Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Section 193, Pages 5761 - 5790

This series of the Isaac Tichenor Goodnow collection includes sent and received correspondence of Isaac T. Goodnow (1814-1894) and also the correspondence of his brother, William E. Goodnow (1807-1876). This correspondence includes early courtship letters between Isaac and his future wife, Ellen Denison, as well as letters between William and his future wife, Harriet Paddleford. There are also several letters written by their brother, Jotham Goodnow. The correspondence is arranged in chronological order. Box 6 includes undated letters arranged by the first letter of the correspondent's last name. Isaac Goodnow moved to Kansas in 1855 and established the town of Manhattan and Bluemont Central Colllege. He died on March 20, 1894.

Date: 1826-1940

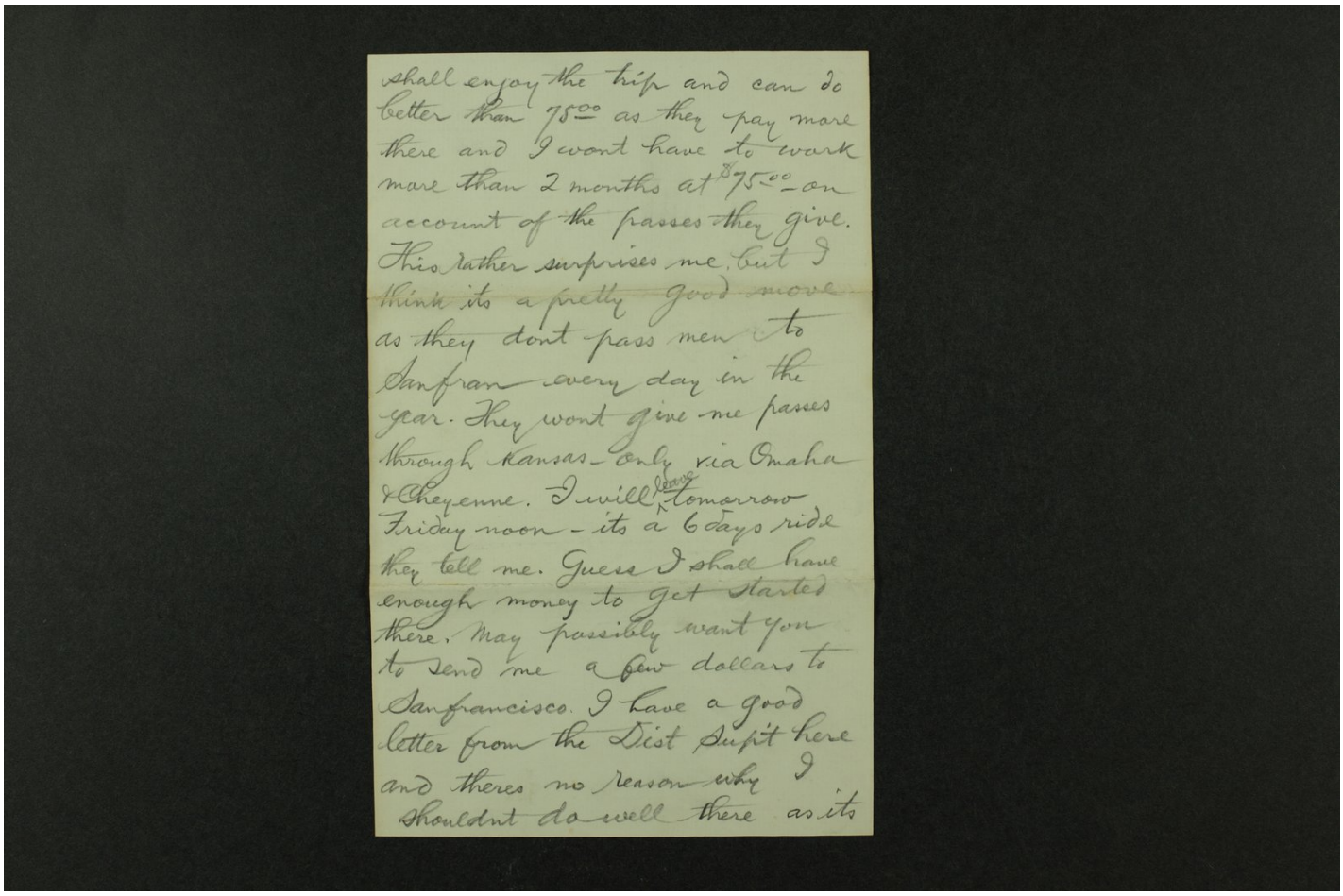
Callnumber: Isaac T. Goodnow Coll. #357, Box 1-6

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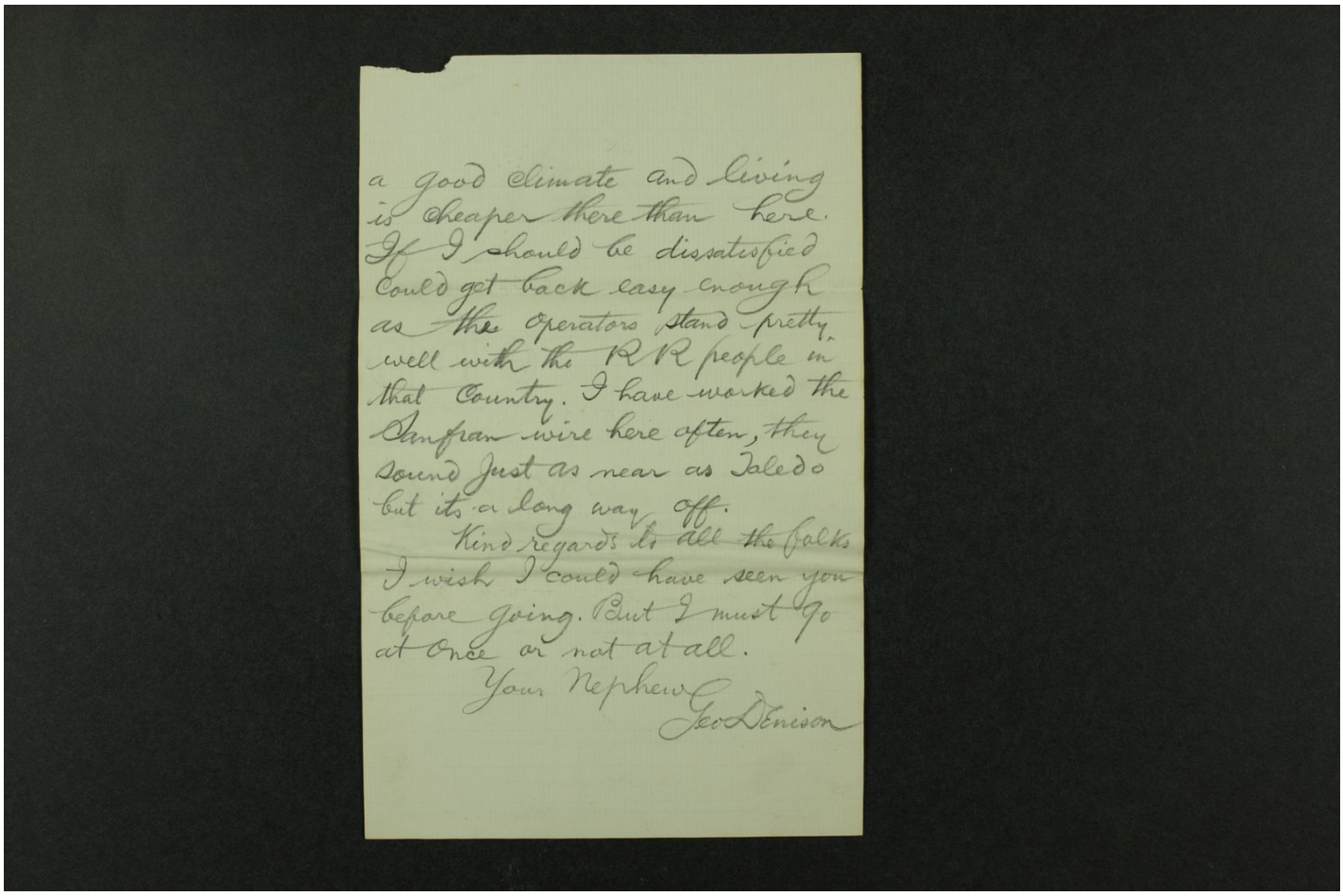
www.kansasmemory.org/item/307637

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



shall enjoy the trip and can do
better than 75.00 as they pay more
there and I wont have to work
more than 2 months at $75.00 on
account of the passes they give.
This rather surprises me, but I
think its a pretty good move
as they dont pass men to
Sanfran every day in the
year. They wont give me passes
through Kansas only via Omaha
& Cheyenne. I will leave tomorrow
Friday noon - its a 6 days ride
they tell me. Guess I shall have
enough money to get started
there. May possibly want you
to send me a few dollars to
Sanfrancisco. I have a good
letter from the Dist Supt here
and theres no reason why I
shouldnt do well there as its

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

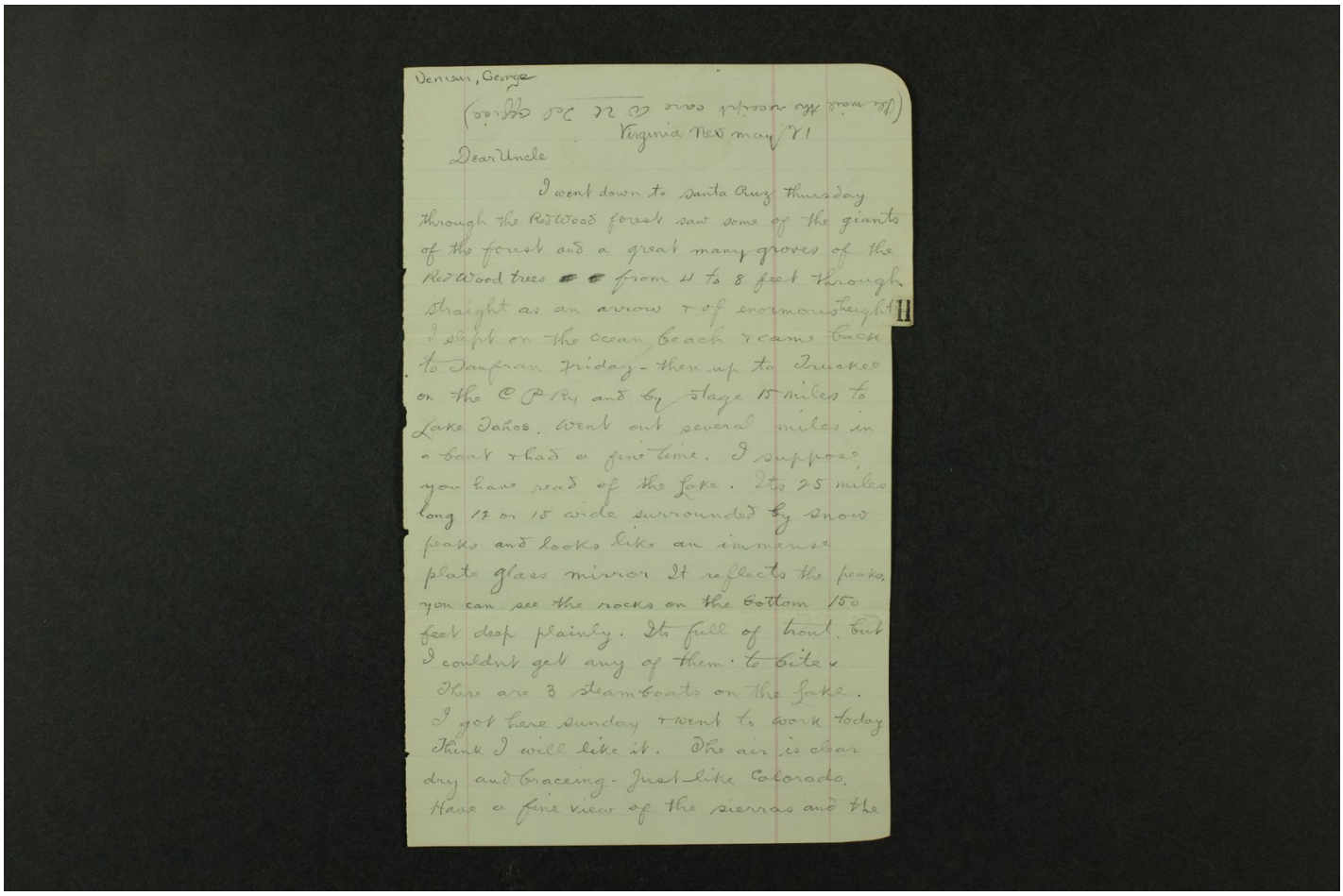


a good climate and living is cheaper there than here. If I should be dissatisfied could get back easy enough as the operators stand pretty well with the R R people in that Country. I have worked the Sanfran wire here often, they sound just as near as Toledo but its a long way off.

Kind regards to all the folks I wish I could have seen you before going. But I must go at once or not at all.

