

41/20/277

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Student Affairs
Student Scrapbooks and Papers
Bunce Family Papers

Transcriptions of all letters are included on pages 3 through 274 of this finding aid.

Box 1:

Family Genealogy
E.P. Bunce Teaching Record
Photographs, 1886-1930
Vincent P. Bunce University of Illinois Records
Vincent P. Bunce Certificate of Death (facsimile)
Bunce Family Letters 1867-1886, arranged chronologically
Correspondence with:
Lydia A. Bunce
E.P. Bunce
Lizzie (Bunce) Whited
Roberta Maria (R.M.) Bunce
Florence (Bunce) Buckley
Jessie (Bunce) Vance
Louis Bunce
Levia Bunce
G. (George) W. Brewer
W.M. Smail
E.J. Rice
McCauley Renner
Dr. H. J. Detmers
W.F. Timmons
Kate Galbrath
William L. Gilfillan
F.M. Lindsey
Harry Gercke
Mell Devoe
J. W. Cochran
Catherine "Kate" (Hosford) Sellars
Kate Johnson
R.Z. Gillespie
Kate Strong

Box 2:

Bunce Family Letters 1887-1964, arranged chronologically

Correspondence with:

E.P. Bunce
Florence (Bunce) Buckley
Lizzie (Bunce) Whited
Kate A. Bunce
Henrietta Bunce
Frank Bunce
Catharine L. (Bunce) Black
John L. Bunce
Vincent P. Bunce Jr.
Jessie (Bunce) Vance
David Vance
Vincent (Vintie) Vance
V.E. McClelland
F.M. Hosford
Catherine "Kate" (Hosford) Sellars
Wm. H. Sellars
M.S. Hosford
E.M. McColloch
S. J. Whited
Joseph A. Boyer
"Anna"
"Ida"

Box 1:**ENVELOPE**

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Levenworth City, Kansas

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles, ILL with date unreadable; post mark received is unreadable; cancelled three cent stamp is partially destroyed but remains on the envelop.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: July 19th 1867 (7-19-1867)

Writer of Letter: G. (George) W. Brewer

Location of Writer: Versailles Brown Co. Ill

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in red ink; the embossed symbol is an oval cameo surrounded by wheat stalks with no inscription; 3 pages.

LETTER

Mr. V.P. Bunce

Dear Friend

Your kind favor came to hand the 13th which found me well and if this finds you the same then will the wishes of your friend be gratified. Linda and Erick say they have answered every letter they have recd. from you and have written since they recd. your last. We had good crops of wheat generally and good prospect for corn. We need rain think we will get it ere long it is very warm. The meeting still continues prayer meeting is weekly and preaching monthly. I think if half of the number that were baptized hold out faithful they will do well. You wanted to know about the Sunday school. I see nothing but what is encouraging so far. We have a new Library which I think is very nice. Pam still working at the old trade making staves and boards. You stated in yours there was both bad and good in your City. I was over rejoiced to hear of your resolution that you intended to leave the bad and follow the good. Robert Davis and family desire to be remembered by your Father and family. Be sure to write soon and often. I shall be glad to hear from you any time. I will be happy to answer all your letters as soon as I receive them.

From your friend and well wishes

G. W. Brewer

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Leavenworth City, Kan

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to Geo.Brewer"; post marked sent from Versailles, Ill (the rest is unreadable); the received post mark is unreadable; the stamp has been cut from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Sep 5th / 67 (9-5-1867)

Writer of Letter: G.W. Brewer

Location of Writer: Versailles, Brown Co., Ill

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in dark blue ink; embossed symbol appears to be a crest with no inscription; no punctuation was used throughout the letter. (I have inserted some so the reading of the letter will make more sense.) spelling reflects that of the letter writer; 2 pages.

LETTER

Mr. V.P. Bunce

Dear Friend

Your favor hearing date Aug 13th was recd in due time but as I could not gain the information you desired have neglected answering until now. Helen has written to you I suppose you have recd it ere this. I was glad to hear from you and to hear that you were well and doing well. I am as well as common and all your friends are well. Robert Johnston's wife died about one month ago her babe was buried to day. Corn is very poor. When you write tell me about crops in Kansas. I am still at my old trade making staves and boards. Our Sunday school is in prospering condition. We have a good Superintendent and good Teachers. Our preacher went to conference before he left so he appointed Edom (?) Brewer as Class Leader, Hampton Davis as Class Steward. Roberts family desire to be remembered by you all. George is at work in Adams came and staid one night not long since. William has been at work in McDonough is with us now. Will either go to work for Wm McCoy or go to Iowa. I have nothing of importance to write so I will close by asking you to write soon and subscribing myself your sincer friend.

G.W Brewer

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce

Address: Versailles, Brown County, Ill

Other Envelope Notations: Return address in pencil reads: "Wm W. Smail"; post marked sent is unreadable; no post marked received; stamp has been cut out from envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: March 25th 1869 (3-25-1869)

Writer of Letter: W.M. Smail

Location of Writer: As noted in the letter, the writer is from Pittsfield, Pike County, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined faded embossed writing paper in blue ink; embossed symbol is that of a woman's head turned sideways with no inscription; 3 pages.

LETTER

Kind friend

I take pleasure to inform you that I am well and hope that this may find you the same.

I went to see Barney but he was not at home. He has left Time (?) and is living at Densmorss but has got the Brown yet so I herd. My Brown is very nigh Black and is in good order and is as slick as if moal. She is getting nice to trade and I will get the Brown for you if I can if I haf to give some difference.

I got Frank at 5 oclock he said he would like to know how I liked the ladys. I told him that they were nice and pleasant.

Franks throat was better. I told them that Bunce has got as good a thing as he wants up there.

This is all for this time. So write soon. V.P. Bunce your kind frien W. M. Smail.

love to all

Young ladyes all so excuse bad spelling.

I may come up before harvest but if I can get the Brown for you I will. Come up sooner come down this is all so Good by write as soon as you this letter. Direct to W.M. Smail Pittsfield Pike Co. Ill.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. Vinson Bunce

Address: Versailles, Ills Brown Co

Other Envelope Notations: Return address in pencil reads: "E.J. Rice"; post marked sent from Louisiana Mo. On May 12; no post mark received; stamp is 99% disintegrated on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: May 13/69 (5-13-1869)

Writer of Letter: E.J. Rice

Location of Writer: Louisiana, MO

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; the embossed symbol is that of a woman's head turned sideways with no inscription; spelling reflects that of letter writer; no punctuation was used; 2 pages.

LETTER

Mr. Vinson Bunce

Versailles Ills

Well Vinson

I arrived in this City all Ok and Rite side up with Care. Had a good time on the boat and we danced all the way down and had some gay wimen on board you bet. Well how is the Galb (?Galbraths) and have you bin down to Naples yet. When you write to Grammow give her my love and tell her that I would like to bug her. Ask her if she has nocked anymore stoves over. If you see Saidie tell her that I love her as hard as a mule can kick. I was at Dehaven Circus last night. Had a bushel of fun but it rained like the D and the canvas was old and we all liked to be drowned. It is still raining and a good prospect to rain forty days & nights. Do you get your Cue (?) varnished now there is plenty of it here Vinson. I left some large card board at the depo. I wish you would get it for me and leave it with Dr. Bond. How is Liddie and Cathie. Give my love to them and tell Liddie not to go for Hamilton to heavy or I will get jelous. Well I will close by asking you to wright soon and give me all the peticlures. I remain your friend.

E.J. Rice

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. Vincent P. Bunts

Address: Versales Brown Co. Ill

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "Time Ills Dec 31"; no postmarks indicating when sent or received; no stamp on envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: No date given

Writer of Letter: McCauley Renner (?)

Location of Writer: Time, Pike Co., Illinois

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; writing is very faded; 2 pages.

LETTER

Next Sunday night there is a going to be a consirt they are hell on them every four weeks. Excuse bad writing and spelling I guess you can make it all out. If you cant tell me and I will try do a little better.

Well I will have to bring my letter to a close by saying write soon. Don't hesitate I ort to rate sooner and would chad I time ther is so mutch entetainment of a night that I could. Well do it it it was not late in the I would write a newspaper. It is ten oclock and I have been hard at work all day.

Respectfully yours

Mr. Renner to Vincent P. Bunce Esq. Versailles, Ills; Brown County

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce.

Address: I.I. U. Champaign, Ill.

Other Envelope Notations: Stamped return address W.H. Brackenbridge, Dealer in Dry Goods, Clothing, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, &c. Versailles, Illinois; postmarked sent from Versailles, ILL (unreadable); cancelled stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: September 20, 1870

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writers: Versailles, Ill

Other Remarks: Written on folded embossed lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Versailles, Ill
Sep. 20 / 70

Dear Son:

I have just received yours of the 15th. We had no mail on Saturday, or I should have got it sooner. I congratulate you in your safe arrival in Champaign and the pleasure you have in rejoining your former companions in study. But I particularly appreciate the pleasure you enjoyed in your little trip "out in the country" to see that little "chum" you have there.

I am pleased with your studies; I hope you will find them interesting. I wish I had money to send you to buy Drawing Instruments. We will do what we can to get you money from Pattis.

If you can make out for stationary for a few days I will send you a supply. Mother has some things to send you pretty soon.

We are all well. Mother and Filena were initiated last Saturday evening. Cattie R. is mending slowly – sits up a little. John James has sold out, and is going to Kansas. True has got the Grand Jury to find a bill against Geo. Gaston. No news yet from Geo DeWitt.

Many thanks to "Cousin" Nelie for remembering us. My kindest compliments to her, when you see her.

Your affectionate Father E.P. Bunce

Criticisms.

1st "Awful tired" is incorrect. Awful is an adjective and cannot qualify the participle tired.

Awfully tired would be in accordance with the rules of syntax.

2nd “Big Hurry.” Big means large – say great hurry.

3rd “From now on.” Now cannot form the object of from. Say from this on. 4th “To wild.” Write too.
When this word seems emphatic, write too as the prep. to is never emphasized.

5th “Dozzen” write dozen.

Excuse the above criticisms, and write often.

E.P.B.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter;

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Oct. 11th 1870 (10-11-1870)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: "School House" (no other location given)

Other Remarks: Written on 8x12 embossed blue lined writing paper in brown ink; the embossed symbol is a crest with no inscription; 2 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son,

I received a letter from you last Saturday, and was glad to hear you were well. We are all well at home. I go to town every Friday evening and write till late Saturday night. The Lodge is prospering. If you want a Withdrawal Card, you must make written application for it. You would better do so, and save 65 cents. Attend to it without delay, as the quarter is nearly out. "Bird" is doing finely; so are the colts. We have not got the sow at home yet. Grand-Ma has come up, and Grand-Pa and Kate have gone down. The corn is all cut but a small patch. The wheat is growing finely. You would hardly know the place now that the Branch is cut out. Joseph Murray is with us this week attending school. He will stay with us through the winter. Mother did not want him to come, but she seems well pleased now. He is a good little fellow and so mirthful. We send you, by Express, some clothes, etc. I sent you some stationary by mail last Saturday. My school is small – only about twenty scholars. It will increase next week. Preacher John Thomas is dead. You want to know how George DeWitt was captured. There are two Ira Hustons in Cass Co., Senior and Junior. The latter was in collusion with Geo. helping him to escape; the former was willing to have him arrested. Geo. wrote to young Ira, stating that he was near Pendleton in St. Louis Co. MO, and that he would remain until he, (George) could hear from him. This letter, old Ira took from the office and read. He informed a Mr. Rory, who was on the look-out for Geo., of the contents of the letter. Ray took a man with him, went to young Ira, and made him go with them in search of Geo. to recognize him. After some search, they found him and easily captured him. He was at work for a man digging a drain for a cellar. He was put into Mt. Sterling jail, but has been transferred to Pike co. jail for greater security. Please return me the Key to Ray's Higher Arithmetic, if you are not using it. I need it. You can send it by mail. I have a letter from your Uncle John. That young journeyman left him, and he has had to take Ira from school to help him in the office, but he is now going to school and helps

him night and morning. John has the rheumatism. Clara is worse off than ever, but she can't be prevailed upon to leave the brut.

Your affectionate father
E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Oct. 14th, 1870 (10-14-1870)

Writer of Letter: L.A. Bunce "Mother"

Location of Writer: "At Home"

Other Remarks: Written on 8x10 unlined embossed writing paper starting the first two lines in blue ink and finishing with red ink; the embossed symbol is a domed building surrounded by a stone fence with no inscription; 2 pages.

LETTER

Vincent

I have made you a few things which your father will take to town and express to you tonight. The study gown I send you is for my birthday present (I am 40 on the 22nd). If it does not please you don't part with it but put it away in your trunk and keep it till I see you. I have a dress (?) like it. The cord is fastened under the left arm but slips in a loop under the right one. It (the cord) goes twice around and ties a little to the left of the opening in the front. I have made you an apron to put on when you are working about your cooking. You will see it buttons around your neck and ties behind you. I send you two hickory shirts, a calico one, and your University vest. What do you have to eat? As soon as it comes cold weather I will send you some victuals cooked. Do you and Charlie eat together or each furnish his own provisions?

Use you hickory shirts to work in and it does not matter if you should happen to have one on in your classes. I contend as usual that no real lady regards man or boy for his dress but for his merits. I want to go to town next week to get you a pair of breeches. I intended to have made them to send with these things, but I could not. Have you got a pair of slippers? Your father got a pair with stockings but they were too small. Vincent don't work more than necessary to pay for victuals and college expenses and we will try to keep you respectably clothed as we can. I want you to make use of your time studying. Be careful with your clothes and remember to keep your clothes and sheets washed often. How much bedding has Charlie? Have you found the towels? - you took two. We do not know what books you want us to send to you. You took all but that botany. If I had any stockings I would have some kind of colored ones white never looks well after being washed a few times especially if soiled much. What did you have to pay to go to the fair. I am going to write to D. Pettis and F. Richards before long. How do you like your dried

pumpkin? Tell me so I can dry you more if you do. I cannot write any more now for your father is in a hurry to go. Write often and soon.

Your
Mother

(The following was written, squeezed in, along the side of the first page of the letter)
If you have to have your study gown washed ever take off the buttons and cord tassels.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Champaign, Ill. I.I.U.

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "E.P. Bunce; Versailles, Ill."; post marked sent from Versailles ILL on Nov (date unreadable); no received post mark; stamp is missing and envelope is completely torn apart.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Oct. 28th and 29th, 1870 (10-28-1870)

Writer of Letter: LA Bunce (Mother) and EP Bunce (Father)

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 8x12 unlined embossed writing paper in brown ink; the embossed symbol is a domed building surrounded by a stone fence with no inscription; pp. 1-3 are from the mother and p. 4 is from the father.

LETTER

Vincent

I am going to take what time I can get today and write you a long letter for to tell the truth. I feel considerably worried, still I cannot help having too much confidence in you to hope that what Kate has said of you is not true. But if it is I hope you will act the manly part, however much it will disgrace your father and me and do as your conscience tells is right – with the Lodge in Versailles. When you were initiated you took a solemn oath. Can it be that you got drunk in Pike? Kate says Frank H. helped you out of a drunken spree and said your aunt Maria told her that she would never have you spreeing around any more. Your Grandma told me a great deal that you had told her amongst other things that you could take no comfort at home and you would not stay here. She is only trying to estrange us Vincent. I see plainly, she gets all she can out of you, and then talks about you to me and advises me to not worry about you, that you don't about me and advise to let you take care of yourself and not send you anything, or to that amount. I know my duty better and while I have my senses I shall always try to do it whether it be in trying make my children comfortable or tell them of their faults hoping they will do right. It is needless to say that. I do not feel uneasy about what they have said but your father and I have too much confidence in you to believe it till we hear it from yourself. Vincent write us just as it is. Your father was intending to apply for a card but do you wish to now? for the present. I don't seem to me that I can ever go to the lodge again if it is true. If they have told this to injure you they must take it back or they and I will be as strangers and your father will think the same. Ma called your little sisters nasty brazen little sluts, to me yesterday and said more. Your father says they are little girls now. She cannot hurt them now but if any attempt is made to slander them

when they are grown she shall prove what she says. Vincent give them your confidence in nothing, let them have none of your secrets. You wrote that Nelie sent love to us, tell her for me that your choice is mine. (I like her looks) and give her my love and best wishes. Vincent – I hope you will never in my way cause her any trouble. Mrs. DeWitt's girls told me to ask why you did not write to them that you promised to write them a friendly letter, They are all good girls and good friends to us. Filena belongs to the lodge. They all feel troubled and they want you to write to them. Don't disappoint them. I will send you Nelie's likeness and another one, (may be you will know whose it is) and make arrangements for the others as soon as possible. Has Charlie no sheets nor blankets? Do you like the dried pumpkin? I am going to send you some more things before long and as soon as it is cold enough some victuals. Frank R's team has been up here once and Pa's down to Pike once – but no hog. I see they are all determined not to bring it. I am trying to make arrangements to go and get it myself. If I fail I expect we will lose the hog entirely it is running outside. How much expressage did you have to pay on the things we sent you? I am baking some pumpkin pies. I wish you could have some of them. Do you remember how I told you to prepare it. (the dried pumpkin). Do you attend the Universalist church? I think you not fail to learn something if you do.

Versailles , Oct. 29/70

Dear son.

Mother has written, and well written, what I wished to say to you about your conduct in Pike co. I give no credit to the report and shall apply for a W. Card for you today. If true, however, act a manly part with us and the Lodge.

I am sorry we cannot send you more of our pictures. I gave your uncle John B. the children's photos.

I saw George G. last night. He tells me has seen you, and that you are crippled with boils. I also learn that students' wages have been reduced to 8 cents an hour. I know that, under these circumstances, you must be crumpled for means. I am hard pressed myself; but I have just borrowed \$5 of Hartman, which I enclose to you – it will help you some. I did not prepay Expressage on last package, because Owen wanted 75 cents. What did you have to pay? We should kill a hog soon, I think, and then we will send you some provision. Our stock are all doing well. I am not teaching in the new school house – it has no roof on it yet. Write often, in smaller hand.

Yours, & a E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Nov. 6th, 1870 (11-6-1870)

Writer of Letter: L.A. Bunce "Your Mother"

Location of Writer: "At-Home"

Other Remarks: Written on 8x10 unlined embossed writing paper in brown ink; the embossed symbol is a domed building surrounded by a stone fence with no inscription; this letter was written on the same day that her husband, EP Bunce, also wrote to Vincent; 4 pages.

LETTER

Vincent

I know you have had a hard time of it but we will help you all we can. As soon as the weather is cooler we will send you some provisions. We will try to send you money to pay your expressage there as Owens charges about as much again as you have to pay there. Have your boils got well. I suppose you got the five dollars your father sent you. You said nothing about it in your letter.

What you have written home to us about yourself and Nelie is perfectly safe with your father and myself. Keep every thing from Charles. Noah went home the week before George DeWitt was taken. George says he asked E. before he shot him if he (Ed) had said he would kill him (G.) within six days. About George and Jo. Gaston – I would pay no attention to what you hear they say, they are known here, and they'll not be apt to go there again. Jo spoke well of you to your father. We have not heard much they have said since they came back- but I am afraid Charlie has some long-tongued correspondents from Versailles and you would better not pay attention to what is written to him. Did George Gaston drink when he wanted you to? Vincent – now about what you wrote in the first part of your letter. It is no mystery to me and my opinion is this. Frank bullied and dared you to drink and H. McClerard was let into the secret and did his part. I think it has been a determined thing with more than Frank to humble you ever since Frank got tight on cider at Crifs" barn. If I judge ma wrongly about it, her actions belie her. I hope I will never see Frank again and more than ever. I know he is no company for any of my children. He is irreverent to his Maker in the extreme and outrageously impudent to Pa and ma.

Student Affairs
 Student Scrapbooks and Papers
 Bunce Family Papers

We are in no danger of being too choice of having good associates - the more particular we are to always be in good company the better it is for us. About the Lodge I think the best way to do always, is to do right, then we can command the confidence of those with whom we are connected. If we make a misstep and get out of file, I think you will agree with me that the best way is to straighten up the ranks and keep a sharp watch for our footing.

Don't you think you would better make a written confession to the lodge that you have broken your pledge and ask their clemency? Write the particulars to me how you came to drink and also enclose me your confession, something like the following will be sufficient.

Worthy Chief Templars & Brothers

About the time I left Versailles for Champaign, I violated my pledge as a Good Templar, which I deeply regret, and I ask for the clemency and renewed confidence of the Lodge.

(V.P.Bunce)

(Your Date of writing)

P.S. My record with the Div. in Champaign is clear and I intend it shall remain so. V.P.B.

(Vincent I hope what I have written in the P.S. is true)

Something like what I have enclosed in lines will be sufficient and then you will have a clear conscience which is no little thing. Send your confession to me and I will see it attended right, or have Mr. Hartman do so. If it is tattled of out of the lodge we will see that tattlers are attended to

I feel all confidence in you to assured that you will daily realize more the responsibility that is settling and is upon you, and that you have the firmness and sense of morality sufficient to keep clear of any such proceedings in the future. I hope you will discountenance saloons and saloon visitors so much that you will not trade with whiskey seller. Whoever plotted thing will have it brought home to Him. Your philosophy tells you that in giving a blow re-action is equal to the action, and it is as true in the moral as well as the physical world. I hope you attend the Div. & Universalist church. You must not have been led astray once, for you fill the same place here you ever have and always will.

Your Mother

(*Notes in margins:* Leslie says "Tell Vinty he must be sure and come home tomorrow." I have made so many mistakes you may be troubled in reading this letter.)

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Nov. 6th 1870 (11-6-1870)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: "At-Home"

Other Remarks: Written on 8x10 unlined embossed writing paper in brown ink; the embossed symbol is a domed building surrounded by a stone fence with no inscription; it looks like the ink bottle may have spilled on page 3 of the letter but it did not obscure the handwriting; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son

Your welcome letter of the 1st inst. received. You ask me to forgive you that act. When I have no beam in my own eye, I will try to pull the mote out of yours. It will be time enough for me to refuse to forgive you, when I have nothing to be forgiven. Ask God to forgive you. I say this in no sanctimonious, hypocritical cant. But I believe we are strengthened against a repartition of an evil deed by asking to be forgiven. You say it is a mystery to you why you did so. It is a still greater one to me. I was thunderstruck at the news. My very heart sunk within me, when I read that sentence, "I was drunk." What devil incarnate – rather what miserable victim of Intemperance, could have influenced my son to apply the poisoned chalice to his lips, and thus pain the hearts of his parents, disgrace himself, and bring reproach upon the Lodge in which he has been so highly esteemed? Surely some powerful influence must have been brought to bear on you. Can it be possible that you have inherited from your two grandfathers that insatiate thirst for ardent spirits which I feel so strongly implanted within me? I hope not. You have made one false step. Two or three such, Vincent, and our dearly beloved, and only son will descend with frightfully accelerated velocity, the road to ruin. But I am persuaded – I feel assured – that such will not be the case. Avoid evil companions. "Associate with the votaries of folly only to reclaim them." When tempted, think of your honor as a man and a Son of Temperance; think of your parents who feel deeply every reproach, every stain on your fair name; think of dear little sisters; yes, and shall I add, think of Nelie? (?) but the slightest whisper shall escape me on the subject – not even in the Lodge. I cannot bear the thought that this matter shall be twisted (?) around in Versailles. And now, Vincent, I ask you to forgive me, if I have said anything calculated to hurt your feelings, for I know that must be lacerated enough already.

