

5 1857(?): Letter

From DMC: This letter has no date, but it does appear to be early in George and Electa's time in Grinnell. For that reason, I am dating it to 1857. If someone can figure out who Barber is, a more specific date might be inferred from the information that Barber has a one-week old boy at the time the letter was written.

NO DATE

We have had a young man preaching here for 4 months past. He is very smart and liked by every body. He will continue to stay.

Grinnell has 8 letters within 6 weeks, each wanting to buy 40 acres about 1 mile from town. They wanting it for homes and to be near school. All have cash to pay for land and build their houses and make other improvements, one of which I saw today with about \$3000 to lay out here. He answered it last night.

No town in the West will fill up with a better moral and intelligent class of people than this. There are none in this state that come anywhere near it now. I cannot think of any more to write just now and if there is anything left out make inquiry next time. Electa will write to Sarah this week putting in such news as she may have. Barber is not so poor as he might be. He has 80 A, house and 2 lots in village and 3 A within 80 rods of the village. Houses on each of two sides of it. It fronts on the 160 A now laid off into building lots. He is a little cramped for money as most are. His greatest cramp is a lazy, miserable wife. They have a little boy 1 week old.

Give my best wishes to anybody that wants them and take all you want for yourselves.
Geo W. Cook

This small item includes a map of the property acquired.
Every section has 4 quarters of 160 A each. If Section 17, 2 qts are given, marked 160 A each. The description is as follows:

Beginning at the NW corner of Sec. 17 and running south 160 rods to the SW corner of the NW quarter of said Section, then east 35 rods then N to the section line then west 35 rods to the place of beginning. The above is as plain as I can make it.

Geo W. Cook