is not offered in English translation. *Western Lands and Western Waters* shares some similarities to Sealsfield's *Life in the New World*, only with more of the short-story feel than a novel. Also, his works focus on territory while traveling along the Mississippi River from New Orleans to St. Louis, Missouri settling on Arkansas. Of all the authors, Gerstäcker remains in the United States the longest beginning in 1837, before traveling back to his native Germany in 1869. In Germany, he hated the frequent comparisons of his work to that of Charles Sealsfield. His purpose was to "journey across the American wilderness...gathering the rich materials that so enhanced his works. His tales are convincing because he himself lived much of their content."⁹⁶ Although the author "was a keen observer and recorder of [the] American scene," America never "assumed a significance in his works more than simply real

or literal.”⁹⁷ Gerstäcker “recognized the importance of the Mississippi long before Twain.”⁹⁸ His methodology to learning about America’s broad prairies and mighty rivers began by “learning farming, then emigrate, then build him a log-house, then plant and gather, and sow and reap beyond reach of self-vaunting civilization.”⁹⁹ He paralleled that of his contemporaries Sealsfield and Gottfried Duden with descriptions of steamboats and German immigrants as characters traveling along the Mississippi River and settling as pioneers in the prairies of the Midwest.

Lastly, the works of Gottfried Duden including his journal, *Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America and a Stay of Several Years Along the Missouri (During the Years 1824, '25, 26, and 1827)* was probably the most influential in non-fictional frontier literature, possibly kick-starting the German migration to America and the Midwestern states of Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois. His journal detailed immigration every step of the way, from preparing and leaving Germany to ship passage to traveling across country from New York to Missouri. Where Sealsfield’s journal presents a more social and political view of emigration across America, Duden’s approach focuses on surveying, topography, and agricultural experiences. Duden’s journal is didactic to the German who wishes to immigrate to America. He makes a point to follow his goal of settling in Midwest America, building a cabin from scratch, living and working the land, eventually returning to Germany giving a report of his experiences so that others may succeed in the enterprise of pioneering America’s Midwest. His book was among “over a hundred and fifty titles that could be considered emigration literature published in Germany between 1827 and 1856...the majority dealt with the United States.”¹⁰⁰ Duden’s journal contributes to the “evidence strongly suggest[ing] that the concentration of German settlement in the Midwestern states in the first half of the nineteenth century tended to follow and was partly a response to promotional

literature relating to this region.”¹⁰¹ Duden, from Dusseldorf and Cologne, Germany, was also aware of how unhappy the German people were and by 1822, he concluded the major problems of the German people in his region stemmed from the political, social, and economic consequences of overpopulation.”¹⁰² His conclusion and solution to the problems were:

...that German emigrants headed for America ought to join Americans in their westward movement and try to locate in areas with a low man-to-land ratio that nevertheless offered an abundance of economic opportunities. He theorized that settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains would be acceptable but that the Mississippi Valley would be especially idea.”¹⁰²

Duden begins his first letter by appealing to the German people: *I shall report to you faithfully my judgments concerning life in America.* He honors his commitment throughout his journal.

All three of these authors influenced 19th century German-American migration and settlement west of the Mississippi. Although the fictional works at times exaggerate dialogue and description, the context of location and social interaction among the characters and scenery are fairly similar the accounts written in the earlier letters of Martin McCready and Samuel Boatman: timber, vast prairies, steamboats, Mississippi Rivers, etc.

Annotations are notated in the transcribed letters footnote specific comparisons between the frontier literature and Rauch’s letter-writers.

⁸⁸Albert Bernhardt Faust. *The German Element in the United States With Special Reference To Its Political, Moral, Social and Educational Influence. Volume II.* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1909), 339.

⁸⁹Ibid., 342.

⁹⁰Ibid., 343.

⁹¹Ibid., 344.

⁹²Ibid.

⁹³Ibid.

⁹⁴Karl J. R. Arndt, *Newly Discovered Sealsfield Relationships Documented.* MLN 87, No. 3, German Issue, Apr, 1972, 463.

⁹⁵ Alfred Kolb. *Friedrich Gerstäcker and the American Dream Author(s)*. (Modern Language Studies 5, No. 1, Spring, 1975), 104.

⁹⁶Ibid.

⁹⁷Ibid., 105.

⁹⁸Friedrich Gerstäcker. *Western Lands and Western Waters*, London: S.O. Beeton, 1864, viii.

⁹⁹ Gottfried Duden, *Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America and a Stay of Several Years Along the Missouri (During the Years 1824, '25, '26, and 1827)*, (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1980), vii.

¹⁰⁰Ibid.

¹⁰¹Ibid., xii.

¹⁰²Ibid.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Life in the Midwestern United States during the mid-19th century proved challenging and rewarding. Pioneers of Iowa tended to thrive better than those who lived in Missouri. In gathering my research and reading through the transcribed letters dated from 1855 to 1868, life in Missouri proved to be a harder life than Iowa. Alexandria, Missouri, is approximately 3 miles from Keokuk, Iowa, and on much lower, flatter ground - subject to flooding. The letters written by the Boatmans' discuss the heavy rains, flooding, and freezes, which is a continuing problem even in the 21st century, yet the area remains populated. In some circumstances, a few of the writers discuss moving on to Texas or Kansas due to the hardship and conditions of cold weather or flooding.

The primary purpose of this thesis was to gather eyewitness accounts from the letters and create a historiographical narrative of how life may have been like for settlers during the mid-19th centuries. Research consistently led to evidence that the increased populations of Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois were heavily influenced by German immigrants. By settling in America, they rightfully are labeled the term "German-American." German language and culture filtered into the economic and political conditions at the time, including sentiments regarding the Civil War and distaste for alcohol, evidenced through support of the Temperance Societies. In addition, the Iowa State Historical Society archives in Des Moines, Iowa, contain numerous amounts of letters and documents, many written in German, reiterating the same sentiments of Martin McCready, Samuel Boatman, and the rest of the letter writers discussing the economic, agricultural, and political climate of Iowa during the mid-19th century. As neighbors, the German-Americans also would have had a great influence on the non-German with their expertise in farming and implementation of culture.

Evidence already suggests author Charles Sealsfield's literature reached Germans and Americans, including Longfellow and Hawthorne. Friedrich Gerstäcker attracted readers to visit the Midwest with his lighthearted stories of the Mississippi River and Arkansas, while Gottfried Duden's travel journal reached the masses of Germany with his travel journal during the early 19th century, encouraging many Germans to immigrate west and along the Mississippi River. My conclusions are not to analyze the events in the letters but to present the evidence in concordance with what history states in a raw data form. These letter writers were not writing for the purpose of telling history. They were just telling their stories of real life, events as they saw them unfold. By preserving these letters, Jonathan C. Rauch has become the historian. Although we do not have copies of his personal replies, we can conclude he was quite satisfied and happy to remain in Ohio. Many of the letters wished to hear of home, family and friends, as well as social and political events. Jonathan provided that home-base contact for those who migrated west. As much as they tried to convince Jonathan to move west, some of the letters bear a melancholy tone as if they wished they were back home in Ohio. As the letters were too numerous to include all the transcribed copies, I invite the reader of this thesis to view all the original copies in Appendix II and come to their own conclusion of what life was really like in the Midwest United States.

