

## 28 1859-12-18: Letter

*From DMC: I do not know who Munroe, Shocklay, Ezra Grinnell, Monroe, Druson(?), Ganabell(?), Fred Taylor, or Davis are.*

Grinnell, Dec. 18th, 1859

Anything in here you do not understand ask Munroe. Shocklay has sold everything but his house and lots and gone to Maine.

Dear Friends:

Ezra Grinnell has gone to N. York for his wife. They come back in the spring. A few have moved in . Many more are coming in the spring. Many scholars are here at school. I received yours of the 30th about one week ago last night with all its contents and they were well received and I would have answered next day had you sent an envelope and now after one week's effort to get one I write what little news there may be to add since I wrote you last.

Today there is a little more snow on the ground making the 3rd time this fall. I cannot now say that I answered yours of Oct. 18th but I should think by your last that I did not. In addition to the number of buildings I told you 3 more good houses have been put up and had there been more money 3 or 4 times that number would have been built. When the Rail Road and prosperity comes here there will be enough of this.

I have wheat enough for 2 years, so that I shall not need your rye and as for buck-wheat it is good for nothing for me. I have potatoes enough for as many as will want to eat them to say nothing of more preserves than any one else in town and dried berries and corn by the bushel and groceries enough in the hours for 6 mos, and half a hundred of sugar in the house a short time since, and precious few in this town have ther amount of truck in the house at one time to this must be added any amount of corn in the crib. As to the weather from Oct 1st to Nov 21st there were but 4 days that I did not work all day so pleasant and dry has been the weather. Then out of 15 days I worked but 6(?) it being quite cold with a few rainy days. I have worked the last 9 days some days quite warm. Everything froze up the last night of Nov and has remained ever since the surface barely thawing but freezing again at night.

[overlay] onions, beets cabbages, cucumbers and tomato pickles and sorghum molasses, enough of all. We have all the milk, cream, and butter we want to use every day and butter enough put down to last while the Cow is dry (have you more than all these?) I have killed one pig that weighed 150 lbs and have another that will weigh over 200 lbs, making 350 lbs pork. Meat and grease enough to last as much as 6 wks, I guess.

As for money, there is but a little in these parts. I have a little; a great many have not seen as much in a year so that any time you are of a mind to send along 100 dollars or so it will be well received as my coat needs patching, one sleeve is out at the elbow on the other the outside is off to the elbow and I want a new top on my old cap. You not a pleasanter place along where you live than it is and if everything was in good proportion I would as soon stay in Iowa as in Conn.

Your letter was dated Nov 30, 1858 instead of 59, one year behind. I notice in your last letter as in the others a great many words misspelled. I guess you have not been to school lately. You must look out. G.W.C.

The roads are dry and have been ever since Monroe left. A great number of wells are dry and in the rest the bottom is just ready to fall out. We have a plenty at this time. Wilder's well has been dry for 3 mos. He has gone East on some potent business but many here think he has gone to fill his wallet as it has been nearly or quite empty through extravagance having lived on corn meal and milk. We went of Druson's(?) on Thanksgiving and he comes here New Years. We take Christmas at Ganabell's(?). I picked Corn most of the time that I have worked. I have a little that I cut up to husk yet. I am now picking Wilder's corn, taking of the same for pay. There will be from 25 to 50 bushels for my part. I am not on the road to Conn but here in Iowa

and expect to remain here till I sell for Cash (not giving away) everything. I have but the land. When that will be you know as well as I. but for the next 6 mos, I shall be better pleased here than if I was in Meriden. I have not the least desire for a job in any one's shop to be rung or whistled out and in but if I come East in such a time of the year that I must why I will make the best of it. You may say what about the Rail Road. Well it is making tracks as fast as 8 or 10 men can make it.

Fred Taylor has been to the City the last week He told me last night that in 10 days time the track will be laid 6 miles from the City the cars running that distance carrying the iron and anything else needed from the depot across the valley and over on bridges now built. Perhaps the cars will be here soon enough for me. What more shall I say about these things, I know not. I told you I expected to pay 25\$ per acre for the land and 10\$ per A for the wood land. Grinnell did not want at last to sell the wood so I got the 35 A a little cheaper. I shall have 6 or 7 hundred bus of Corn to keep for the highest price that may be had besides the one hundred that I have sold all this besides paying Davis in Corn for rent of the place. No more now.

Yours, Geo. W. Cook  
To Sarah E. Cook and all the rest.