1812

Sunday Nov 3rd

8 Miles South East of
Sutton Clay Co Neb

Dear Wife & Baby

Although my letter is dated Clay Co we are in Fillmore Co Neb about 70 miles a little South of West from Lincoln and have our Claims Selected. if no one gets to the Land Office ahead of us land is being taken up so fast that one has to stir himself if he gets to the Office in time to get the piece picked

Well I will tell our present prospect and not mail this till we get to Beatrice when I can tell more certain Giles has bargained for the improvemen on 160 acres for $600.00 there is a good frame House with three rooms & cellar sod stable & 35 acres broke after buying the improvements he will homestead the

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land the same as other vacant land and joining him on the west Sam has selected 80 acres and 1 mile west of that another 80 acres so if he gets fooled on one he will take the other.

I have selected 160 acres ½ mile to the south east of Giles cornering on Turkey creek 80 acres of which has been Homesteaded but the young man that has the claim got his back broke in Lincoln last Spring and cannot tend to his claim & has left it in the DeWolf's hands to sell for him there is nothing done on the land and by paying him $14.00 what it cost him to homestead it he will will cancel his right. I have selected another piece 2 miles west and one south from Giles in case I fail on the first. DeWolf is the mans name that Giles has bought of and we are in his house today doing our writing there is also a well on Giles piece 100 ft to the water.

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ma this is as purtty a country to look at as any one ever saw but it has it drawbacks as well as other places one objection is the depth to water wells back from the streams vary from 50 to 150 ft in depth but sure to get it dig where you will and splendid and never failing another objection is no timber at all you might say all there is stand along the streams and it is all taken up some of it however stand on rail road land and settlers go for that but is a limited supply at best. If I get either of the pieces selected I will have to haul my wood 10 to 12 miles. the first pich I have made can be every square inch plowed with a beautiful buildding spot on it & will not have to dig of 75 ft for water but Turkey Creek being at the corner I will have water for stock handy & if I take the 2nd piece Turkey Creek

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runs on the north end a very little giving stock water the year round on it and is a nice building spot on it beside but is a rougher piece of land than the first selection. 2 years ago the first settlement was made along the streams 3 or 4 years ago and now nearly all the land is taken up and farms started on almost every piece of land except railroad & school land oh yes only first selection corners with school section 16. there is 2 School Sections in every township Nos 16 & 36. Well Ma Our House will be built of Nebraska Brick at first namely sod. now Ma dont grumble for they can be made to look very nice. some I have seen are dressed down inside ~~and~~ smooth then ~~up~~ swept with an old broom till the grass roots stick out and then plastered which make them look neat & they are just the most comfortable house to keep warm you ever seen well we can put up with anything that will keep us dry & warm till we can build better

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Beatrice Nebraska
Nov 5th 1872

Well when I quit writing I had good news I thought I knew right where our home would be but I came to the Land Office this afternoon and both the pieces were taken so I will have to go back & look again. Giles & Sam have got theirs about 1 mile apart but I have to make my trip over again and a pretty big job it is for it is 65 miles to Giles Claim. & I have bought a plott of the town in which he has located and will try to find one to suit in same town.

There are a great many claims that the persons living by them will tell you they are taken when they are not. They will blow a little on them and say that some of their friends or relatives have claims on them

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Thinking they will be let alone
But having to make my trip over
again makes me a little mad and
as I have bought a plot of the town
I know what is vacant and what
is not so they had better not put
too much improvement on a piece
that suits me ~~or I may~~ before
they put in their claim at the
Land Office or they might be
doing it for me.

Well Ma I would rather
be telling you & Baby this than
writing it but perhaps when I have
a chance to tell it we will be on
our own. My money is down to about
$20.00 and a big trip to make yet it
is running me close but I guess I will
make it I have come for Home and
they say where there's a will there's a
way so if I can stand it here you
ought to there. So good night wishing
you health & happiness and baby bless
her dear life now I would love to kiss her

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You may kiss her for me

we have no employ yet and probably will get none this winter as the country is very new yet and but little to do in winter time

No 2

Don't forget to write immediately and direct to Sutton Clay Co Neb

There is a great many in this part of the country that burn corn they say it is the cheapest fuel they can get. but I will try to get wood to burn the first year till I can get ahead far enough to burn coal or corn.

Ma you can see just as far as you please here and almost every foot in sight can be plowed

A man can come here with $500.00 and manage properly and in a few years he can have a good comfortable home in a beautiful looking country and the most I see unfavorable is the timber & water the timber we can get along without till we can raise it & the water has to be drawn so far is the main objection to that but a never failing supply of good water

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and sure to be got by digging far enough as to soil it is as good as I ever seen I must tell you there is a little baby 7 months old where we are today & I have nursed it some too but it was not like pressing my own dear babe to my breast. (pardon me for writing my own) our dear babe I meant. we went north of here some 12 miles on West Blue River where they are going to build a mill, to get employ day before yesterday but they have not commenced work yet so we may not get employ of any kind this winter

Ma there is several with me today but I am lonesome without you. and baby and I tell you there is a vacant place to me wherever I go and no one can fill fill it but you & baby well good by for the present I will mail this at Barrice but you must answer immediately and direct to Sutton Clay Co Neb

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