LIST OF FIGURES

Wagon	Livestock	Supplies	Travel	Hazards
<p>15 foot farm wagon Load: 2000-4000 pounds 15-20 feet Constenoga Wagon Load: 4-6 tons Cost: \$300-\$1000 evenly distributed weight</p>	<p>Oxen \$25/each Horses \$75-150</p>	<p>Cook stove near rear Spare axle, axle grease, shovel, axe, food. Food: Bacon or cured pork in strong sacks. Flour sacked in well sewed burlap – 100 lb in each sack. Sugar in glass bottles. Cheese in cooler parts of wagon. Dried fruits and vegetables in sacks. Checklist: Flour; Bacon; Dried Vegetables, Fruit, and Beef; Salt Pork; Navy Beans; Sugar; Vinegar; Salt</p> <p>Furniture and Household Items: Space limited. May not permit good beds and dressers or dining room table and chairs. Sideboards, piano or organ too bulky. Family's clothing may require 2-3 trunks. Shipping services to Iowa: Steamship: .50-.65 cents per hundred from Boston, NY, Philadelphia to New Orleans. .62 cents per hundred from St. Louis to Keokuk, freight charges from 10-15 cents per hundred. Overland wagons charge more than steamboat companies. \$1-1.50 per hundred pounds for a hundred miles. Typical charge from Columbus, OH to Davenport, Iowa \$5.50 to \$9.00 per hundred weight. Boxes should be marked. Expensive household furnishings can be shipped by steamboat and wagon train.</p> <p>Clothing: Cotton or linen fabrics DO NOT protect the body against sun rays or rain. Wool is a nonconductor and is best material for prairie traveling. Coat: short and tight. Knee-high boots protect against snake-bite. Frontiersmen find tight pants serve better than loose ones. Women: pack good clothing. Wear only coarsest articles such as Calico dresses sun bonnets, high shoes or boots. Shawls for chilly days. Wool coats for Fall travel. Children: same as adults.</p>	<p>Burlington Ferry - Cross river at Burlington. Produce/Marketing and return same day – only charged one Fare or ½ price Farm families friendly along route and most welcome overnight stops. Mississippi River – may be necessary to stop a day or two if backlog of wagons for ferries. At times Ferries do not operate more than once a day.</p> <p>After crossing Mississippi River, camp out a day or two in Iowa's great cities like Keokuk, Fort Madison, Burlington, Muscatine, Davenport, and Dubuque. Gives Western bound farmer a chance to check tools and supplies.</p> <p>PLANK ROADS: Construction of roads, easier for travel – small toll for privilege to carry produce. Add to safety and convenience of traveler.</p>	<p>SLOUGHS: Sometimes muddy area hidden by tall grass. At times a crusty surface makes a flood plain look dry. If stuck in a prairie slough, the driver must be careful. One might lose horses or oxen due to broken legs. A driver might damage the wagon and goods. 1) do not try to drive the team out of the mud with a fully loaded wagon. It is a good idea for men and boys to strip naked. Then carry the women and children to safety of dry land. 2) Unload wagon until it can be moved through mud. 3) Then possible team can pull wagon out. Wagon might be moved by placing timber under rear axle at 45 deg angle.</p>
<p>Blacksmith Prices: Dubuque, Dec 13, 1836 (partial list):</p> <p>Ironing on 2-horse team: \$75 Shoeing one-horse with toed shoes: 3.00-3.50 Shoeing one horse w/ plain shoes: 37 ½ cents/lb Sledge Hammers \$1.00 Cast-steel drill \$6.00</p>				
<p>Teamsters can drive a fully loaded wagon 20 miles in a 12 hour day. Inclement weather may keep travellers at the same spot for a day or two.</p>				

Figure 1.

Teamsters Guide to Iowa – Estimate travel costs and preparation chart (partial list)

Chart prepared by Susan Rauch April/2009

Source : Malcolm Price Laboratory School Exploration in Iowa History Project. Online: www.uni.edu/iowahist/Frontier_Life/Teamster_Guide

Many immigrants came in groups and founded cities. Pella was founded in 1847 by Dutch immigrants, Amana in 1855 by Germans:

Table 1: Foreign Born Population of Iowa, 1850-1930(16)

Place of Birth	1850	1870	1890	1910	1930
Total Immigrants	20,969	204,692	324,069	273,484	168,080
Germany	7,101	66,162	127,246	98,290	53,901

Figure 2.

(16) Sage, 93.

(16) Sage, Leland L., A History of Iowa, Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1974

Federal census of 1850 – Iowa pop. 192,214:

One-fourth Iowa born ~~Two~~ Two-sixths from states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

2 years later population growth retarded.

Population increased from 192,214 in 1850 to 674,913 in 1860 – the bulk coming to state 2-3 years following 1852.

Source: Cole, 270 and 238.

AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMY OF THE 1850s and 1860s						
	1855 Keokuk	02/21/1855 St. Joseph, Mo	4/22/1855 Polk/Dallas Co	5/28/1855 Lisbon, OH	1/08/1864 Keokuk	06/16/1866 Ft. Des Moines
Wheat	1:30	1.25-1.35 /bushel	80			5 cents/100 per bushel
Corn	60 to 70	250-200/barrel	25	4 in high	75 to 80 p. bus	20-30 cents/bushel
Oats	4 to 50	30-34 cts.	20			25- 35/bushel
Potatoes	1 to 50	1.50/bushel	60		80-100	
Comments:		corn very scarce, everything else is high	very scarce			working for \$20/month
Hay					20 to 29 per ton	
Butter					25 cts	
Eggs					20 to 25 Doz	
Comments:					freeze thousands hogs/cattle/calves froze to death. IL plenty snow	

Figure 3.
Source: Compiled from collection of letters, 2009.