Your Nephew
Geo Denison

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



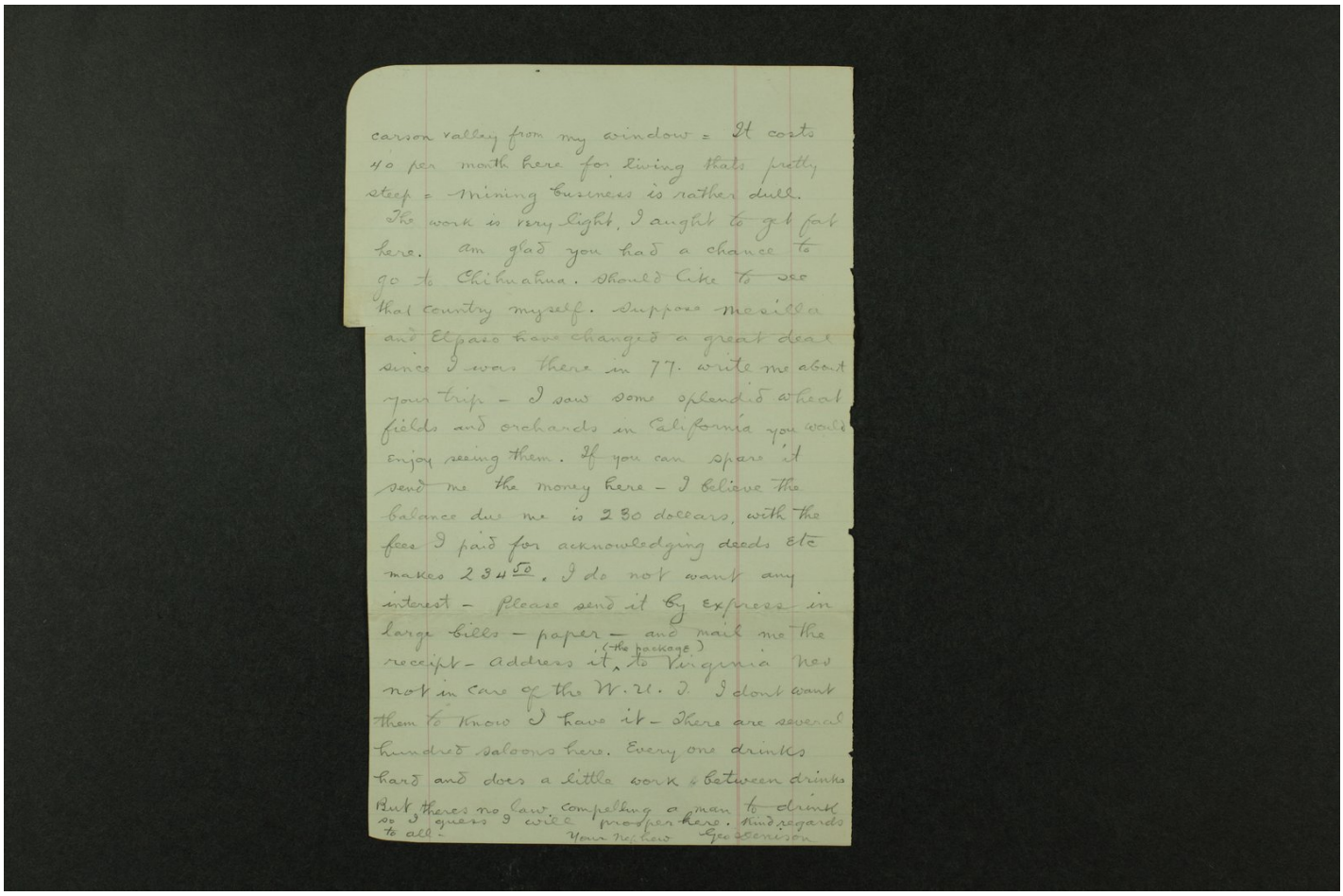
Denison, George

Virginia Nev may 21

Dear Uncle

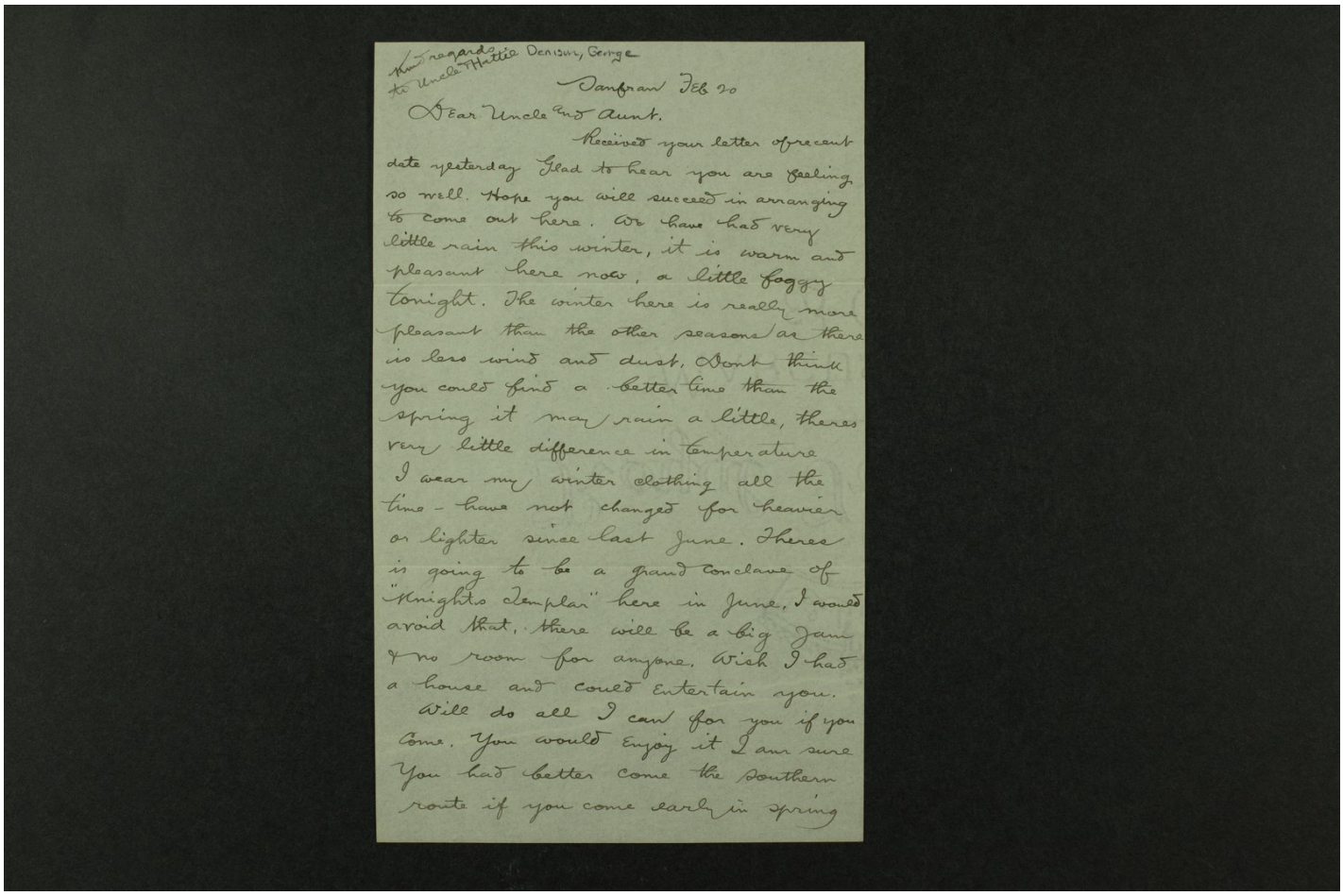
I went down to Santa Cruz thursday through the RedWood forest saw some of the giants of the forest and a great many groves of the RedWood trees from 4 to 8 feet through straight as an arrow & of enormous height I slept on the ocean beach & came back to San fran friday - then up to Truckee on the C P Ry and by stage 15 miles to Lake Tahoe. went out several miles in a boat & had a fine time. I suppose you have read of the Lake. 2 to 25 miles long 12 or 15 wide surrounded by snow peaks and looks like an immense plate glass mirror It reflects the peaks, you can see the rocks on the bottom 150 feet deep plainly. Its full of trout. but I couldnt get any of them to bite & There are 3 steamboats on the lake. I got here sunday & went to work today Think I will like it. The air is clear dry and bracing - just like Colorado. Have a fine view of the sierras and the

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



carson valley from my window = It costs
40 per month here for living thats pretty
steep = Mining business is rather dull.
The work is very light, I aught to get fat
here. Am glad you had a chance to
go to Chihuahua. Should like to see
that country myself. Suppose Mesilla
and Elpaso have changed a great deal
since I was there in 77. write me about
your trip - I saw some splendid wheat
fields and orchards in California you would
enjoy seeing them. If you can spare it
send me the money here - I believe the
balance due me is 230 dollears, with the
fees I paid for acknowledging deeds etc
makes 234 50. I do not want any
interest - Please send it By Express in
large bills - paper - and mail me the
receipt - Address it (the package) to Virginia Nev
not in care of the W. U. T. I dont want
them to know I have it - There are several
hundred saloons here. Every one drinks
hard and does a little work between drinks
But theres no law compelling a man to drink
so I guess I will prosper here. Kind regards
to all. Your Nephew Geo Denison

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



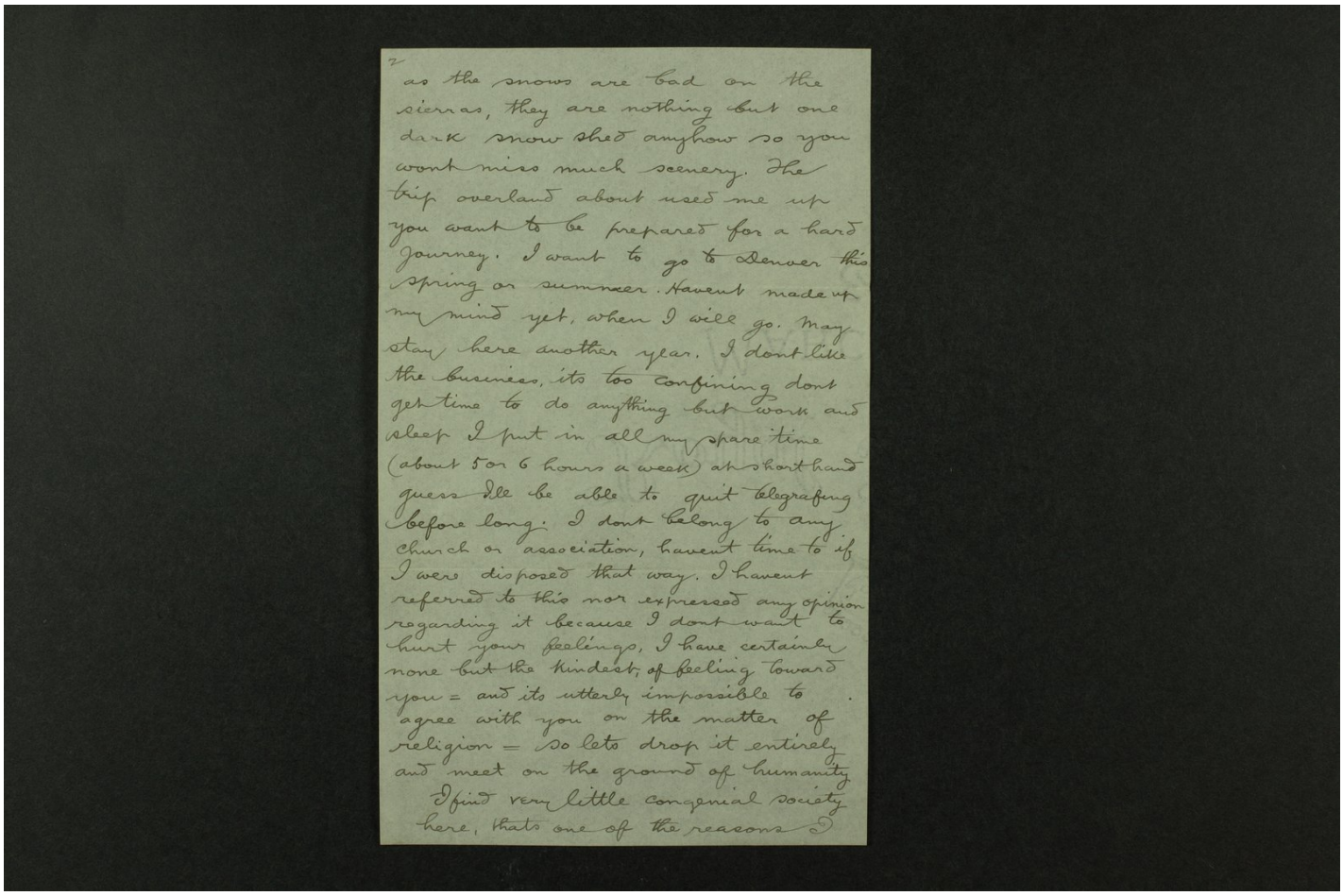
Letter regarding Uncle Hattie Denison, George

Sanfran Feb 20

Dear Uncle and Aunt.

Received your letter of recent date yesterday Glad to hear you are feeling so well. Hope you will succeed in arranging to come out here. We have had very little rain this winter, it is warm and pleasant here now, a little foggy tonight. The winter here is really more pleasant than the other seasons as there is less wind and dust, Dont think you could find a better time than the spring it may rain a little, theres very little difference in temperature I wear my winter clothing all the time - have not changed for heavier or lighter since last June. Theres is going to be a grand conclave of "Knights Templar" here in June, I would avoid that, there will be a big jam & no room for anyone. Wish I had a house and could entertain you. Will do all I can for you if you come. You would enjoy it I am sure You had better come the Southern route if you come early in spring

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

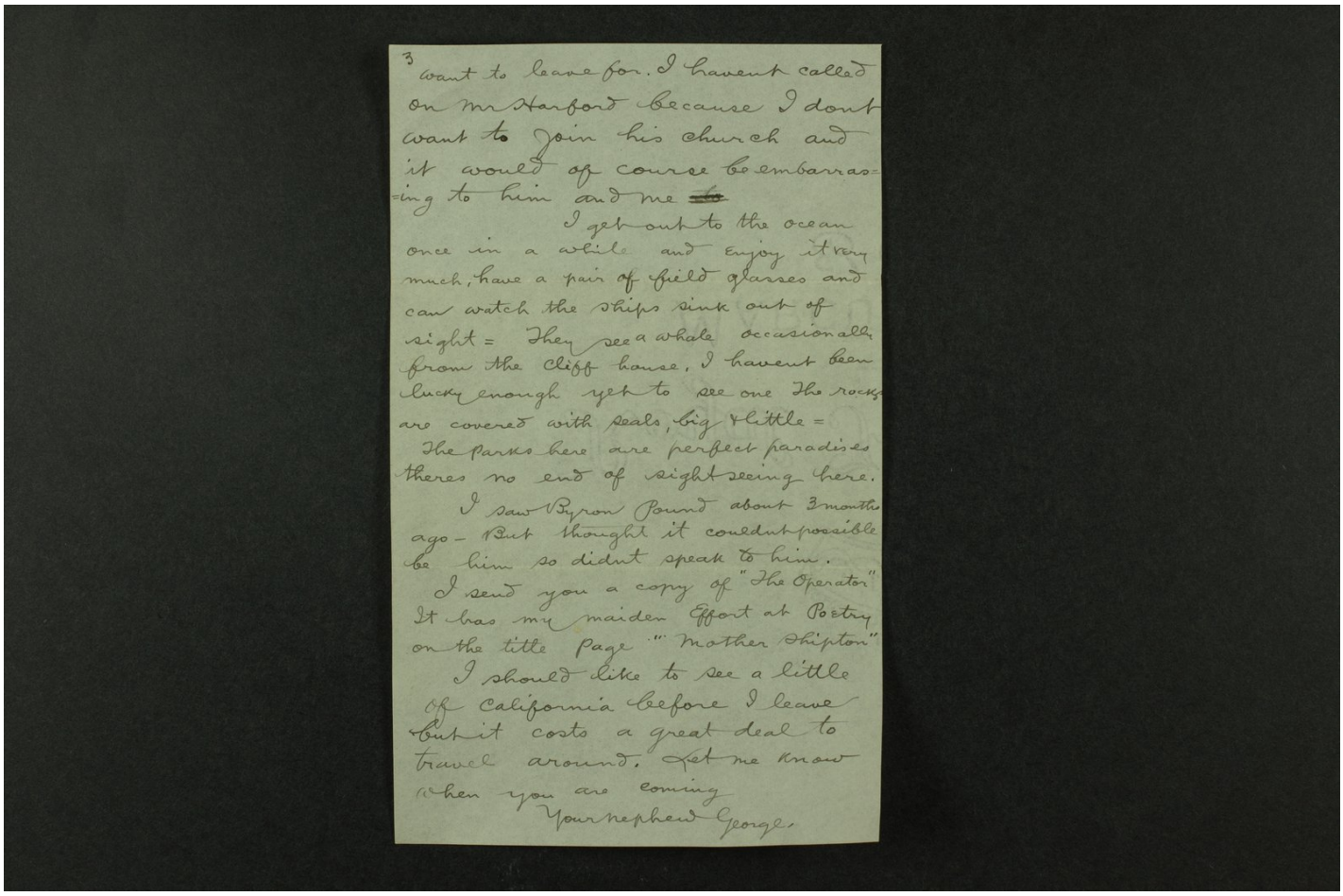


2

as the snows are bad on the sierras, they are nothing but one dark snow shed anyhow so you wont miss much scenery. The trip overland about used me up you want to be prepared for a hard journey. I want to go to Denver this spring or summer. Havent made up my mind yet, when I will go. May stay here another year. I dont like the business, its too confining dont get time to do anything but work and sleep I put in all my spare time (about 5 or 6 hours a week) at shorthand guess Ile be able to quit telegrafing before long. I dont belong to any church or association, havent time to if I were disposed that way. I havent referred to this nor expressed any opinion regarding it because I dont want to hurt your feelings, I have certainly none but the kindest of feeling toward you = and its utterly impossible to agree with you on the matter of religion = so lets drop it entirely and meet on the ground of humanity

I find very little congenial society here, thats one of the reasons I

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



3

want to leave for. I haven't called on Mr Harford Because I dont want to join his church and it would of course be embarrassing to him and me

I get out to the ocean once in a while and enjoy it very much, have a pair of field glasses and can watch the ships sink out of sight = They see a whale occasionally from the cliff house. I haven't been lucky enough yet to see one The rocks are covered with seals, big & little =

The parks here are perfect paradises theres no end of sight seeing here.