I sent you, in my last letter, \$5, which I hope you received, though you said nothing about it. I must compliment you on your spelling; I discover but one slight error in the entire letter: the

word secrets is spelled "secretes". I have not read mother's letter; she probably told you about her arm. My compliments to C. and my kindest regards to A----.

Affectionately, your father,
E.P. Bunce

Excuse a big blot.

P.S. I have read mother's letter. Her advice to you is, I think, very good. I cannot prefer (?) the charge against you. I cannot hold up my head and say you have violated your vow. But be certain, if you send your confession, (and I think it is best you should,) that you send it to us.

Mr. DeWitt's cancer is spreading slowly. He is cheerful as ever.

Mother has some kind of numbness, and painful feeling in her right arm, during the latter part of each night, which is very distressing at times. It is not quite so bad now as it has been. What it may result in, we do not know- nothing serious I hope.

E.P.B.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Champaign, Ill

Other Envelope Notations: Green and faded envelope with return address: "AFTER TEN DAYS RETURN TO E.P. Bunce" Versailles, Ill; post marked sent from Versailles, ILL on Dec 5; no received post mark; 3 cent cancelled stamp slightly damaged is still on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Dec. 4th 1870 (12-4-1870)

Writer of Letter: EP Bunce

Location of Writer: Camp Springs, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; the embossed symbol is an angel's head in flight with no inscription; 6 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son,

While in town yesterday, I received your letter of the 29th ult. I was as much surprised at not hearing from you sooner, as you were at not hearing from us. We are glad to hear you are well; (except those boils.) I hope your cold is nothing serious. We are all well at home, and I shall endeavor hereafter, to let you hear from us at least once a week. I am pleased with your studies; they are all useful. But I feel much anxiety for your situation, for I am utterly unable, at present to furnish you with money. I shall go to town tomorrow night to express you some provisions. Next Saturday I shall try to get you the articles of clothing you mention, and will express them to you in about a week from tomorrow. I will here say, that I write my letters without paragraphs to save space. We have not written to D. Pettis about that money, as we have heard that he is hard pressed at present. Your mother will go into Pike to attend to business there soon if she have a chance. We have not got the hog home yet. Our four hogs are fine. Your GrandPa thinks they will average 200 pounds. I have built the colts a snug stable at the west end of the other. They run out and are doing well. Thornton Wethers died last Monday, after a short illness. His disease was probably congestive chill. I have built a snug henhouse since you left; and I have got the yards and premises generally in better condition than ever before. But the fences need resetting. This I shall try to have done this winter or in the spring. Perhaps you do not know what I mean by John Hancock style of writing. I will give you a sample:

This is the John Hancock style.

You write too large and scattering. When John Hancock signed the Declaration of Independence he was determined that his signature should be conspicuous. He consequently wrote it in a very

bold hand. In spelling, remember that when the primitive word ends with l, double the l before an additional y. Thus, really, equally, etc. I notice the word recollect spelled with one l, and equal spelled with an e instead of a. You say, "I wanted to see what was going on in the old place." (Leavenworth) You did see what was going on. You want to know what is going on. Farewell

Your Father
E.P. Bunce

I attended the Lodge last night for the first time in two months. Your case was brought up, and, on ballot, - you were excused. But as you cannot attend, the Lodge Deputy, Bro. Hartman, says he will write forthwith to the G. Sec. for instruction in your case. When he gets an answer, I will inform you of the result. The Lodge is not working very well at present.

The solution of the question I sent you, is correct. I beat mother on that question. But she got the start of me on the following:

A man having bought a piece of land said, if he owned a strip around it 20 rods wide, he should have 250 acres. His land was a square. How many acres did he buy?

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Dec 5th, 1870 (12-5-1870)

Writer of Letter: LA Bunce (Mother)

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 8x12 unlined writing paper in brown ink; the last sentence and signature are written up the side of the last page of the letter; 2 pages.

LETTER

Vincent:

Your father wrote you a letter last night which you will probably get before you do this. I am cooking for you today. Whenever you get tired of anything I send you let me know it. I hope the cheese I send you this week will be a little more edible. I suppose you keep an account with Charlie of the victuals we send you. I send you a shoulder (cooked) today that weighed ten lbs the same the other one I sent you weighed, 4 ¼ lbs of cookies, 1 ½ lbs of butter, and some german cheese. I would send you a few apples but your father will have a heavy load of it as it is. May be he would better take the Botany next week. Did you find anything new in your pictures? Tell me if you will have bed clothes enough for the coldest weather. I suppose you will want those blankets again. Be sure and have your underclothes sheets and blankets washed often or you will be sick and don't fail to give your person a good scrubbing as often as once a week. Keep your socks and feet clean. If you wash your socks yourself heat some rain water (your wash pan will do to wash them in but don't heat the water in it) soap your socks thoroughly – rub them, then turn them wrong side out, soap and rub again and rinse in warm rain water. Be careful and not hang them too near the stove to dry as woolen scorches easily. Did you find that other sock you missed? If you did I could furnish you with another pair as the mate to the one you left – there is a good one. I expect you will soon need some more. Cook a plenty of hominy or potatoes and be careful about eating too much meat at a meal. I think that was the cause of Mr. Wether's sickness – he ate too much greasy head cheese and it disarranged his stomach. Leave a little peep-hole for fresh air at night at the bottom of your window - a half inch will do and about the same at the top to let impure air out if your bed is not against the window. Fresh air is one of the essentials of good health. Get all the sleep you can the fore part of the night and be careful and not expose yourself too much to the cold in changing clothes of different warmth and be sure and not go out in a storm especially rain. Be sure to core out of every boil. May be you are tired of reading so many be sures so I will tell you something else. I had a real chase after a genuine skunk this morning but I dare not go near enough to the little "varmint" - to strike

it and I could not throw straight enough to it with stones. How I did want his pretty striped hide to make Flori a muff; but I couldn't get it. I shall watch for him.

Your father has had your boots fixed up completely thinking he could wear them but he cannot wouldn't we better send them to you?

Your Mother

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Dec. 9th and 10th, 1870 12-9-1870

Writer of Letter: LA and EP Bunce

Location of Writer: Not stated in letter.

Other Remarks: Written on 8x12 blue lined embossed writing paper; embossed symbol is not distinguishable; Mother wrote on 12/9 and father wrote on 12/10; 2 pages.

LETTER

Dec. 9th 1870

Vincent

I have not half a minute to write in for I am looking for your father every minute from school and he is going to town. I have got you a mouthful of victuals ready and he is going to carry it to town. I have weighed everything so you will have no bother. The meat I weighed before I cook it – then take out the bones as it takes up less room and is lighter. The meat weighed 3 ½ lbs. – the cake likewise 3 ½, butter one an a half, then there is a ball of german again and it is good for I tasted of it. Your father has got into the new school – house at last but the Directors had to finish it as it seemed as though it was delayed on purpose. You will have to call this a letter and answer it for I do not suppose your father will have much time to write as there will be all the writing he can possibly do. Could you read Jessie's letter? You know she has never written a word after a copy. Do the victuals we send you pay for part of the provision? Be sure and tell me. You and Charlie can make some bargain about the cheese it takes 4 gallons of milk to make the quantity I commonly send you sometimes a little more. I have to make it dry that I may send it but if you like it better put a little milk in it as I wrote you, as you eat it. I have put a few apples in – give C. one and eat the rest yourself. Your father is going to send you some clothes and I will stop short- he may want to write on this after he gets them.

Your Mother

Dec. 10th /70

Dear Son,

In great haste, I write you that I send you a coat \$12, a box of collars .25, and a pair of gloves \$1.50. The coat is, I believe according to order. I can find no standing collars. I suppose you did not mean working gloves. I cannot find a shawl in town. I will try to send you either a shawl or an over coat, so that you can have it before Christmas. I am sorry to hear you have mashed your thumb, as you need the proceeds of your labor so much. But perhaps you can rub along some way. I will help you to some money as soon as I can.

E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Vincent P. Bunce

Address: Champaign, Illinois I.I.U.

Other Envelope Notations: Stencil in corner I.I.U.; not postmarked, no stamp.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Dec 17th, 1870 12-17-1870

Writer of Letter: LA Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper; embossed symbol is an angel head in flight with no inscription; some of the sentences are written up the side of p. 2; last minute sentence written upside down in small print above the salutation; 4 pages.

LETTER

Vincent

It is not yet day-light and the children are yet in bed so I am here alone, your father being in town. John Jones is going to carry your things out for us this morning. We butchered yesterday, so I could not get your victuals ready for your father to carry Friday night as usual, but I sat up till after eleven so I have them ready this morning. I send you this time 4 ½ lbs cookies, 2 whaping chickens, the never failing ball of german (a very little scorched, none to hurt) and some chicken gravy if I can fix it so I think it will go safe. I have no butter to send this time as there has been someone here helping nearly every day this week and we were out of meat. I am going to put in a little piece of fresh meat if I can. About the gravy. Put 2/3 of a pint of hot water in your spider then put 1/8 of the gravy in that and stir. I think by the time it boils it will be all right, so you will have eight messes of gravy if you manage it right. It may need a little salt but I think not. We think the amount we send you every week would board you by yourself, does it? This week 2 chickens, 50 cts. roll of cheese, at the least calculation 20 cts., 4 ½ lbs. of cookies fifteen cts per lb. (is that what you calculate them at?) 68 cts and the meat. I will weigh it if I put it in. As I cook your victuals I do not see that you ought to do much any cooking- but of course you will have to do your share of cleaning up. \$.50, .68, .20 makes \$1.38 for this week which is less than I have sent you any week before, but I think even that would buy you bread and other provision a plenty for a week. Keep your accounts straight with Charlie for we are not able to do anything for any one but you. Your father works hard and we must try to save the place. I cannot do much to earn money and never shall be able to again unless I get healthier than I have been lately, but I can help to save something perhaps. The little girls have but one suit of every day clothes, I wash for them at night, but they are at home and can do with less than you can. Their nice dresses with (?) are the same I got for them before we went to Kans. Your father would have got you an overcoat but we were really not able, there are several debts that

must be paid this winter. I suppose you will go to Homer Christmas. I wish it was so you could come home but the fare stands in the way and that amount would help you along a good deal there. Your father is going to try to send you a little money for Christmas. Vincent use it spar-x. But above all things don't expose yourself too much after dancing. Make it go a good way. I hope you can get a shawl there but if it happens that you can't you will have to be extra ordinarily careful or you will get a severe cold. If you cannot get a shawl take an extra coat with you as I expect your new one is lighter than the one you have been wearing. I shall feel uneasy at any rate till I hear from you after you get back, as I know you are too careless with your health for common. Keep your thumb wrapped up. I remember what a time George Nicols had with a small cut and came near losing his life. Be careful of yourself in every particular, don't make that fellow Howser your enemy (I can't think of his name) but I suppose you know who I mean- he is in no enviable position (the fellow who wants No) regard his feeling in your actions.

(On the side of p.2) No room for meat this time I will have you some victuals again after New Years.

(On the top of the letter above the salutation – upside down) It is snowing finely. I must stop and do up the feeding get breakfast. The little girls are up now and tell me to tell you they want to see you.

Your Mother

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce

Address: No address provided

Other Envelope Notations: Letter was in an envelope not sent through the mail; return address is stenciled in an oval and reads: Return in 10 days, if not called for, to W.H. Brackenridge, DEALER IN Dry Goods, Clothing, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, &c, VERSAILLES, ILLINOIS.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Dec. 17th 1870 (12-17-1870)

Writer of Letter: EP Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 8x10 blue lined writing paper in brown ink on letterhead from Office of W.H. Brackenridge; 2 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son,

Yours of the 14th has come to hand, I am pained to hear of your illness. We shall feel very anxious to hear from you again soon. We are all well at home: Mother's arm does not trouble her much now. Mother had packed up some provisions for you which I will express to you. I hope you will be able to eat it.

Vincent, I am sorry to say I am not able to buy you an over coat. You ought to have one. But my expenses are enormous for one in my circumstances. I send you \$5 which I have just borrowed of Hartman. I leave the expressage for you, as I have no odd change.

If you cannot get along without a shawl, perhaps you can buy one on thirty days time, and I will forward you the money to pay for it. I shall reserve some on my schedules by that time. I do not want you to suffer for any thing. I shall have money soon and will try to foot your bills, let who will go unpaid. Try to take care of your health. Let us hear from you as soon and as often as possible. I cannot account for the fact that we have forgotten to send your Botany. Mother packed up your things, and always forgets it. I will mail it to you next Wednesday, as I shall come in Tuesday eve to hear from you. In haste, farewell.

Your affectionate,

Father,

E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. Vincent P. Bunce

Address: Champaign, Illinois I.I. U.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Versailles, ILL on Dec. 21, 1870; no post mark received; stamp is missing from envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Dec 20th/70 (12-20-1870)

Writer of Letter: LA Bunce

Location of Writer: At Home Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; embossed symbol is an angel head in flight with no inscription; sentences are written on the sides of pp. 2 and 3 and upside down on last page in to margin; 4 pages.

LETTER

Vincent

I hope you are a great deal better that you were when you wrote your last letter but as you said you had the head ache that morning your father and I have been uneasy about you and he goes to town tonight thinking we may get a letter from you. I sent you some victuals last Sat. but I am afraid they will be delayed on the road by this snow storm. Your father sent you five dol. in the package.

You would better not eat the cheese I sent you at present as I am afraid it will not be as easily digested as the victuals should be that one should eat after being sick. It will keep a long while this weather but if Charlie is fond of it let him eat it. I can make more for you if you want me to after you have perfectly recovered from your sickness.

It was very gratifying to us that such good care was taken of you by the students and teachers that came to see you and you may be sure I should have worried a great deal for fear you had not the proper diet if you had not the good friend you had- your new teacher. I shall not forget it. I hope you will be very careful not to eat too hearty – always stop eating before you feel satisfied. If you are worse again or are not a great deal better let me know it immediately. I shall go to you. But I hope you are well again and I also hope you will be very careful and not expose yourself in the least as a relapse is harder to manage than one's first sickness. I suppose you will want to go to Homer Christmas but don't you think you would better remain in your room and have a good rest as you will need to have good sleep at night till you are perfectly well again? If you go to Homer you will have to walk three or four miles thus exposing yourself too much in the cold then I am afraid you would be out at parties or balls at night and I fear dancing would be too much for you at present- then the exposing of yourself after such exercise would be running a

great risk and might cause your more sickness. Don't neglect yourself if you are not regular in your bowels. I hope you will be able to write us a long letter when you get this but if you are not write only a line or two telling us how you are and if you get the last express package. If anything should happen that you do not get the package till you get this letter, you can make chicken broth of that I intended for gravy by adding more water than I directed. I think as you are not well you would better keep the chickens for own use – put them in a cool place, (if they can remain frozen all the better,) and they will last you some time. A very good way to warm your gravy and chicken will be to put 2 or 3 pieces of chicken in your spider with water a little more than I directed, then add the gravy after the chicken is warmed and turn it over a slice of bread when you take it up.

(Notes on the sides of pp. 2 & 3)

Don't forget what I told you about ventilating your room, it would well to give it a good airing every day.

Don't go to studying too soon and get to bed as early as nine o'clock, I fear you have been studying too much and too late nights.

(Notes on p. 4 upside down at top of page)

You would better not eat any of those cookies I sent till you are entirely well, they will keep good a month in the Winter and I can send you more. I omitted so many words and have made so many blunders you will hardly be able to read this letter.

Your Mother

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: January 3rd, 71 (1-3-1871)

Writer of Letter: LA Bunce (Your Mother)

Location of Writer: "At Home" (Versailles, IL)

Other Remarks: Written on 8x12 blue lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; embossed symbol is a round top building surrounded by a stone fence with no inscription; 4 pages.

LETTER

Vincent

I suppose by this time you are back to the University again- a place I never think of but with a wish that my youth had been blessed with but a shadow of such walks. I had a teacher once and I revered him, then, as a teacher, because I had been taught so to do, under whose partial teaching I listened (with others similarly situated) and with one exception only listened, for two mortal terms. He served in the Union army and when the war closed it found him the professor of a general's insignia and commission, (a Major General I believe) and though he may have been as patriotic as Washington- I can form no other ideas of his patriotism than the dollars and cents it brought him with their attendant vain glory. I would not harm the man if I could but I hope if he is ever forced to teach for a living again, children of poor parents will be more fortunate than to have to listen and witness his mighty parade of knowledge. I feel satisfied that yours are good teachers, men incapable of such things and hope you profit daily by their good teaching and manly characters.

I hope you are perfectly well again and hope you will not study too late nights. There is a string of hopes long enough for a Catholic to say his prayers on. And that brings to mind a question I asked you once before. Do you ever attend the Universalist Church in Urbana?

I have just finished baking your cake but you will find one of them scorched a little for it is all I can do to get around the house today my back is so lame. If I were you I would eat the sausage only at breakfast. There is a plenty to last you & Charlie two weeks 14 meals more or less used in that way. For dinner hominy or whatever you cook in the way of vegetables and a slice of head cheese warmed (not fried) in your spider, or better, warmed on the dish you put it on the table in, under your stove. Now let me make you out a bill of fare. I think it will help you. ((Breakfast – Sausage fried (it is not cooked, cut in thin slices and cook quite brown), hominy warmed, and bread. Dinner, - hominy, head-cheese warmed and bread with whatever sauce you have. Supper – bread and butter a slice of dutch cheese (what I send you is as much as you and Charlie ought to eat at 7 meals at least) and a piece of cake and sauce if you have it.)) Each of the cakes I send you will make eight pieces as large as anyone ought to eat, making of the three

cakes 24 pieces, so you see I send you enough cake for you and C. to eat with twelve suppers. Whenever you want warm bread, take a couple of sticks of your kindling wood cut short enough to lie half way down your dinner pot, cut in one piece what bread you want for the meal, lay it on the sticks, turn boiling water a pint or more in the pot (not on the bread) cover and let it boil about ten minutes, it is as nice as new. If your cake becomes dry you can serve it in the same way.

If you have fruit to cook get a soft-baked milk crock, clean it thoroughly with soap and hot water before you use it, and you will have something that you can cook fruit in without danger of poisoning yourselves. Never cook fruit in iron or tin if any of the tin is off and copper is no less dangerous unless a person knows exactly how to manage it.

I send you this time 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. cake, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. butter, 9 lbs. sausage, 5 lbs. head-cheese and a roll of dutch cheese. I send you a pr. of "sox." While I think of it I hope Ann and Van. will get no inkling of your business there and she is such a story stretcher. I fear there will no good come of her going there. Don't you think we would better send you your boots? But I will have to stop and have your father's supper ready when he comes from school. He is going to town and takes this. Berta told me to tell you to read on your butter before you cut it. Don't eat hearty nor late suppers. Tell me all about your good times Christmas. (I hope you had none other) Did you get a shawl? Did you find your valise? (Charlie's I suppose) If you have never thought of it a newspaper will make you a good table cloth and save washing too. I am going to make one more trial to go to Pike though. I shall not be able to as I am now. Write every week. I have asked you a thousand questions and I don't believe you have ever answered any. Don't expose your health in any way.

Your Mother

Your father will have a heavy load I think

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Champaign, Illinois I.I.U.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles, ILL. on Jan 10, 1871; no post mark as received; stamp is missing from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Jan 9th 1871 (1-9-1871)

Writer of Letter: LA Bunce (Mother)

Location of Writer: At Home, (Versailles, IL)

Other Remarks: Written on 8x10 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; 2 pages.

LETTER

Vincent

It is now ten o'clock at night but I write a little for fear something may happen that we can not get your victuals started to Wed. I send this by Billy to-morrow morning.

We nor Mr. Grady have heard nothing about any difficulty at Frank DeWitt's but Pa was telling me that DeWitt is going to have his arm cut off before long but I have not been there for a long time for I have not been able to go anywhere lately. I have just had a week's trip a week long and over with a lame back – it is getting better. George DeWitt is in the Pike Co. jail, as the Mt. Sterling jail is not secure enough. John Burgesser saw him (George) not long ago he looks hollow eyed and very bad. Your father has neither money nor postage stamps now but he will send you some of both before many days if nothing bad happens. Don't you think you ought to be careful about accepting presents from ladies, considering your position?

No person not related would be likely to give as valuable a present as the one you named without she had something stronger than a friendly feeling- accepting such presents would be giving encouragement to that feeling and I am sure you did not think of it in that light – for I believe you have more feeling than to act the flirt.

Florie had a fever last night and the night before but appears well to-night- the rest are well counting out my lame back. It is so late I will stop writing. Good Night

Your Mother

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Jan. 10th 71 (1-10-1871)

Writer of Letter: LA Bunce (Mother)

Location of Writer: None stated (Versailles, IL)

Other Remarks: Written on 8x12 blue lined embossed writing paper in pencil; on one ripped sheet of lined tablet paper and one sheet of plain legal size (faintly lined) paper; embossed symbol is a round top building surrounded by a stone fence; 2 pages.

LETTER

Vincent

Pa is going to mill to-morrow and he is going to express your rations to you. He brought you down a pig's foot uncooked and grandma sent you the sausage. I will have to send you your meat all of it uncooked this week as my back is so lame that I cannot lift much, but when you cook it cook it done. If you should want to boil any part of it – and you will have to boil the bones after you cut what you can off to fry – boil it till the bones come out quite easily, it will take about 2 ½ hours steady boiling at least . When you fry it cook it well not to eat raw meat, you know what your lecturer said last winter about eating rare cooked pork. I will send you some hocks to boil with the foot grandpa sends you. To save time and coal you can boil your meat at night, take it up, let the water you boil in stand till morning and take the grease off the top to fry bread in, throw the rest away, then if you want your boiled meat for dinner warm, you only have to put it some hot water and let it stand on your stove till heated through – say ten or fifteen minutes. Have you got a cough with you cold? If you have make you a compress and wear it nights. Cover it well and don't forget to give your self, that is as for as extend, well, first with a wet then a dry cloth. You will have to be careful or you will be sick when spring comes.