LIST OF MAPS

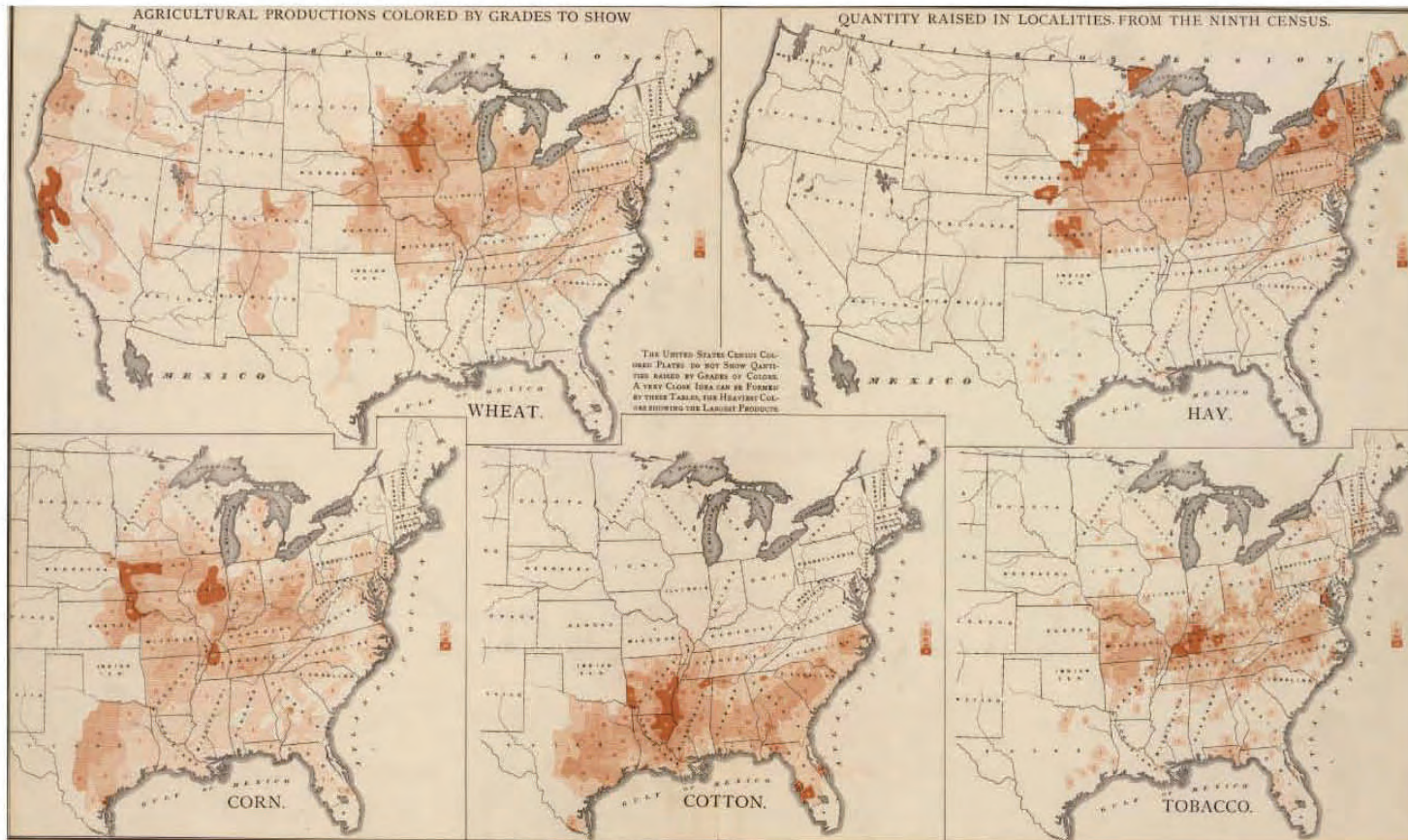


Figure 4.
David Rumsey Collection: Agricultural productions colored by grades to show quantity raised in localities, from the ninth census: wheat, hay, corn, cotton, tobacco. (Published by A.T. Andreas, Lakeside Building, Chicago, 1874. Chas. Shober & Co. Proprietors of Chicago Lith. Co.)
Source: David Rumsey Collection: Online: www.davidrumsey.com

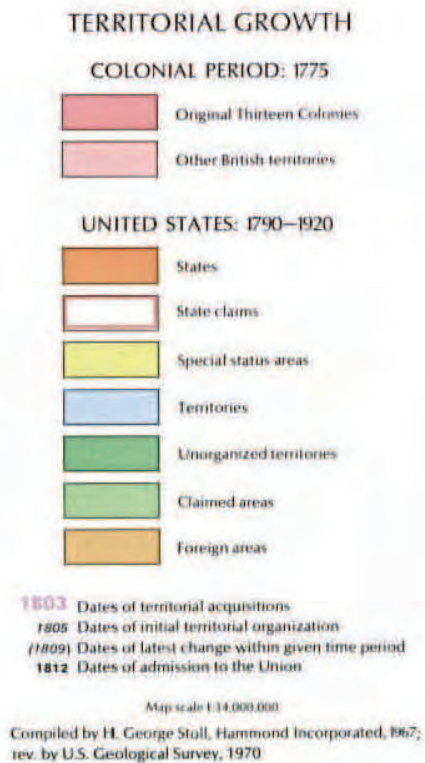
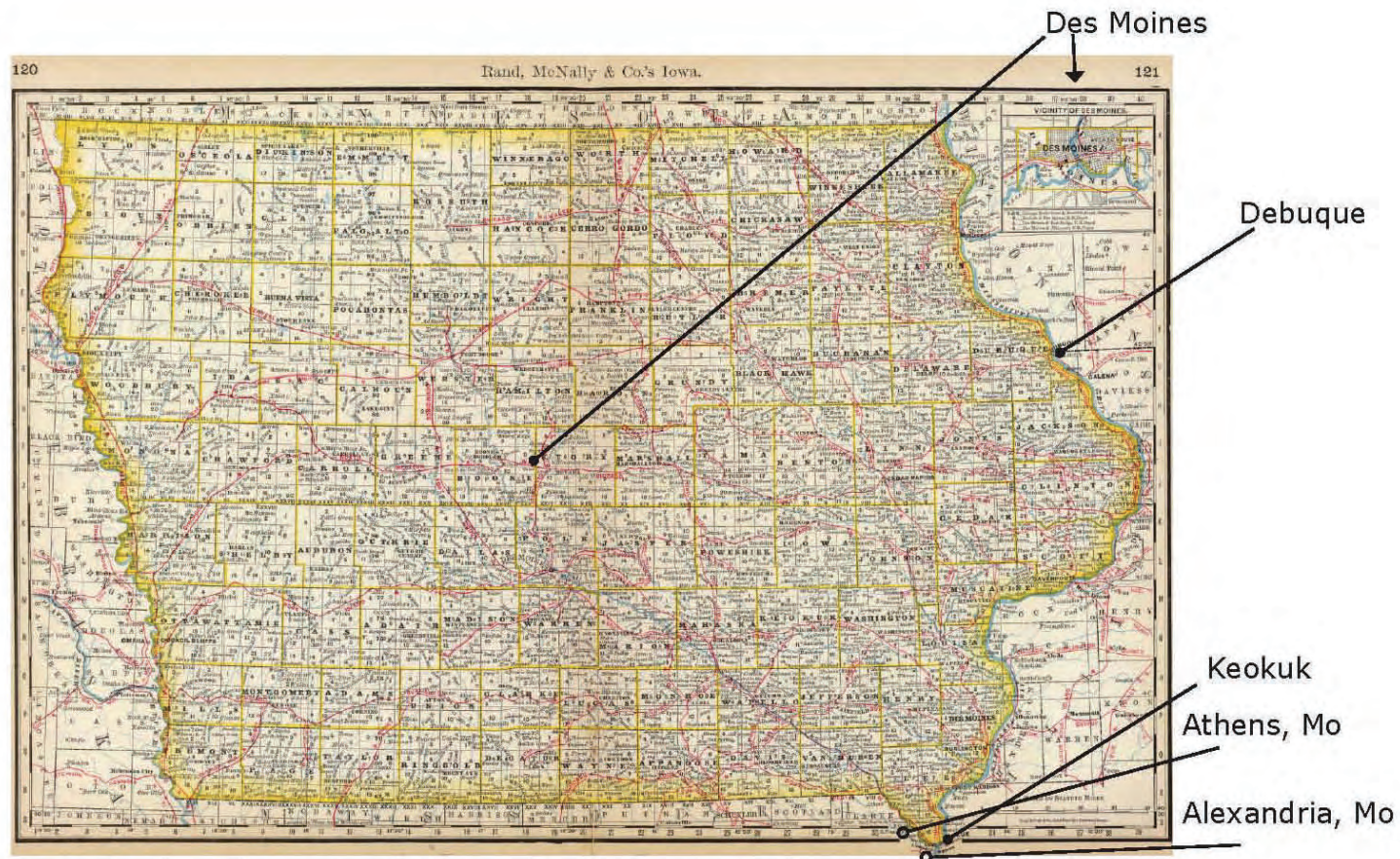