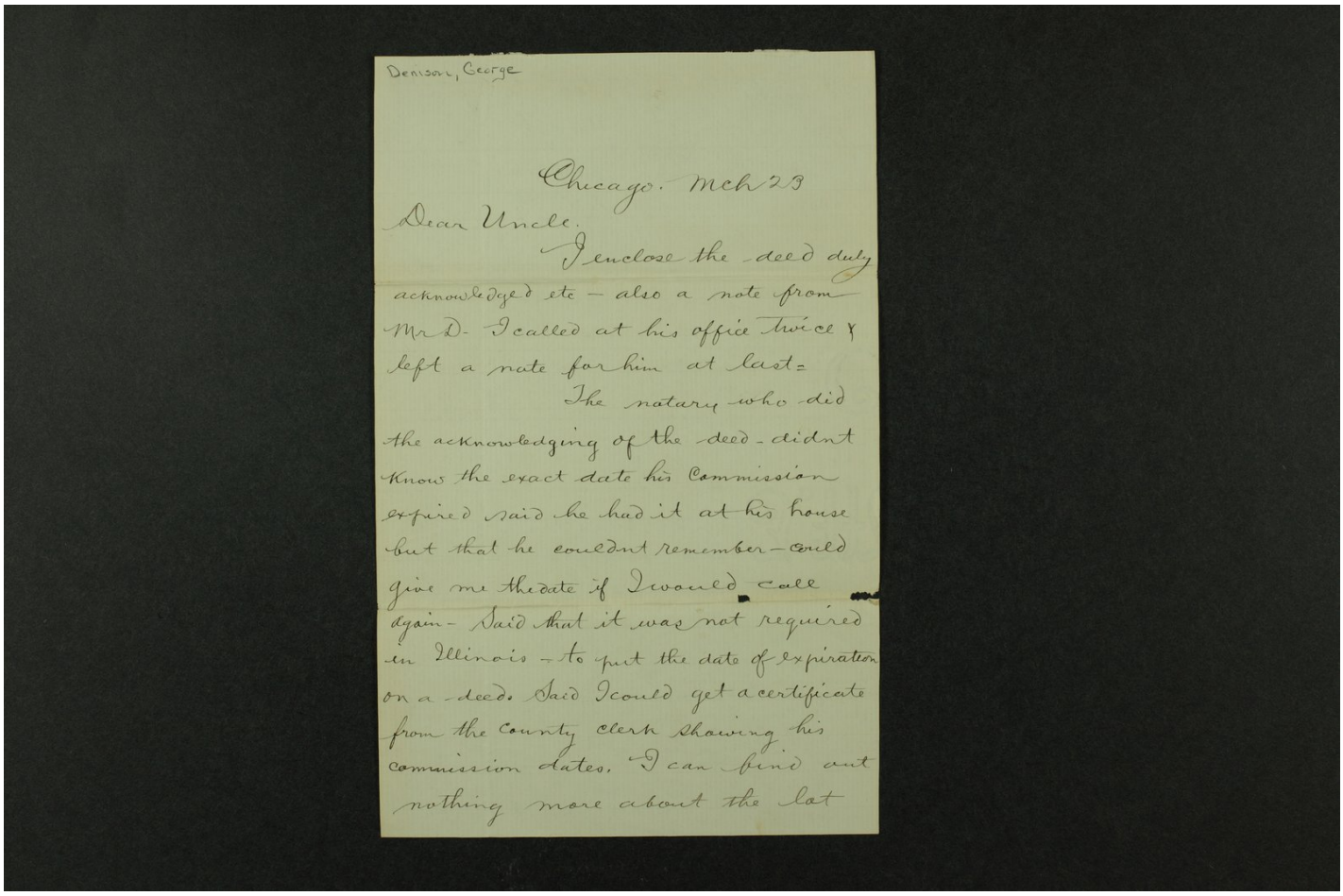
I saw Byron Pound about 3 months ago - But thought it couldnt possible be him so didnt speak to him.

I send you a copy of "The Operator" It has my maiden effort at Poetry on the title page "Mother Shipton"

I should like to see a little of California before I leave but it costs a great deal to travel around. Let me know when you are coming

Your nephew George.

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Denison, George

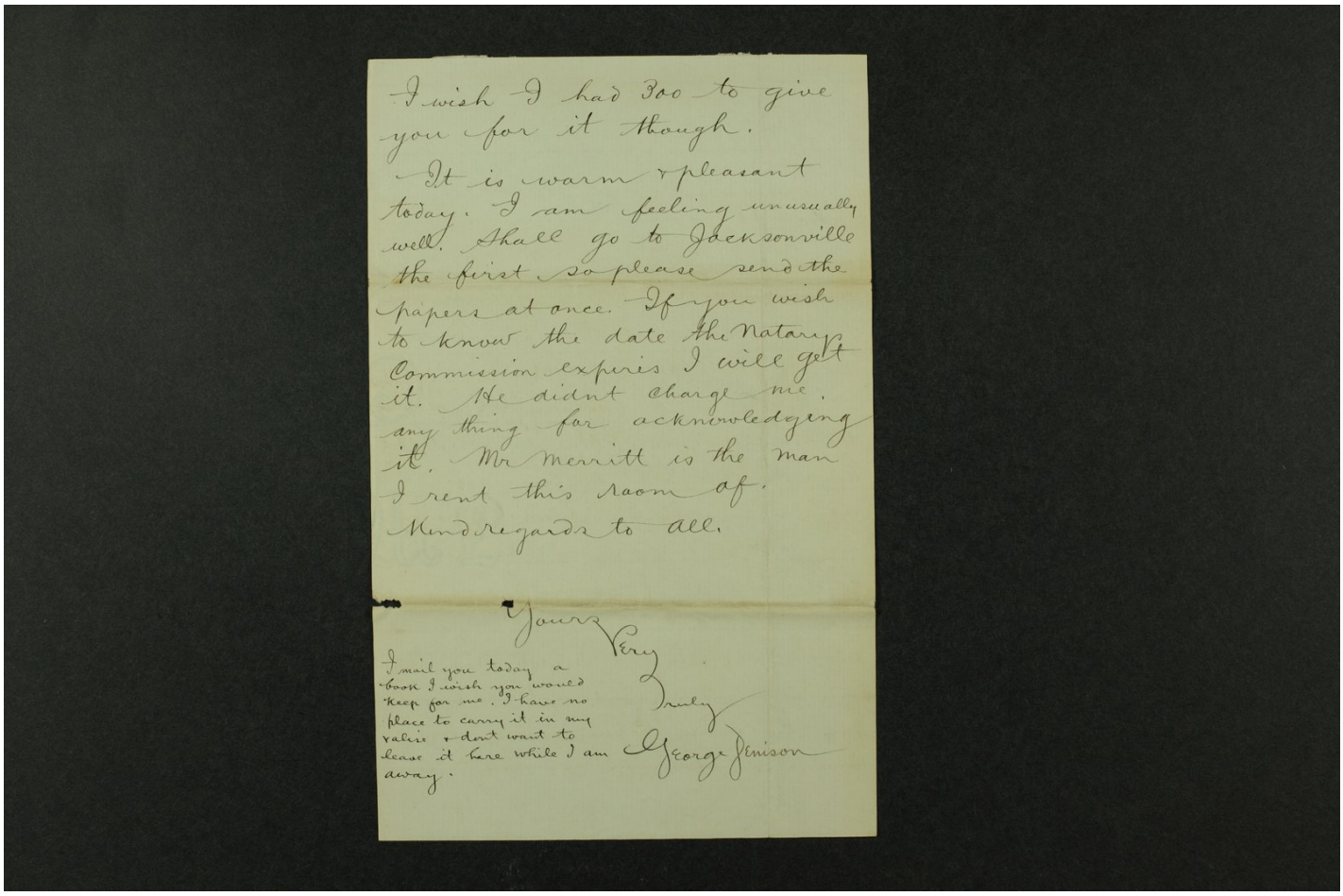
Chicago. Mch 23

Dear Uncle.

I enclose the deed duly acknowledged etc — also a note from Mr D- I called at his office twice & left a note for him at last=

The notary who did the acknowledging of the deed - didnt know the exact date his commission expired said he had it at his house but that he couldnt remember - could give me the date if I would call again - Said that it was not required in Illinois - to put the date of expiration on a deeds. Said I could get a certificate from the County clerk showing his commission dates. I can find out nothing more about the lot

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

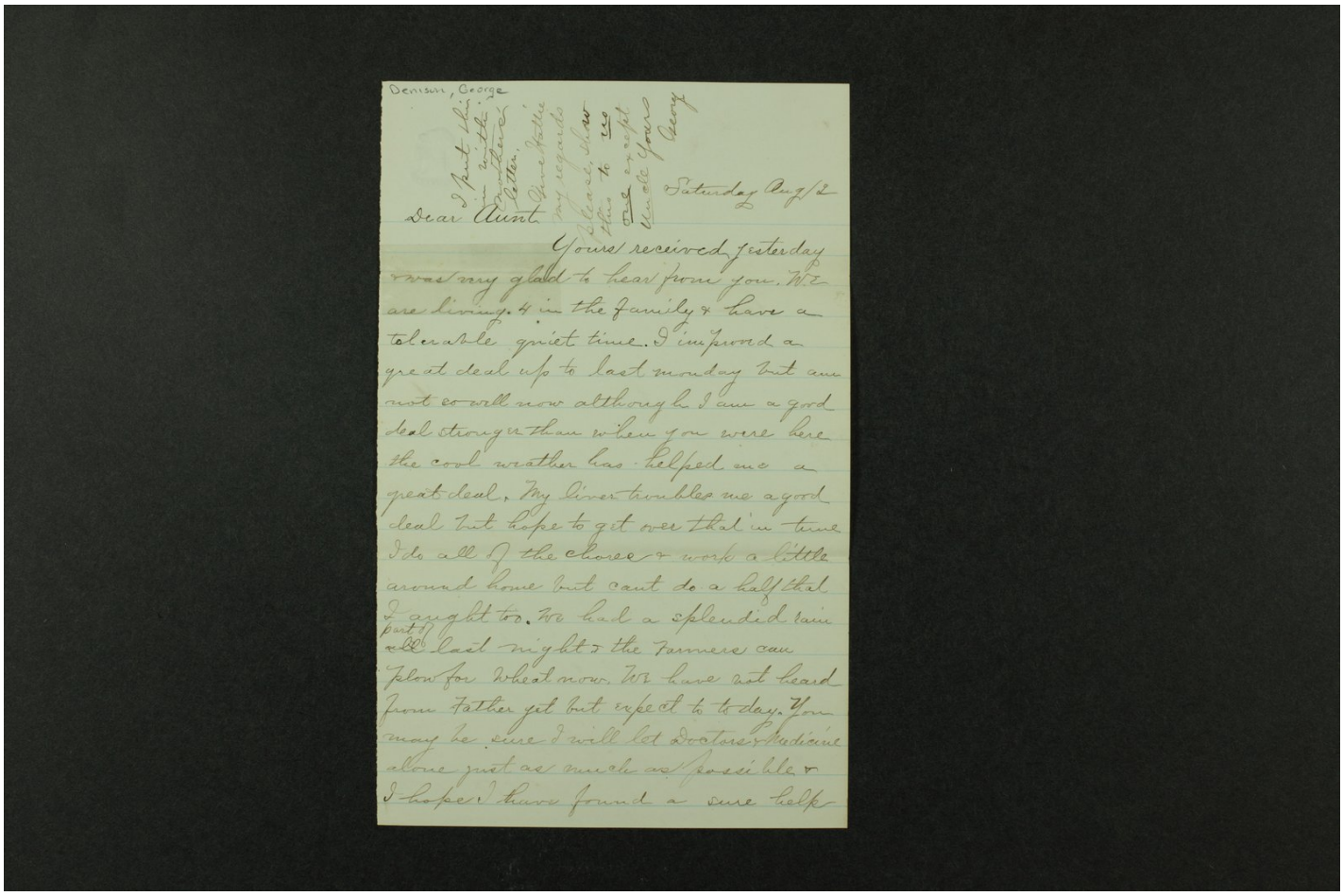


I wish I had 300 to give you for it though.
It is warm & pleasant today. I am feeling unusually well. Shall go to Jacksonville the first so please send the papers at once. If you wish to know the date the Notary Commission expiris I will get it. He didnt charge me any thing for acknowledging it. Mr Merritt is the man I rent this room of.
Kind regards to all.

Yours Very Truly
George Jenison

I mail you today a book I wish you would keep for me. I have no place to carry it in my valis & dont want to leave it here while I am away.

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Denison, George

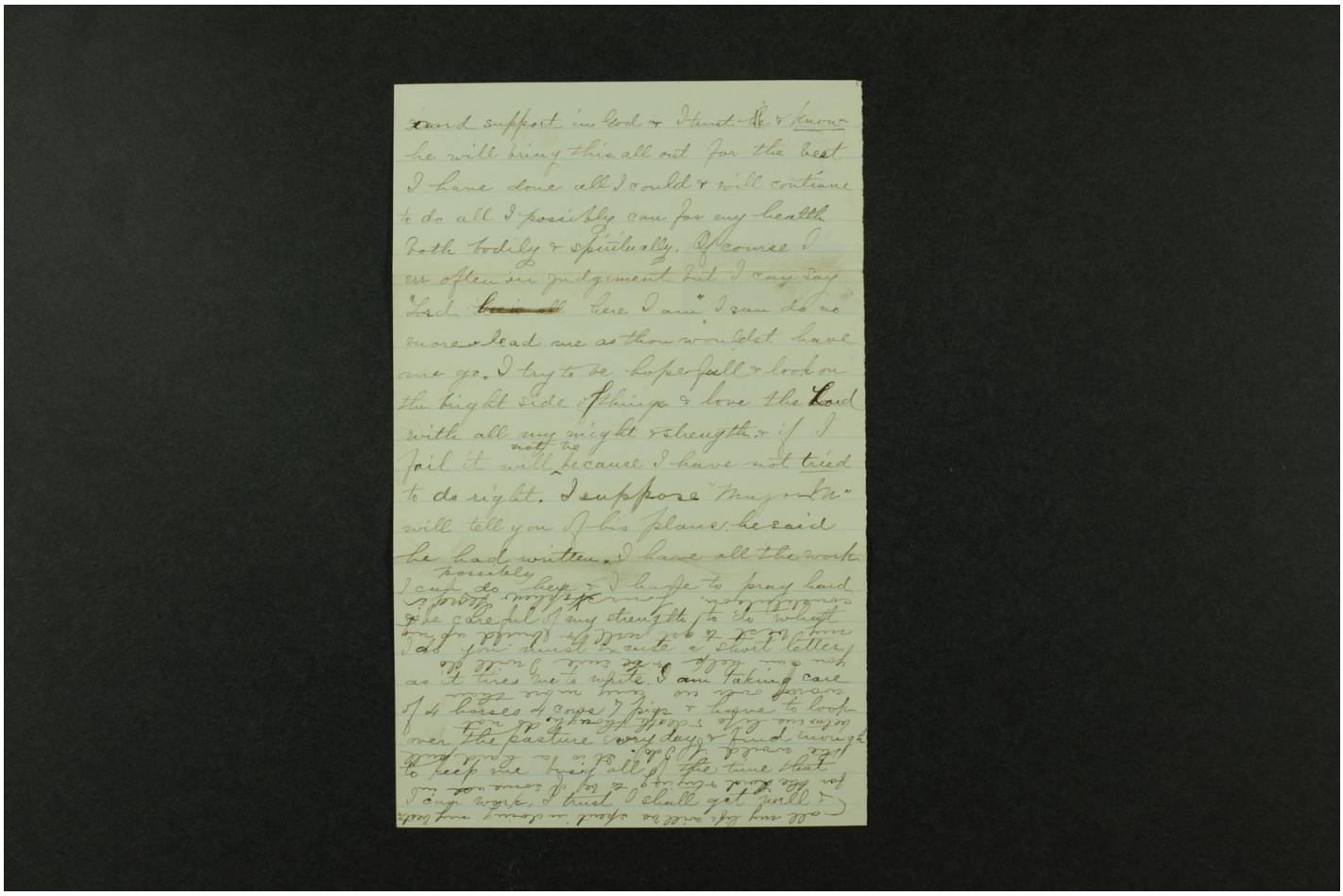
I put this in with another letter. Give Pattie my regards. Shall be down to see you this week or next. Tell Uncle George

Saturday Aug/2

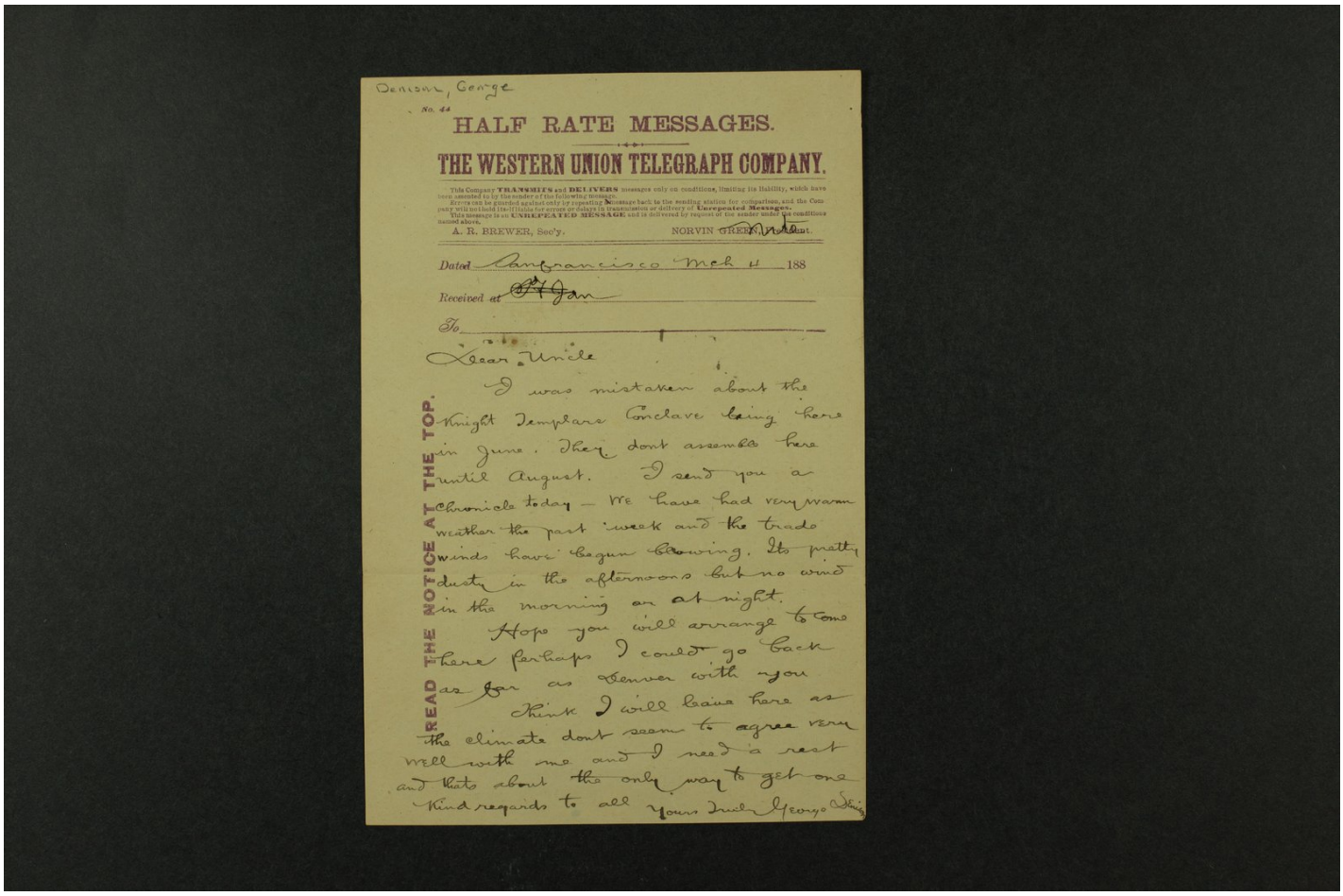
Dear Aunt

Yours received yesterday was very glad to hear from you. We are living & in the family & have a tolerable quiet time. I improved a great deal up to last monday but am not so well now although I am a good deal stronger than when you were here the cool weather has helped me a great deal. My liver troubles me a good deal but hope to get over that in time I do all I the chores & work a little around home but cant do a half that I aught to. We had a splendid rain part of all last night & the farmers can plow for wheat now. We have not heard from Father yet but expect to to day. You may be sure I will let doctors & medicine alone just as much as possible & I hope I have found a sure help

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Denison, George

No. 44

HALF RATE MESSAGES.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions, limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message.
Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages.**
This message is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE** and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above.