I have no butter to send this week as I have not been able to see to souring the cream therefore it is not ready for churning. I will send you meat enough to last you and Charlie two weeks. I think it will make the expressage lighter. Tell me how you manage your victuals and if the directions I gave you help you any. Did you get that valise all right?

Do you ever bathe? You know you should not take a bath for at least two hours after as it injures the digestion, and a good half hour before eating. I think a good way to bathe when you are well is to give your feet and legs a good scrubbing Sat. or Fri. night just before going to bed (you should be warm your self and have your room warm) then Sunday morning give your body a

scrubbing when you wash your neck. Always be particular to rub with a dry cloth till you are dry and warm.

Pa says the foot is cooked, I did not notice , so set to gnawing. I cut a piece of your cake out for pa and stuck some pieces of cooked rib in it to even it up. Keep the shoulder in a cool place and keep it salted at little – boil the hocks as soon as you get them. I have put in some apples and pumpkin the meat weighs 23 lbs.

Your Mother

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Jan. 29th 1871 (1-29-1871)

Writer of Letter: EP and LA Bunce

Location of Writer: Not stated in letter (Versailles, IL)

Other Remarks: Written on 8x10 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; father writes the basic letter and mother adds a "P.S."; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son,

Your letter of the 24th inst. came to hand yesterday. I did not stop my work to write to you, knowing we should soon have to send you a package of provision. We are all in pretty good health at present, "mother" having recovered from her lameness in her back, which was a kind of "stitch," and very severe. She is also free from that distressing sensation in her arm. The little girls attend school, and are progressing finely. Roberta asks no odds of any of her class in either arithmetic or grammar. You say Dr. Detmer thinks he can get a school for you. I suppose you mean a summer school. I hope you will be able to secure the situation. Teaching will benefit you more, financially, and intellectually, than any other business. I have a pleasant school of about 40 scholars. Four of them are studying algebra. They are now studying the Theorums. Mr. DeWitt starts to-day for Chicago to have his cancer cured or his arm amputated. All his boys attend school now, also Helen and Leann. Write to us often, and don't write on scraps. Use whole sheets like this. When you have no lock of hair to spare, put in a thumb nail. I would like to have that problem solved if you can get a solution. I had the following question sent me, from Mt. Sterling, recently; and I have just returned an answer. A and B have \$500. $\frac{3}{4}$ of A's share is \$50 less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of B's. What was the share of each?

You are entirely welcome to what money I have sent you. I wish I could send you more at this time. But my directors are "strapped." You need a pair of new boots. If you can get a pair there, I will pay for them by the 1st of March. A few criticisms and I will close. You misapply "will." Remember that "will" in the 1st person promises or threatens, while "shall" foretells or predicts. In the 2nd and 3rd persons, it is vice versa. "Desect" – (dissect.) "Anagusta," – (Ann Augusta.) "Sorry of it." (Sorry for it.) "Arm cut off." (Arm amputated.) "You wanted to know if I attended," &c. (Substitute whether for if) "I was presented with a hair watch chain." (Expunge "with"; or, better, say a hair watch chain was presented me.) "There was 6 boys and 2

girls there that belonged to the I.I.U.” (There were, &c.who belonged &c.) Also, in the same sentence the “there” should be “present.”

I will send you some ink with your provisions, and will send you some stationery next Saturday. I will try to write to you every week. I hope you will do well and I do not doubt that you will. Good-by.

Your affectionate Father
E.P. Bunce

P.S. Vincent – your father says to the amount that my arm is well but only says so because I say nothing about it. If I turn on my right side it (my arm) wakens me almost immediately but it is not as painful as it was and it comes to its natural feeling sooner than it did sometimes ago so I do not have to get up therefore I trouble no one about it. I send you some provision to-day. Tell me what you had on hand when you get it. What does Charlie buy?

Your Mother

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Champaign, Ill

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "E.P. Bunce Versailles, Ill"; both post marks are unreadable; cancelled three cent stamp turned sideways on envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: March 19/71 and continued on March 24 & 25 (3-19-1871)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: At home (Versailles, IL)

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; embossed symbol is a capitol building-like structure in a circle with no inscription; 7 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son:

I will now answer some questions in your letter of the 15th inst. You ask me if John DeWitt left school of his own accord. I talked to him pretty sharply one Friday afternoon about his bad conduct, and he has not been in school since.

I have not "Page's Theory and Practice in Teaching." I have none but Bunce's, a rather inferior work. Page's can be had of A.S. Barnes & Co. Chicago. But the \$1.50 – that's what's the matter."

It is the general impression I believe, that George DeWitt will not be hung, and that he will perhaps be acquitted or make his escape.

We expect Mr. Kaylor to plow the orchard this week. We shall try cultivate corn on it ourselves by hiring some help.

Daniel Pettis expects to move in the fall, I believe.

We shall sow the Osage seed in drills in some suitable place.

When we send you some more provisions, I will send you a pair of pants, and the other articles you mention; this we shall do in about a week for this time.

It affords us much pleasure to find you determined to "rub it through." "When there is a will, there is a way." I know that I am slow in helping you, but I think I can advance you some more money soon.

And now let me tell you a little bit of good news. I am a little ahead of you. I have engaged the Versailles school for three months and "got my certificate." I have no doubt, however, but you can get one too. I have to teach at low figures, \$50 a month, but that school suits me better than any other, on account of my writing. I shall 3 months, commencing the first Monday in April. My term will not have ended here, but I can easily comprosio that matter with my directors.

I will now venture a few more criticisms, hoping you will return the compliment, when ever you see an opening. You are "significant in promises." You say "We will have a good

yield.” “I will not get to see home”, &c. Now, in both these cases, you meant, merely to predict a future event, and you ought to have used shall instead of will. You say, “ I will be careful of my eyes.” This is right. Why? Because you promise to be careful. Will in the 1st person, and shall in the 2nd and 3rd, promises or threatened, while shall in the same, foretells or predicts a future event, and vice versa. You say you have received two letters from me, that the former contained the article, &c. But you erased the word former, and wrote first. The word former was correctly used. “Coppied” – omit one p. “Sorry of it” – say sorry for it. “Yeald” – spell it yield. Spell too, when you mean also. “careful with my eyes” – with should be of. “Awful rough” – awfully rough. It takes an ear off.” The verb takes is indicative mood, which asserts an act – not occurrence or fact. But you wish to express a mere contingency. Takes should, therefore, be take, in the subjunctive mood. Thus, “If it take an ear off.”

Mar.24th/71

My school is out to-day. As I could not have made the full six months by the 1st of April, I close at 5 ½ months. I shall send you some in a week in nothing happen.

The hill and garden are plowed, also, the slope from the high ground where we had clover, to the low ground or “flat.” The brush heaps are burned along the run, and rails are hauled to repair the fence.

Mar. 25/71

I have bought you a pair if Cassimere Pants, some socks, blacking, &c. The Pants are rather light colored, but Capt. McDonald says he knows you will like them, and I think so too. I will send you some stationery. Your letter of the 20th is received. Glad to hear you are well of your cold; I am nearly well of mine. All are well at home. I have bored you enough this time, so farewell.

Your father,
E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Champaign, Ill

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "E.P. Bunce Versailles, Ill"; post mark sent from Versailles, ILL on Apr 12, 1871; received post mark unreadable; on the back of the envelope the name Romine Stolty Herbut I.I.U.; no stamp on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Apr 11th/71 (4-11-1871)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blur lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; embossed symbol is a capitol like building in a circle with no inscription; 1 page.

LETTER

Dear Son:

I hear you are married. But I do not see why you should fail to write to me on that account. You are not the first young man who ever "got married." It seems to me you had not got a "good ready." Write and let us hear from you. Perhaps you are sick. I hope not.

Your affectionate
Father
E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE**Addressed To:** Mr. V. P. Bunce**Address:** Champaign, Ill**Other Envelope Notations:** No return address; post marked sent from Versailles ,ILL on Apr. ? 1871; post mark received is unreadable; stamp has been cut from envelope.**LETTER HEADING****Date of Letter:** Apr.25th 1871 (4-25-1871)**Writer of Letter:** E.P. Bunce**Location of Writer:** Versailles, IL**Other Remarks:** Written on 8x10 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; 3 pages.**LETTER**

Dear Son,

Yours of the 17th inst. was recd on Saturday, (or Friday.) I regret to learn that you are under the necessity of leaving college to go to work. This ought not so to be, but poverty is a tyrant. If I had means to assist you, this should be otherwise.

I am teaching at low wages, this spring, but I was afraid to insist on more than \$50 per month, lest I should get nothing, as there were many applicants wanting the school. The directors have just now employed Miss Mary A. McCormick to assist me.

Our colts running out now and doing well. We keep Bird up. She has shed off, and is a sleek as a mole. Mother is "going it steep" in the way of raising chickens. Roberta and I are boarding at Mr. May's. Mary Chambaugh is married to Price.

A word or two about marrying. My advice may be considered uncalled for, perhaps. But it shall not cost you any thing. I know not what Nelie wrote to you; but she is right in not wishing to postpone marriage four or five years at her period of life. Remember, a woman is as mature at twenty one as a man is at twenty eight. From twenty to twenty five years of age, a woman is in the very prime of life; and at that age, she should never be requested to "wait." Beware of forming these love attractions again and again. It is injurious to the affections to do so. John Billings made a capital hit when he said, "love is like the measles, a man never has it bad but once." If you wish to devote four or five years to study, make love to no one. This course will be decidedly better for you, and for all concerned. These are my opinions, and, of course I think I am right.

Mother wants you think well about that ring of Helen's. She is inclined to think you took it with you, or gave it back to Helen. (I believe this is what she told me to say to you.) You have not told us what kind of work you are doing, nor when you expect to come home. Thanks to Charles for his compliment.

Affectionately, Your Father
E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. Vincent P. Bunce

Address: Champaign, Illinois

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles. ILL. on May ?, 1871; no receiving post mark; stamp is missing; fancy cursive handwriting on back of envelope shows initials VPB written twice.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: May 3rd 1871 (4-3-1871)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 8x10 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son,

Yours of the 30th ult. is at hand. It finds us all well. Berta and I are boarding at May's. My school is heavy, and Mary McCormick assists me. We have not worked bird any yet. She is in very fair condition. We have been putting her to horse. The colts look rather shabby, but are improving. "Mother" has about 150 chickens, and "more a hatching." Your Aunt Kitty (Mrs. Pettis) is up from Pike on a visit.

Perhaps you have heard of the fire in Versailles. Last Monday night, fire broke out in the back of Herbert's grocery, which in a very short time destroyed the entire building. The flames soon communicated to Casteen's store, running rapidly along the cornice. The store, except the ware room, was completely burned out. The walls are still standing, but are greatly damaged. Herbert's groceries were all burned, but we saved Hudson's and Casteen's goods in a damaged condition. Hudson things are in the tavern building, and Casteen's in the old Moorman store. Herbert is insured \$800, Hudson \$1200, and Casteen \$7000.

I have just received a letter from your uncle John. He has been almost past labor with the rheumatism a good part of his time. Maria had a severe cold some time ago, which settled on her lungs. John thinks she will never recover from it. She had hemorrhage of the lungs once, which nearly killed her. The children have had the mumps, and Nellie is still in bad health. This is really a doleful picture – I feel sorry for them. He says, Clara and Laverne get along better, but there is still room for improvement.

I hope you will have your health in your new situation. Do not work too hard. I mean no joke in saying so. Write again.

Your Father,

E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Champaign, Ill.

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads; "Return in 10 days to EP Bunce Versailles, Ill."; post mark sent from Versailles, ILL on Jun 1, 1871; no receiving post mark; the envelope is a burnt yellow color with the postmark at the bottom left hand corner; stamp has been cut out.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: My 7th/71 (5-7-1871)

Writer of Letter: L.A. Bunce

Location of Writer: At Home, Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 7x11 blue lined tablet paper in brown ink; the sheet of paper is unevenly ripped on the right hand side and the ending of the letter is missing; 2 pages.

LETTER

Vincent

Your father says he has answered your last letter but I believe since I had commenced I will go on. About that ring Helen said that the ring was a present and she would hate to lose it; that you teased to borrow it but she did not much like to let you take it and you promised to take good care of it.

Have you hired for all Grimmer at tile(?) harvest? Seventy-five cents a day will be small wages for harvesting I should think. Be sure and tell all about it in your next letter. Do you ever intend to come home or have you found the promised land? Tell me where you go to meeting. Take plenty of rest, get to bed early.

I have been pretty near sick last week and have had the blues all the week. Raven has your father to do no more writing and I am troubled all the time because your father does not pay him any more and it has got out that Raven has a mortgage on the farm and I fear the next thing. I know if we lose this place after paying so much money on it there is no use of any of us trying to live any longer. Orr has to have his hundred dollars in August and he (your father) says he (your father) will have to borrow to pay it. I can't see that that will help the matter any. If I was even stout as I was once I could do some thing to help myself but I have had double duty to perform a great share of the time these last twenty years raising a family and earning many a hundred dollars beside. Where is it? What good has it done? I have my sewing machine and the rest – well. I can't help it nor you can't but it makes me sick to think of the hundreds that I might as well never have earned.

It does seem that we will never be out of debt and till then it is impossible for me to enjoy myself, but I think, I know that things could be managed differently. I don't see that big wages makes it any better.

Vincent you will find that good management is two thirds in this matter. If we spend our money before we earn it we always live behind hand. If we spend our money when we have earned it we are liable to get behind hand. I little calculation made before hand determining what we must have, what we can do without and have something left, (the more the better,) is a plan that never fails to make a person (under ordinary circumstances) safe and independent. The small sum of ten cts. saved per day more that we use, in the time of thirty years, not counting interest or what could be made by the use of small sums will amount to a little than a thousand dollars. Make the calculation yourself and try the plan and when you are of my age you will not be without a home and means to make it a comfortable one.

It is the duty of everyone that has a family to afford them a home of their own and no young man or woman who are in debt or without a start in the world need expect to live a happy married life. They will soon find that it takes a home to shelter and bread to nourish love be it ever so confident at first that a hired hover(?) and

(the rest of this letter is missing)

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: May 11th 1871 (5-11-1871)

Writer of Letter: Roberta Maria (R.M.) Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 8x10 blue lined paper in brown ink; 2 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother,

I have got rid of all my sores. Uncle Frank is not going to Texas. He has bought Mr. Siddle's farm. I shall try to get the most credit marks in school at least I think I shall. Grandpa gave us a pig he marked for us. We have got about one hundred thirty chickens my old hen that Grandma gave me has nearly fifty chickens and Flora's "Potch" has over thirty ma has got twentyone turkeys they go with any hen that will own them I have got one little duck. I had seven but they all got killed but one and it is a pet. I was scared the night of the fire pa woke me up and told me the hotel was on fire. Mr. Richardson ran to the hotel in his night clothes and rang the bell Mr. J. Burgesses couldn't get his pants on he was so excited. His wife put her dress on wrongside outwards. She went to tell the neighbors with her dress on wrongside outwards and when she went back Mr. Burgesses had got his pants on. Mr. McCormick tried to put his coat on for his pants Mary told him it was his coat, but he would not pay any attention to what she said, and she had to snatch it from him. I was scared, but I got on all of my clothes, but my apron. I dreamed the next night that I fell into Mr. Casteen's cellar, while it was hot. It is the second letter I ever wrote, and so you will have to excuse me this time. Write again.

I remain your loving sister
R.M. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Champaign, Ill.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles, ILL on May 17, 1871; no receiving post mark; stamp has been cut from envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: May 11 1871 (5-11-1871)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 8x10 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; 3 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son.

Your welcome letter of the 7th is recd. It is particularly welcome for the inform us that you are coming home in June. We are all well, but "mother" is not very stout.

I will answer, briefly, some of your questions, perhaps all of them. We have not planted any corn yet. Berta and I left Eckler's because they said it was not convenient for them to board us any longer; for which information we felt very grateful to them. They are clever people, but poor cooks. No hog from Pike County yet. Frank R. is not going to Texas. He has bought George Liddle's farm, and is living on it, I believe. Frank H. is teaching school. Kate, I believe walks flat footed. George Brewer is married to Huldah Davis. Dan. Pettis intends to go to Min. in the Fall. He still has attacks of asthma, not consumption, which last three or four days, and are very severe. I have never written to him about your money – I considered it useless to do so. Your grand-pa and Sihon have divided their land by a line running north and south. Each has one half. Your grand-pa has bought a log house which stood near the church at the cross-roads and he intends to put it up on his piece of ground pretty soon. He is tending his piece of the ground this season. I believe they have not broken Frank's colt. Berta tells me the other colt, Kit, belongs to your grand-pa. Frank has taken his mare down to New Salem, to some "big stock." Bird was taken to some horse at Alex. Orr's, from Schuyler co. Mother, with Mr. Grady's help, transacted the whole affair. Harry Coe was married on the 10th inst. to a "fair damsel" of Hannibal. He brought her home yesterday, and is living in part of Ravenscroft's old house. The boys charavaried him last night. I believe he treated to the candy. John Casteen is going to rebuild his store forthwith. The Casteen Bros. are "flat broke." Their store is locked up by the sheriff.

Will you not need some money, before you leave for home? Let me know what amount you will need and I try to remit it to you.

I will leave off, and let mother tell the rest of the news, if any. I presume you have

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received a letter from her, this week.

Your Father,
E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce, Esq.

Address: Champaign, Ill.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles, Ill. on May 18, 1871; cancelled stamp remains on envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: May 14, 1871 (5-14-1871)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: "At Home" (Versailles, Ill.)

Other Remarks: Written on folded embossed lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

At Home May 14/71

Dear Son:

I wrote to you a few days ago, but I wish to write you on one more point. Mr. Breckenridge has dispensed with Capt. McDonald's services, and is trying to do without a clerk. I spoke to him yesterday to know if he would not employ you through the summer. He said he had several applications, but was halting between two opinions. I am inclined to think he will give you employment if you want it. He promised to let me know soon. I think you will do well to come home, if he wants you, though you may not get but light wages. I want you to write on receipt of this, and let me know whether you have definite engagement where you are for any one, until we know whether B. wants you or not.

We planted that part of the field in front of the stable in corn last Friday. We have not got the Flat broken up yet. Our wheat, like all other wheat, is injured by the drough. Wheat is suffering terribly for want of rain.

Your Father
E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: May 29/71 (5-29-1871)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 7x10 blue lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; the embossed inscription is "GEM CITY"; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son,

Your letter of the 21st, addressed to mother, is at hand. It finds us all well, except some small complaints. My back is quite lame, yet Jessie's foot is mending fast.

I have no special news to relate, except that we have got the Flat planted in corn. We are suffering greatly for want of rain. We have some little sprinkles, but they don't seem to do much good. I am glad you have made your mind to come home. I hope you will come home as soon after the closing exercises of the school, as possible.

And now prepare for a "raking". I have not given you one lately, but it will only be the heavier. And first in orthography "hense", hence; "atal", at all; "to far", too far; "buglers", burglars; "batalion," battalion; "exibtion", exhibition; "pecked", peaked. With the help of my best-"specks," I think I can detect some ungrammatical expressions. "To be sure and answer" – to sure to answer; "mighty good," good or very good, (mighty is allowable only in colloquial style.) "there has been several fires." there have been &c. fires is he subject; "Such pens I never saw", such pens I have never, before seen; "I was down to the U.", I went down to, or, I was at the U; "we will have a few lectures", we shall have, &c. "I don't think I would have enjoyed", say should have, as you do not intend to promise , but fortell.

I have not had time to finish this letter until to-day, the 31st. B.F. DeWitt had his arm amputated, night before last, a few inches below the elbow, by Dr. Prince of Springfield. He is doing well. Weather hot and dry. Good by.

Your Father,
E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Versailles, Ills.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Champaign, ILL on Aug 1, 1871; no received post mark; stamp has been cut from envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Aug 1st 1871 (8-1-1871)

Writer of Letter: Dr. H. J. Detmers

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 8x8 partial piece of blue lined tablet paper in brown ink; 1 page..

LETTER

Mr. V.P. Bunce:

Versailles, Ills.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 29th ult. has been received. I have subscribed for you the "Nat. Live Stock Journal" which will be sent to you. Your inquiries you will find answered in the Journal. My best respects to and to your parents.

Respectfully yours

Dr. H.J. Detmers

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce Esq

Address: Handwritten note "Addressed"

Other Envelope Notations: On the front side of the envelope it is signed in pencil by "Fent(?) Timmons"; There is no post mark or evidence of a stamp on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Thursday morning Feby 10th 1876 (2-10-1876)

Writer of Letter: W.F. Timmons

Location of Writer: "at home"

Other Remarks: Written on partial sheet of 8x? embossed blue lined writing paper; the embossed symbol is of three tall round-top buildings with no visible inscription; 1 page.

LETTER

Friend Vincent

In regard to our Trade Brady's have got about 11 or 12 hundred Posts on it. I have not hauled but about 4 hundred staves as yet. I left word at your school for you to come down but you never got it - I presume. I go west next week and will be gone about 4 or 5 days. And when I come back you will have to come down and take the count of the remainder in timber. I will have 5 or 7 hundred new ones to make for you. They culled me out of about 5 hundred. I paid Coffman and Ansmus(?) for making 25 hundred and got about 2 thousand good ones. Wishing you success in everything.

I remain ever your Friend.

W.F. Timmons

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Miss Kate Galbrath

Address: Franklin, PA

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Oil City on Aug 4; no received post mark; stamp has been removed from envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Aug 3 '79 (8-3-1879)

Writer of Letter: Alf

Location of Writer: Oil City, PA

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 embossed blue lined writing paper; embossed symbol is a flying dove with no inscription; 3 pages.

LETTER

Dear Kate

I received a very short and unintelligible note from you last week. What was the matter with you at the time you wrote, and did you have reference to my delay in writing? I take it for granted that is what you meant and will try and explain. I never attempt to write only when I am alone and nothing to bother me and Sunday is the only time that I can find myself in that condition.

Last Sunday I neglected to answer your letter so had to wait until today and now I am in a quandary to know whether to write or not as from the way your note was written. Will not be surprised to have this letter returned unopened but hope that you will at least read it, not that it will be interesting only I would like to have you know that I have not forgotten you.

I suppose I will have to over look your "crusty" note if you will only be lenient now and excuse my delay in writing. Everything will be smooth and peaceful.