Figure 5.

Source: Online: Learn NC.org. Free Public Domain.



David Rumsey Collection: Rand, McNally & Co.'s Iowa, 1879. Rand, McNally & Co., Relief Plate
 Map Engravers, Chicago
 Source: Online: David Rumsey Collection (Ibid.)

Figure 6.

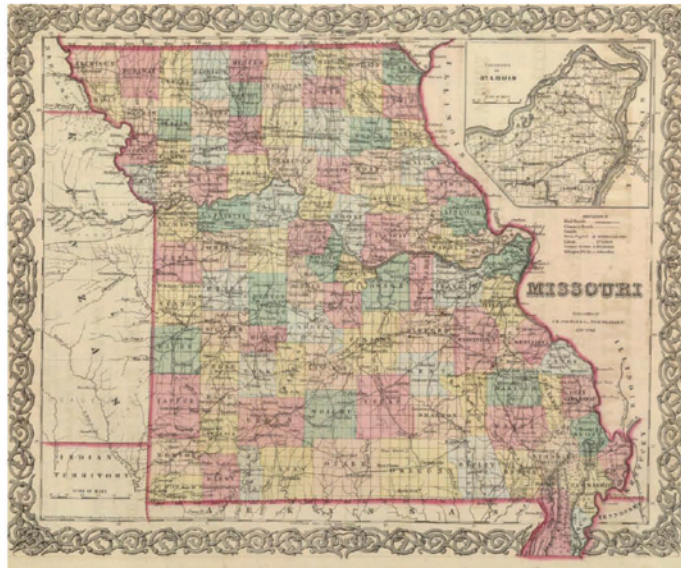


Figure 7.
David Rumsey Collection: Missouri. No. 46. Published by J.H. Colton & Co., No 172 William St., New York. Entered according to the Act of Congress in the year 1855 by J.H. Colton & Co. in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of New York
Source: Online: David Rumsey Collection (Ibid.)

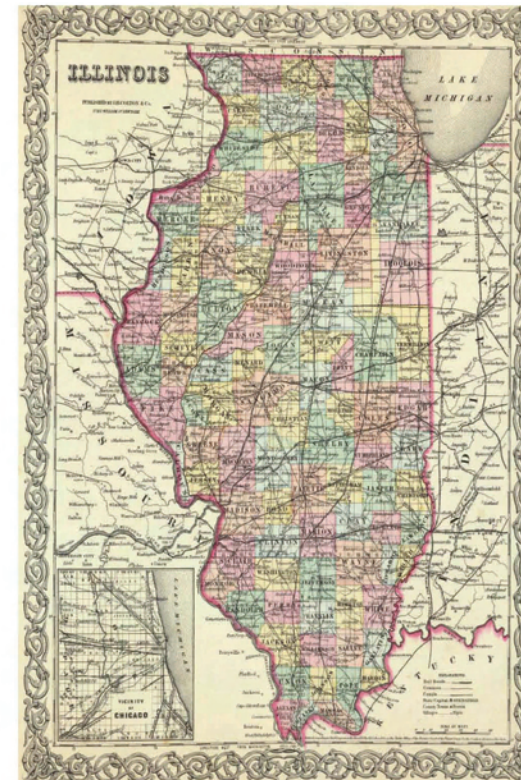


Figure 8.
Detail View: David Rumsey Collection: Illinois. (with) Vicinity Of Chicago. Published By J.H. Colton & Co. No. 172 William St. New York. Entered ... 1855 by J.H. Colton & Co. ... New York. No. 44.