A. R. BREWER, Sec'y. NORVIN GREEN, President.

Dated San Francisco Mch 11 188

Received at 8 PM Jan

To

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

Dear Uncle

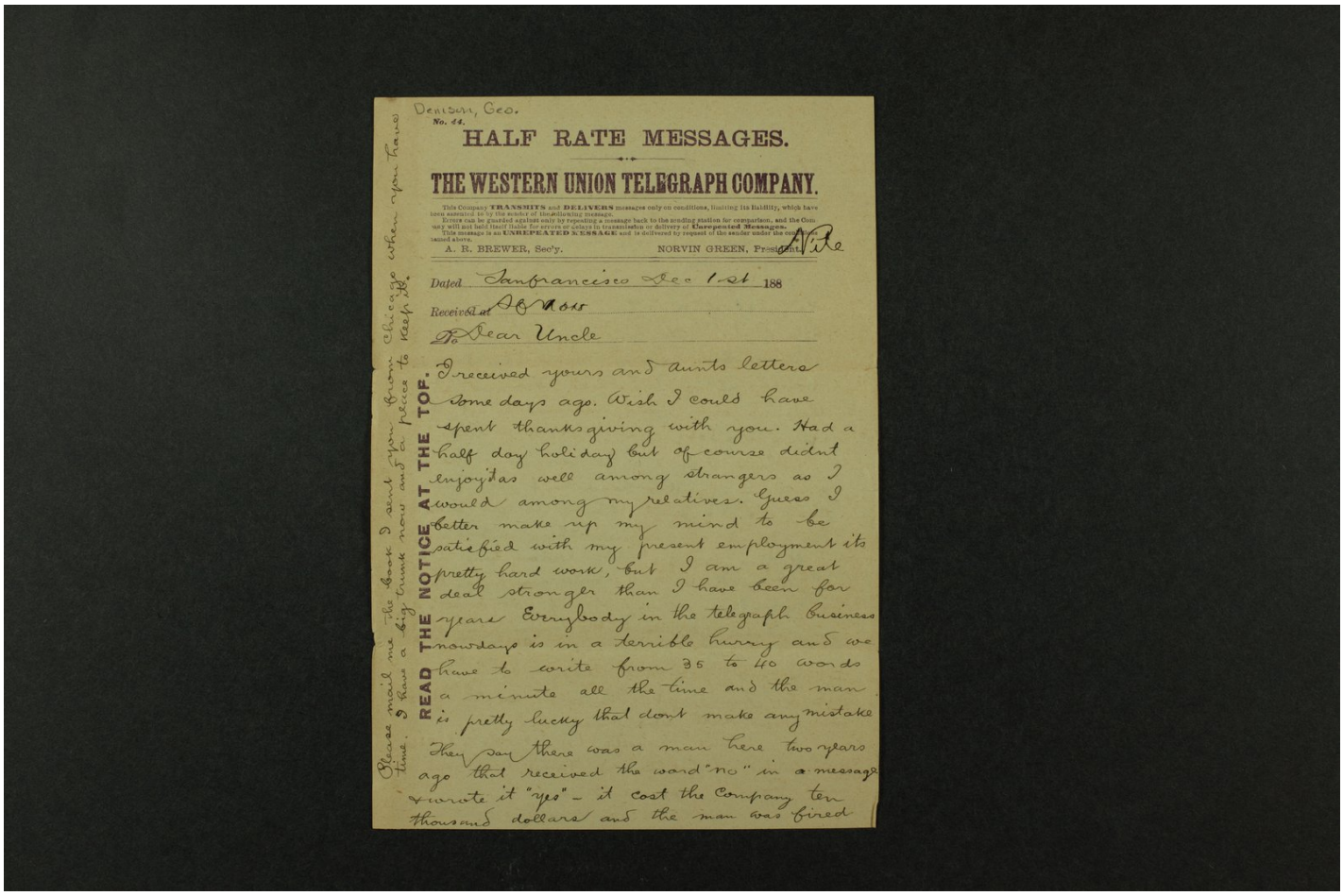
I was mistaken about the Knight Templars Conclave being here in June. They dont assemble here until August. I send you a Chronicle today — We have had very warm weather the past week and the trade winds have begun blowing. Its pretty dusty in the afternoons but no wind in the morning or at night.

Hope you will arrange to come there perhaps I could go back as far as Denver with you

Think I will leave here as the climate dont seem to agree very well with me and I need a rest and that's about the only way to get one

Kind regards to all Yours Truly George Denison

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Denison, Geo.
No. 44.

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Dated San Francisco Dec 1-81 188

Received at 10 A 10 15

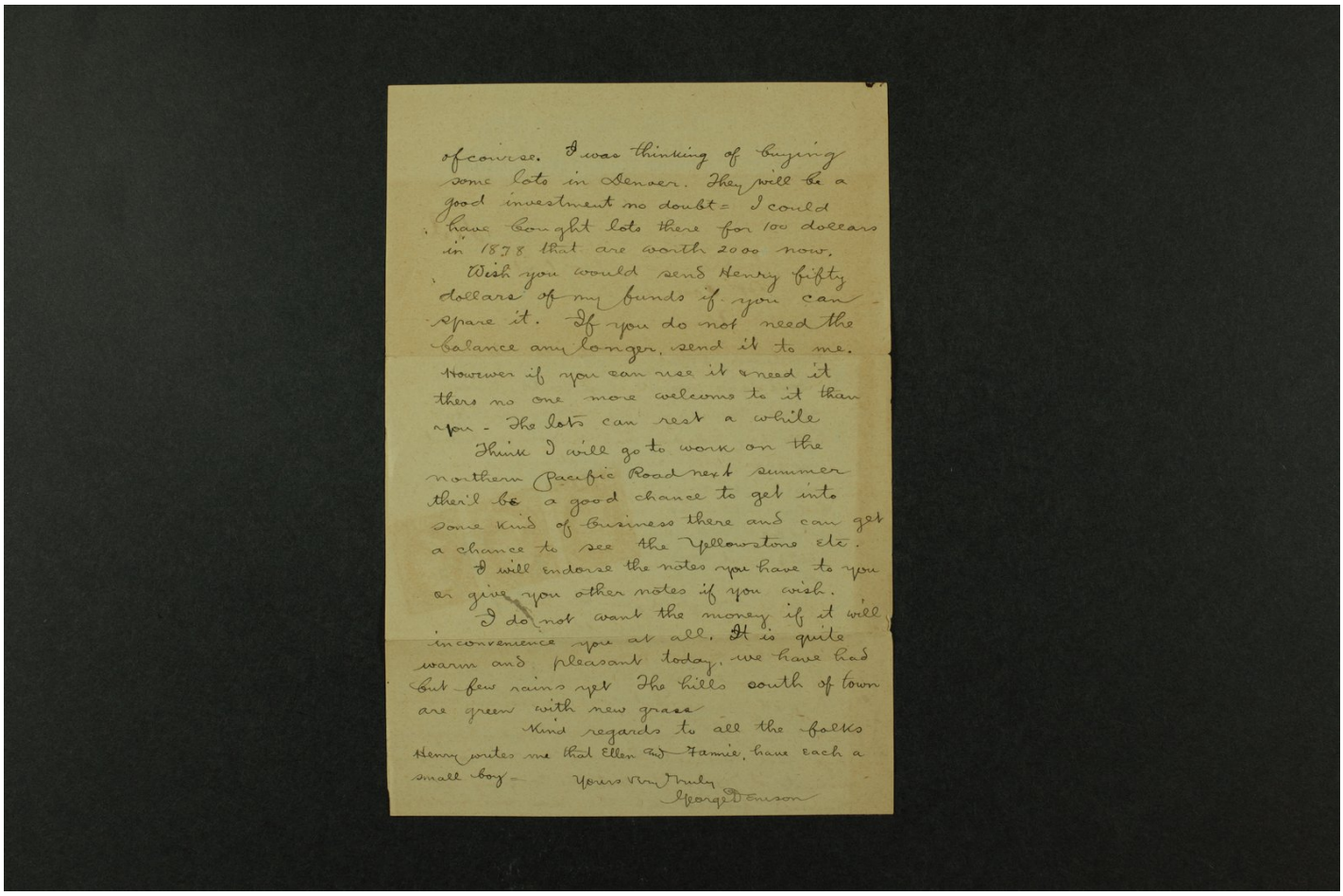
To Dear Uncle

I received yours and aunts letters some days ago. Wish I could have spent thanksgiving with you. Had a half day holiday but of course didnt enjoy as well among strangers as I would among my relatives. Guess I better make up my mind to be satisfied with my present employment its pretty hard work, but I am a great deal stronger than I have been for years Everybody in the telegraph business nowdays is in a terrible hurry and we have to write from 35 to 40 words a minute all the time and the man is pretty lucky that dont make any mistake They say there was a man here two years ago that received the ward "no" in a message & wrote it "yes" – it cost the Company ten thousand dollars and the man was fired

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

Please mail me the book I sent you from Chicago when you have time. I have a big trunk now and no place to keep it.

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



of course. I was thinking of buying some lots in Denver. They will be a good investment no doubt= I could have bought lots there for 100 dollars in 1878 that are worth 2000 now.

Wish you would send Henry fifty dollars of my funds if you can spare it. If you do not need the balance any longer, send it to me. However if you can use it & need it there's no one more welcome to it than you - The lots can rest a while

Think I will go to work on the northern Pacific Road next summer there'll be a good chance to get into some kind of business there and can get a chance to see the Yellowstone etc.

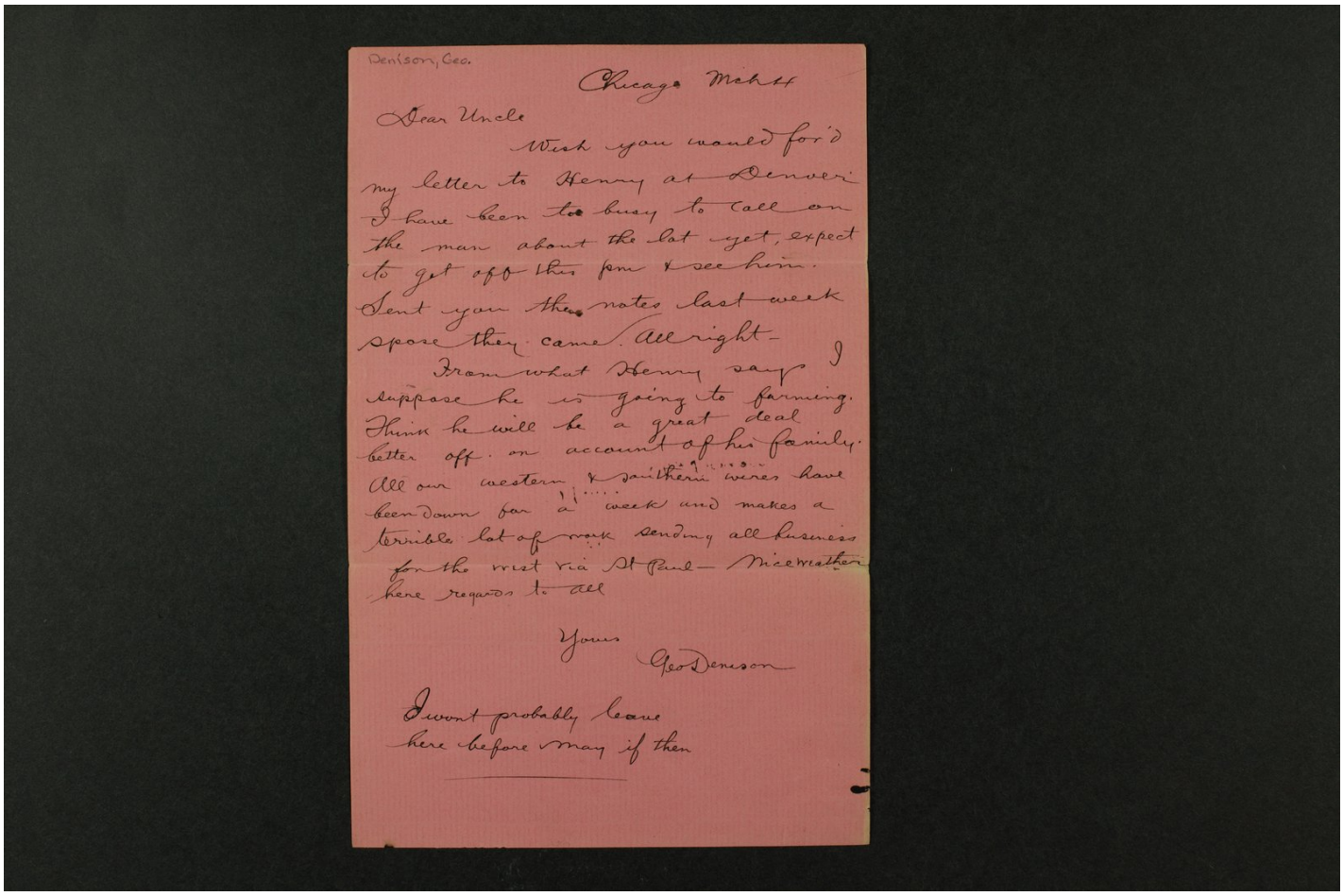
I will endorse the notes you have to you or give you other notes if you wish.

I do not want the money if it will inconvenience you at all. It is quite warm and pleasant today. we have had but few rains yet The hills south of town are green with new grass

Kind regards to all the folks Henry writes me that Ellen & Jamie have each a small boy

Yours Very Truly
George Denson

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Denison, Geo.