I will not attempt to write any more at present but await your reply to find out in what frame of mind your now only remember that I am the same.

Alf

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Nov ? 1881 (11-?-1881)

Writer of Letter: William L. Gilfillan

Location of Writer: South Williamstown, Mass.

Other Remarks: Written in brown ink on 5x8 lined school stationery with a picture of the Greylock Institute showing that Benj F. Mills, A.M. is Principal and Geo.F. Mills, A.M. is Associate Principal; 4 pages.

LETTER

Friend Bunce

I received your most welcome letter and can say I was very glad to here from you. I am much oblige for you thoughtfulness by giving me some notes from the nursery.

I like this place very well and do a good bit of studing.

This is Saturday after noon it is very gloomy and it makes me fell like I would rather be at home. I get the evening news once in a while when Jim Bosland takes a notion to send it.

Good for Will Devoe he has a fat wife there you can bet you life on that.

Tell Ed. Watson that I want to know if he gets enough to do him.

I suppose Aldin Deets got it put on him in the "hole in the wall."

There was not any thing going on here Hally (?)

You tell John Baker that no body get (?) red eye that if I wanted any I could not get it but I don't want any. S. Williamstown is not quiet as large as Curiou (?) town that is so only one church one store and one Hotel & one Blacksmith Shop & two or three houses. we are not allowed out of the house after Six (6) oclock at night we study at night. Tell John I want to know if he minds the time himself that he got "red eye" "I do".

Your advice suties this place for you could not get any thing to tuch or to taste if you wanted too.

They don't allow to use tobacco at all here but I use it all the same "e" you bet your life. I don't spit in his presence.

I have to take a bath a four oclock. So I must close for this time. Please excuse this writing for I am so nurves I can hardly write at all.

Answer soon

I am as ever your friend

Willie L. Gilfillan

P.S.

Rob will be home next week on Tuesday or wednsday perhaps again you get this letter.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Vincent Bunts Esq

Address: Franklin city, Penn. Venango co

Other Envelope Notations: No return address but the end of the envelope is signed in pencil by Frank M. Lindsey; post marked sent unreadable; post marked received in Franklin, PA at 3 PM on Mar 13, 1882; the 3 cent cancelled stamp is in good condition.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 3/10.82 (3-10-1882)

Writer of Letter: F.M. Lindsey

Location of Writer: Hilton, Illinois

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; 2 pages.

LETTER

Mr Vincent Bunts

Friend Vint

For the first time in my life I will try to write to you will give you some of the most important items of my life since I last saw you Unfortunately the trying hour of my life can and ohi (it pains me to write it) I had to separate with my old "Spark" she going to Kansas and myself remaining in (Ill) single Blessedness. But such is life without a wife as the poet would say almost all of my old chums that I associated with when you was hear are married and that leaves me to such the single Fit Frank Goldman my mainstandby is married and settled down is doing well has got a good little helpmate and the best of all is He recently became the Happy father of an Eleven lbs. boy. And maite Mary Kelly the girl Frank went with when you was hear is married to one dutch Gea Geisendorfer she has become a mother in less than four months After her Bridal Eve (No shuger in mine) wasent it funny There is no news to write that will interest you all the talk is a new Rail Road from Roadhouse in Green co to Hannable mo. via milton & Pittsfield crossing the Ills river at Bedford there is a party of surveyors at work on it now it will make times better around hear for a while I am going to Pittsfield today to return my Books Am collector of Detroit Township have collected \$5,000.00 in six weeks made \$100.00 out of the office. Don't know what I will so this summer but expect I will have to work on a farm am not going to if I can get any thingelse to do dont like to work well enough You must write me a long letter ask as many questions as you want to and I will answer them to the best of my ability tell me all about where you have been what you have been doing and how you did it and what you did it for and a little of everything you can think of and a little you cant think of guess you will be tired reading this before you get through so I will close for this time by asking you to write soon to your old friend ok

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Truly yours
Frank > Lindsey

Milton Ills. Pike Co 3/10 1882

P S forgot I dated this until I went to fold it
Excuse haste and all mistakes

FML.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, PA

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Fargo, N. Dak. With date unreadable; no received post mark; Stamp has been cut from envelope; envelope is severely torn (or maybe burned) on each of the edges; handwritten notation at bottom of envelope reads: "Standard Cigar store".

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: June 83 (6-?-1883)

Writer of Letter: Harry Gercke

Location of Writer: Fargo, North Dakota

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 unlined embossed writing paper I black ink; embossed inscription reads: "SILVERIA"; 4 pages.

LETTER

Friend V.P. Bunce

I received your most welcome letter of fore pages some time agoe and was verry glad to hear frome the old home. Of corse Old Boy you speak of great changes that have been made since old Harry has gone away frome the old town. One wich I had noticed in peticular in the Evening News to day of alderman Galbreath as they call him now. and wich I cast my solid vote fore to elect. I see by the paper he married a cuple or made too things as one. I would of Just gave a (?) to seen him do it up for them as I had a good laugh when I read what great and good things alderman G. is doining for old Franklin. I was over to Moorehead to day to see Eddie Lamberton and him and I had a nice walk we went and seen their New Cort House and Jail wich they ar building. I tell you Moorehead is a nice little village it is about the sice of Franklin, but it has nicer houses and every thing points to it making one of our great City's of the red River valley.

I tell you old Boy I like this Cuntry more every day as it has got the get up to it and go a head. I was down to the parks this evning with my – and the band played the heal and toe Just like old Franklin band and it made me feel kind of lonesome. but you know their ain't no youse of old Harry getting that way when he is living in such a lively city as Fargo there is al the imusent a man can ask for in this place. We only have about thirty sporting houses and I do believe most every thin that wears petticoats in this place is a Harlet but you know that ain't saying much for Fargo Girls. And I have a fine room to sleep in it is Just beside a western church or a place whear they sell pison and lager beer and the band plays for me every night as I am in the sweet land of dreams but I am quite often waken by some drunken fellow praying or too other ones having a Sellom and Tug Wilson match wich me and

chum oftens haves the pleasure of seeing wich is the best man or see the cops take them in. I never was so supprise standing on the street when some one taped me on the arm and as I loaked around I seen old Perry Wolfkill he is a brother to Puts you tell him I seen Perry. I must bring this to a close and you must excuse me for not writing sooner I will write you a bible full of news the next time.

Yours as ever
Keeley Brs Fargo
Harry Gercke

P S Ansor soon as I have lots to tell you in my next

H.G.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, PA

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; "Lock Box 779" is written on the bottom of the envelope; sending post mark unreadable; post mark ed received in Franklin, PA. at 8 AM on Sep, 29; cancelled two cent stamp remains on envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Sep 27/84 (9-27-1884)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Virginia, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 unlined writing paper in pencil; 2 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son & Daughter:

I arrived home at your uncle's last night at 10 o'clock, safe and sound, and find all well, except that your uncle is troubled a little in one knee with rheumatism. I hope yourself, and Katie and the boy are doing well.

I reached Chicago about 11 o'clock after a terrible squeeze- the cars being jammed full, some standing in the aisle. I bought a ticket to Virginia of the "Wabash, St. Louis, & Pacific Ry." for \$6.10. I sold my ticket for \$2.00 – of course you would have doubled that, (and there would have been no harm in doing so,) – My R.R. fare from Franklin to you for the arrangement I invested 20 c in sunds. in Chicago, (exclusive of liquor refreshments,) but I left my umbrella in a car at Peoria, which was detached there for some reason. I shall make an effort to recover it, but success is doubtful.

Nellie and Jennie are both teaching country schools at \$40.00 per month, six month terms. Jennie is a favorite with her employers and scholars, (the Jennies are popular teachers.)

Vincent, I saw an old greybeard of Oil Cy. on the train, of the name of Hall, a regular old crank, full of wit and humor, who kept up a constant ha! ha! around him – chatting in his sharp, strong voice with first one, then another, male and female, on his feet half his time, almost crazy on politics in favor of Blaine Logan. You know him?

Katie, kiss your little boy and Charley (little Charley) for me. Love to all the folks, and to yourselves in particular.

Your affec. father,
E.P. Bunce

POSTCARD

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce.

Address: Franklin, PA

Other Envelope Notations: One Cent Post Card postmarked Versailles, Ill on October 15 and stamped received in Franklin on October 17.

POSTCARD HEADING

Date of Postcard: October 15, 1884

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, Ill

Other Remarks:

POSTCARD

Versailles, Ill. 10/15/84

Dear Son: I am extremely anxious to hear from you, especially from Katie and the little boy. I have had no word from you since I left. I must write to someone else about you if I do not hear soon. My business is all right. I'm feeling well.

Write soon.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce, Esq.

Address: Franklin, Penna. Venango, Co.

Other Envelope Notations: Stamp has been cut out; return addressee signed as Mell Devoe.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Dec 9 1884

Writer of Letter: Mell Devoe

Location of Writer: Lizemore P.O., Clay Co, W.VA

Other Remarks: Letter written in brown ink on letter head from "Clark & Manown, Dealers in Staple and Fancy Groceries, Country Produce, Cigars and Tobacco, Cotton Building, Capitol Street, Charleston, W.VA."

LETTER

Mr V.P. Bunce,
Dear Sir.

Well Bunce you may be somewhat surprised to hear from me but I will tell you my business I have an offer of a salary of \$60.00 and expenses for a house here and now I want a Recommendation and I want you to give me a good send off and I will make it all right with you they want me to go to work Jany 1st 1885 So if you can do anything do it quick and send it to me to the address following I am well and am doing well only when I try to get any money from the men I am working for I cant do it I had cleared about \$200.00 When I was home and could not get enough to pay my bills with I looked for you in Oil City the day I saw you then but failed to see you and if I can make the job I am after I will be O.K. this is the Boss country it is a warm here now as it is there in June and of all the Business this is the town it is a city about 8,000.00

Give my Regards to all –

Yours truly

Mell Devoe

Lizemore P.O.

Clay Co

W.Va.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, PA

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles, ILL on Jan 3, 1885; post marked received at 2 PM in Franklin, Pa on Jan 5; stamp has been cut from envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Jan 1st, 1885 (1-1-1885)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 8x10 blue lined writing paper in purple (or faded blue) ink; 3 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son:

My memory is defective that I hardly know what I have written to you. But having a little leisure, I have concluded to write. I am as well as usual, and I hope you and your little family are well. I will tell you how I am circumstanced (situated) at present. My school is heavy, running 45 scholars. My patrons all seem well pleased, also the Directors. Four or five of the largest boys in school are notoriously disobedient and insolent. Two of the Directors, Wilkerson and Davis, visited my school, all day, just before Christmas, and told the boys what they might expect unless they behaved better. One of them – a Logan boy – a day or two afterward, was guilty of the same insolence. The directors will meet next Monday and will doubtless expel him from school. His brother was expelled last winter. The school bore so heavily upon me that I employed Nora Hix one of my pupils, a girl of 17 years, to assist me, at 50 c. a day, particularly in the government of the school. She did well considering the double position she occupied, but I heard that some of the people were dissatisfied. I was apprehensive of failure; I therefore concluded to apply to Florie for help. She has agreed to assist me, during the remainder of my school, at \$1 a day. She will come from Quincy on Sat. She will board at Jacob Wilkerson's, near the schoolhouse, at \$1.50 a week. I am not teaching this week. My net wages will be light, but the work will be easier on me.

Perhaps I have told you that I had eight pictures enlarged, including my own. They are all delivered. They netted me \$9, my own clear. But money is scarce, times so hard, and weather so unfavorable that I have but one order in hand.

I have a Letter Book in which all letters and cards from your uncle John and his family, and from you and yours, and Jessie and Florence, are neatly filed by means of tissue paper. They date from May 11th, 1877 to July 29th, 1883. I have given them a re-perusal. Roberta's correspondence is filed by itself. "Let us, as George the Third said at the close of the revolutionary war, "give thanks that it is no worse." Will you have leisure, please tell me about

that “Oil Exchange” business – the “Life Insurance”, and your “Auditorship” (in which ward?) also your “Fire Co.”

Jessie’s address is “Harper, Harper Co., Kan.” She and Florie write to me frequently, and mention you. They have more than once referred to your promise to sent them your foto. I wish you would write them. Jessie, I fear, is not in good health – her lungs are weak. I will close, and write a few more words to Katie.

Your affectionate father,
E.P. Bunce

Dear Daughter Katie:

I have not had the pleasure of receiving a line from you since I saw you last. But, though I may never see you again, I can never forget the affectionate farewell kiss you gave me at parting. I hope you are well, and the baby too. What do you call him? Will not you and Vincent allow me to suggest one name – Robert, Edward, or John? How is Vincent’s business now? Remember me kindly to your parents, brothers, and sisters. Write me a line when you feel able.

Your affectionate father,
E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce, Esq.

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: Return notation: "If not called for in 5 days return to E.P. Bunce, Virginia, Ill."; postmarked sent from Virginia, Ill on August 3, 1885; postmarked received in Franklin on August 5 at 2pm; cancelled 2 cent stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: August 2, 1885

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Virginia, Ill

Other Remarks: Written on folded lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Virginia, Ill. Aug.2nd '85

Dear Son:

I write to you once more; and with this, greatly as I may regret it, if I get no response from you, our correspondence must cease, and I must resort to some other means to hear from you.

About May 6 I received a heavy lot of pictures on which there were C.O.D. and Exp. charges amounting to \$35. I saw no possible way to redeem or lift them. I was then a stranger to the Exp. Agt. And your uncle had no money. Under these circumstances I wrote to you for a loan of \$15 for two weeks. I received no answer. Your cousin Nellie was kind enough to lend me that amount – it was all she had. The Company, at my request, gave me a stay on \$17 and with what little I had, I got hold of the pictures. Two of these pictures were for "Little" Reich, and were sent to Virginia instead of Versailles. They were also put up in twice as costly a style as I had intended. It was over three weeks before I could go to Brown to deliver them. According to my agreement with Reich I got just cost for the pictures. Nellie was needing her money that she might visit Missouri. I paid her. Still feeling cramped and thinking my former letter might not have reached you. I renewed my request. What was my surprise when, after working a week, I got no response. In the fore part of June, having worked through some of my trouble, I wrote you again that you should give yourself no trouble about helping me. But the P.O. was silent as the grave! My anxiety still

increasing on the first of July I registered a letter to you, requesting you earnestly to let me hear from you. You got my letter, and I got your signature. I supposed a letter or card at least, would assuredly follow. But not a word followed – not even, "Shoo fly don't bother me." Perhaps you will plead you had not time. Vincent, why did you not, right then and there, take out pencil and card, and indite the following: "Father, Yours read. All well. Will write soon. In haste. Your son,

Vincent.” This would have allayed all my fears, and I could have waited patiently for several weeks. But it only narrowed in my mind, the causes for your not writing. My anxiety still increasing, on the 20th I concluded I would write to Katie who had treated me so affectionately while on my visit there. But not a word would come from that pen!

Your uncle and I privately talked the matter over again and again, but could not possibly put any favorable construction upon it. It was all dark-mysterious-fearful-incomprehensible! Vincent, are you aware, that if a man speaks to you civilly on business, and you turn on your heel and leave him without making any reply, you insult him? And do you not know, that the result is the same, whether you speak or write to him?

About a week ago I wrote to Mr. Whited. I stated the case to him, and requested him to let me hear from you. He answered me promptly and kindly. He was surprised; but said you were all well, - that you were traveling a good deal – were making good wages – and seemed to be getting along all right at home. I am glad to hear this is so. It is great relief to me. But still the question remains: “Why do not you and Katie write to me?” You have done me a greivous wrong perhaps unthoughtedly. You have no idea how much mental suffering you have caused and are still causing me.

Affectionately your Father E.P. Bunce

P.S. I have very important matters to communicate to you, or rather propositions to make to you concerning Florence, in which I believe you will feel a lively interest, as soon as correspondence opens. She is now in St. Paul, Min.

E.P.B.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, PA

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "If not called for in 5 Days return to E.P. Bunce, Virginia. Ill."; post marks are unreadable; the stamp has been cut from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Aug. 20, 85 (8-20-1885)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Virginia, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 8x10 blue lined writing paper in purple or faded blue ink; the embossed symbol is an image of the U.S. Capitol and the word "Congress" appears over the top of the building image; a second letter to Daughter-in-law Katie is also enclosed with Vincent's letter; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son:

"Long looked for has come at last." Yours of the 7th inst. is at hand. Have not replied sooner, because on Monday 8th I started on foot to visit Brown county. I was gone just one week, and have not felt right well, since I returned, and have been busy besides. You say your silence "has been from lack of time and neglect." Now you will have to take this back, for though you may be a little short of "time," yet with what truthfulness you can assert that you "lack neglect," I cannot see. But commas were scarce, and you failed to use one at the word "time". Yes, of course you "have been working very hard," especially at transmuting cigars into their elementary substances by applying fire at one end suction at the other. But, your apology, though not worth more than 67 ½ cents, is accepted. I only have to regret that I had to alarm Jessie, Florence, your uncle John, and S. Whited's folks.

I am sorry to hear you are working so hard, and succeeding so poorly, but reverse will come, it seems, to us, at least. You did not state why you had to visit New York, nor why your business failed last fall and winter. I hope, Vincent, that under all and any circumstances, you will always write to me frankly your progress in life. I can sympathize with you, if no more.

During the very hot weather – mercury running to 100, I did not feel like pushing the picture business, especially as I have to travel on foot, I can hardly clear expenses.

I did not make my recent trip to Brown to canvas for pictures, but to try to get help about my R.R. Tie. Doctor Bond, after examining the matter carefully, said, if any Road Master will state his approval of it, he will advance money to patent it and introduce it – he will take a financial interest in it. I shall visit the Road Master at Jacksonville in a few days, but it may fade out.

I am sorry to tell you of Nellie's illness. She and Jennie visited Ira's folks in Mo., and were gone about six weeks. They returned about two weeks ago, Nellie feeling unwell. She

has gradually failed ever since, till now she is extremely low of typhoid fever. Her case is not desperate, but it is bad.

Florence is in St. Paul, Min., in the family of the lady who employed her in St. Louis. She is somewhat unsettled in regard to her future. I proposed to her, sometime ago, to go to Franklin, and stay with you, (if you and Katie are willing,) until you could get her a situation in some kind of business; for I believed, that that you, being so well acquainted there, would be able to find a position for her. It struck her favorably, and she said she would like to go to Franklin, What do you and Katie say?

I must stop. Write again.

Your affec. father,
E.P. Bunce.

Virginia, Ill. Aug.20'85

Dear Daughter:

You cannot imagine how glad I was to get one more of your kind, affectionate letters. Your apology for not writing sooner is ample. But you don't know how badly I wanted news from you.

I am sorry to hear of Vincent's want of success in business, but I am glad you are able to hope for better times. I feel uneasy about the swelling of his feet – it must be from excessive walking. I am sure you must feel very lonesome. Vincent is away from home so much. You will have "to turn him off, and hire him over again."

Give my love – oh, my kind regards to Miss Jennie, and to all your folks. Excuse brevity. Write often as convenient to.

Your loving father,
E.P. Bunce.

ENVELOPE***Addressed To:******Address:******Other Envelope Notations:*** No envelope.**LETTER HEADING*****Date of Letter:*** September 3, 1885***Writer of Letter:*** E.P. Bunce***Location of Writer:*** Virginia, Ill.***Other Remarks:*** Written on folded lined writing paper in brown ink.**LETTER**

Virginia, Ill.

Sep.3, 85

Dear Son:

I am in a terrible strait, and must write to you. I hardly know how to write this letter – how to address you. But I must state my circumstances. The business of enlarging pictures is one which does not last. After a territory is thoroughly canvassed, very little more work can be had there. Cass county is thoroughly canvassed. Quite a number of agents have been riding in it.

Since the 1st of Aug. I have been unable to do anything being badly afflicted with risings under and on my arms, and on other parts. I am consequently unable to pay my board. I owe John now \$8 and see no chances of paying him. This would make no difference with him not so with Marin. Under these circumstances I must go to Jessie. She and David both invite me kindly and affectionately to make my home with them. They say I shall not suffer. He works by the month, and is absent from home more than half his time. Next spring he intends to enter a claim, and of course, he must reside on it. This claim may be a long way from his work and he will be away from home a good deal of his time. Jessie will need me with her. But they have both been sick a good deal in the last twelve months, and are consequently unable to help get me there.

But one thing is settled, Vincent. I cannot stay here. I shall have a lot of pictures due in about a week, which will net me about \$8. Beyond that, all is blank. I am now so crippled with these sores that I can scarcely walk.

I have three alternatives: 1. I must borrow money of you to take me there, 2. Beg it of my friends in Brown county, or 3. Take my sachel, umbrella, and cane, and “tramp” my way through. I need \$25 to enable me to reach Harper. Can you lend me that amount? I will return it as soon and as fast as I can possibly earn it.

A few weeks ago, Doctor Bond said, if any Road Master would approve my R.R. Tie, he

would advance the money necessary to patent it, and would help me as a partner. I have seen a Road Master and he speaks well of the Tie. I shall try to see the Doctor again next week. But you know Doctor Bond, and can judge what reliance I can place in this promise. If, however, he should come promptly to the work, it may give a new phase to my circumstances.

It is very cold - winter is fast approaching – I must do something, and that very soon. Can you help me? Say yes or no, and say it without delay. I know you are hard pressed. I am sorry 'tis so. So am I; can you tell me what to do? Give my love to Katie.

Your affectionate but needy father,
E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce.

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmark unreadable; cancelled stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: September 12, 1885

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Virginia, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on folded embossed lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Virginia, Ill. Sep.12th, 85

Dear Son:

I was never more surprised and gladly too than I was yesterday on the receipt of your letter of the 9th. I had become so despondent of late that I was not expecting help from any quarter. I cannot find words to express my gratitude to you for your timely help. The \$25 will take me through with my chattels, to Jessie. The ticket is \$15.70 and freight about 40 cts per C. I shall have a small sum left, which, I assure you it shall be used with discretion.

I have for a month past, been so afflicted with risings, that I have been unable to do anything but errands. I am now about well of them. My general health is good, but I am reduced in flesh – weigh only 115 lbs. Nellie is able to take her seat at table again, and will open school in Oct. Jennie is now teaching. Your uncle has now a good run of work at job printing.