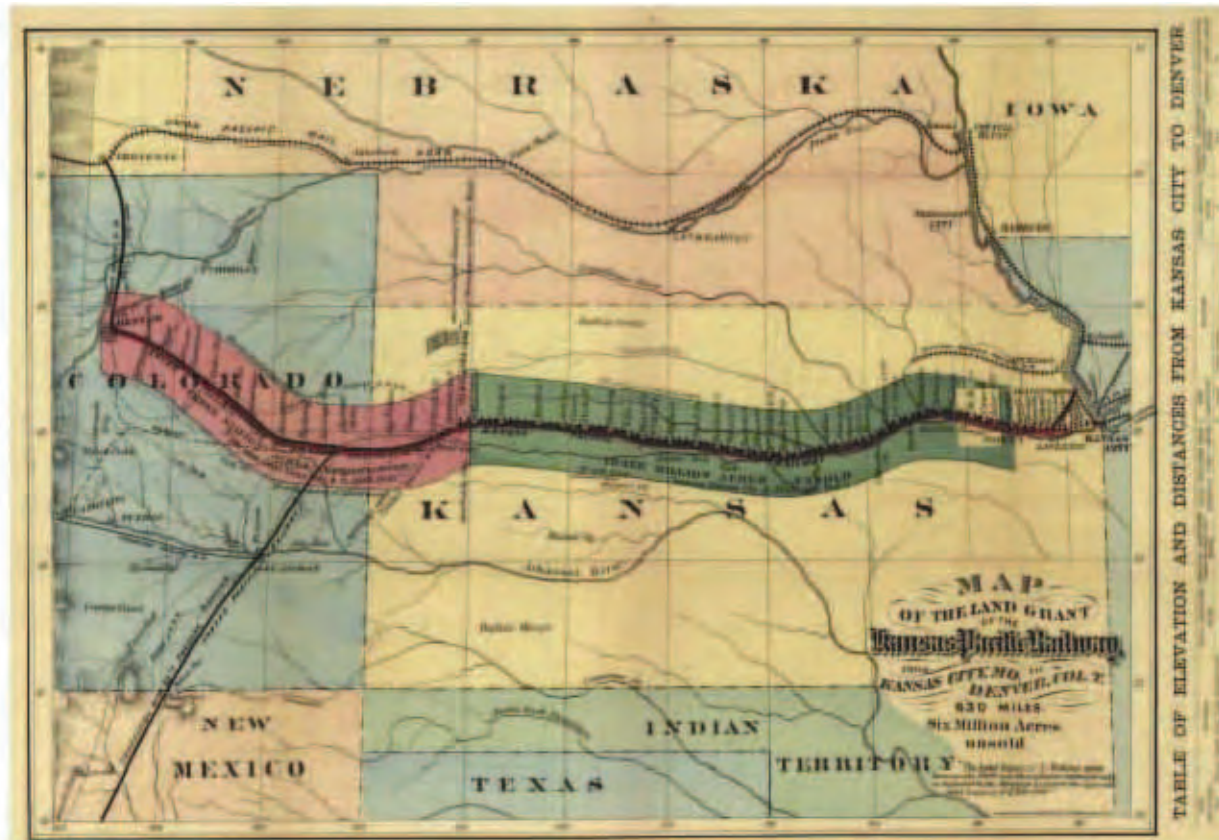


Figure 9.

Historic map of the Kansas Pacific Railway lines in the western U.S.

The map is entitled Map of the Land Grant of the Kansas Pacific Railway, from Kansas City, Mo. to Denver Col. T. It was made in 1869 by Henry Seibert & Bros. The coloration indicates the extent of the land grants on either side of the rail line.

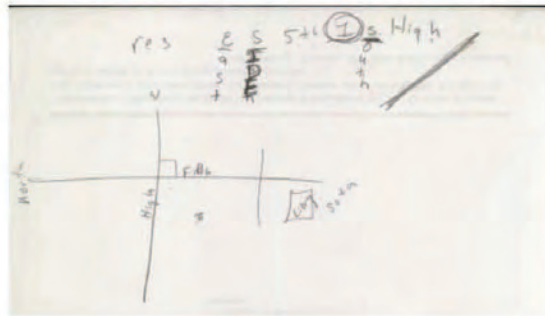
c. U. S. Public Domain

digitization courtesy of Digitized Kansas maps from the University of Wichita

Source: Wichita State University Libraries—Department of Special Collections: Online:
www.specialcollections.wichita.edu/collections/maps

and plat for farm of Samuel or John Boatman's (above)

Samuel Boatman's obituary (top)
Coordinates of house on 5th and High Streets (r)



Land plat for John McCready's property in Polk County



Date		Description		Amount		Balance	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1911	1	to balance					
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	74	to balance					
	75	to balance					

Census record of Martin McCready's property in Boone Township, Dallas County, 1860 (above). Map of Dallas County(1), Polk County map (far left)

Figure 10.

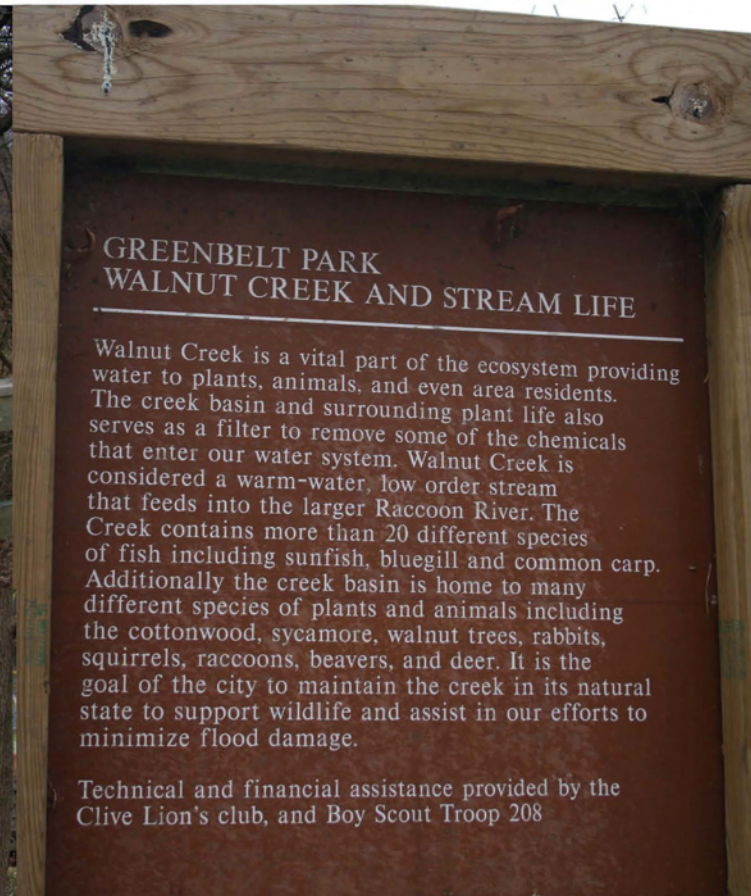
Sources: Keokuk Public Library and Iowa State Historical Society—Microfilm of public records.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS



Ambrotype portrait believed to be image of Jonathan C. Rauch

Source: Susan Rauch



Walnut Creek – vicinity of John McCready's property

Photos: Susan Rauch, c. 2008



Polk County –general vicinity of Martin McCready’s farm

Photos: Susan Raucn. c. 2008



The homes of Samuel Boatman (above), Chief Justice Samuel F. Miller (top rt), and proximity of the two neighbors homes (lower right).

Photos: Susan Rauch. c. 2008





German-American promotional material for Temperance Movement.

Library of Congress, Free Public Domain.


Print published by Kimmel and Voigt in New York, c. 1873. N.Y. : Lith. & Publ. by **Kimmel & Voigt**, 254 & 256 Canal Street.

Source: Library of Congress, Multiple Prints & Photographs Division, Unprocessed in PAGA 7, no. 400, LC-USZ62-59585

PRODUCTS WILL PAY FOR LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS!

MILLIONS OF ACRES

View on the Big Blue, between Camden and Crete, representing Valley and Rolling Prairie Land in Nebraska.



IOWA AND NEBRASKA LANDS

FOR SALE ON **10** YEARS CREDIT
BY THE

Burlington & Missouri River R.R. Co.