Chicago Mch 64

Dear Uncle

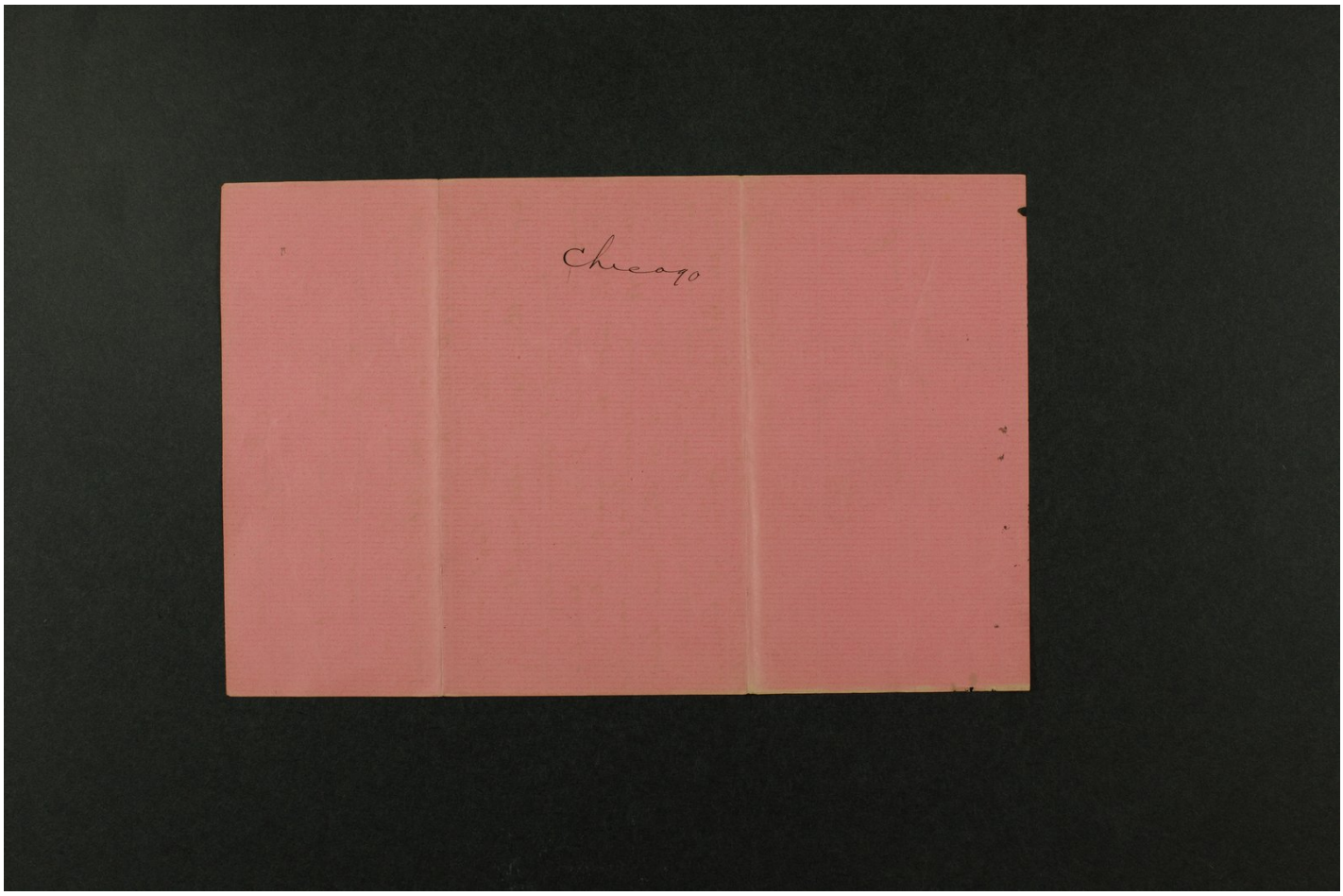
Wish you would forid my letter to Henry at Denver. I have been too busy to call on the man about the lot yet, expect to get off this pm & see him. Sent you the notes last week spose they came. All right.

From what Henry says I suppose he is going to farming. Think he will be a great deal better off on account of his family. All our western & southern wires have been down for a week and makes a terrible lot of work sending all business for the west via St Paul — Nice weather here regards to all

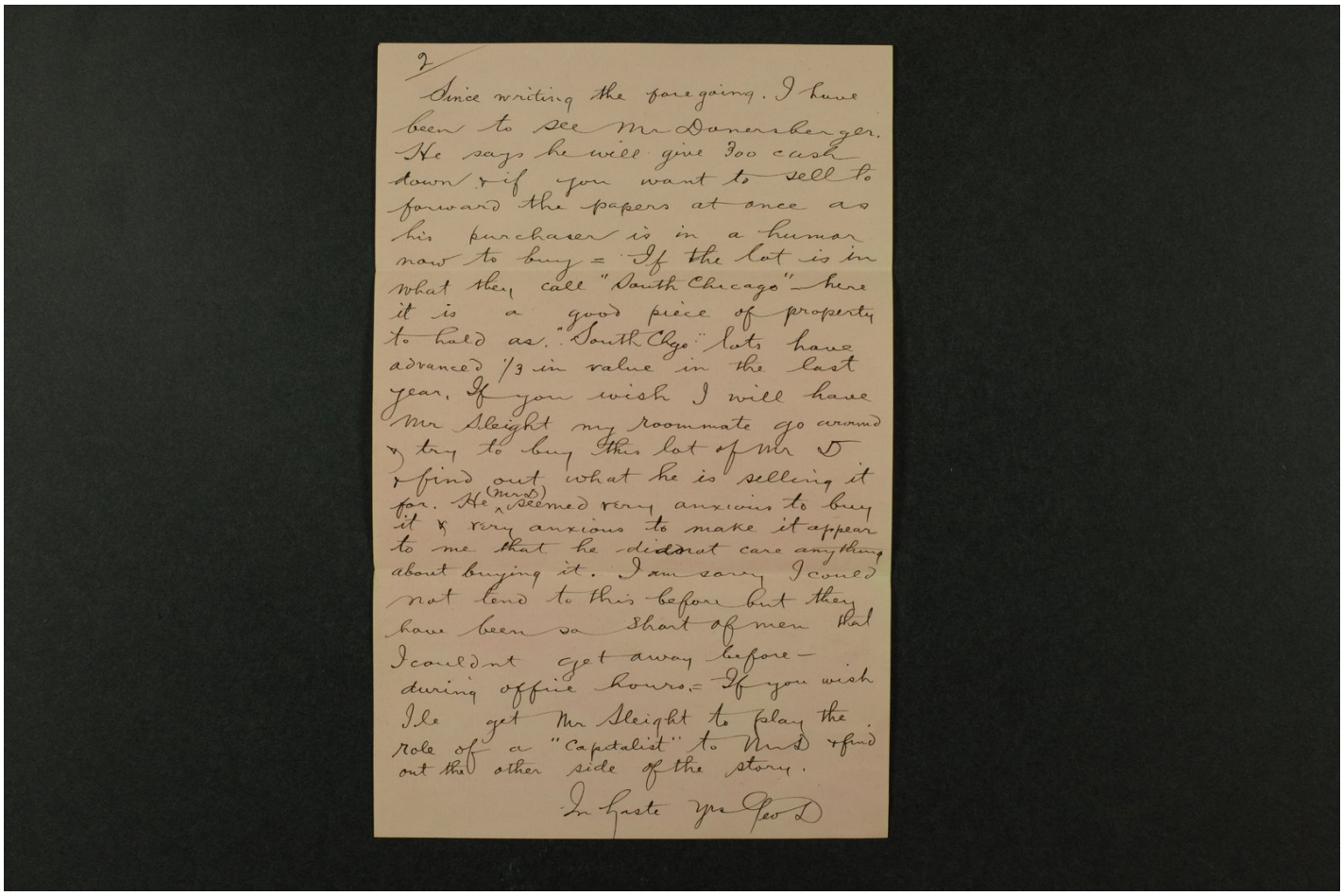
Yours
Geo Denison

I wont probably leave here before May if then

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

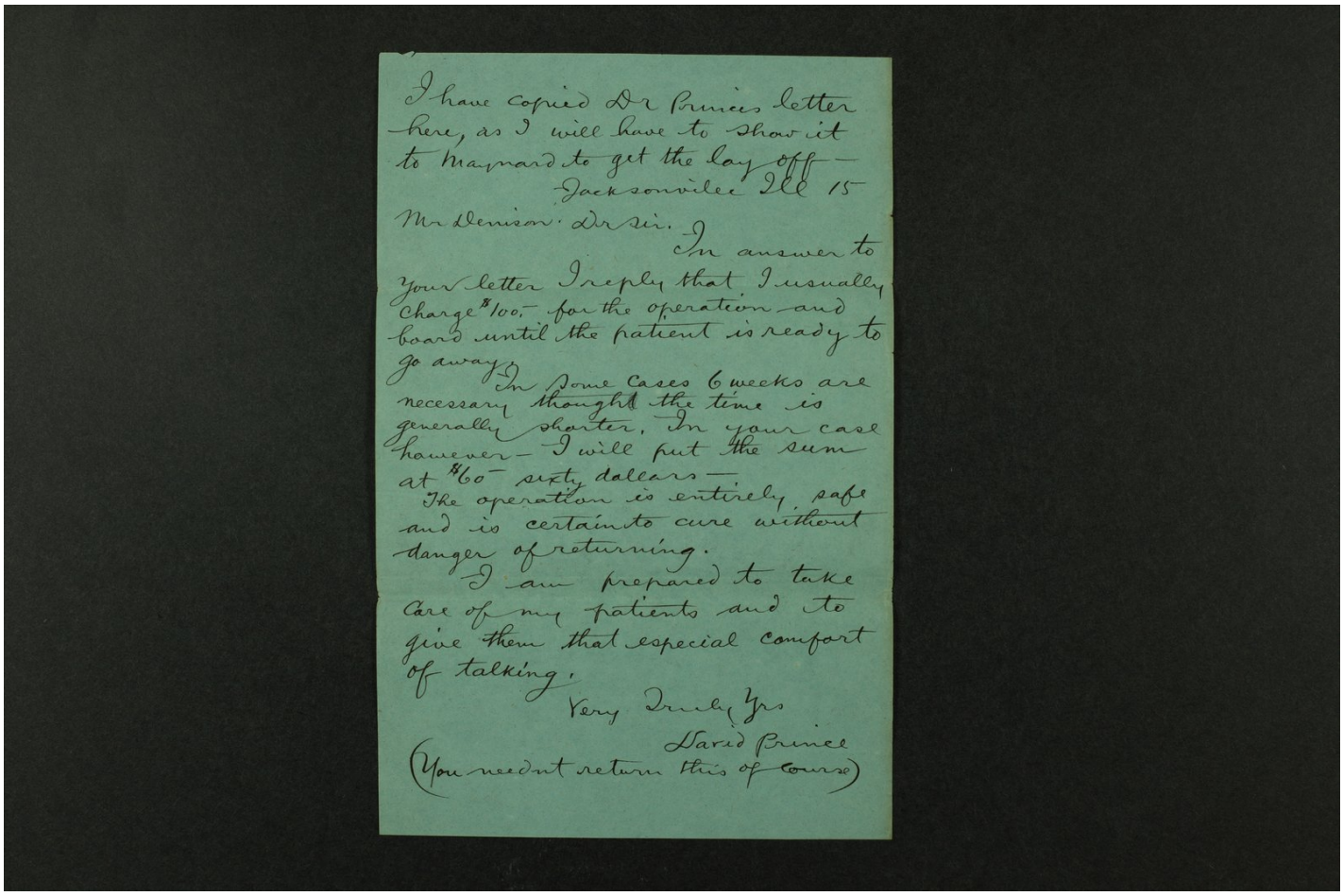


2

Since writing the foregoing. I have been to see Mr Danenberger. He says he will give 300 cash down & if you want to sell to forward the papers at once as his purchaser is in a human now to buy = If the lot is in what they call "South Chicago" here it is a good piece of property to hold as. "South Chgo" lots have advanced 1/3 in value in the last year. If you wish I will have Mr Sleight my roommate go around & try to buy this lot of Mr D & find out what he is selling it for. He (must) seemed very anxious to buy it & very anxious to make it appear to me that he didnot care anything about buying it. I am sorry I could not lend to this before but they have been so short of men that I couldnt get away before — during office hours = If you wish I'll get Mr Sleight to play the role of a "Capitalist" to find out the other side of the story.

In haste yrs Geo D

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



I have copied Dr Princes letter here, as I will have to show it to Maynard to get the lay off —

Jacksonville Ill 15

Mr Denison: Dr sir. In answer to your letter I reply that I usually charge $100.- for the operation and board until the patient is ready to go away. In some cases 6 weeks are necessary thought the time is generally shorter. In your case however — I will put the sum at $60- sixty dollars —

The operation is entirely safe and is certain to cure without danger of returning.

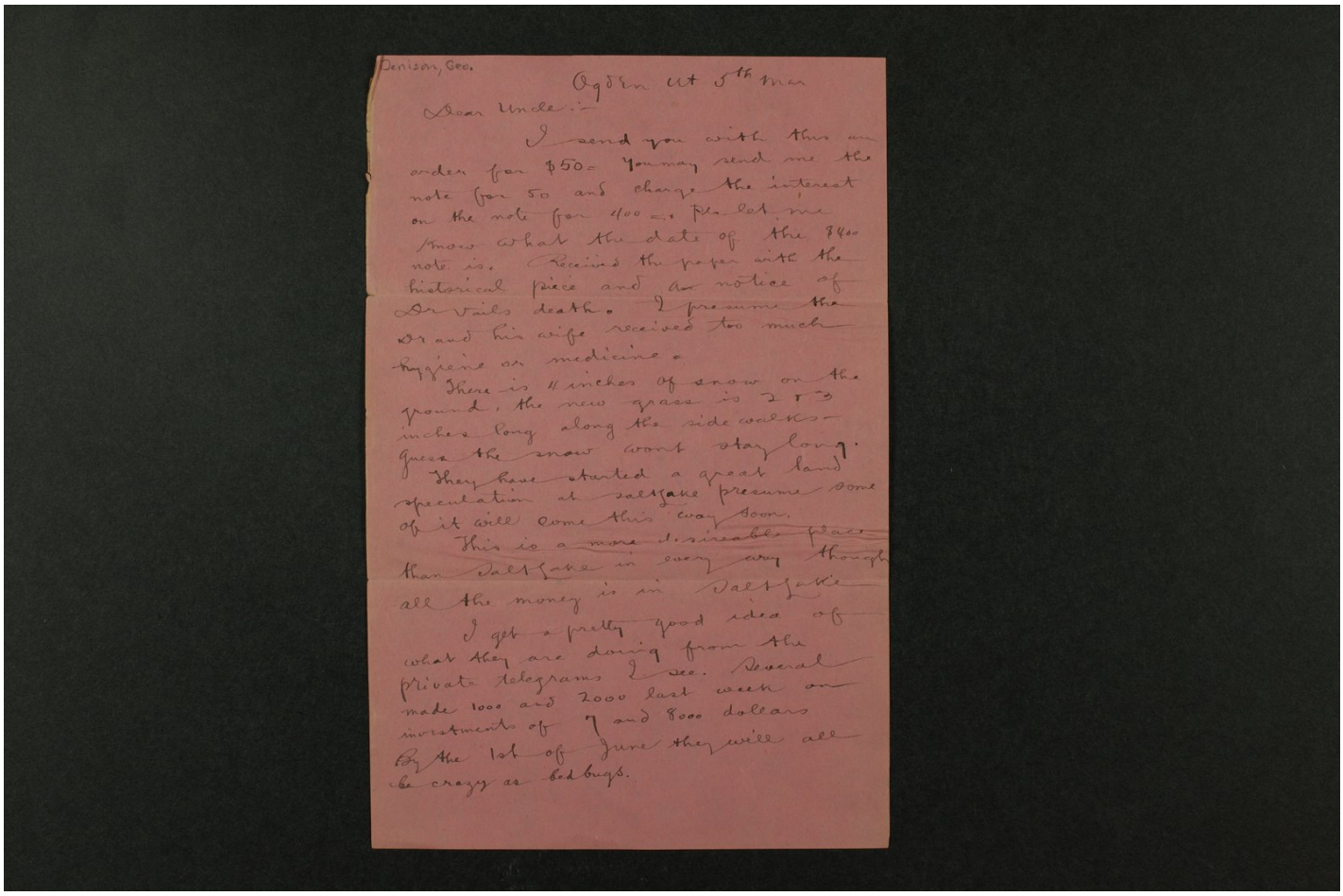
I am prepared to take care of my patients and to give them that especial comfort of talking.

Very Truly Yrs

David Prince

(You neednt return this of course)

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Denison, Geo.

Ogden Ut 5th Mar

Dear Uncle:—

I send you with this an order for $50= You may send me the note for 50 and charge the interest on the note for 100=. Pls let me know what the date of the $100 note is. Received the paper with the historical piece and the notice of Dr Vails death. I presume the Dr and his wife received too much hygiene or medicine.