My remarks about the omission of a comma, and your apology worth 67 1/2 cents, was simply humor. We need to use the punctuation mark (?) entitled “mirth,” or “laughter.” It is a useful point. About having alarmed Jessie, Florence, uncle John, and Whited’s folks, I should have used the word “disturbed” or “troubled.” But let me tell you, Vincent, you have no conception of the amount of fearful conjectures which haunted my mind continually concerning you and Katie. I wrote to the girls about it- talked with your uncle, who was as completely at a loss to account for your silence, as myself. Had I been corresponding with a man not of kin to me, I should

have made short work of it with him. But, as it was, I was fearful some terrible misfortune had befallen you. I therefore wrote to Mr. Whited, who kindly relieved my mind to some extent.

Katie wanted to write, yes, that lovely affectionate woman! She tells me something of your losses and affliction. But she is patient and hopeful – says the sun is shining – the future looks

hopeful. Katie is evidently of a very strong domestic disposition; and it is greatly to be regretted, that you have to be absent from home so much of your time.

I expect soon to receive a letter from Florence. She is probably in St. Louis by this time. She is quite unsettled, but is not expecting to go to Franklin. For some reason, she has great aversion to teaching school.

I am glad you had a chance to witness the funeral of General Grant. It must have been a magnificent display.

I expect to leave for Kansas about the last of next week. I will write soon after getting there.

Your affectionate father,
E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, PA

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Harper, Kan on Sep 30, 1885; post marked received in Franklin, Pa at 9 AM on Oct 2; two cent stamp is partially ripped away.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Sep. 27/85 (9-17-1885)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Harper, Kan.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in purple ink; 2 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son:

I arrived here safe on Sun. 27, and found all well. I left your uncle's on the 22, made my way to Versailles, and on the 25 I took the train for Harper. I was two nights on the road.

My health is as good as usual. I hope you and yours are well.

I shall resume my business here of enlarging pictures. I shall do no more work for Keiore (?) & Co. I had a small lot of pictures due Sep. 10. They did not ship them to me till the 18; they came to hand the 21; thus I was kept waiting nearly two weeks on expenses. I have lately received a Catalogue from A. Dunne & Co. of New York in this business, and I am fully satisfied that it is a much better House. I ordered my sample outfit pictures yesterday; it is the picture of yourself, when you wore those heavy "Burnsides."

David started yesterday morning for Comanche co., about 80 miles west, to lay a claim there. He went in company with Mr. Fisher in a wagon. Fisher owns a claim there, and takes his family with him. They will all return in a short time.

Tell Katie, Jessie baby is as pretty as anybody's baby but hers.

Your affec. father,
E.P. Bunce.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To:

Address:

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: September 3, 1885

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Virginia, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on folded lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Virginia, Ill.

Sep.3, 85

Dear Son:

I am in a terrible strait, and must write to you. I hardly know how to write this letter – how to address you. But I must state my circumstances. The business of enlarging pictures is one which does not last. After a territory is thoroughly canvassed, very little more work can be had there. Cass county is thoroughly canvassed. Quite a number of agents have been riding in it.

Since the 1st of Aug. I have been unable to do anything being badly afflicted with risings under and on my arms, and on other parts. I am consequently unable to pay my board. I owe John now \$8 and see no chances of paying him. This would make no difference with him not so with Marin. Under these circumstances I must go to Jessie. She and David both invite me kindly and affectionately to make my home with them. They say I shall not suffer. He works by the month, and is absent from home more than half his time. Next spring he intends to enter a claim, and of course, he must reside on it. This claim may be a long way from his work and he will be away from home a good deal of his time. Jessie will need me with her. But they have both been sick a good deal in the last twelve months, and are consequently unable to help get me there.

But one thing is settled, Vincent. I cannot stay here. I shall have a lot of pictures due in about a week, which will net me about \$8. Beyond that, all is blank. I am now so crippled with these sores that I can scarcely walk.

I have three alternatives: 1. I must borrow money of you to take me there, 2. Beg it of my friends in Brown county, or 3. Take my sachel, umbrella, and cane, and “tramp” my way through. I need \$25 to enable me to reach Harper. Can you lend me that amount? I will return it as soon and as fast as I can possibly earn it.

A few weeks ago, Doctor Bond said, if any Road Master would approve my R.R. Tie, he would advance the money necessary to patent it, and would help me as a partner. I have seen a

Road Master and he speaks well of the Tie. I shall try to see the Doctor again next week. But you know Doctor Bond, and can judge what reliance I can place in this promise. If, however, he should come promptly to the work, it may give a new phase to my circumstances.

It is very cold - winter is fast approaching – I must do something, and that very soon. Can you help me? Say yes or no, and say it without delay. I know you are hard pressed. I am sorry 'tis so. So am I; can you tell me what to do? Give my love to Katie.

Your affectionate but needy father,

E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce.

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Harper Kansas on ?? 1885; cancelled two-cent stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: October 14, 1885

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Harper, Kansas

Other Remarks: Written on folded lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Harper, Kan.

Oct.14/85

Dear Son:

Perhaps you feel a little curious to know where I am, and what I am doing. I left Virginia Sep. 22, made my way on foot to Versailles, and on the 25, I took a ticket for which I paid \$5.50. I was two nights on the road – one in the cars, the other at Independence, Kan., where for want of movement, the train stops, and passengers have to go to some hotel. I got here on Sun. afternoon, but not knowing where Jessie lived, I had to go to a hotel, and stay till morning. As soon as business opened, I had but little difficulty finding them. They are well.

David was just about to leave in a wagon with Mr. Fisher to go west, about 100 miles to Commanche county to take a claim, on 160 acres of public domain. He was gone about 10 days, and found, he says an excellent site. He walked back in three days. Fisher, who owns the team, will be his near neighbor, and has made his claim. Mr. Fisher remained there, and is fixing a place for David's family to live in, he ----- already of his own. In about two weeks Fisher will return, and then both families will "go west." David will, however, soon return and resume work for the man whom he has worked for sometime past. I shall go along to oversee business and make them all behave themselves – but more especially to help Jessie keep house. By this arrangement he can have his family on the premises "six months" without losing time from his work.

A word about Harper. It is a city of nearly 5000 inhabitants. It was started about seven years since, but made no progress scarcely for four years. It looks like a new city suddenly dumped right on the middle of a vast plain, as level as a floor, there being not the least shrub in sight, except such as have been not for shade. Large brick blocks and buildings of every description are going up all over the city. The people seem almost wild about business.

When I reach “out yonder” I shall be 8 miles from my P. Office at Arvilla, and 30 miles from Kiowa, the nearest R.R. Station.

I hope Katie & baby are well, and that your own health has improved. David and Jessie are very affectionate – I feel at home. I hope you and Katie will write to me sometimes in my far off home.

Your affectionate father

E.P. Bunce

P.S. Say nothing to anybody in Ill. about David’s claim. He says I must tell you that Jessie is the best girl in Kansas.

E.P.B.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Nov. 15/85 (11-15-1885)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Avilla, Kan.

Other Remarks: Written on 8x10 blue lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; the embossed symbol is the U.S. Capitol and the word "Congress" is written over the top of the figure; 4 pages..

LETTER

Dear Son: Your kind letter of the 1st. inst. inclosing one from Katie, came to hand day before yesterday. It finds us all well. The little "dumpling" is one of the prettiest, plumpest, most rosy-cheeked, blue-eyed little girls you ever saw. Her name is Ruby.

I am truly glad to learn that your trade has increased; I hope you will succeed in business. I have had your picture enlarged by A. Dunne & Co. of New York. It is really beautiful. I had thought of sending it to you; but it would cost more to get this picture to you, than to get the Co. to make another and sent it to you. I will write to the Co. to give you an agency, and will send them the little picture. They will send you the picture enlarged, and the necessary blanks for taking orders. I shall be allowed 10 % coms. on all the work you can do for them. I hope you will be able to give some attention to this business in connection with your regular work. You will be surprised at the beauty of the work.

Now, concerning my situation: When I arrived at Harper, I found David just ready to start west with a friend of his, Mr. Fisher, to locate a claim near Fisher's claim. He made his claim to a quarter section, and returned on foot walking 100 miles in three days. We started, Oct. 26., with our goods & chattels – a heavy load of 1600 lb.; and after traveling five days, encamping at night on the prairie, we reached our destination. My post office is at Avilla, a town 8 miles northwest of us, where, twelve months since, not a movement had been made in the erection of a building. It is about 30 miles from Kiowa, the terminus of the Southern Kansas Railway, to Avilla. Over this 30 miles, a stage carries mail and passengers. A great deal of teaming is being done on this route. I am now within 5 miles of the famous old line 36 30' – the old "Missouri Compromise." We are about 1400 miles apart. Difference of longitude 28 , difference of time 1 hr. 52 min. I am 515 miles further south than you and of course there is corresponding differences in the temperature of our climate.

You ask me why I don't take a claim: You have no idea how rapidly the land is being taken up. The oldest claim in this region is not more than 18 months old, yet there is but one

quarter section any where near (and that is terribly broken) that is not already taken. A good claim cannot now be had within 30 miles of us. The first house in a town 30 miles east of us through which I passed, was built only two months since. It now has 12 houses, 6 of them not quite finished, two or three stores, a good hotel, and school! It is estimated that 2500 immigrants enter this state every day! – “For Uncle Sam is able for to give us all a farm.”

I received a letter from Florie the day I got yours. I was at Harper, and she addressed me there. She is in St. Louis engaged in doing chamber work in a private boarding house, at \$10 per month. She writes well of her hostess. She wishes she were out there too (at Harper) and would like to help me teach school this winter. She says, “When you write to Vincent & Katie, tell them to kiss the baby for me.” She says, “I feel lonesome and discouraged here in St. Louis by myself. If I were to get sick, I don’t believe I’d try to get well.” “How I wish we could all be together.” Yes, I sincerely wish so too. I sympathize with her, but I cannot help her an inch, only by advising her.

I came here to help Jessie keep house on their claim during the six months residence required by law. As soon as we got situated, David returned to Harper with the team he hired, that he may get employment during the winter. He is in narrow circumstances: but he is resolute, and I believe he will succeed in paying the \$200 required by law. Jessie is almost crazy at the thought of having a 160 acre farm!

A school house may possibly go up in the neighborhood next spring; about 25 scholars could attend with a radius of 1 ½ miles; 5 years is school age in Kansas. If the house be built, I shall want to try the schoolroom once more.

In my next I will try to tell you something of the country, my travels, and the kind of houses folks live in here.

I hope you will not fail to send me little Alfred’s picture – I shall prize it highly. Give my love to that “best girl in Penn.” And kiss Alfred for grandpa.

Your affectionate father,
E.P. Bunce.

P.S. I have concluded to send you two pictures, not knowing which you would prefer to have enlarged. It is the smaller one I have enlarged. I will write to the Co. without delay, and let them know you intend to do some work for them. This will enable you to get your picture for \$1,50 instead of \$3.50. You can make \$2.00 on every order.

E.P.B.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, PA

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; sending post mark sent on Dec 17; post marked received in Franklin, PA at 2 PM on Dec 17: two cent stamp is cancelled and remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Dec. 16th 1885 (12-16-1885)

Writer of Letter: J. W. Cochran

Location of Writer: Harrisville

Other Remarks: Written on 7x8 torn sheet of blue lined writing paper in brown ink; 2 pages.

LETTER

Mr & Mrs Bunce

I take the opportunity of writing a line to let you know that we are still on the go We are all well at present and hope this will find you all the same The people are enjoying health so far as I know Well I have got them apples yet I sold 100 bus of apples and when the packers was there I Bought 3 lbs of them and I filled them with nicest apples I had but the roads got so bad I give up going I wanted A Hamilton to haul them he wanted me to wait until the roads would be better if you say so I will Send up with Hamilton the children are going to school and we both can leave home at the same time or if the road Should happen to stay good I might take them up bout the Holidays if you Say So I will Send them up with Hamilton answer and let me know and also if you will be home the Holidays or when you will be home yours Truly

J.W. Cochran

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce, Esq

Address: Franklin, PA

Other Envelope Notations: The return address reads: "If not called for in 10 days, return to E.P. Bunce, Avilla Kan."; post marked sent from Avilla Kas. On Jan 25n 1886; post marked received in Franklin, Pa at 8 AM on Jan ?, 1886; the cancelled stamp is still on the envelope; two letters are included in the same envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Jan 18/86 1-18-1886

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Avilla, Kans.

Other Remarks: Both letters are written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in purple ink; the symbol on the letterhead is a crest-like figure surrounding the word "Fountain"; 7 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son:

I have received your registered letter of the 28 ult. Your letters are always welcome, but this one is particularly so. It finds me as well as usual.

David returned yesterday from Harper. We are all well. He has had but irregular work at Harper this winter, and his earnings have consequently been light. He has been unable to furnish us fully with food and fuel, but, we have not really suffered. He has undertaken a big job, considering his means, - I hope he will be able to pull through with it."

Last winter was remarkably cold in Kan., the mercury fell to 18 below zero. Let it not be again said, Kan. has a uniformly mild climate - we have had eight snow storms, several of them terribly severe - the mercury has fallen 18 (degrees). I have had my ears, nose, and cheeks, smartly frosted. There is now about six inches of snow on the ground. The weather is sometimes very mild - a good deal of sod breaking has already been done, yet I have seen ice here 8 in. thick.

I am sorry you have no chance to work for Dunne & Co. I have your picture enlarged by them - a beautiful piece of artistic work. I will take it out of frame and send it to you by mail. Will you please send me the two small pictures of yourself which I lately sent you? Write your age on the back of each.

This county was organized in Feb. 1885. Last fall a school district, including our neighborhood, was organized, and proper officers elected, but no schoolhouse has been built. It will contain about 25 scholars. I have formed the acquaintance of the directors, and of several other families. The directors say, a house will be built and a school organized by the 1st of Mar. Being short of means, they intend to put up a sodhouse, whose walls will be made of tough sods of the plain laid one upon an other, and covered with plank.

The directors seem to have determined that I must be the teacher. They propose to give me \$40 for the first three months, and \$40 per month for the second three. As in Ill., the first

three months in a new district must be taught without help from the public fund. The school will open Mar. 1st and close by Aug. 31st. Though my wages will amount to only \$160, yet as my board will cost me nothing, (David & Jessie say,) I can make reasonably fair wages for summer. This may all prove fallacious.

I must stop, and write some to Katie. Write again soon to,

Your affec. father,
E.P. Bunce.

P.S. Florie's address is "1427 North 12 street, St. Louis, Mo."

E.P.B.

Avilla, Kan.
Jan. 18/86

Dear Daughter:

You cannot imagine how much pleasure your letter of the 28 ult. afforded me, stuffed as it was with postage stamps and greenbacks. Many thanks to you, Katie, for your kindness. I needed these things badly. But what gives your letter double value, is the beautiful photos it contains. They are greatly admired, and some say, he is prettier than Ruby. She is a healthy, sprightly, intelligent, and pretty child. But her features are not so fine, and her head is not so well formed as his. I am not designing to flatter you, - but don't you mention this outside of Penn., unless you want to read of a cyclone in Kan. But it hurts me to think I shall never see him again in this life. Teach him the right way through life. Teach him to love and obey the great and good Father, and, not regard him as a cruel tyrant and his path through life will be strewn with flowers. Excuse me, Katie, for offering advice when it is not needed.

I am sorry to hear Vincent has to endure so much exposure and fatigue. Can't he go a little more slowly?

Give my kind regards to Mr. Whited's folks - my love to little Stella. I am overjoyed to hear she has sustained no serious injury. How I would like to see her!

You are all loaded down with Christmas gifts - Alfred will not need any more for twenty years!

Remember me kindly to all your father's folks, and write again to,

Your affectionate father,
E.P. Bunce.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Vincent P. Bunce.

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: Blue envelope with embossed Two Cents stamp; no return address; postmarked sent from Avilla, Kansas on March 11, 1886; stamped received in Franklin on March 13, 1886 at 1:30pm; cancelled embossed stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: March 7, 1886

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Avilla, Kansas

Other Remarks: Written on folded lined writing paper in blue ink.

LETTER

Avilla, Kansas

March 7/86

Dear Son: - The principles of school government have for the last twelve months, greatly engrossed my mind. I feel confident that my practice in governing schools, has to a great extent, been a failure. The great objection to me as a teacher has always been, as perhaps you are aware, that I used too much corporal punishment in school. I sometimes think it might be entirely dispensed with.

Now I can do nothing where I am; I can't earn a nickel. David does not expect to pay me anything for what I do in the family beyond my board, in fact he is not able – he is "hard up." This being the case, I find I must strike out in some direction. I have lately written to the Directors of several schools in Brown, agreeing to teach at a low rate of wages their next winter school. I have an answer from Jno Bove of Lagrange. I had offered to teach five months, beginning in the fall for \$165. He accepted my proposition, but offers another, if it suits me. He wants me to teach two months spring term commencing April 5th, then open again in Sep. and teach 6 months more, the whole amounting to \$285. If I can fill this contract, I feel certain that I can get two months more there in spring of '87.

I feel anxious to fill this contract. But how to do it, I hardly know. I have sent Bove a new contract for him to have filled; (the \$285 contract) and I have earnestly requested him to advance me \$25 of the school fund, and hold that amount out of my first month's wages. I have requested him to postpone the opening of the school till the first of May, or as late in April as he can. He is the leading member of the Board. I am fully confident it is because all my contracts contain this obligation: "That I will in no case, inflict corporal punishment on any scholar, until I have first

notified the president of the Board of Directors and the parents of the pupil.” You will see that I do agree to wait till they meet and investigate the case, and decide what shall be done, but it will postpone the punishment till the next day, and thus prevent hasty action. I can postpone it as long as I see proper.

Now Vincent, you see what I need . I need \$25 to take me and my things back to Versailles. Can you lend it? I say lend it, for I will not have it as a gift. I will return it as soon as I have taught one month. If Bowe sends me the money, I will return yours on receipt of it. But if you send it, do so by registered letter – Avilla is not a money order office. But don’t send me any money if it will nonplus you to do so. I am in earnest. I can get along someway till the fall.

John Bowe’s ten year boy, a former scholar of mine, has written to me twice this winter, sending me problems in arithmetic to solve. Jos. Cooper has also sent me questions in Physics and Geography: “In what part of the world is the line that divides day and night?” His teachers at Lagrange could not solve it! I have just now received a letter of Friendship from Henry Reich.

Etta Strong is married to Wash Davis! Hurra for Wash! Two more Davis boys are married to two Blackmon girls. Sihon S. has sold out, and is going to Kan. Luman and his wife’s brother are going along, and Ellison expects to bring up the rear. Geo. M. Robinson has sold out his farm, and moved to Decatur, where he is clerking.

Love to all. Write.

Your affectionate father,

E.P. Bunce

Enclosed in this letter was a newspaper article from the *Versailles Enterprise* dated February 10 from Burlington, Kansas:

“CRUMP’S SOLILOQUY”

Our Kansas Artist Again – His Childhhod Days

“Went to School to Bunce” – Etc.

Here is your ENTERPRISE, Billie; Iread it through and through; it made me think of things I had forgotten long agao. I thought about Grady and graound hog day; about Jethroe Van and the cow with the hollow horn; about Tom Van – Bent Martin, Pete Nighswonger, and all them fellows.”

I left there in the spring of “59,” you know when Jo Root, Jim Burgasser and Divens went across the plains to Pike’s Peak in an ox wagon.

I see by the paper they have held a teachers’ institute at your place, and that brought to my mind the days when I went to school to Bunce. So you know I can just shut my eyes and feel every thrashing that man gave me thirty years or more ago? Many is the night I have lay awake thinking what a terrible pounding I would give him when I grew up. I would give the best “hoss” on my ranche to see him if he is alive. Not to do him any harm – oh, no! but to just ask his pardon for the manner in which I treated him, and thank him kindly for the “pains” he took to make me a man. Kansas is full of preachers, doctors, farmers and mechanics that went to school to Bunce.

Why, sir, it is a free passport into good society. You may travel from the Missouri river to the Colorado line and never go hungry or be without a bed, but stop every night with a mon or woman that went to school to Bunce. The finest ladies, the most loving and faithful wives, the most patient and grand good mothers, are those who when girls went to school to him.

I remember how we used to spell, and stand up and geography, and get treated to apples and candy on the last day of school; and I have often wondered what did become of that little blue eyed girl who used to sing so sweetly as she always stood by me, and I used to think – think – but never mind, I have talked about enough to-day. And as we told our new found friend good-bye, and commenced to iron the business end of a texas mule for our daily bread, we were “kinder” proud we, too, had “went to school to Bunce.”

“CRUMP”

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 3/29/1886 (3-29-1886)

Writer of Letter: Jessie Bunce

Location of Writer: Nauvoo, Kans. (the name "Avilla" is crossed out)

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in purple; on p.4 a P.S. is written sideways in the top margin and the closing of the letter appears sideways on the top margin of the first page; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother & Sister:

Your kind letter was gladly received. I suppose my negligence is unpardonable, but it shall not happen again.

I heard of your sickness through Pa. You have my deepest sympathy. Hope you are all well before this. We are all on the "mend." Buby is teething and I am just crawling out of a shell of sickness but I've one of the very best of cooks and nurses and am blossoming out again nicely, am up most of any time.

We have planted quite a garden. Fully as much as I can attend to.

Well "Vintie," I fell proud of our land or ours to be. It is really nice.

Pa is very much dissatisfied. I do not bring in the money, but it is mine to build up or make a wreck of our future. The reins of economy must be held by steady hands. When Pa wrote to us from Ill. About going to the "poor house," coming to his "rope's end" and starving out" we thought food and shelter would be thankfully received and invited him to make our home his, but there are some bitter, bitter mistakes made under the best of motives.

He said he believed "David and I meant to get all the work possible out of him now that he would be old and helpless after a while and just an expense." I know I'm hot tempered, but those words will burn like fire as long as I live. He kindly told me I begrudged him what he eats. Well I'll quit this. I should like to see Alfred. Have you purchased a home for yourself?

It is hard enough to get fuel of any kind out here, just now – R.R. fifty miles away. No timber on the land & no one is allowed to the Territory for hauling or hunting. I think or hope we will have a R.R. near soon – The Knights of Labor seem to be interfering a great deal.

We are trying to get our affairs into square shape now & it took management last Winter and will this Summer. But I suppose you have seen close times at some period of your life.

Mr Vance will try to stay at home hereafter.

Do you know Sihon Sellars and Luman have started for sunny Kans? & that "Wash" Davis and Ettie Strong are married? He is the one to be pittied if any.

You must excuse this writing. I'm in poor condition to write. Will be stronger by next time. Mr. V has selected all my medicines & portioned it out, selected & cooked my food, & I don't think a doctor could have raised me out of bed any quicker. He's a splendid nurse. JV

P.S. V – you promised me one of your pictures. Have you one to spare? But Katie's must come with it. I have Alfred's in a blue Imp. (?) frame that Jephtha Wilson gave me. I must close. Write soon. Love to all.