AT 6 PER CT. INTEREST AND LOW PRICES.
Only One-Seventh of Principal Due Annually, beginning Four Years after purchase.
20 PER CENT. DEDUCTED FROM 10 YEARS PRICE, FOR CASH.

LAND EXPLORING TICKETS SOLD
and Cost allowed in First Interest paid, on Land bought in 30 days from date of ticket.
Thus our Land Buyers GET A FREE PASS in the State where the Land bought is located.
These TERMS are BETTER at \$5, than to pre-empt United States Land at \$2.50 per Acre.
EXTRAORDINARY INDUCEMENTS on FREIGHT and PASSAGE are AFFORDED TO PURCHASERS and THEIR FAMILIES.

Address **GEO. S. HARRIS, LAND COMMISSIONER,**
or **T. H. LEAVITT, Ass't Land Comm'r,** Burlington, Iowa.
Or apply to

FREE ROOMS for buyers to board themselves are provided at Burlington and Lincoln.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING PRINTING HOUSE, BUTTELS, N. Y.

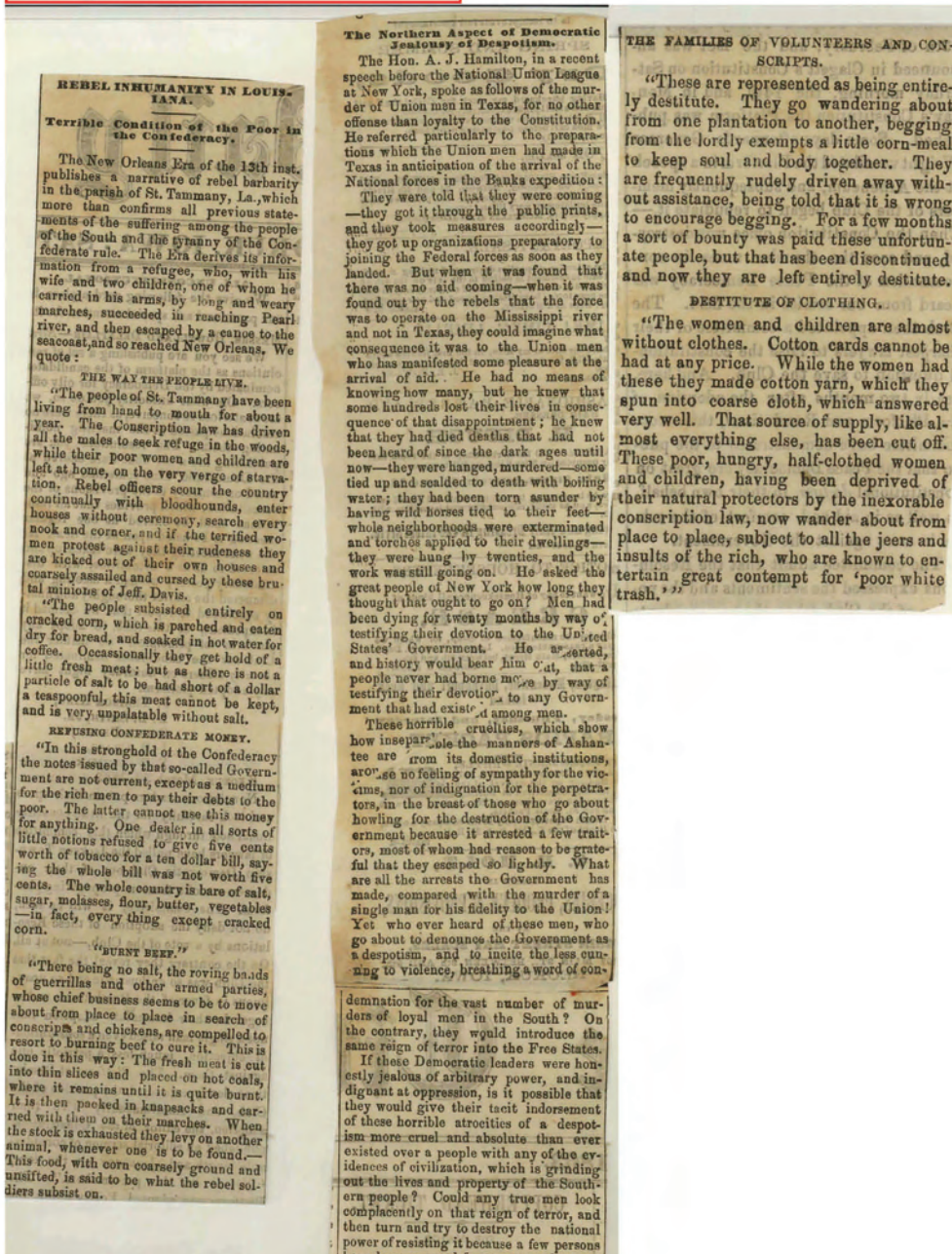
CIRCULARS are supplied GRATIS for distribution in ORGANIZING COLONIES and to induce individuals to emigrate WEST.

A SECTIONAL MAP, showing exact location of our IOWA LANDS is sold for 30 Cents, and of NEBRASKA LANDS for 30 Cents.

Promotional literature, Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Co., 1872

Source: Library of Congress Printed Ephemera Collection; Portfolio 134, Folder 13

News clippings found inside envelopes with letters.



News clippings

Source: Found within collection of letters

The Sam Gaty Butchery.

We give the following additional particulars of the terrible butchery of unarmed men on the steamer Sam Gaty, as furnished by an eye-witness to the St. Joseph Herald :

The steamboat had arrived at Sibley's Landing, where the channel was close to the shore, and was hailed by some men on the bank, followed by the cracking of a dozen or more guns. The pilot put her in shore, and George Tod and about twenty-five of his guerrillas came aboard. It was almost morning, and there was no moon. The rebels were dressed in butternut, having a pair of Colt's Navy revolvers each, (and some as many as three and four,) and shot guns and rifles. Tod wore a large cloth coat, with an ample cape and flowing sleeves, and had also a slouched hat, which he soon exchanged with a passenger for a new light colored beaver. He gave the command and the work of murder commenced. The passengers were mostly ladies, and the few gentlemen were unarmed.

They first killed George Meyer, by shooting him in the back. Meyer was formerly in this city, and when Col. Peabody was here after the siege of Lexington, he was in Major Berry's cavalry command, acting as Quartermaster. For a time he was Sergeant Major of the 5th cavalry, Col. Pennick. During the last winter he was frequently engaged, with Assistant Secretary Rodman, in the Senate at Jefferson City, in writing up the journal. He was a young man of the most generous impulses, and will be mourned by a large number of men who will avenge his death.