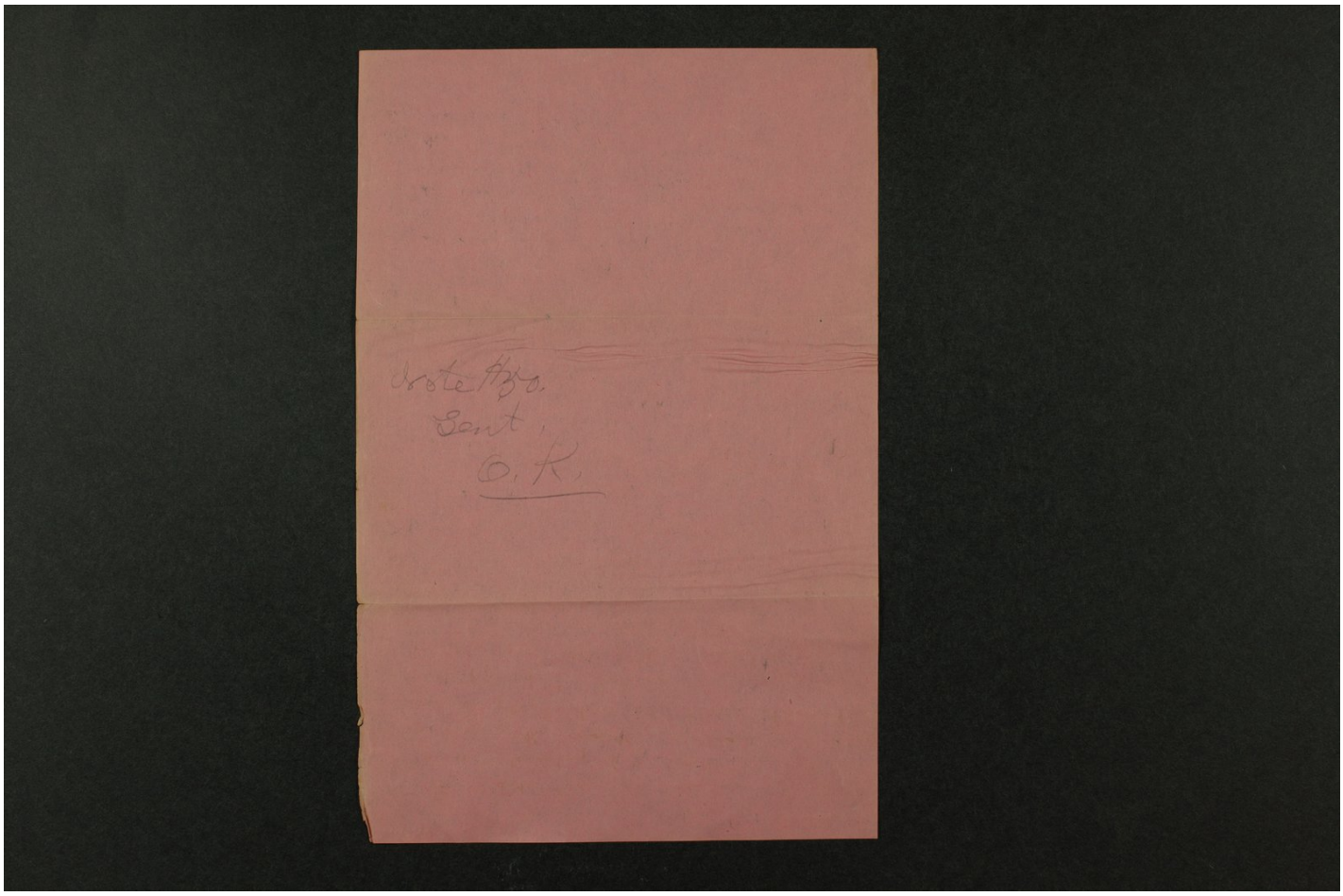
There is 4 inches of snow on the ground, the new grass is 2 & 3 inches long along the side walks— guess the snow wont stay long.

They have started a great land speculation at Saltlake presume some of it will come this way soon.

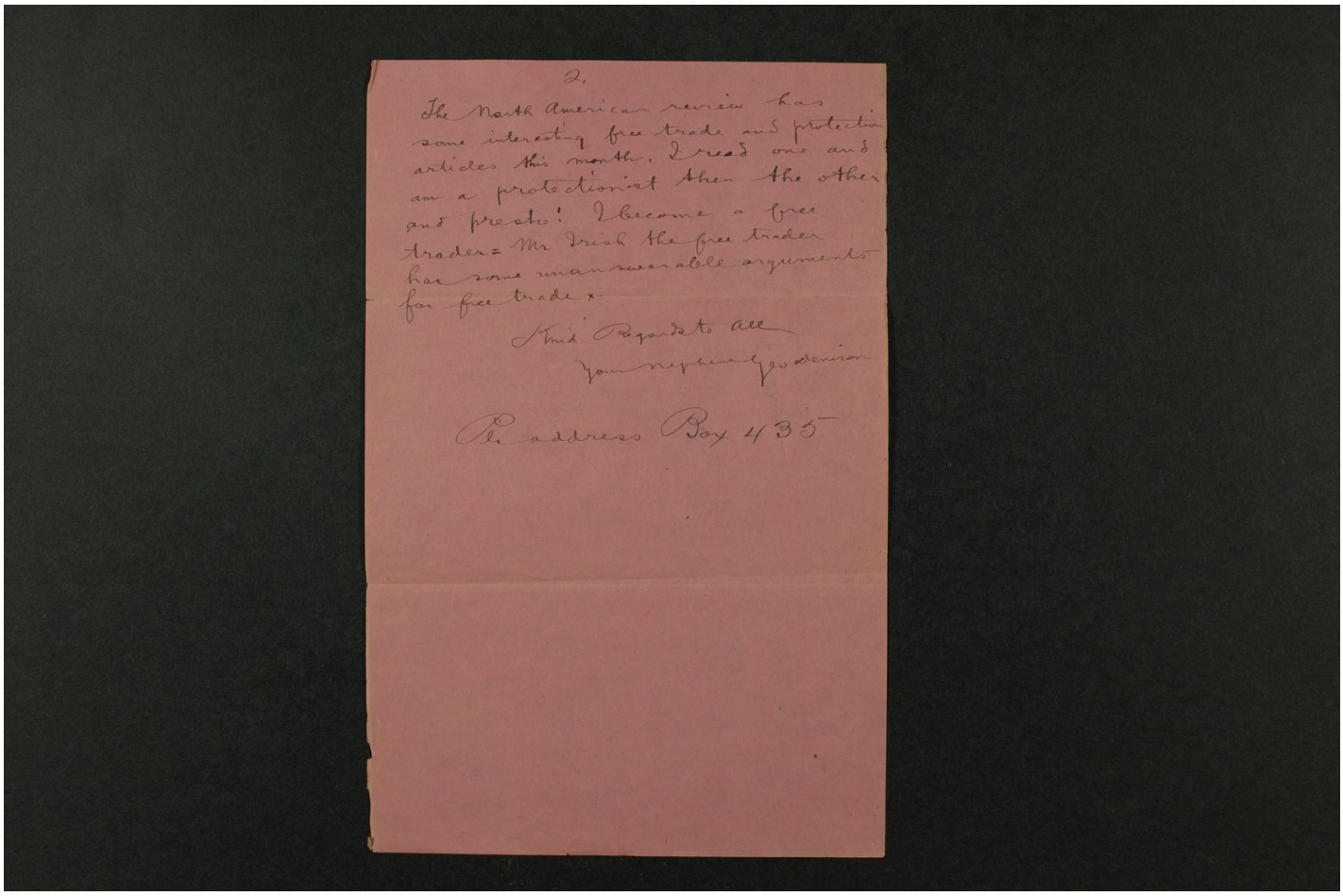
This is a more desireable place than Saltlake in every way though all the money is in Saltlake.

I get a pretty good idea of what they are doing from the private telegrams I see. Several made 1000 and 2000 last week on investments of 7 and 8000 dollars By the 1st of June they will all be crazy as bedbugs.

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Isaac Goodnow correspondence



2.

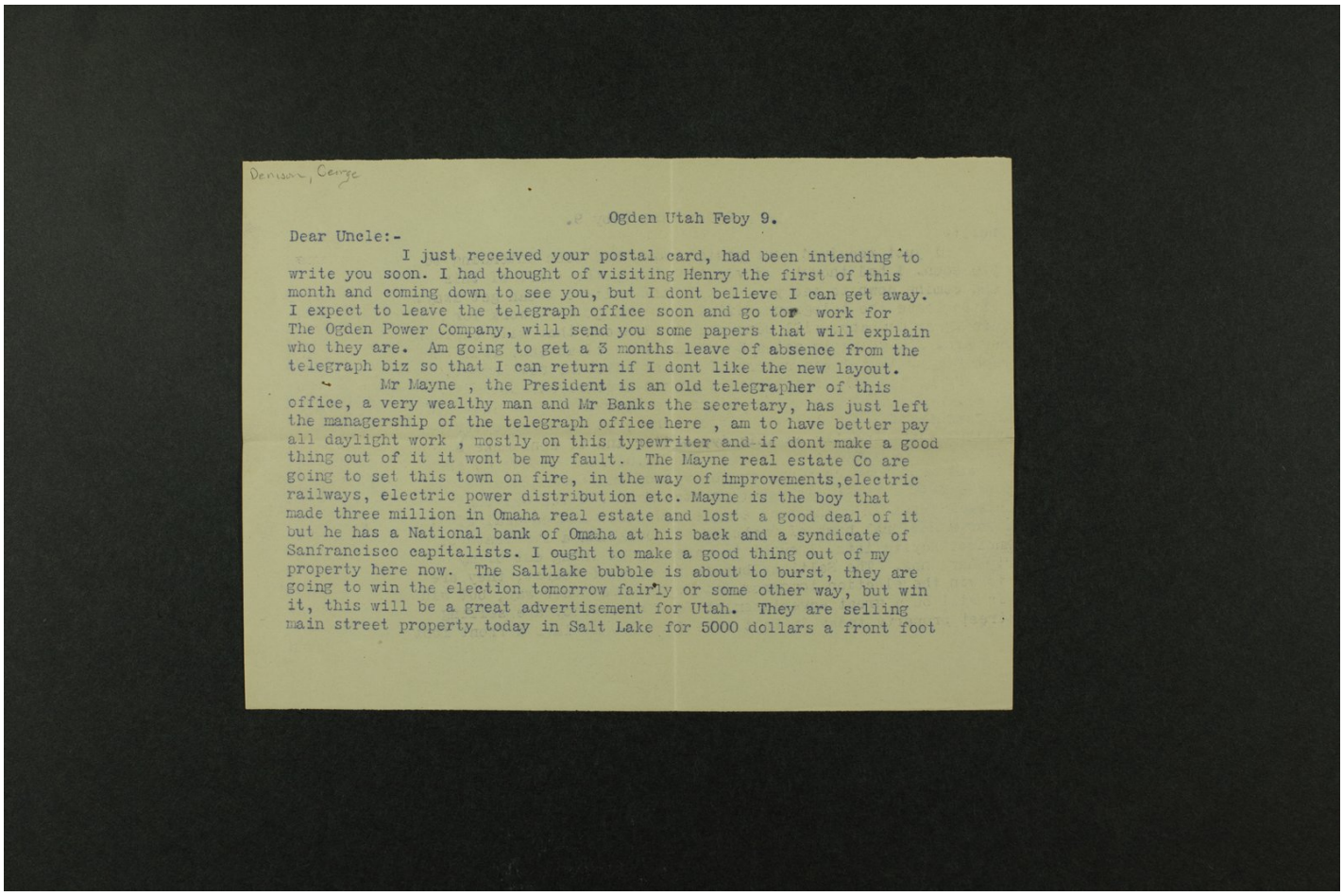
The North American review has some interesting free trade and protection articles this month. I read one and am a protectionist then the other and presto! I become a free trader = Mr Irish the free trader has some unanswerable arguments for free trade x-

Will Respond to all

Your nephew Goodenow

Ps address Box 435

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Denison, George

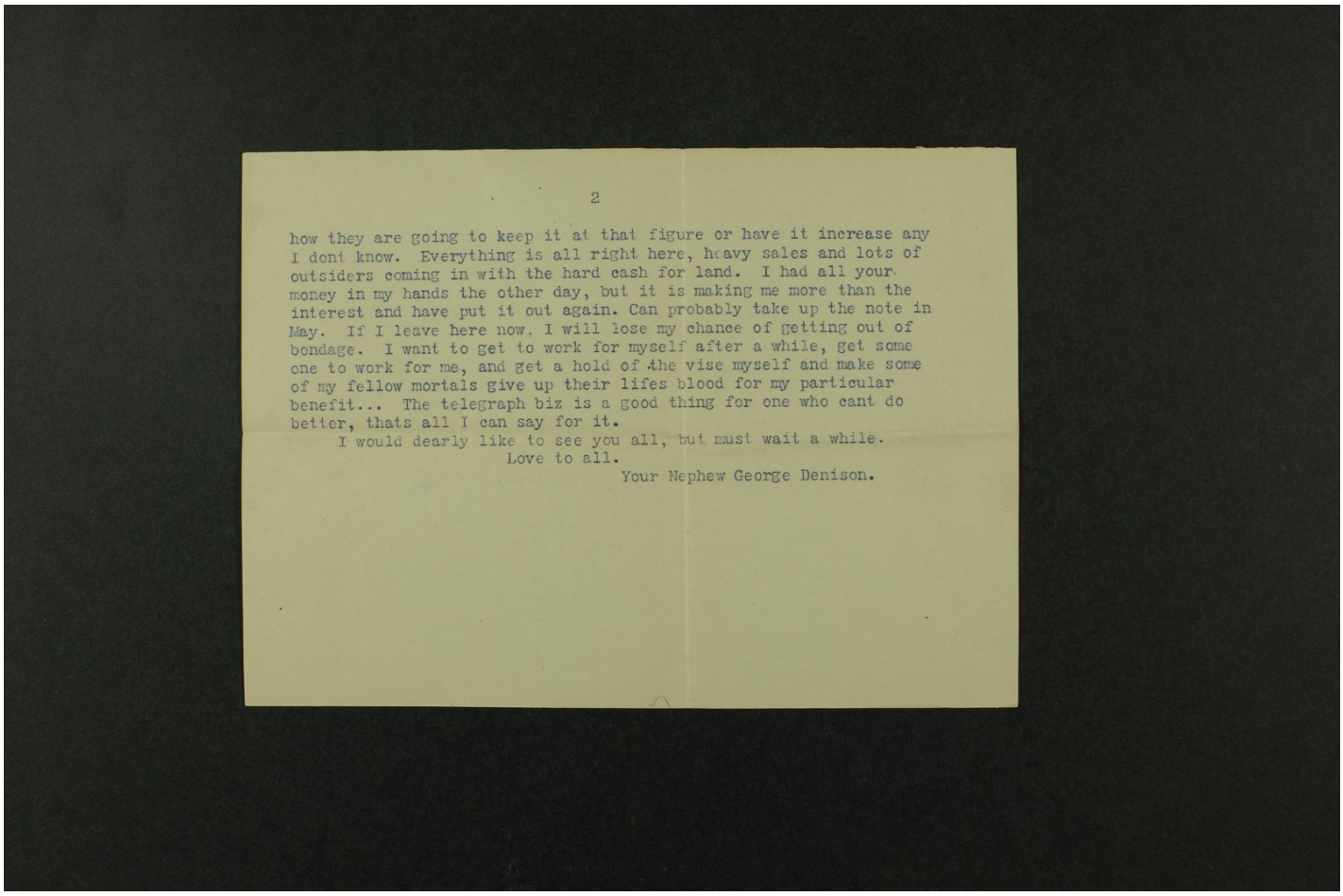
Ogden Utah Feby 9.

Dear Uncle:-

I just received your postal card, had been intending to write you soon. I had thought of visiting Henry the first of this month and coming down to see you, but I dont believe I can get away. I expect to leave the telegraph office soon and go to work for The Ogden Power Company, will send you some papers that will explain who they are. Am going to get a 3 months leave of absence from the telegraph biz so that I can return if I dont like the new layout.