Your Sister
Jessie V.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: (No envelope)

Address:

Other Envelope Notations:

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: April 1, 1886

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Avilla, Kansas

Other Remarks: Written on folded embossed lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Avilla, Kan. Apr.1/86

Dear Son:

Yours of Mar. 2 came promptly to hand. It finds me as well as usual – nervous debility being my greatest complaint. I truly am glad to learn that you and Kate and Alfred are all on the mend. You were doubtless, greatly frightened, and well you may be at “membranous croup.”

According to her last letter to me, it is about time for Florence to be with you in Franklin. I hope she may enjoy in reality all the pleasure she anticipates in the future.

It affords me great pleasure to hear such good news of Lewis. Let me hear from him occasionally, and give my love to him.

As for those articles I mentioned in my last letter, do not send them till I order them. I only wanted to know whether it would be cheaper to buy there and pay postage or buy in the west.

And now about the money that I asked you to loan me Feb. 12. I wrote to John H. Bowe, school director and township treasurer, a proposition to teach the Lagrange school next winter a term of 5 months for \$175. Feb. 27 he replied very kindly, accepting my proposition, saying Mr. Evans had signed it. He said, however, that if it would suit me, they would prefer to make it an 8 month term, 2 months this spring commencing Apr 1st Monday, and 6 months commencing in Sep – the wages amounting to \$280. If it suited me - which of course it did – I was to send them a written contract and they would sign it and return it. He added, “Answer at once.” Mar. 7 I responded, accepting his proposal, sent him a contract, but requested him to make it May 1st instead of April, or as late in April as possible. I also requested him to lend me \$35 to take me to Ill., and retain that amount out of my first month’s wages.

Being very anxious to secure this contract, I requested a loan of \$25 of you till I could teach a month. I regret that I did so under the circumstances of the ill health of yourself and family. Please excuse. Do not send it now. It has been 23 days since the date of my letter to Bowe,

but I have received no answer from him. I will wait a week longer before I write him again.

Jessie has been quite unwell since March 9 – was quite sick a week, took medicine, and is now on her feet once more. David is at home – gets work in the neighborhood – will probably not return to Harper.

Please write to me often. I am so lonesome! My love to all. Your aff.son

E.P. Bunce

P.S. Little Charlie and his mother at my leaving, made me a present of a silk hdkf. I lost it in a short time. I need one badly on account of my eyes. Will you make me a birthday present of one? (Apr. 7th)
Yes, beggar! But I have no money.

E.P.B.

POSTCARD

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce, Esq.

Address: Lock Box 779

Other Postcard Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Avilla, KAS on April 5, 1886; cancelled 1-cent postcard.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Postcard: April 2, 1886

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Avilla, Kansas

Other Remarks: Written on 1-cent post card.

POSTCARD

Avilla, Kas. 4/2/86

Dear Son:

Will you please send me, when you write again, a blue, ink pencil point and a good slate pencil.; Ink pencils cannot be had here.

I am not feeling well this morning. Your father
E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce.

Address: Franklin, PA

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Versailles, ILL on April 4, 1886; cancelled stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: April 2, 1886

Writer of Letter: Aunt Kate Sellars

Location of Writer: Versailles, Ill

Other Remarks: Written on folded embossed lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Versailles. Ill.

Apr. 2nd 1886

Mr. and Mrs. V.P. Bunce

My dear nephew and niece

As Sihon has taken Mabel and gone to bed I will try to scribble a few lines to you while Mared is sitting by me. She has been going about one week since getting up from an attack of measles is all right only a cough. I think she is better of that today. Mabel is also up but my how feevish. Her cough is decidedly better to day. I think they will be all right in a few days. There were 5 had the measles at time. Marts are all running around again. Sam and Allen are all right too. I tell you there are several in their graves on account of the measles. There was one of Charlies Long's boys buried yesterday at the time he died Mose. Hignite's oldest girl was at Longs not expected to live but is better now. The children were all very sick. Lib was at Mme. Marts once and at Franks once. Sihon would be sick with a cold if he just knew how to be. Wills folks are all well. Alia and the children keep very close. Alia is afraid the measles can be carried in the clothes but as she says Will would come here if we had the small pox. What I know you will see in the Enterprise. I will say nothing about George Brewer came home drunk the other night. Hreldah (?) took her baby and went to "Bob's." George followed her and beat Bob up shamefully. Hanp(?) got the gun and Lucy took it from him then he fell a foul of George give him enough and Bob rallied took a stick of wood to him and George's head is cut in several places. Bob had the doctor the next day, does not sit up much yet. Wash

could not rent his place and go to "Doash" for Breckinridge and Behzmer were going to gather on to it for debt. They could have done it as the law does not consider it a homestead after they vacate it. Bill Tolle lives on his father place where Charley built and Charley lives in Griggsville

was renovating feathers the last I know of him. Albert's grandmother Mrs. Tolle told me they wanted to move in with them until after Hattie's confinement which $\frac{1}{2}$ will months be in. I about was to 2 see Mr. and Mrs. Gifford 4 weeks ago last Mon. I like her very much. I have 17 young chicks. I gave Charley 1 doz. Hens and one of the hens had 14 chickens. Will have more come off next week. Now about the Record you wrote about. I have been corresponding with Cecil Hosford Mr. Daniel Hosford's 4th son. I will send you his letters and you copy the record and please send it back. Don't fail to do that. He has sent us his fathers mothers oldest brother Orville (who was killed and buried at Knoxville, Tenn. in 1863) his wife and his own photos'. I have asked him to send you the same which I think he will. Now "Vint" don't find fault with this for if you were in my place I do not believe you would write as much as I do. I think of you all every day and wish I could see you but I have so much to think about sometimes it seems to me I can't endure it. Since the New year I was reading on the patent side of the Enterprise the happenings of /85 every day was down and then it told of something that took place that day some would be business failures some suicides others accidents & and on the 21st of Feb 4 frozen near New Orleans. I really believe one of the four was Luman. Sihon wrote to the P.M. of New Orleans. He wrote that he could not possibly tell him anything about it but referred him to the Chief of Police. Sihon wrote him but has no reply yet.

I have thought all the time that "Lute" died before "Vete" but "Vete" used to say ma "Lute" is all right and Frank Will and Charley still say he is alive. I know one thing if it were not for these little girls I would turn tramp. I think I could find where he rests. Was it the 16th of May or June you and

he left here. The last letter we got from him was written at Vicksburg Jan 26th 1885.

He said "I arrived here at 3 oclock this morn. Have done nothing yet but leave here to night."

The 26th of Dec. 84. He wrote us from Memphis and if it took him as long to get from Vicksburg to New Orleans as it did to go from Memphis to Vicksburg the 21st of Feb. he would have been near New Orleans. I have so many thoughts. But why bother you about it but I can hardly bear up under it and poor "Vete" death sometime. Will is going to plowing for oats in the morning. Tues. was a nice warm day like from yesterday and to-day like

Winter. We had two thunder showers but most of the rain went north and south of us. Wheat and grass is greening up nicely. We are going to have some photographs taken when the girls get able to go. Then you will hear from us again but you must not wait to write till after they arrive. I hear from Mared often. Did you know she had gone to Winchester Ind. Jo Ginther has a boy born the 31st of Jan. She has plenty of nurse for him and her health is better than it was with Nelly. Jack Hosford writes me quite often. He sent me his wife's picture for a valentine. They are a nice looking couple.

Sat 4th

I have learned since writing that is was Frank Long that died. Mared and Mabel are better. Their cough is loosened up. I think if nothing new sets in they will be all right in a few days. Frank and Dick Clark are running for assessor in Cooperstown. You know how they feel toward

each other. I am sorry that Kate has to borrow clothes to wear but there is nothing like getting fleshy. I am as fat as a hog. You would be surprised to see me. My right shoulder is very lame and has been for over one year. I send you a newspaper clipping. There is nothing said in it about the money he obtained from Barlow. He got \$10 from him all the cash they had in the house at the time but traded some Suspicion points pretty strong toward Jemina. I should hate to be in her shoes. You must name your next girl Katie it always seemed to me that Annie's or Anna's name ought to have been that. Well Sihon and Mart are about ready to start for town. Write as soon as you get this. Much love to all. Kiss the babies all for me and believe one as ever yours.

Aunt Kate

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: April 3rd 86 (4-3-1886)

Writer of Letter: Jessie Bunce

Location of Writer: Not stated

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in purple ink; 2 pages.

LETTER

Dear Bro! –

I scarcely know how to word this part of my letter. I've a disagreeable task before me. Pa wants to go back East. This climate does not agree with him. Mr. Vance is perfectly justified in wanting to see him go. I cannot blame him after Pa's deliberately accusing us of what he has. I've not a kind word for him. He told me to say nothing to "David" about what he said, but I did, & have thought of it till I've no mind or strength left. Another six months like this & I'd be occupying a claim of my own, 6 x 4. Now Vint if you see fit to do anything do so immediately for Mr. V says he will send him back if he has to dispose of all we both possess. 5th I don't think he says this to be quarrelsome, but he means what he says none the less. I admit I've been cross & saucy, but when a man presumes tell me what to set on my table & take the management from my hands, I'd rather my feelings were not exposed.

I hunger for the quiet & peace we once never thought of losing. They must come back to one or you'll have but one sister left. I'm not able to be up to do my work yet.

Good By Jessie

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Apr.5/86 (4-5-1886)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Avilla, Kan.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; on p.6 the ink changes to purple; the embossed symbol appears to be three tall buildings next to each other; there is no inscription; 8 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son:

On the 1st inst. I wrote to you. In that letter I informed you I had determined to return to Ill. I think I have told you of a proposition I made to Mr. Bowe about his next winter school, and his reply requesting or proposing, to make the terms much more favorable. His reply was dated Feb. 27. He requested me to send him a blank contract, if his terms suited me, and he would sign it and return it. He wanted the school to open the 1st Monday in April. I wrote to him promptly requesting him to loan me \$25 to take me to Ill. I also wrote to you for the same amount, promising to return it out of my first month's wages, if I did not get money of Bowe.

I have not yet heard from Bowe. I cannot account for it. It is too late for his summer term. I have submitted some other propositions to schools in Ill. some of which will, I hope, be accepted.

In my correspondence with Jessie last summer and fall about coming to live with them, a sad misunderstanding took place, which was not rectified until recently. David had very little to do with the correspondence – it was all done through Jessie. I was told, or invited, to come and “make my home with them” “come and stay with them,” “I should not suffer for any thing,” “that my help in staying with Jessie on their claim would be worth \$10 a month to them,” &c. I was unthoughted enough to suppose they would take reasonable care of me “as one of the family” for an indefinite length of time for what work I might be able to do. It has been a matter of surprise to me to find they do not expect to make me the least compensation – not a cent in any way or manner – for what I do, but to board me.

Allow me to say, Vincent, that during our first nine weeks residence on the claim, being 90 miles west of Harper and 9 miles (some call it 8 miles) from Avilla, the net cost of our provision, including 90 cents worth left with us by David without any money, was just \$7.25 or 40 cents a

week each! During that time, I dined 22 times from home. I went to Avilla 8 times, riding over the plains with our neighbors in their wagons through continual wind and snow storms, transacting business for Jessie, receiving or expecting letters from David, and buying groceries in small packages for want of more money. On one trip I walked to town - the road was in bad condition - and I brought home 10 pounds of groceries in my hand, I worked 4 days with spade in finishing our dugout, dug an alley leading from the door, 40 foot long, 2 ft. wide, and 2 ft. deep on average, cut 15 steps in the creek bank to get to the spring a quarter of a mile from the house. I have sometimes had to bring drift-wood from the creek. David had not ax; I begged an old one, out of use of one of the neighbors, put a handle into it, and ground it well. I have chopped nearly all the wood for the stove during the winter, it being hauled up from the Territory in pole length. On the 16 Nov. being out of money, and no provision, I rode to town, took with me a large \$5 volume, and deposited it with a grocer for a few groceries on time. Dec. 26, I lent Jessie \$1.00 with which to buy some wood. Some times the alley has been filled with snow, blocking the door (which opens on the outside,) causing a great deal of hard labor in emptying it.

In making trips to town and errands to the neighbors through wind and storm, I have had my ears, nose, and cheeks all sharply frosted. Jan. 4 I advanced \$1.00 for wood for Jessie. She returns this money as soon as she gets some of David. On the 5th of Jan. we found ourselves destitute of provision except a few soup beans and some coffee with no sugar. Up to this date our provisions had cost us just 40 cents a week each. I go to town today receive a letter from David but no money. During the ensuing week we live on the bounty of our neighbors. On the 12th I go to town with a friend of mine, Mr. Campbell (No letter from David) who advises me to apply for help to our grocer, who is County Coms. Mr. Campbell stated our case, and we received \$4.00 worth of provision from the county. A registered letter from David had been in the office about three weeks but the postmaster had failed to deliver it when called for. On the 14th I bought Jessie 50 cents worth of wood. Until the 12th of March, when David came home, I bought wood and provision for Jessie, she refunding, until she owed me \$1.25, and so the account stands now. He will pay me as soon as he can.

When they moved to Quincy they left with his father in Brown, 1 Bed mattress, 1 Walnut Table, and 3 Flat Irons. In the winter of '85 Jessie wanted me to sell them if I could get \$6 for them. I could not get it, did not want them myself, so in Mach '85, I shipped them to them as a present, prepaying the freight on them to Harper. I reached Harper before the Fall got through. I had but little trouble on getting \$5 for it, of the Company. David was very hard pressed for money to take us to his claim, distant 90 miles. We made the trip in a wagon in 5 days and he had just 15 cents on which to return. Did I help them any? Thinking myself "one of the family," what was my surprise in the winter, on mentioning some things I might want, to find they did not consider the \$4 due to me, and that I was to buy from my own resources, whatever I needed for my own use! Is this right? Our diet has, perhaps, averaged 45 cents per week = \$10 in 21 weeks up to the present time. Now, I think the work I have done for them during the winter is worth \$10; I have let them have four dollars in cash, and I obtained for them from the county, four dollars in provision. If I did make a mistake, and think I was "at home," they surely cannot complain of me, and regard me as a "dead head."

Jessie says she has written to you for money to take me somewhere, I know not where. I am using all the influence in my power to engage a school term for next fall & winter in Brown. If I can get a contract signed I shall then be in a position to try for money. I am not stout, but I feel as if I can and will teach school next winter.

My son, I know not what to add. If Jessie had not written, I should not have troubled you with such a letter.

I hope you are well and business improving. How is Katie and the baby?

Affec. your father,
E.P. Bunce.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce, Esq

Address: Franklin, PA

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Aetna Kas. on Apr 26, 1886; post marked received in Franklin, PA at 8 AM on apr 30 1886; cancelled two cent stamp is torn but remains on envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Apr.25/86 (4-25-1886)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Avilla, Kan.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in pencil; embossed symbol is three round buildings with no inscription; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son

I wrote to you the 1st. inst., but what I wrote (I say truthfully) I know not. I have, for some three months past, been terribly harassed in the mind. I will try to be brief. In the fore past of Feb., finding I could not remain in Kan., having no means of support, and no way to make a living here, I began to make propositions to school boards in different districts in Brown Co. to teach school for them next winter at low rates. Mr. John Bowe, of Lagrange replied very promptly accepting my proposition. But he proposed other terms- much better, but wanting me to commence first Monday in Apr. This I could not do for want of money to travel on. I have corresponded with him, and yesterday I received from him a contract signed by the board of directors, to teach the Lagrange School six months commencing the 1st Monday in Oct., - 1886, at \$35 per month. Pretty good, for an old shady, infirm, deaf teacher. I feel great mental relief. But how shall I reach Ill? I have not one cent of money but what has been given me. I have been advised by my friends to solicit help to return. I have done so, and have obtained \$10. My ticket to Versailles will cost me about \$20. On the 8th I had to leave Vance's. I was kindly taken in by a Mr. Eads. I took all my things there and have remained there, on charity, till the present time. David cant help me to a cent – cant pay me the small balance he owes me. Jessie has been nearly bedfast two weeks or more. I fear she will never again be well. The people here are kind, but poor – have no money to lend. Can you advise me what to do? Can you lend me \$10 till the middle of Nov.? It is hard for me to call on you to help me. But I am in trouble, and can see no other way out. I think I can remain here, till I hear from you. If I can get Brown county, I can work my way some how till I get to teaching.

I am poorly clad – my last pair of pants is broken on the seat, I have but one shirt fitting to wear; but I am confident I can get clothes on time in Versailles. Please answer at once.

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I hope you and Katie are well. Is Albert well? Is Florie with you? My health is about as usual, I feel as if I shall be able to teach a winter school. I hope you will accept my love.

Your aff. Father,
E.P.Bunce.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Penna. Box 779

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; sending post mark not reable; post mark received in Franklin, Pa. at 3 PM on May 21, 1886; the stamp has been from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 5/14/86 (5-14-1886)

Writer of Letter: Florence Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; the letter is continued on May 16th ; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother Vint,

I expect you think by this time I'm dead or have forgotten you, but neither conclusion is right. When I left Quincy, I was to get a pass, if it could be processed; but it seems now that I can not get it. I have not the money to take me out to Penn., and I do not like to ask you for it. I have been idle some time now and am anxious to get at some work; I feel almost as though I was doing wrong in wasting my time this way. A woman I was acquainted with in Quincy has removed to Chicago, and I could go there and work with her at sewing. I feel almost as though I ought to, instead of doing nothing.

I am going to V. Sat. if rain does not prevent and will make inquiries as to the route to Franklin and the amount of fare. Write to me then and tell me what you think I had best do. If I came out there, Vint., I should not be satisfied to stay long unless I got some employment. I intend to study up on my book-keeping and try to make use of my knowledge.

Even if you can spare me the money to come on, do not send it till I hear from you. I am of a restless disposition and am afraid it would hardly pay to come for a short time. If I could write all I'd like to say, I might get you to understand something about it, and you might be able to advise me. Tell me anyhow what you think of the matter. I'm anxious to hear from you.

I was at Mrs. Whited's again and she thinks she can not let Louis go. She says it would be like taking her heart out, for he is as one of her own children. Lizzie is not the cause of his not coming, for she thinks it would be best him for you to have him. She is teaching the primary department of the Cooperstown school this summer.

I believe I have nothing more to write this time. My health remains pretty fair, and I hope you are all well. Be sure to write me at Cooperstown just as soon as you receive this and tell me what I'd best do, Love to all, from

Your loving sister
Florence Bunce

May 16th. Dear Brother,

I did not go to Versailles as it rained so I could not walk and had no way to ride. I suppose you could find out the price of a ticket there, and the best route. I am going up to Cooperstown today and shall mail this there. I will wait there until I hear from you. I would like very much to come but feel anxious about the fare. I hope you will be able to advise me.

Your loving sister,
Florence Bunce

P.S. Uncle Frank says he don't write just because he don't. That he has just neglected it, and nothing more.

F.B.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Penna. Box 779

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Cooperstown, Ill on May 22, 1886; post mark received in Franklin, Pa. at 3 PM on May 24, 1886; the cancelled 2-cent stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: May 20, 1886 (5-20-1886)

Writer of Letter: Florence Bunce

Location of Writer: Cooperstown, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on folded lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Cooperstown, 5/20/86

Dear Brother Vint,

Since my last writing, pa has returned from Kansas. It is best to plunge into bad new as and be over with it so here goes. Pa has come back without means and in need of clothes, and will have nothing to do all summer, as I can see. He is going to Virginia to stay with Uncle John until his winter school at Lagrange commences. I have decided that I had better go to work and try to help him instead of writing and enjoying myself generally. I know you will think it the wiser and better plan for me to adopt. Of course it is a great disappointment to me and I don't know when I shall ever have another opportunity of the kind, but I wouldn't feel that I was doing right. I don't want some one else to bear the burden of pa's support and me none. You know the lady I spoke of in my last letter; I shall go to her, if all goes well, and go to work.

Pa tells me wrote to for aid before coming out here, and he also wrote to Uncle John. He sent him money that helped him to return. It hurts me to think that outsiders have to help him, but it's not my fault. I'm a complete failure financially, for it keeps me going to keep myself clothed and fed.

I must quit writing poetry pretty soon for it getting late and I can scarcely see the lines. I'm at Mrs. Whited's and Louis is standing by me as I write. He says he'd like to see you and sends his love. Lizzie says to tell you she had been busy that she could not write, but will soon; and that Louis has never missed Sunday school since he got his new suit of clothes. Levie says she's looking for a letter strong every day.

Well it's well nigh dark and you must excuse this scrawl. I hope you will not be too badly disappointed, but I've found that things can't go just as we want them to. Perhaps I can tell you something new when next I write or soon, anyhow. Tell Katie she can not know how disappointed I am in not being able to come see her. If God will for me to live I hope to see you all some day. I'll live in hope, if I die in despair. I hope to hear from you soon and that you are

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all well. Must close for this time, so goodbye.

Your loving sister,
Flora Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, PA

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; no sending post mark; post marked received in Franklin, Pa on May 21 at 2 PM; the stamp has been cut from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: May 27/86 5-26-1886

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Virginia, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 purple lined embossed writing paper; the embossed word is "CLINTON" with no other markings; 5 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son:

With great difficulty I reached your uncle on Monday May 24th. My health is remarkable: my appetite and digestion are good, but I am extremely weak. My memory fails me terribly. I suffer from nervous debility. I had a remarkably singular attack last night while talking with Maria, the rest of the family being from home, my mind wandered – I could not express any ideas – would use words entirely irrelevant – then come to a halt. John came home. I took a dose of some kind of tonic bitters – went to bed, and rested well. This morning, feel as well as usual. The rest are reasonably well. Nelly is at home. Jenny will close her school this week.

I have a contract with the Directors at Lagrange for a five months term at \$35 per month, commencing Oct. 9th. I had not a cent of money. David was owing me some, but could pay me nothing – could scarcely buy the most ordinary fare. How should I pay my way back to Ill? I was advised by a friend to take up a contribution. I did so, reached \$8.50. But this would not bring me half way through. About the 6th of May I wrote to you and your uncle for a loan of \$10, which I promised to repay out of my first month's wages. I regretted to have to take this course, but I knew not what else to do. My pants were worn through badly on the seat and around the ankles; and I know if (I had but one good shirt) I could reach Versailles, the Reid's would let me have goods on time. I waited anxiously, hoping to hear from you or your uncle. On the 10th of May I received a letter from John containing \$10. I took a deep long breath. But my trouble was not over. I was 42 miles from Kiowa, the nearest R.R. station. To go there by stage would cost me \$5. A friend of mine was going there for a load of lumber, and he took me through without charge. Took ticket to Quincy \$15.85. Staid with Joseph Root. Took ticket to Versailles \$1.45, and had a nickel left. Bought about \$7 worth of goods of the Reids, and made my way to Lagrange. Visited several families, and the school. The scholars seemed greatly pleased to see

me. I was in company with Florie all one afternoon at Mrs. Whitehead's. She looks well, and is remarkably cheerful. She seems very sanguine concerning her plans for next fall and winter, but seems to be a little in doubt about visiting you. The old woman will not give up Lewis.