The cowardly butchers next blew out the brains of William Henry, a member of Captain Wakerlin's company. He too was a St. Joseph boy, and was formerly engaged in a stall in our city market, and at one time, we think, labored for John P. Hax, a meat dealer. He leaves a wife and four children in our city unprovided for.

They next led out to slaughter young Schuttner, of this town, whom they first robbed of \$200, then shot. He revived the next morning and will probably recover.

The most revolting act in the bloody drama was the ordering ashore of twenty negroes, drawing them up in line, one man holding a lantern by the side of their faces, while the murderers shot them, one by one, through the head. This inhuman butchery was in three yards of the boat. One negro alone, of all that were shot, is alive.

Christ. Habaehner, who lives near Hamilton's Mill, in this city, was aboard, but managed to hide his money and get off

Richmond Enquirer's article on the "Great Northwest Again." The Enquirer of Richmond is the official organ of the rebel Government. It says:

"Let us respond to the sympathies of the Northwest in the proper spirit—that is, with the bayonet. Those fond feelings which (they say) are gushing and flowing towards us now, let us not rudely turn them back to their spring in the Hoosier heart, but rather open wider the source, and quicken the current, and swell the volume of their love, by the only means we have ever used with success—namely, horse, foot, and especially artillery."

uninjured. Charley, formerly bar-keeper for Christian Wagner, in Jefferson City, was robbed of every dollar he had, some \$450. Geo. Schriver, of this city, was led out to be shot, and a watchman on the boat cried out "hold on there, he is one of my deck hands," and they led him back, taking \$72 from him, being all he had except \$20 which he had secreted on the boat.

George Morenstecker, who has for several years been a grocer on the corner of Tenth street and Frederick Avenue, in this city, and who was recently a Captain in the Thirty-third Missouri, but has resigned, was robbed of \$1,060 and his gold watch.

The affair ended by the gang going on board the boat and compelling the passengers to throw overboard fifty wagon beds, 100 sacks of flour, and a large amount of other stores, including sugar, coffee, &c. Wearing apparel of ladies and gentlemen were indiscriminately plundered.

There were about eighty contrabands aboard, sent on their way to Kansas by General Curtis. Sixty jumped off and ran away, and are now under Col. Pin-nick, whose men are scouring the country for these murderers. When the guerrillas drew their revolvers on the negroes as they stood in line, the women on the boat screamed and cried, and begged them not to kill them, but the work of death went on.

News clippings

Source: Found within collection of letters

TRUE DEMOCRATS.

The old fashioned Democratic party is unquestionably split in two divisions—the true and the false, the war and anti-war, and, some add, the loyal and disloyal. The former of these is immensely in the majority, but the latter contains the wire workers, the intriguers, in fact the successful leaders. All that the former need is to know how the latter stand, and the following letter may be of service to some of our honest Democrats to see the subject in its true light:

SOUND ADVICE FROM AN OLD DEMOCRAT.
Editors Chicago Tribune:—

Through the medium of your paper allow me to address my loyal fellow Democrats.

I have been for the thirty years last past, a warm partisan Democrat, attached to my party ties. As a Democrat and patriot, loving my country, and my whole country, I have ever revered the old Constitution of the United States, under which this mighty nation has grown so strong and been prosperous and happy, as a sacred instrument which it was and is dangerous for us to tamper with or change. I have feared that if we should seek to change that sacred ground-work of our prosperity in one respect or in one feature, other changes would be clamored for, and soon the old Constitution of our country would be known to us no more forever.—Therefore, I am for “the Constitution as it is,” and for “the whole Union as it was, one and inseparable.”

Such was the cry of those who were esteemed sound and true Democrats, even at the last election. But, alas! how men change! Many of those whom we have heretofore been proud to hail as Democrats, and who have at least pretended to deprecate and denounce the idea of the extreme abolitionists, (that “the Constitution was a covenant with death,” &c.) and who avowed that they would maintain “the Constitution as it is,” even to death; these men, I say, the O’Melvans, the Merricks, the Goudys, the O’Briens, *et id omne genus*, have fallen from their proud position, and would now betray the people and humble this proud nation in the dust, at the feet of that arch traitor Jeff Davis, and would now consent to any alteration of that time-honored Constitution, that his infernal Confederate

clubs, not for partisan purposes, but for the salvation of the country, and have places of meeting, where they can talk together and learn the truth about the state of the country, without being dependent upon a false partisan press. Let them meet and have a free interchange of ideas, and try to cultivate a unity of sentiment among each other.

“The Times” is so terribly out of Democratic joint that I could not hope to have this communication published in that paper, although as a Democrat I have hitherto been listened to. The Times is under seecesh influence, and we all know it, and there is no use in denying it. It is humiliating to have to acknowledge it, but my fellow Democrats, let us speak the truth and shame the devil. Our country, as well as solemn duty, calls upon every friend of liberty who has a spark of patriotism in him, to stand firm for our holy cause and not be deterred from duty by any false name or opprobrious epithet, nor from fear of being “read out of the party.” Whoso swerves from duty, or falters when his country is in danger is a “villain whom it was base flattery to name a coward.”

AN OLD LINE DEMOCRAT.

[REMARKS.—The above is from a leading and life-long Democrat. Thousands of patriots in that party feel and think so.

News clippings

Source: Found within collection of letters

VALLANDIGHAM'S TREASON.

The latest proof of Vollandigham's treason was printed, a few days since, in the Ohio State Journal. It is the following letter under his own hand to Col. D. D. Ingersoll, of the rebel army, in response to an invitation from the rebel to visit his command while Val. was in Dixie. It was sent to the Journal by James Flynn West, of Company A, 19th Ohio volunteer infantry, which, on a reconnaissance on the 28th of September last, near Battle Creek, Tennessee, he chanced to capture the baggage and private papers of this same Colonel, finding among the latter this same letter. We commend it to the attention of the men hereabouts who lately made themselves hoarse hurrahing for the TRAITOR. How do they like it? What do Union men think of it?

VALLANDIGHAM'S LETTER.

DEAR COLONEL:—Your kind note and invitation of yesterday was this morning handed me by your brother-in-law, who will hand you this in return.

It would give me much pleasure to visit you and your command before leaving the Confederacy, but it is now impossible to do so, as I have made arrangements to start this A. M. with the earliest train for Wilmington.

You surmise correctly, when you say that you believe me to be the friend of the South in her struggle for freedom. My feelings have been publicly expressed in my own country, in that quotation from Lord Chatham—"My Lords, you cannot conquer America." There is not a drop of Puritan blood in my veins. I hate, despise and defy the tyrannical Government which has sent me among you, for my opinions' sake, and shall never give it my support in its crusade upon your institutions. But you are mistaken when you say there are but few in the United States, North. Thousands are there who would speak out but for the military despotism that strangles them.

Although the contest has been, and will continue to be, a bloody one, you have but to persevere, and the victory will surely be yours. You must strike home! The defensive policy lengthens the contest. The shortest road to peace is the boldest one. You can have your own terms by gaining the battle on your enemy's soil.