Mr Mayne , the President is an old telegrapher of this office, a very wealthy man and Mr Banks the secretary, has just left the managership of the telegraph office here , am to have better pay all daylight work , mostly on this typewriter and if dont make a good thing out of it it wont be my fault. The Mayne real estate Co are going to set this town on fire, in the way of improvements,electric railways, electric power distribution etc. Mayne is the boy that made three million in Omaha real estate and lost a good deal of it but he has a National bank of Omaha at his back and a syndicate of Sanfrancisco capitalists. I ought to make a good thing out of my property here now. The Saltlake bubble is about to burst, they are going to win the election tomorrow fairly or some other way, but win it, this will be a great advertisement for Utah. They are selling main street property today in Salt Lake for 5000 dollars a front foot

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

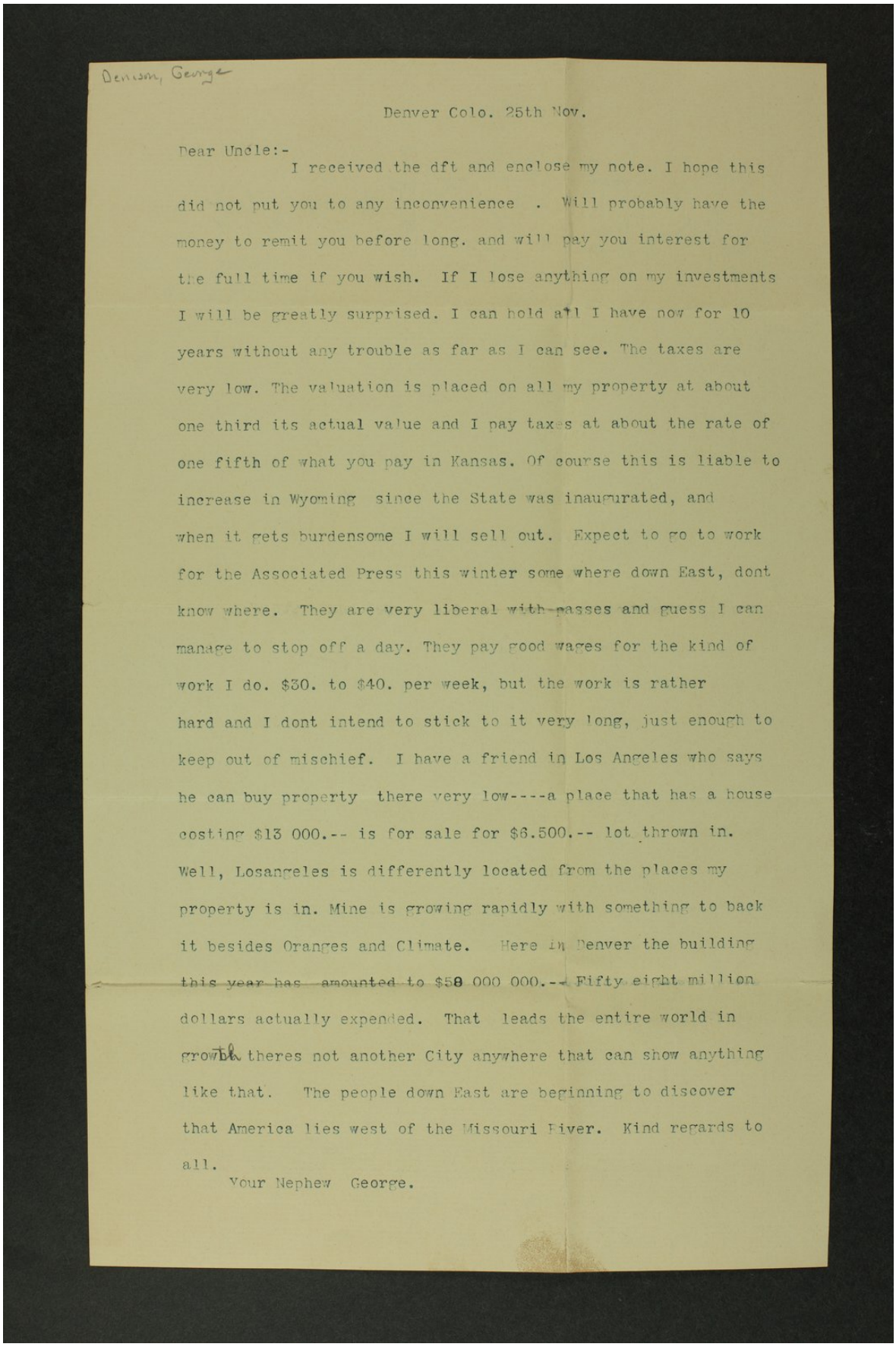


how they are going to keep it at that figure or have it increase any I dont know. Everything is all right here, heavy sales and lots of outsiders coming in with the hard cash for land. I had all your money in my hands the other day, but it is making me more than the interest and have put it out again. Can probably take up the note in May. If I leave here now, I will lose my chance of getting out of bondage. I want to get to work for myself after a while, get some one to work for me, and get a hold of the vise myself and make some of my fellow mortals give up their lifes blood for my particular benefit... The telegraph biz is a good thing for one who cant do better, thats all I can say for it.

I would dearly like to see you all, but must wait a while.

Love to all.

Your Nephew George Denison.



Denison, George

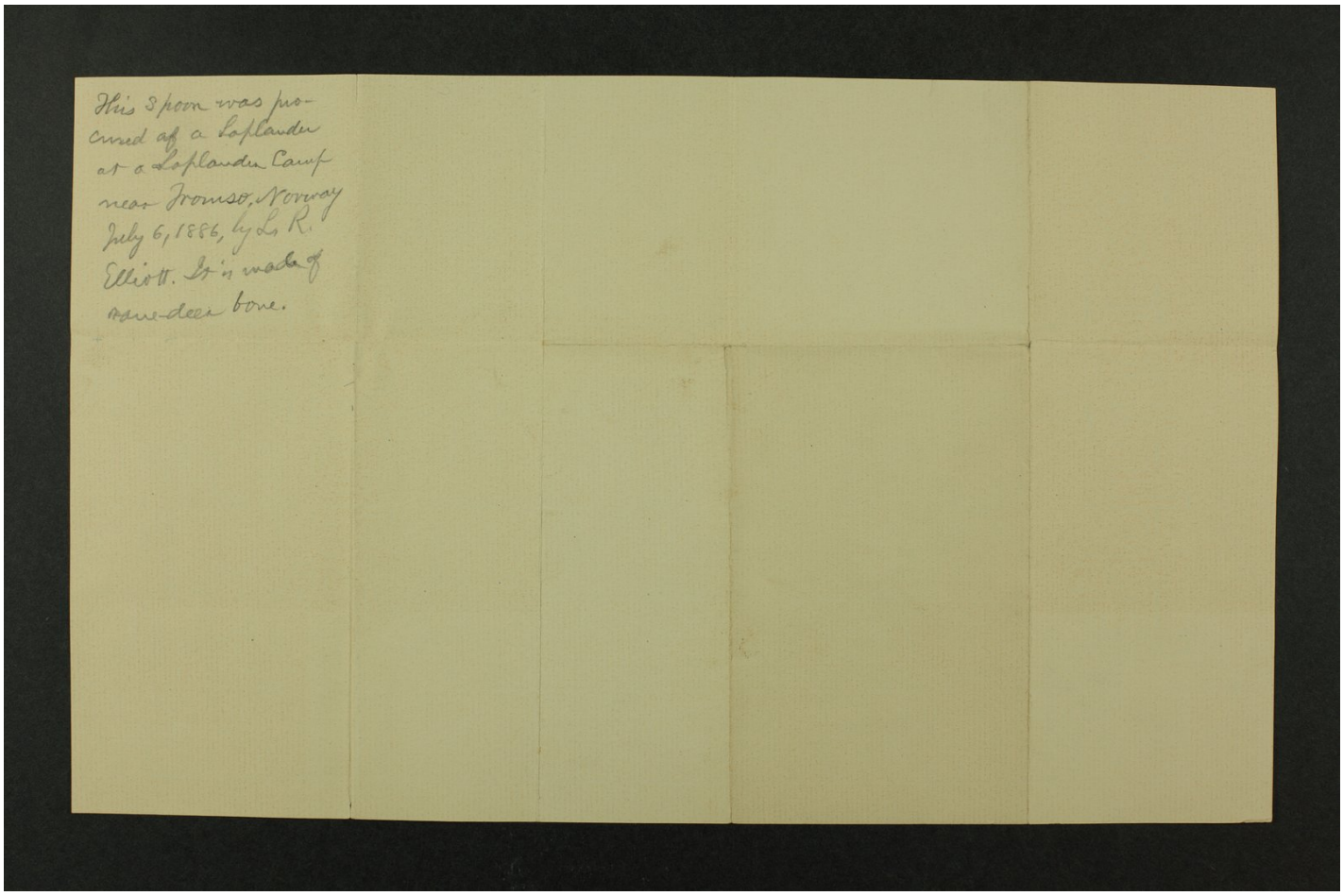
Denver Colo. 25th Nov.

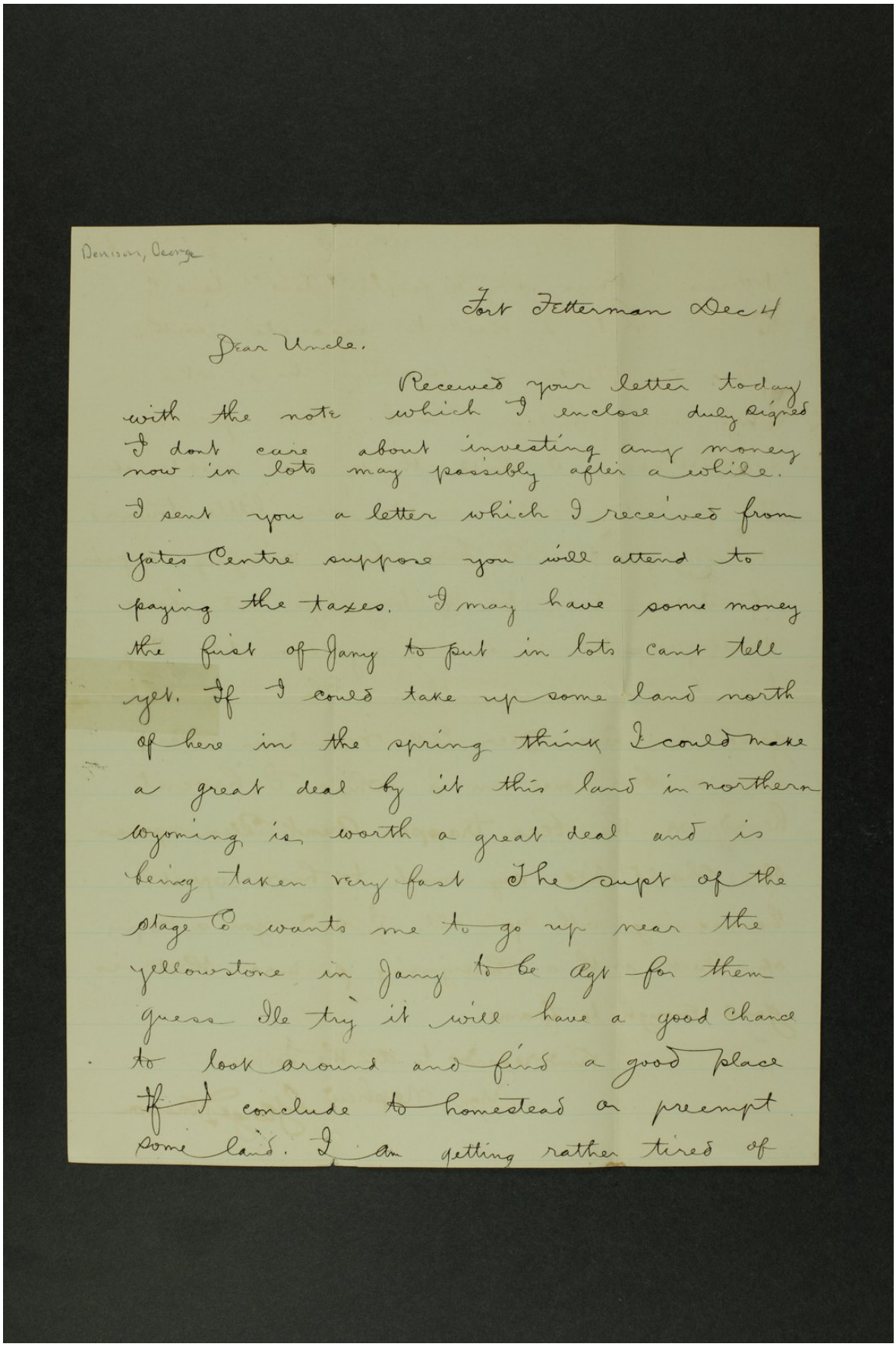
Dear Uncle:-

I received the dft and enclose my note. I hope this did not put you to any inconvenience . Will probably have the money to remit you before long. and will pay you interest for the full time if you wish. If I lose anything on my investments I will be greatly surprised. I can hold all I have now for 10 years without any trouble as far as I can see. The taxes are very low. The valuation is placed on all my property at about one third its actual value and I pay taxes at about the rate of one fifth of what you pay in Kansas. Of course this is liable to increase in Wyoming since the State was inaugurated, and when it gets burdensome I will sell out. Expect to go to work for the Associated Press this winter some where down East, dont know where. They are very liberal with passes and guess I can manage to stop off a day. They pay good wages for the kind of work I do. $30. to $40. per week, but the work is rather hard and I dont intend to stick to it very long, just enough to keep out of mischief. I have a friend in Los Angeles who says he can buy property there very low----a place that has a house costing $13 000.-- is for sale for $6.500.-- lot thrown in. Well, Losangeles is differently located from the places my property is in. Mine is growing rapidly with something to back it besides Oranges and Climate. Here in Denver the building this year has amounted to $58 000 000.-- Fifty eight million dollars actually expended. That leads the entire world in growth theres not another City anywhere that can show anything like that. The people down East are beginning to discover that America lies west of the Missouri River. Kind regards to all.

Your Nephew George.

Isaac Goodnow correspondence





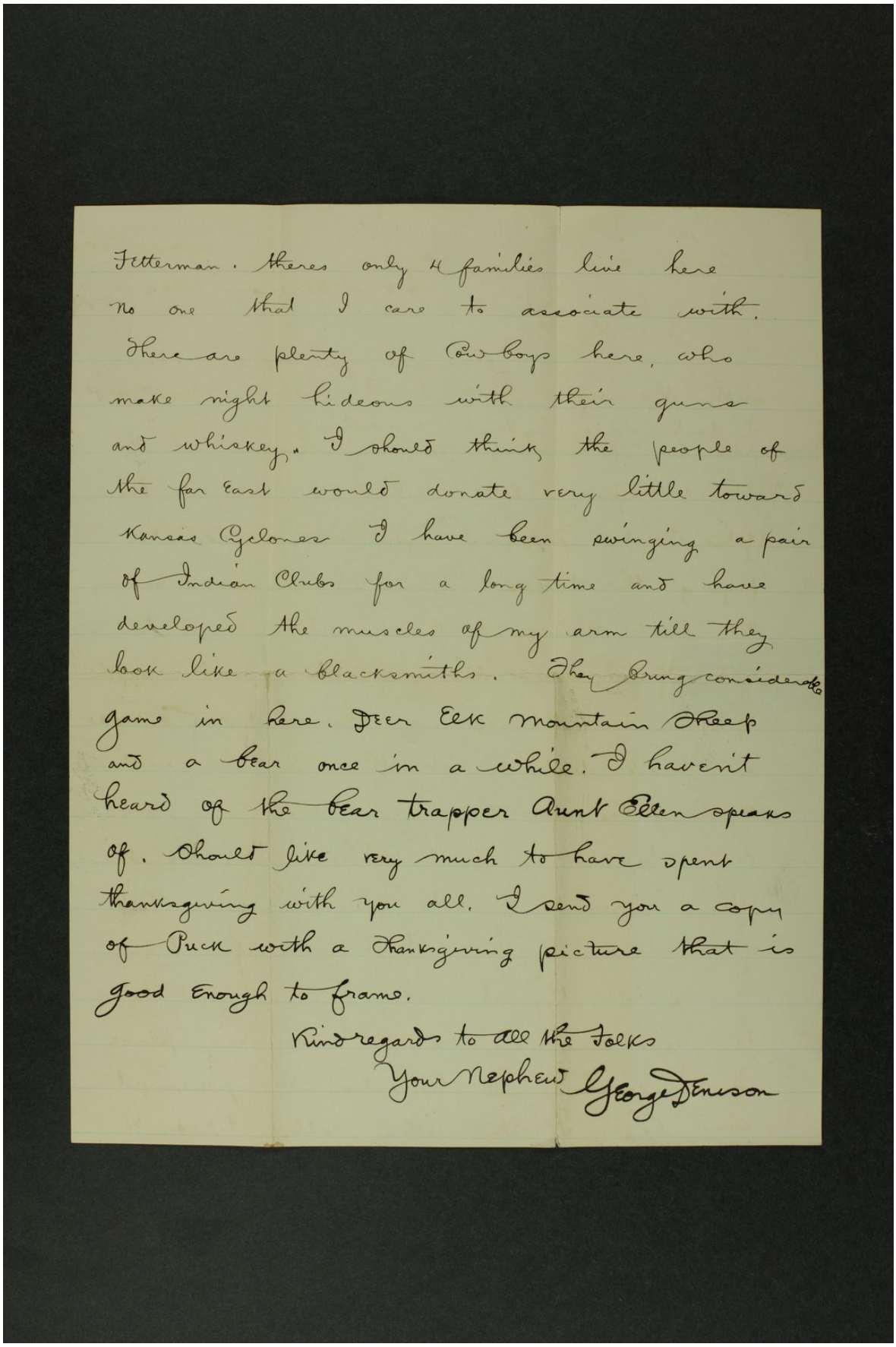
Denison, George

Fort Fetterman Dec 4

Dear Uncle.