But how to get to Virginia? By doing wrong? "It is hard for an empty bag to stand upright." Wm. Greenwall's son, who is preparing to teach school, subscribed for the "Normal Teacher." I used \$1, Florence gave me at Mrs. Whited's, and the balance for my ticket (38 cents) out of the dollar Greenwell gave for the N.T. I have lent Nellie, till Sat., 60 cents, to help pay for a certificate. With that and my seven cents, I have just 67 cents – not enough to pay for N.T. for Greenwell. Vincent, can you lend me \$1 till I can earn it in school? Do, if you can.

I expect to remain with your uncle the greater part of the summer, the rest of the time in Brown, visiting.

Old Mr. Goodall has died of paralysis. Thos. Bowe is dead. Oral Hume is married – Jane is not. Geo. Robinson has sold his farm to his brother-in-law, Dennis, and removed to Decatur, where he is clerking in a store.

I hope you and Katie, and the baby are well. My love to you all.

Your affec. father,
E.P. Bunce.

P.S. Nellie went security on her father's note at the Petefish Bank, for the \$10 they were kind enough to lend me.

E.P.B.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce, Esq

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "If not called for in ten days return to E.P. Bunce, Virginia, Ill."; the post mark sent is not readable; the post marked received at Franklin, Pa. on Jun 12 at 3PM; the cancelled 2 cent stamp is slightly ruined but remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: June 10'86 (6-10-1886)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Virginia, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in purple ink; the embossed symbol is a round seal that has the following words: Pearl HILL Mills;
7 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son: I am improving in health and slightly in strength since my arrival here; I have gained three pounds in weight in two weeks. I wish I could know that you, and Katie, and Alfred are well. I have not heard from you since Feb.14. Since that date I have written to you five or six times. I feel uneasy – I cannot help it – that I do not receive any letter from you.

I suffered a great deal in Kansas, physically and mentally. I did not know – did not anticipate – what I should have to undergo in Kan., I was thrown upon my own resources – and had none. I was not able to do hard labor, and there was but little of it to do. What could I do but beg? The people were kind, but in moderate circumstances – hard pressed for money. I solicited aid to bring me to Ill. I obtained \$9.50; but that would not bring me more than half way to Virginia.

I boarded 17 days with a Mr. Eads. I let him have, in payment, some things I could spare. His wife made a subscribed school, and went to teaching in a vacant old dugout – sod walls – wooden roof house on their land, the benches and fixtures being furnished by her husband. The district has no house. The term of 3 months is worth perhaps \$50. But there is no public funds, and she must collect her own wages at her own risk. It was not a public school, as she held no certificate. They were expecting to remove in a short time, and she kindly offered to let me have the school, and the use of the house without charge. I contracted with the Directors without delay at \$1.00 per month per scholar, subscribed school, no school funds. One of Directors kindly took me in his wagon to Coldwater, the county seat, 18 miles, where I obtained a certificate, for which I had to pay \$1.00, out of my \$9.50. But Eads gave up moving, and Mrs. Eads in a very lady-like manner, induced me to give up teaching. I would have taught, but I could not have cleared, at most, more than \$5 per month. I tried in two other districts in which I heard they wanted a school (subscribed), but they had no house, and had made no preparation to build one. I mention these

matters, Vincent, to let you see that I have not been indifferent toward earning a living.

Finding I must engage in business somewhere, or go upon the county for help, I began, early in Jan., to make propositions to the Boards of Directors in Brown Co. to teach a winter term of school for them, 5 months for \$165. John Bowe responded agreeing to my proposition, preferring that I had two months this spring and six months next winter my entire wages amounting to \$285. But he wanted me to open school in Apr. I was extremely anxious to make this contract. It was then the better part of March. I had not a cent to travel on. I wrote to you and to him for a loan of money, enough to take me through to be repaid of my first wages. Bowe had a severe illness about that time. How anxiously I awaited his reply! It came. An agreement signed by the Directors proposing to employ me five months commencing first Monday in Oct. at \$35. I saw Bowe, on my return from Kan., and contract is confirmed. I received the contract from Bowe Apr. 24. I took a deep inspiration, and could scarcely move. But I was still in Kan, with only \$8 in my pocket. I found that about \$17 would take me from Kiowa, my nearest station (40 miles) to Quincy, and I know I could reach Virginia some way with trunk & satchel. Not knowing what course to take, I was driven to the necessity of seeking help from you and your uncle John. On the 12 of May I received \$10 from your uncle. (Another long breath.) At Maria's suggestion they went to the Bank and borrowed it, the two girls going security.

When I got to Versailles, I had just five cents in my pocket. A kind friend of mine in Kan., who was hauling lumber from Kiowa, took me and & trunk there without charge.

I visited my school – all the scholars seemed greatly pleased to see me. I fell in with Florie at Mrs. Whited's, she gave me \$1. I think Lewis 's features are improving. His grandma will not give him up. Wm. Greenwell's son subscribed for the Normal Teacher, \$1. Thus I had \$2.05 of which I used \$1.45 in the R.R. – 40 cents of Greenwell's money! Your uncle advanced me the 40 cents and I ordered the paper.

Your uncle is not a milionare, but he and his folks are kind to me, making me a pleasant home, boarding me on time. But I need a little money. I can get all the clothes I need, at Versailles, on time. I traded there, recently, to the amount of about \$7. I am not in want of clothing – I need such things as stamps, envelops, pencils, and ferriage (for I shall cross the river, do my traveling on foot, but I can't swim.) Must I call on your uncle for more money? It is too bad. One Dollar is all I ask, but I need that Dollar. One Dollar will, I believe take me through, till I can earn some money. Please lend me One Dollar – it shall be returned before Christmas.

And now I will stop. Nearly four months have passed since I have heard from you. Are you alive and well? I wish I could see you and Katie and that little boy. My love to all.

Your affec. father,
E.P. Bunce.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No Envelope

Address:

Other Envelope Notations:

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: June 13, 1886

Writer of Letter: Lizzie (Bunce) Whited

Location of Writer: Cooperstown, Illinois

Other Remarks: Written on folded lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Cooperstown, Illinois

June 13, 1886

Dear Vint:

After so long a time I will try and answer your letter. I must say that I do really feel ashamed that I have not written before now, but I thought that I would not write until I could send you Louis's pictures taken the other day they are not very good but I will send you one. His clothes fit him just splendid but I fear they will be too small for him this winter he has not missed Sunday school a time this summer.

I suppose "Flora" is with you by this time she was here about two weeks ago and was talking then of going to Pennsylvania right away. You wanted to know where John was I can not tell you we have not seen him but once since last October. The last time we heard from him he was in (?unreadable) he never writes to us he sold Prince to a man living in Mt. Sterling for \$98.00.

I received a letter from Em a few days ago she talks of coming home this fall her baby died this spring it was about 9 months old.

Vint do you think that you will ever come back here? I would first give anything to see you. I think of you quite often and wonder if you ever think of the past. I suppose you thought that I was married when you read of a Lizzie Whited being married.

That was Dan Whited's Lizzie I have never been so fortunate yet as to find any one who wanted to get married.

Vint I want your baby's picture be sure and send me one if you can in your next letter.

Louis will write to you soon he is not at home this evening or he could write now. Levia wrote you some time ago but has received no answer. Well I guess I will have to close for this time it is almost supper time. You must excuse this poorly written letter. I will try and do better next time.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain Your loving Sister

Lizzie Whited

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Penna

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Perry PA on Jun 18 and a second postmark on the back indicates it was sent from Tidioute PA on the same date; post marked received in Franklin Pa on Jun 18 1886 at 3 PM; the name Kate Johnson is handwritten on the side of the envelope in pencil. stamp has been cut off the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: June 17th 1886 (6-17-1886)

Writer of Letter: Kate Johnson

Location of Writer: Neil Town, Perry To.; Forest Co., Pa.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 unlined embossed paper in black ink; the embossed symbol is a crescent with a crown on top surrounded by a large stand of wheat on each side with "CRYSTAL LAKE" embossed in the center of the crest; 2 pages.

LETTER

Friend Bunce I think long to hear from you & family so I will drop you a note to remind you that Tevte (?) lives yet, & is anxious to hear how Alfred is I suppose he is talken by this time, I think if you will drop me a line & let me know when you will be in Tidioute I will go over & see you & get the news is, Della married yet & here is my mash getting on I don't think Mrs Bunce knew me, by her actions I think so but I am independent I don't care well I will have to close or I may say to much be sure & let me know I want to see you from your True friend Kate

Please address

Neil Town

Pery To.

Forest Co

Pa

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V.P. Bunce, Esq.

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; unable to read sent post mark; post marked received in Franklin, Pa on Jul 8 at 8 AM; the cancelled 2 cent stamp is slightly damaged in the upper right hand corner.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: July 6/86 (7/6/1886)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Virginia, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 lined embossed writing paper in purple ink; unable to read the embossed markings; 2 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son:

Yours of June 30th containing \$2, came promptly to hand, Many thanks for the money. The money was a relief to me, but to hear that you and Katie are well, was far greater.

I am as well as usual, and a little more so. I am sorry to say Nellie and Jennie do not have good health: in consequence of severe illness last winter, Nellie has lost, (very nearly,) the sight of her left eye, and her right eye also has failed some. Jennie, though not very sick, is under the care of a physician. They both have schools engaged for the winter, one for 6 mths. at \$45, the other for 8 mths. at \$40.

I suppose you and the Meads have no dealings with each other now. What induced you to leave them? Are you in better business?

Do not be uneasy about me now – I can move along. Write occasionally. Love to Katie and baby.

Yours affectionately,
E.P. Bunce.

P.S. I have just received a letter from Florie, - she is well, is in Chicago, and wonders why you not write to her.

E.P.B.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce,

Address: Franklin, Pa

Other Envelope Notations: The envelope and writing paper are light green in color; the stamp is cut off; the return address reads: "If not called for return to R.J. Gillespie, Whig Hill, Pa."; there are two postmarks with the one on the front not fully legible and the one on the back is posted from East Hickory, Forest Co., Pa. on Jul 24, 1886; post marked received in Franklin, Pa on Jun 24 at 3 PM.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: July 23,86 (7-26-1886)

Writer of Letter: R.Z. Gillespie

Location of Writer: Whig Hill, Pa.

Other Remarks: Written on 4x7 green lined tablet paper in brown ink; 1 page.

LETTER

V P Bunce

Dr. Sir:

As you did not come here, I wish to inform you that I am ready to go to work, the sooner the better.

Horse carriage & man are all patiently awaiting he starter

Cone up if you can

Yours in F L & 7

R.Z. Gillespie

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; sent post mark is not readable; post marked received in Franklin, Pa on Aug 8 at 8 AM; the two cent cancelled stamp remains on the envelope but is torn on the right hand side.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Aug 3-86 (8-3-1886)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Virginia, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; the embossed symbol is a circle with the inscription of Pearl Mills HILL; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son:

Yours of the 11th is before me unanswered. On the 10th I started on foot to Lagrange by way of Meredosia making short walks of six or eight miles. On reaching Joseph Hume's my left eye became enflamed and painful. On reaching Versails I stayed two days at Oscar Robinson's, where I was kindly cared for. Feeling a little better I continued my round I returned to Joseph Hume's. My eye was no better, and my appetite was entirely gone. I was thirty miles from home. I started and reached home before the next night; I must have rode more than half the distance, being gone about ten days.

I have had no appetite since until within a few days. I am taking so medicine, and my eye is improving, yet very slowly. I can not see to write. Ida is kindly writing letters for me. Your Uncle's folks are all well. I received a letter from Jessie a few days ago – they are all well, she wants you to write to her a Nauvoo, Comanche, Co. Kan. My walnut bookcase, with my other things, is at Mr. Ead's near Nauvoo. I learn of Jessie that a Mrs. Harper wants to buy my book case. I will write to her forthwith, and make her an offer of it. I received a letter from Florence the 28th. Her address is "Care of Lake Hotel, Stanwood P.A. Lake Co., Ill." To save writing I will send you her letter enclosed. Be certain to return it. Between this and the first Oct. I must get my things here from Kansas and my self and some things from here to Lagrange. I shall not take much with me to Lagrange, but my trunk and a box of books. I must make Uncle John's headquarters. I estimated that ten dollars will do all the transportation. I have written to Florence to state to me with how much money she can furnish me on or before Sept. 1st as a loan till I can earn some money. May I ask you to do the same, with out delay I can't ask your uncle for any more money. By the time I leave here I shall owe him a good big bill. But if I can teach school this winter I can pay all I owe easily. I regret to have to call upon you but I see no other way.

41/20/277

111

I would take a letter from Katie when she feels able to write. I hope you are all well. Kiss Alfred for me.

Your affct. Father,
E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce.

Address: Franklin Venango Co., Pennsylvania

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Cooperstown, ILL on August 18, 1886; received in Franklin on August 20, at 3p.m.; cancelled 2-cent stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: August 15, 1886

Writer of Letter: Lizzie Whited

Location of Writer: Cooperstown, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on folded lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Cooperstown, Ill.

Aug 15th 1886

Dear Vint:

Your welcome letter was received yesterday. I must say I was very glad to hear from you once more. I will devote my letter specifically to answering questions. You seemed very anxious to have Louis with you and as far as I am concerned I would be perfectly willing for you to have him but mama thinks she could not give him up. I know that I would feel just as bad to see the little fellow leave as she would but I know it would be for the best. We do the very best we can for him but I know that he would be a great deal better off with you. Mama is getting old and childish and does not seem to know what would be best for Louis. I will do my best to persuade her to let you have him. I was somewhat surprised to hear that "Flora" was not with you. I had not heard from her since she left here until a few days ago your father was here and he told me that she was at Chicago. Poor girl I wish she could have gone to you. Your father is going to teach the Lagrange school this winter. I suppose by what you say that you take a Brown Co. paper so I haven't any news that will interest you much. Em had to give up going home this summer. They have had a great deal of sickness and their expenses have been so great that they haven't the money to spare. George Folle & family are at home on a visit. They will stay till October. G. was here last Friday. I tell you it is somewhat tiresome to listen at him tell what he's seen since he has been gone. He has taken a claim of 60 acres of land in southwestern Kansas. He seems to think it a fine place. "Buck" and Joe are getting along about as usual. I would like to tell you why Johns left home and I hate to make known such a disgrace but I will tell you just the truth he was too intimate with a married woman and so last fall ran off

with her, her husband lives not more than a mile from here his name is Mitchell. I expect you have seen the woman John's is living with her name was Malissa Milton before she was married. She is no account on earth. Vint I wish you would tell me if father is living at Franklin now. I believed I have asked you before but you made me no ans. Louis and "Levie" have gone to Sunday school will write tomorrow.

Tell Katie that I feel lightened. I think she might have written me a few lines as well as Levie's (?). Vint I want your baby's picture.

Lizzie

I will expect an answer soon.

Lizzie

Vint I've an example or two I wish you would work and send me. This is one.
1st The base and perpendicular of a right angled triangle are 30 and 40 feet; what is the hypotenuse.

2. 2. The agent receives \$1,900 to buy pork at \$17.25 per barrel; after deducting his commission at 3 percent how many barrels can he buy.

Now be sure and work those examples and send them to me right away, and oblige,

L.W.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. Vincent Bunce

Address: Franklin Venango County, Pennsylvania

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Cooperstown, ILL on Sep 26, 1886; stamped received in Franklin on Sep 27 at 5 PM; cancelled 2-cent stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: September 24, 1886

Writer of Letter: Lizzie Whited

Location of Writer: Cooperstown, ILL

Other Remarks: Written on folded embossed lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Cooperstown ILL. Sep 24, 86

Dear Vint:

Your kind letter was received a few days ago and I should have answered it immediately but have been so very busy I've just not had time to write. G. Golle and his family have been here for three weeks. They were all nearly naked for clothes on account of having no one to sew for them so I took pity on them had him bring his sewing here and it has kept us very busy. Well Vint I am sorry to have to tell you but I can't get Mama to give her consent for you to have Louis. I thought when I wrote you before that I could persuade her to let you have him but she seems to feel for Louis first the same as if he was her own child. I know it would be hard for any of us to part with him but I would do it for I would know that it would be for his own good. We are not able to clothe Louis as he should be, without your help. And I think you are the one to have him. I was talking to him about you this evening telling him of the nice things he could have if he was with you, and I just wish you could have seen him he climbed on my lap and looked me straight in the face and says, do you think that papa would buy me a pony? He said if he thought you would he would go to you whether mama wanted him to or not. Well Vint I think your baby is just as pretty as it can be and every person that sees it thinks so. I was showing the picture to a lady that was here to day and Louis stepped up and cautioned her to be careful not to soil it. It is now after 12 O'clock so I will bring this poorly written letter to a close. I have been to bed once tonight and was asleep and

woke up and thought of your letter not being answered so I crawled out and went to work. Tell "Katy" she will have to excuse me this time for not writing to her I will have to get to bed if I sleep any tonight. Hoping to hear from you soon.

I remain your loving sister

Lizzie

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Penn.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address but handwritten going up the left hand side is “answ’d. 11/14/86”; post marked sent from Chicago, ILL on Oct 15, 1886 at 11 AM; post marked received in Franklin, PA on Oct ? at 3 PM; the cancelled two cent stamp remains on the envelope undamaged.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Oct, 14/86 (10-14-1886)

Writer of Letter: Florence Bunce

Location of Writer: Chicago, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; unable to ascertain any inscription on the embossed symbol; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother and Sister,

Your long neglected letter was duly received, but at the time and for some time after I was so very hard at work that I had no time to write any one, except pa.

I was very much disappointed myself at not coming out, but I had been idle for some time and I couldn’t stand it any longer, so went to work. And I’ve worked awful hard, too, since I’ve been in Chicago.

I am very sorry, Katie, (if I may so address you) to learn of the accident you met with and that you were not feeling well. I hope this will find you well again and all right. I would love very much to see Alfred, but as I can’t do that, the next best thing will be to see his picture. By the way, I have had mine taken and when I see the picture of the two of you I will send one of mine forthwith. The only way I’ll thin, I’m afraid is by doing so.

I suppose you have heard from pa lately, Vint. I feel worried about him and wish I were able to do more for him. I have sent him \$14.00 this summer, but I’m doing nothing at present, so can not do anything for him now. I expect to be able to further on, though. I hope you wont think me prying, but I wish you’d give me some information on a subject I know nothing about, and that’s your situation financially.

I haven’t much to write about this time, for my existence is very monotonous at present. I received a letter from Jessie not long since; she seems to be in the best of health and spirits, and I guess that are doing very well now. I would love to see them all.

We had two very warm days Tues. and Wednesday, but it rained last night and today it real cold and blustery. How is the weather out your way?

Now, Vint, I want yours and Katie’s pictures very much. You know I have none of yours

except where you were very young. And I want to see how you both look. Be sure not to forget to send me Alfred's, either. Hoping this will find you all well, and that you will not neglect answering as I have done. I will close for this time.

Address me at 199 E. Ontario St., Third flat. With love to all, I remain,

Your ever loving sister,
Florence.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce Esq

Address: Franklin, Pa Venango Co

Other Envelope Notations: This is a one cent postal card postmarked from Erie on Oct 16, 1886 at 8 PM; the cancellation is in tact and stamped at Franklin at 5 PM on Oct 18, 1886.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Oct 16 10-16-1886

Writer of Letter: Kate Stong

Location of Writer: Erie, Pa

Other Remarks: Written in brown ink on the back of a blank postal card.

LETTER

Friend Bunce

Saw Manager, he will be in Franklin about Tuesday has your name and will see you, will stop at Exchange

Kate Strong

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. Vincent Bunce.

Address: Franklin Venango County, Pennsylvania

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Cooperstown, ILL on December 15, 1886; cancelled 2-cent stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: December 14, 1886

Writer of Letter: Louis Bunce

Location of Writer: Cooperstown, ILL

Other Remarks: Written on folded embossed lined writing paper in pencil.

LETTER

Dec 14 1886

Cooperstown

My Dear papa:

It has been more then to weeks since I received your letter I have thought every day since that I would wright but I am going to school all the time so I dont have very mutch time to right well papa cristmas will soon be here and I do want you to send me something I got me a new pare of boots to day and a new cap the close you sent me are to little for me now. I cant ware them any more I ware number 4 boots wont you please send me some candy and toys for Christmas papa I would be so glad to have something like you sent me once for Christmas I would like so much to see my little brothers I wish you would send me my baby brothers picture I keep little Alfreds picture in my own box there is going to be a supper at the church at Copperstown tomarrow night maby I will go. I have not missed but to days school this winter I no all of the multiplication table now I got me a new copy book the other day our school is very full this winter there are more than 10 scholars come in both rooms this is a very cold night and it is getting late so I will have to close for this time hoping to hear from you soon and that you will not forget me Christmas

I am your loving son Louis

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Pennsylvania

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; no stamp or postmarks on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Dec. 28th 1886 (12-28-1886)

Writer of Letter: Levia Bunce

Location of Writer: Cooperstown, Ills.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; embossed symbol is the head of an Indian in headdress facing to the left with no inscription; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Sister & Brother.

I seat my self this evening to ans. your long neglected letters and also to thank you for the preasant you sent me. Oh if you only could have saw Lewis when he received the box. With so many nice preasants, and it was just real funny when he began finding things in the pockets of his clothes. The over coat fits him nicely. but am sorry to say, the coat and pants are to small. Lewis is so large for his age. I know you don't have any Idea that he is so large as he is. We will have to send this suit back. And if you will be so kind as to send him another. Please send long pants and two sizes larger. There was a hole torn in the box, which looked as though some things might have been taken out, right where the candy and oranges were. When you write again please tell us all that was sent. And then we will know. Maria sends thanks for her handkerchief and says to tell you, that It's the nicest preasant she has rec. This Christmas Lizzie has gone to Versailles to day trading she will write you soon. I hope you are spending a merry Christmas. I went to a Christmas tree down to the Banderancler (?) school house, had a nice time. There is nothing going on at Cooperstown at all at preasant, it seems as though Cooperstown is going down more & more every year. There is'nt many living there now that was there when you was hear.