Accept my kind regards for your personal welfare, and sincere thanks for your kind wishes in my behalf, and hoping and praying for the ultimate cause in which you are fighting, believe me, as ever, your friend.

C. L. VALLANDIGHAM.

Col. D. D. Insball, 8th Ala. vols.

This is a fair specimen of the loyalty of the man whom the Copperheads of Ohio ran for Governor.

News clippings

Source: Found within collection of letters

The Southern Rebellion the Immediate Cause of Slave Insurrections and the Abolition of Slavery.

[From the Nashville Union.]

The Southern rebellion was a blow at the very organization of our society.—Every man and woman in the Southern States who was concerned in it became another Peter the Hermit, preaching to the excited slaves the overthrow of the system which held them in bondage. Every master who encouraged enlistments in the rebel army, virtually shouted to his slaves, revolt! revolt! I have, myself, set the example! The slaveholders who for so many years had been preaching obedience and submission to their laborers, presented themselves, in the dreadful act of secession from the Federal Union, as so many wild and frenzied incendiaries to those who should have seen at all times in their master moderate and orderly conduct. By a system of falsehood and calumny, as unfounded and gratuitous as it was senseless, the Southern leaders in the hearing of their slaves charged the Republicans with the deliberate intention of setting them free, and then, with a folly equalled by their wickedness only, raised the standard of revolt. Every part of the South swarmed with rebel soldiers; troops marched to and fro, filling the South with excitement; the peaceful agricultural pursuits of the slaves were broken off, and planting operations suspended. By the voluntary, atrocious, uncalled for, and stupid calumny of the leaders, by whom the people of the South suffered themselves to be bullied and domineered over, the negroes were lead to believe that Mr. Lincoln's administration had come into power for the purpose of setting them free. The devil never coined a blacker lie in his infernal workshop. Terrible is the punishment of this great sin.

The rebels are doing the very thing which they accused Mr. Lincoln of trying to do. They are themselves, unintentionally—perhaps unwittingly—acting the part of practical, immediate, radical, Abolitionists, and in all probability their efforts, so far as the complete destruction of slavery is concerned, will be successful. Secessionism is Abolitionism. Abolitionism, as generally understood, was the dogma of a small party, living mostly in those States which are farthest removed from the presence of slavery; secessionism is the act of a large party living among the slaves, and consequently infinitely more potent in destroying slavery. It does the work several ways.

It excites the slaves and makes them restless.

John Brown and the War.

Some of our Northern Tories have charged that the war as conducted by the Government, is only another John Brown raid, on an extended scale. This of course is only done to create prejudice and hatred toward the Government, and is a feeble and malicious attempt to throw the responsibility of the war from the defiant traitors (who would scorn fellowship with their imbecile defenders) upon the loyal masses of the Union, who are shedding their blood to defend and perpetuate our liberties.

The emancipationists of Missouri do not evidently regard the war in any such light. Henry T. Blow, Esq., in the late enthusiastic emancipation meeting at St. Louis says:

Alluding to our representative men reminds me that I have a word to say in relation to John Brown's body and his soul. I desire, in the name of the Union and the Constitution, and of those who still feel proud of the glories of both, to protest against any identification of this misguided man with the Union Republican Emancipation party. We abhor his disgraceful attempt as much as the Virginians who tried and punished him; but, we abhor, a thousand times more, those great traitors who have seduced and driven millions of our fellow-citizens into the commission of the greatest crime against humanity and civilization that has occurred since the death of our Savior.

So much for John Brown. Let him rest in peace in the grave where his body lies mouldering. We have another Brown—a living Brown—in whom we can put faith; a Brown who we believe is marching on, both body and soul.

If John Brown is still to be kept before the public, let it be by those whose political capacities are unequal to the discussion of great principles, and who, like Vallandigham, Powell, and others of the same stamp, prefer to screen traitors while they charge upon defenders and lovers of this Union views and feelings which they never dreamed of having.

But once more I return to the Proclamation. I need not say, after desiring and advocating it through a canvas, that I still believe in it. I believe that it is a war necessity; that it will embarrass and impoverish the enemy, and finally do much towards destroying the rebellion.—Thousands of slaves will strike for our armies and freedom; thousands will refuse to work as of old—the organized system of labor in the South will be broken up, and small crops will inevitably follow.

Then comes the day relief. Our invading armies will be marching on, for without food, money or labor the Southern hosts cannot remain secure behind their entrenchments and defenses which now protect them. It will save the Republic!

Patriots and Freemen, stand by the Proclamation, and victory is sure.

News clippings

Source: Found within collection of letters

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REMAINING COLLECTION OF LETTERS
(NOT ANNOTATED)

Placement	Date	Place of Origin	Correspondent
<i>1850s</i>			
	1 August 1, 1853	Ada, Ohio	M Palmer
	2 March 21, 1855	?, Ohio	Leah Faulk
	3 April 22, 1855	Fostoria, Ohio	Brother John
	4 June 25, 1855	Berlin Heights, Ohio	Geo W Parke
	5 November 29, 1856	Selfridgeville, Illinois	S J Brown
	6 December 9, 1855	Calcutta, Ohio	Joseph Faulk
	7 December 8, 1856	Alexandria, Missouri	M A Boatman
	8 December 29, 1856	Fort Desmoines, Iowa	Martin McCready
	9 February 27, 1856	Alexandria, Missouri	Boatman
	10 May 23, 1856	?, Ohio	Joseph Faulk
	11 February 7, 1856	Parmon Hill, Ohio	Leah Faulk
	12 March 18, 1856	Chanhonan, ?	S J Brown
	13 April 21, 1856	Parmon Hill, Ohio	Leah Faulk
	14 January 27, 1857	Buchanan County	Lazarus Rauch
	15 August 28, 1857	Keokuk, Iowa	Samuel Boatman
	16 July 9, 1858	Keokuk, Iowa	Samuel Boatman
	17 August 29, 1858	Unity, Ohio	Cornelius Shook
	18 ? 1853	Johnstown, Hardin Co., OH	J C Palmer
<i>1860s</i>			
	19 April 23, 1860	Des Moines, Iowa	Martin McCready
	20 October 12, 1862	New Lisbon, Ohio	Stephen Palmer
	21 October 17, 1863	Keokuk, Iowa	Samuel Boatman
	22 February 26, 1864	Keokuk, Iowa	Samuel Boatman
	23 January 8, 1864	Keokuk, Iowa	Samuel Boatman
	24 July 4, 1868	Liberty, Ohio	Delilah Shook
	25 September 7, 1862	New Lisbon	Stephen Palmer
	26 Not dated	Family Genealogy Letter	Susan Palmer Rauch

Source: Written correspondence to J. C. Rauch