Received your letter today with the note which I enclose duly signed I dont care about investing any money now in lots may possibly after a while. I sent you a letter which I received from Yates Centre suppose you will attend to paying the taxes. I may have some money the first of Jany to put in lots cant tell yet. If I could take up some land north of here in the spring think I could make a great deal by it this land in northern Wyoming is worth a great deal and is being taken very fast The supt of the stage Co wants me to go up near the yellowstone in Jany to be Agt for them guess Ile try it will have a good chance to look around and find a good place if I conclude to homestead or preempt some land. I am getting rather tired of

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

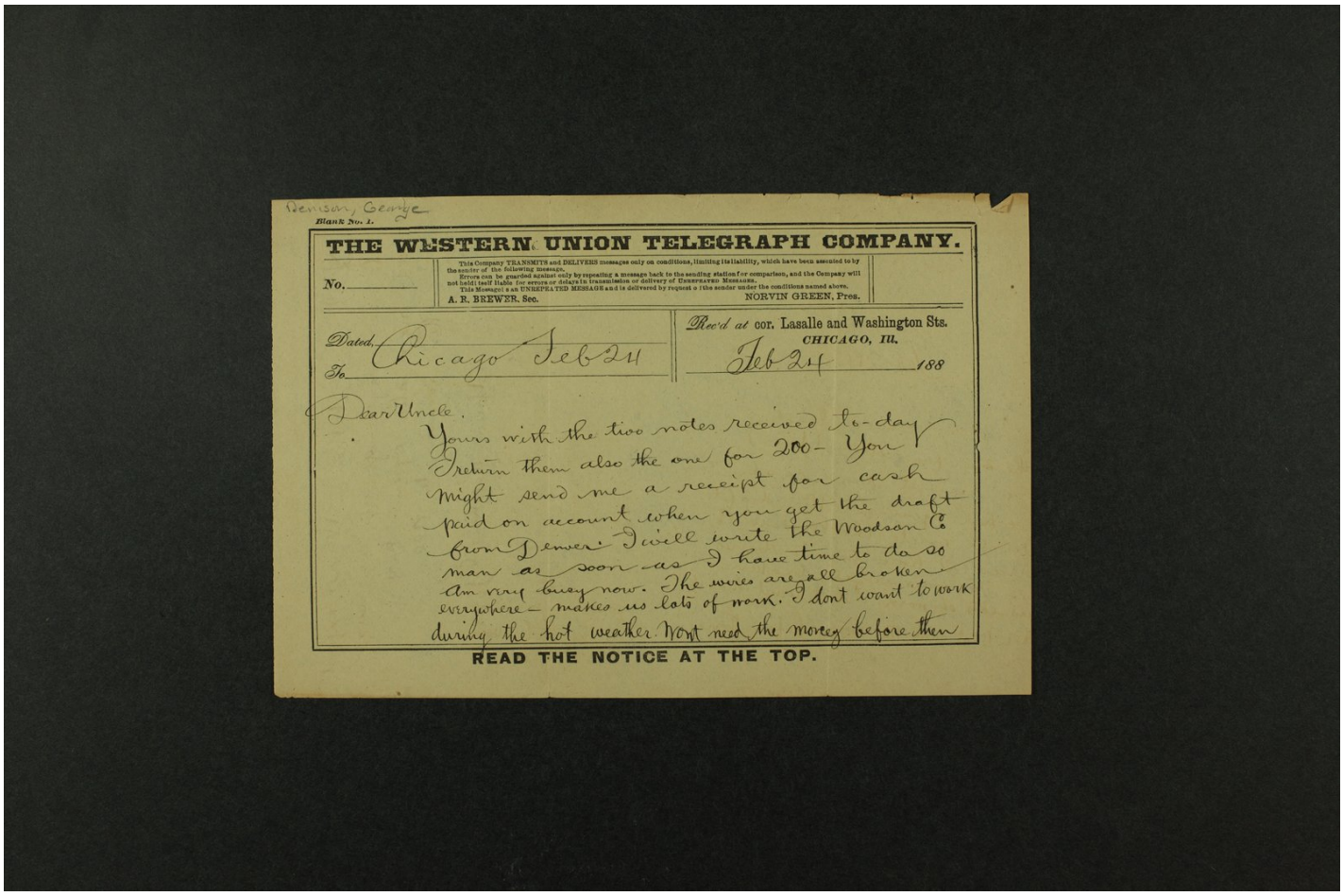


Fetterman. theres only 4 families live here
No one that I care to associate with.
There are plenty of Cow boys here, who
make night hideous with their guns
and whiskey." I should think the people of
the far East would donate very little towards
Kansas Cyclones I have been swinging a pair
of Indian Clubs for a long time and have
developed the muscles of my arm till they
look like a blacksmiths. They bring considerable
game in here. Deer Elk mountain Sheep
and a bear once in a while. I havent
heard of the bear trapper Aunt Ellen speaks
of. Should like very much to have spent
thanksgiving with you all. I send you a copy
of Puck with a Thanksgiving picture that is
good Enough to frame.

Kind regards to all the folks

Your Nephew George Denison

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Denison, George

Blank No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

No.

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions, limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message.
Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of UNREPEATED MESSAGES.
This Message is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above.

A. R. BREWER, Sec.

NORVIN GREEN, Pres.

Dated Chicago Feb 24

To

Rec'd at cor. Lasalle and Washington Sts.
CHICAGO, ILL.

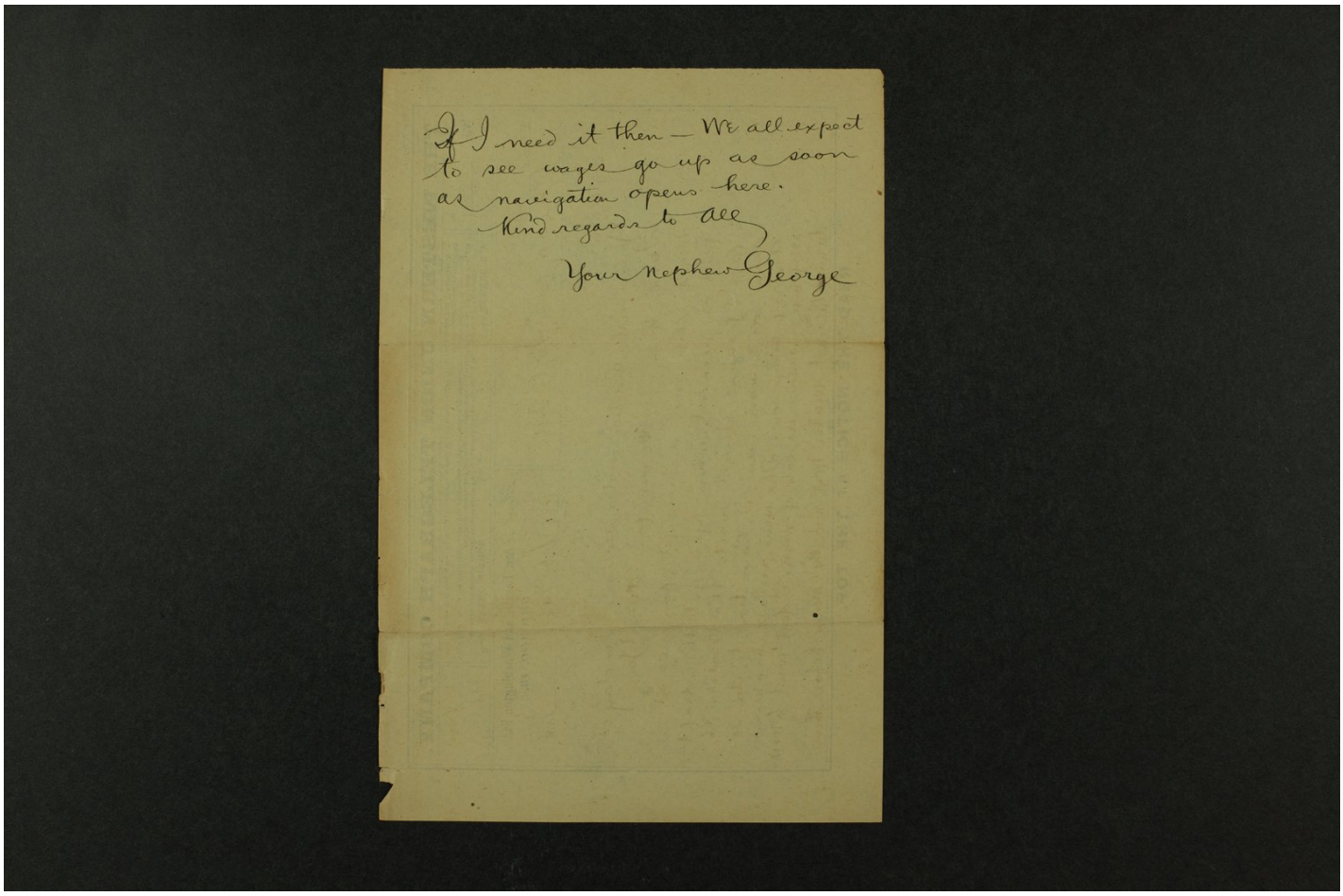
Feb 24 188

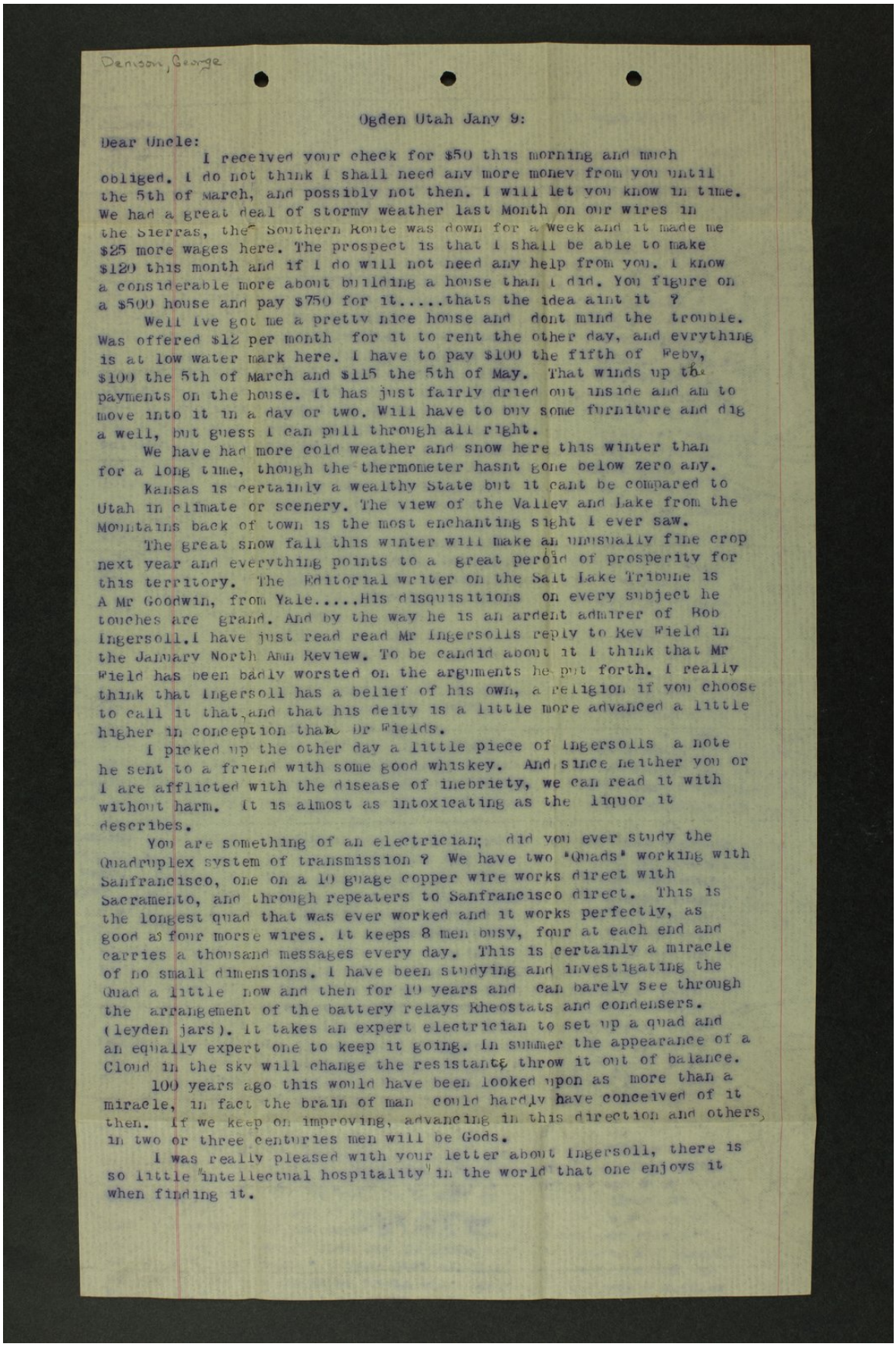
Dear Uncle.

Yours with the two notes received to-day
I return them also the one for 200- You
might send me a receipt for cash
paid on account when you get the draft
from Denver. I will write the Woodson Co
man as soon as I have time to do so
Am very busy now. The wires are all broken
everywhere - makes us lots of work. I dont want to work
during the hot weather Wont need the money before then

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

Isaac Goodnow correspondence


If I need it then — We all expect to see wages go up as soon as navigation opens here.
Kind regards to all
Your Nephew George



Denison, George

Ogden Utah Janv 9:

Dear Uncle:

I received your check for $50 this morning and much obliged. I do not think I shall need any more money from you until the 5th of March, and possibly not then. I will let you know in time. We had a great deal of stormy weather last Month on our wires in the Sierras, the Southern Route was down for a week and it made me $25 more wages here. The prospect is that I shall be able to make $120 this month and if I do will not need any help from you. I know a considerable more about building a house than I did. You figure on a $500 house and pay $750 for it.....thats the idea aint it ?

Well ive got me a pretty nice house and dont mind the trouble. Was offered $12 per month for it to rent the other day, and evrything is at low water mark here. I have to pay $100 the fifth of Feby, $100 the 5th of March and $115 the 5th of May. That winds up the payments on the house. It has just fairly dried out inside and am to move into it in a day or two. Will have to buy some furniture and dig a well, but guess I can pull through all right.

We have had more cold weather and snow here this winter than for a long time, though the thermometer hasnt gone below zero any.

Kansas is certainly a wealthy State but it cant be compared to Utah in climate or scenery. The view of the Valley and Lake from the Mountains back of town is the most enchanting sight I ever saw.

The great snow fall this winter will make an unusually fine crop next year and everything points to a great period of prosperity for this territory. The Editorial writer on the Salt Lake Tribune is A Mr Goodwin, from Yale.....His disquisitions on every subject he touches are grand. And by the way he is an ardent admirer of Bob Ingersoll.I have just read read Mr Ingersolls reply to Rev Field in the January North Amn Review. To be candid about it I think that Mr Field has been badly worsted on the arguments he put forth. I really think that Ingersoll has a belief of his own, a religion if you choose to call it that, and that his deity is a little more advanced a little higher in conception than Dr Fields.

I picked up the other day a little piece of Ingersolls a note he sent to a friend with some good whiskey. And since neither you or I are afflicted with the disease of inebriety, we can read it with without harm. It is almost as intoxicating as the liquor it describes.

You are something of an electrician; did you ever study the Quadruplex system of transmission ? We have two 'Quads' working with Sanfrancisco, one on a 10 guage copper wire works direct with Sacramento, and through repeaters to Sanfrancisco direct. This is the longest quad that was ever worked and it works perfectly, as good as four morse wires. It keeps 8 men busy, four at each end and carries a thousand messages every day. This is certainly a miracle of no small dimensions. I have been studying and investigating the Quad a little now and then for 10 years and can barely see through the arrangement of the battery relays Rheostats and condensers. (leyden jars). It takes an expert electrician to set up a quad and an equally expert one to keep it going. In summer the appearance of a Cloud in the sky will change the resistance throw it out of balance.

100 years ago this would have been looked upon as more than a miracle, in fact the brain of man could hardly have conceived of it then. If we keep on improving, advancing in this direction and others, in two or three centuries men will be Gods.

I was really pleased with your letter about Ingersoll, there is so little "intellectual hospitality" in the world that one enjoys it when finding it.