

## 8 1857-09-28(?): Letter

*From DMC: Only the month and day are in the letter. The text, however, does appear to be the first letter written from Electa to Sarah, so I am placing the year at 1857, the fall after George and Electa's arrival in Grinnell in the spring of 1857.*

Grinnell, 28 September ????

Dear Sister Sarah:

It is with much pleasure that I now take my pen in hand to write to you and I can only express my regret at not writing to you before but I trust you will pardon me when I tell you I have been hard at work and have not had the time to write. When I have had time then I felt too weary to write. You will say what can she find to do out West? Well, I can tell you I have been bleaching bonnets and making dresses. I have had lots of millinery work to do and the Ladys have been well pleased with my work and now you know what I am doing.

I will tell you how we do. Well, we are well and as happy as ever with each other. It is hard times here yet and I cannot tell how long they will last but I do hope not much longer but God only knows and now let me tell you Dear Girl (please excuse all mistakes) that not a day has hurried by since we parted that you have not been in my affectionate remembrance and Oh how happy should I be to see you and to enjoy your friendly society but that cannot be but be a good girl and do not forget your Sister Electa will you. Oh if I could see you I could say much to you that I cannot write but Sarah I often think that if we could have all we wish below we should be reluctant to go from this. No Sarah, this is not our rest and I will ask you what better can we wish my Dear Sarah than a humble place at the feet of Jesus Oh let us so live that if not permitted to meet again this side of grave we may meet where the parting tear shall never flow Dear Girl I hope you will often think of us and little Caper he is happy if he cannot tell his storys like Lyda? boy?. Please give my love to them and take a large helping? for yourself. I have not got anything that will be interesting to write you so I will say good by for this time and let George fill out the sheet as I think you will feel more pleased to see a line from him. Please write soon and tell me all you can think of

Your sister, Electa C. Cook

Sister Sarah:

I thought I would write a few lines as there appears to be a plenty of room. We have had a pleasant summer and not much hard work. Indian summer is with us now and a good prospect of continuing with us a long time to come. We have had no frost yet so I have heaps of tomatoes every day. Railroad news reaches us every day or two but no progress made as yet. If nothing is done by spring and not much prospect of doing then, I shall make my calculations accordingly for this reason viz. w market, corn brings double in Chicago it does here. Wheat much more and always a sale. Lands not far from Chicago can be bought improved or unimproved for nearly the same price as here and fencing of pine boards for one half that of oak. I was at Iowa City last week and learned these with many other things which perhaps I will tell you sometime.

We have a Society of Good Templars here of over 100 members. I am Worthy Chief Templar. My time is out in a month, which makes me 6 mos in all. Then I shall have to continue in another office 3 mos. Electa is my left hand supporter. This is all Greek to you, but it seems very simple to us who have roasted on the coals, broiled on the gridiron, or climbed the greased pole. I cannot write any more now, but more next time. Answer this as soon as convenient.

Yours, Geo W. Cook