Well Vint what have you done to your self. I had to look at your Picture quite a while before I could tell that it was you. You have got two pretty children. The first thing Lewis does when anyone comes is to show his papa mama & brothers pictures. Lewis is going to a party to night he is busy getting ready now, to go. Lizzie has got home and wants to write some so I will let her finish my letter, and go and help Lewis get ready for the party.

P.S. To Vint a love your wife is just as pretty as she can be. I tell you I just feel proud of any good looking relatives. Excuse this poorly written letter I will do better next time. Lewis will write you after the party. With Love to all. I remain your Sister Levia
Write soon.

My Dear Bro & Sister

I must say that your box of nice presents was quite a happy surprise. Louis was not expecting any thing half so nice. His overcoat fits just splendid but the other coat will not meet in front by two inches. I think the best thing to do is to send them back and you can exchange them. Vint when I first looked at your picture I couldn't see the least resemblance of you about it but after looking at it awhile your eyes & forehead looked natural. Your wife is just as pretty as she can be and I just know that she is a good woman. Alfred is such a sweet looking child. I would love to squeeze him.

I have been to V. to day and am very tired so you will excuse this poorly written letter. Levia is getting Louis ready to go to a party. I wish you could peep in and see him. Good Bye.

Lizzie

Box 2:

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce, Esq

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Cooperstown, ILL; marked received in Franklin; cancelled 2-cent stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: January 2, 1887

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Cooperstown, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on folded lined writing paper in purple ink.

LETTER

Cooperstown, Ill

Jan.2/87

Dear Daughter: Your favor of Dec. 19th is before me. I cannot tell the pleasure it affords me to receive once more a letter in that style of penmanship peculiarly your own. I feared and not without reason some time ago, that I should never see it again. And those lovely boys in the photo you have been kind enough to send me – it seems as tho little Vintie is looking right at me. Without flattering you and Vincent I can truly say that they are fine looking children and you may well be proud of them. Your present of a silk handkerchief is kindly – gratefully received. Will you, when you write again, please give me the date of the birth of the boys, and their names in full? I hope Vincent has horse and buggy; for I don't see how he can possibly travel on foot with that heavy satchet. I now bid you good-bye, and write a line to Vincent.

Your aff. father

E.P. Bunce

Dear Son: I hope you are regaining your health. My health is good, but I am not stout. I am boarding at Dierech's – Bowe's was young Gohenna. It was bad enough when I boarded there before, but now, with their twin two-and-a-half year old girls, it is indescribable – Mrs. Bowes is a perfect vixen. I have a good place here. I have a rather hard time of it, with one eye and poor hearing, but I will try to "pull through." The school was terribly demoralized when I took it. Poor Lagrange school! Wm. Withrow taught winter before last, was candidate for J.P. and being a democrat, and no opposition, was elected. He took the job of building a coal shed- hired Mr. Volk to build it – drew the money and "skipped" to Kan. Their next teacher a Mr. Pouder, had spent a year or two in the State Prison. One of the directors, Ed. Evans, has also had shelter in the same whole school! The obscenity as

found on the scraps of paper and other places, is simply horrible. Mart Howell, now 18 yrs old is the leader in this. But I have a goodly number of interesting scholars. The scholars are making fair progress. I have got all my things back from Kan. They are with your uncle John, except a few books I have with me. I visited him a few days ago. He talks of emigrating to western Kan in a few months. Jennie will marry before long. I supposed you "Poch" is married. Let me hear how you get along.

Your affec. father E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Penn. Box 779

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "Answered 2/22/87 199 East Ontario St. 3rd Flat"; post marked sent from Chicago, Ill at 1 PM on Feb 18, 1887; post marked received in Franklin, Pa. at 3 PM on Feb. 19, 1887; Cancelled two cent stamp is intact on envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Feb.17/87 (2/17/1887)

Writer of Letter: Florence (Bunce) Buckley

Location of Writer: Chicago, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; the embossed symbol is the word "CHAMPION"; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother,

Your welcome letter was duly received, and the picture also. Many thanks for it and the congratulations. We were married on my birthday, and we are keeping house and as happy as can be. Charlie is a sober, industrious, and kind husband; and he is a horse trainer. You know that class of men is generally condemned, but he's an exception, Vint. I want you to know each other very much, for I know you'd like him. He is a yankee and you may know from that that he's by no means dull, and he makes a good living. We shall remove to Crawfordsville in about six weeks, and it would be a great pleasure if you could all come and visit us this summer. Don't you think you could?

I am glad to hear you are all in good health; hope this will find you all enjoying it. We've had very warm weather for winter this month, and so very much rain. It is raining now and has been all day.

I received a letter from brother Charlie after sending Jina(?) her presents. He says she is attending school and that she is quite a large girl. I think that she looked very much like the picture of Berta taken in Leavenworth, when I saw her last. It was indeed a great pity that Berta could not live when she a chance to enjoy life. Charlie does not appear the same man, and I think he feels her loss very much.

Have you heard from pa lately? I wrote to him about four weeks ago, and a few days later I sent him some shirts, and I've not heard from him yet. I wrote to Jessie between Christmas and New Years and I have not heard form her; have you?

I would like very much to see you and Katie and your babies, but I don't know when I'll have that pleasure. Charlie is not at home yet, and I don't expect he will be till late, or I'd have him write some in this letter. I hope Kate will write to me, but this letter is for you both. I must close as I have another letter to write this evening. Love to all. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain,

Your loving sister,
Florence Buckley.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce, Esq

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; no sending postmark; post mark received in Franklin, Pa. at 8 AM on Feb 21, 1887; stamp has been cut from envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Feb.18/87 (2-18-1887)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Cooperstown, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 red lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; the embossed word is "SIMMONS"; 9 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son:

I was about to write to you when I received yours of the 13th. I will trouble you now with a long letter. I am in reasonably good health, and boarding at Deiterich's at \$2.50 per week.

I must tell you, at the outset, that I have, of necessity, forever vacated the Teacher's Chair. My deafness is, undoubtedly, slowly increasing; it is, with great difficulty, that I can hear scholars recite. My loss of an eye is a still greater detriment. I struggled hard with my school four months, which closed last Friday, the 11. The Directors had agreed that the term should be five months. But I found I could teach no longer.

I will try to give you some description of the disorderly conduct of the boys. As they saw the disadvantages under which I labored, they became more and more troublesome till Christmas. At Christmas and at opening in Jan. the noise was horrible. They used not only firecrackers, but they took cartridges, charged them with powder, and stuffed them full and tight with paper; then placed them slyly on the stove. In a little while they would explode, making a frightful noise. Scores of these were exploded in school hours as well as at recess. They began, about Christmas to use some kind of toy cannon. There is a hole in the underpinning and one in the floor near the stove. This cannon was fired more than a dozen times through the hole in the underpinning, making a most frightful and stunning noise. On one occasion there was unusual noise going on at noon. I rang the boys in to make inquiry. Tim O'Connell, Ed O'Connell's son, a lad 15 years, attempted to pass out without leave. I put my hand against him, and gently pushed him back. He spit in hands, clenched his fists, and cursed me with a horrid oath. I expelled him forthwith. This fellow fired this toy cannon under the house more than once, after he was expelled. They threw rocks at the top of the stove flue, and knocked bricks off, which fell into the flue, and down the pipe into the stove.

All this was bad enough, but the principal source of their mischief consisted in short, sharp whistling at short intervals, and throwing pieces of crayon and coal into all parts of the room. You can have no idea how much of this was practiced. The floor would sometimes be strewed with coal. On one or two occasions, when about to give recess, I said, Boys, gather up all the

scraps of coal, and you shall have recess. Imagine, if you can, some fifteen or twenty dogs, some large some small, let loose in the room with as many rats, and you have some idea of the scene. If the coal had been diamonds, there could hardly have been greater efforts to secure it.

On the 7th of Jan. I ordered Martin, in consequence of his gross insolence, to stand by the door half an hour. He replied, "I wont do it." In a few minutes he went home. He came the next day with York and Evans, who wanted to know my charge against "Mart." I stated it. They had him rise to his feet and promise to behave properly in future. I allowed him to remain.

On Friday, Feb. 4 Nolt Bowe an eight year old boy, threw something at one of the scholars. I began to reprimand him. He commenced in his usual strain of sauce, to talk back. I gave him a gentle slap to make him stop. Martin H. standing near, gave me a violent blow on the side of my head, knocking me over a bench on to the floor. It was near close of school, and not being seriously hurt, I arose, finished the recitation, and dismissed. I felt, for two days sharp, darting pains in my head. Martin is heir to some real estate and Bowe is his guardian. I have written to John J. McDonald an able lawyer of Mt. Sterling, to take the case for me in a suit for damages. I offer him one third of the amount obtained, as his fee. I shall hear from him next Saturday.

Lily Orr, sixteen years old, helped me last week to watch the school. There was not near so much disorder in school. It is a remarkable school: no amount of advising persuading, threatening, or punishing, will induce them to utter a whisper in the way of making known the guilty parties. When a piece of coal is thrown rattling across the floor, not a scholar turns his head. Every face looks as if it were attending a funeral.

Though much of this terrible disorder in my school may be the result of the low state of morals in school; yet I am confident it is due, to a great extent, to my defective hearing and eyesight.

There is a house in Chicago styled "The American Buyers' Union." They want me to act as their agent in selling memberships, on each of which I shall receive commission. The members have the privilege of ordering goods of this firm at wholesale prices. I have asked, can the members have any kind of goods they may want? If they say, yes, I will try the agency.

I hardly know what to do. My board and washing have cost me over \$50 since I opened school – It is all paid. I have paid your uncle \$40 on what I owe him. I had to buy a bill of school supplies, \$6, and cap, boots, mittens, and shirts, about \$7. These things and sunds. are all paid. But I am almost destitute. I hardly know at present, how I shall pay my way, till I try my new business.

I sometimes feel greatly discouraged. I cannot teach any more, if I felt disposed, as the Supt. has limited my certificate and it would be futile for me to try to obtain a school in a strange locality. If you can suggest any plan for me, I shall be glad to have you do so.

I expect to visit your uncle tomorrow and stay with him and Charley about a week. I hope you will not think hard of me for troubling you with so long a letter. Lewis is attending school and looks well. Give my love to Katie, and tell Alfred about his old grandpa.

Your affec. father,
E.P. Bunce.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce, Esq.,

Address: Franklin, Penn. Box 779

Other Envelope Notations: post marked sent from Chicago, Ill at 7:30 AM on Mar 8, 1887; no post mark received; cancelled two cent stamp is still intact on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 3/6/87 (3-6-1887)

Writer of Letter: Florence (Bunce) Buckley

Location of Writer: Chicago, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on torn 5x8 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; 3 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother,

Your welcome letter was duly received, and hope this will find you all well as it leaves us. I am indeed blessed in my married life for I know Charlie's kindness will continue. I wish you could know him and hope the day is not far distant when you will.

We had beautiful weather the first few days of this month, but yesterday and today were very cloudy and damp. I was up at the Dime Museum with a friend today and of all the mud and slush I believe I never saw it worse. Yesterday it snowed, sleeted, and rained in the order named and you can imagine the consequences.

I received a letter from pa a few weeks ago telling me his trouble in school. I feared it all along after I learned that Martin Howell was attending. I feel relieved to know that he is not troubled with the school any more. I have not heard from Jessie since I wrote her over two months ago, and don't think what to make of it.

I have written a letter to pa telling him that I want him to come stay with me when Charlie goes out in the circuit. We will have to buy furniture to go to housekeeping and our expenses will be pretty heavy until he starts out, and then he'll be making more. I shall try to spare pa money as he needs it before that time. We are only going to furnish three rooms – a bed-room, sitting room, and kitchen, with a sofa bed in the sitting room. When Charlie goes away I'll be all alone, so it will be a good deal of company for pa to be with me. I hope he can stay at uncle John's or Jessie's until then.

I hope you will be able to lay up something, Vint; for it's a comfort to know that you have something against a rainy day. Charlie has quite a sum owing to him, but he doesn't want to touch that only in case of sickness, for it is that much towards buying us a home.

Charlie says tell you he gets home late and that I write for him. He sends his regards and hopes you are well. You must excuse this paper for it's all I have. Love to you all, and tell Katie I'd like to hear from her. I did not tell pa of anything you wrote. I know you've done a good deal

for pa, and I also know that it is hard to influence him against his will.

It is very late and I must close. Hoping to hear from you soon, I am

Your loving sister
 Florence Buckley
 1622 Wabash Ave

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce.

Address: Franklin, Penn.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Mound Station, ILL on March 26, 1887; received in Franklin on March 28, 1887 at 2 PM; cancelled 2-cent stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: March 20, 1887

Writer of Letter: Jessie Bunce

Location of Writer: Mound Station, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on folded embossed lined writing paper in purple ink.

LETTER

Mound Station, Ill.
 March 20th 1887

Dear Bro. & Sister:

Accept my thanks for your pictures. I've often wished I had them. Ruby exclaimed when she saw little V- "Oh isn't that a cute little fellow?" and I must say Katie has two really lovely boys. Alfred is right & Vint. I

feel a thing I must feel out my hand to smooth those from your brow.
 Ma's eyes and forehead are pictured in you.

Pa visited us for a few days not long ago.

We moved since I wrote last and I like this place much the best but there is no place that's so nice as our little home in K----- and we intend to go back as soon as convenient.

Spring seems to have come early this year for Illinois. I am beginning to make garden. I don't suppose Katie does much of that. It proves a blessing to me so far as health is concerned. I've found out poor health is not to be proud of. The season is very dry here.

A neighbor boy of 13 or 14 yr's. accidentally shot himself a few days ago. The charge

entering under the chin and coming out at the base of his brain. Name was Ausmos.

I wish you would write to Grandpa. He inquired of me about you when I saw him and said he had not heard from you for a long time and no one offers to write what few lines he would like to send anywhere. I want to send a few words to Katie so I'll close write again soon to.

Your Lov Sister

Jessie

P.S. Vint you asked me if I knew Florie's husband. I should not know him were I to see him know nothing of his present occupation. Have seen him on the street. J

(Written on a piece of scrap writing paper enclosed in the main letter)

Katie

Sister Katie! I will in turn give you my confidence. Our little family is on the increase. So please forward your best wishes. I hope you will find time to write me a word or two soon. Excuse this scrap.

Your Sister Jessie

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce, Esq.

Address: Franklin, Pa

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles, Ill. on Mar 23, 1887; post marked received in Franklin, Pa. at 3 PM on Mar 25, 1887; stamp has been cut from envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Mar. 23/87 (3-23-1887)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in purple ink; the embossed symbol is the U.S. Capitol Building with the word "CONGRESS" inscribed underneath the symbol; 3 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son:

I have had no letter from you since yours of the 13th ult. I answered that letter, and wrote to you again on the 26th. When I wrote to you last, I was, indeed, greatly embarrassed. I was out of money and out of employment. My friends were entertaining me kindly. I left your uncles about the time I wrote to you, went to Mounds Station, and spent four days with David and Jessie about five miles from the Mounds. On my trip I had an interview with Jno. J. McDonald, my counsel in my suit against Martin Howell for damages for his dastardly assault on me in the school-room Feb. 4. He (McD.) agrees cheerfully, to accept a portion of what may be recovered in the suit, as his fee. He feels sure Bowe will agree to a compromise, and that I shall obtain heavy damages.

I returned, and spent a few days at Dietrich's. About the 7th inst. I received a circular inviting me to take a canvassing agency for a book entitled "Sea and Land." On the 14th, Mr. Deitrich, on going to mill, took me and my things to William Perry's, where I am now making my head-quarters. I ordered an Outfit for canvassing, and received about a week ago. I have been canvassing five days. My success is beyond my expectations; but I feel assured that much of it may be attributed to sympathy. I have taken 19 names. This relieves me from the disagreeable necessity of having to call upon you for help.

I feel very anxious to hear from you; I hope your health is better. How are Kate and the boys? How is business with you? I expect, about the middle of June, to accept Florie's kind invitation to make my home with her at Crawfordsville, Ind.

My health is fair, but my hearing is so defective that I can never take the teacher's chair again. Good-by.

Your affec. father,
E.P. Bunce.

POSTCARD

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce.

Address: Franklin, Penn. Box 779

Other Envelope Notations: Postmarked sent from Crawfordsville, Ind. on May 3, 1887; cancelled one-cent postcard.

POSTCARD HEADING

Date of Postcard: May 2, 1887

Writer of Letter: Florence (Bunce) Buckley

Location of Writer: Crawfordsville, Ind.

Other Remarks: Written on a blank one-cent postcard in brown ink..

POSTCARD

Crawfordsville, Ind 8/3/87

Dear Brother,

I have not heard from you since I wrote and I feel a little anxious about you. I hope you are well, and will write to me on receipt of this. You see we are moved, and we are keeping house in a little four room cottage. It is a lovely little town and if we keep well and the Lord willing it won't be long before we have a little house of our own here. We are feeling as usual. Pa is going to come next month and stay with me for some time. Love to all. Write soon to your loving sister.

Florence Buckley

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Vincent P. Bunce, Esq

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Crawfordsville, Ind, on June 10, 1887; received in Franklin on June 11, 1887 at 2 PM; cancelled 2-cent embossed stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: June 9, 1887

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Crawfordsville, Ind.

Other Remarks: Written on folded lined writing paper in purple ink.

LETTER

Crawforsv. Ind.

June 9/87

Dear Son:

I am snugly at home with "Charley" (Charles Barkley) and Florie. I came thro. from Virginia May 31, having staid with your uncle about 10 days. Your uncle lent me the money to pay my fare and Charley has let me have money to repay him.

About the 20 May I had an attack of vertigo, - a whirling sensation in my brain, I have not had one since, but I am constantly more or less giddy, yet I think I am slowly improving. I take a full towel wash every morning on rising. I hope you and Katie and the little boys continue well.

Florie's husband is a remarkable man he is about 37 years, six ft. high, weighs 170 lb., and has never had a day's sickness. He has traveled in every state in the Union, except the N.E. states, and in every territory, but Alaska.

He is remarkably quick, practical, offhand, but not a profound thinker or reasoner, - is remarkable for his wit and humor. When he saw me draw my boots, with my iron boot jack, he exclaimed "I used to go to the forks of the road to draw my boots." His business is so different from anything I have ever been accustomed to that I can tell you but little about it. He is a "Horse Trainer," and is very expert in his business.

He has rented a house here with four rooms and a shed room. He has invested over \$200 in household and kitchen furniture. He keeps an excellent table. He has bought a \$3 cot my use.

He seems to love Florie

“almost to death” and she thinks she has got a Bonanza. He expects to be from home much of his after the 14th.

I send enclosed, a sketch of something I planned just before I left Brown. I style it The Eureka Three Horse Draft. The difficulty encountered by manufacturers and farmers in mowers and reapers is to use three horses and equalize the draft, and, at the same time, prevent the side-draft. To accomplish this I detach the tongue and move it 12 in. to the right and put an iron bar in the place of it; to this is attached the 3 horse double tree; all three of the horses draw by the Draft Bar instead of the tongue, the latter serves merely for turning and backing the machine.

This invention is highly applauded by all to whom I have shown it. “Charley,” a natural genius, comprehended it almost at a glance, approves it and would help me patent it if he had the means.

Our plan is to get some one who has a little money (\$30) to help patent it on some terms; then present it to the manufacturers of the machines, and we believe they will take hold. Can you talk it up? I would like to hear how you get along. Love to all.

Your affct. Father, E.P.

Bunce

P.S. Excuse my numerous blunders; not intentional. E.P.B.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce.

Address: Franklin, Penn.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Crawfordsville, Ind. on June 27, 1887; received in Franklin on June 29, 1887 at 7:30 AM; cancelled 2-cent stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: June 26, 1887

Writer of Letter: Florence (Bunce) Buckley

Location of Writer: Crawfordsville, Ind.

Other Remarks: Written on folded lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Crawfordsville, Ind.

June 26/87

Dear Brother Vint,

Your letter was received some time since and was glad to hear you were all well; hope this will find you still enjoying the same great blessing. I should indeed love to see your little boys and my sister, also, and hope that pleasure will not be denied me much longer.

I hope business is improving with you. Charlie started out in the circuit the 14th inst. And has not done much yet. Pa is with me, and has been since the 21st of May, but I'm lonesome anyhow.

I have not received many letters from Brown lately. I correspond with Mr. Rich's folks, and when I am there they often speak of you. They have a boot-jack which you gave them and seem to think a great deal of it. They never write much news. I have not heard from Jessie since I wrote her last December. The neighborhood is going on just the same as I've always known it – no significant improvement that I can see. To tell the truth, Vint, I'm very glad I don't live there.

This is a nice place to live and I feel perfectly contented here. I wish you could all come make me a visit. It all depends on what luck Charlie has this summer, whether we get our little house. Charlie was made a present of a pig for doing a favor for one of his friends, and his employer gave him a rooster and three hens – game chickens – so you see we have a start. I am going to pick up plenty of fruit, and God willing, will spend a happy winter together. As long as he stays in this business he'll be gone every summer; I hope he'll give it up some day and do something that won't take him away from home so much.

We have a Salvation Army here and they have great times. They parade every evening, have prayer and speaking on the C.H. square and then hold a meeting in the old Music Hall, to

which they charge two cents admittance, and on extra nights, five cents. Perhaps you have them there. It is curious to watch them.

We had some terribly warm weather a week or so ago, and since then it has been very cool. We had a rainy spell the latter part of May, and after that was over we had the cistern cleaned and it hasn't rained a drop since, and not much prospect of it. Harvesting is going on and from all reports the crops are turning out well.

I will inform you how Charlie is succeeding when I hear from him again. I'd like to ask a favor of you, can grant it or not. Pa is taking a course of treatment from a firm of doctor's here, and I think it is doing him good, for he is not troubled with those giddy spells now. They charge by the month, and they say they can cure him. The terms are \$3.00 per month. Do you think you could send \$2.00 per month? Charlie will furnish the rest. We have given him some money already, and as Charlie is at a good deal of expense at present, I dislike to have him pay it all. If Pa succeeds with his lawsuit this fall, he will repay you; but I count nothing on that. I don't expect his to return the money we give him neither does Charlie. I would not ask this of you, Vint, were it later in the racing season and Charlie doing well, but he only commenced this treatment the 14th, so the money will be due the 14th of July; please let me know before that time whether you can help him. I expect he will write to you about it.

I must close now as I have another letter to write. Love to yourself and Katie, kiss my little nephews for me and write soon to.

Your loving sister Florence
Buckley Box 680

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mrs. Katie Bunce

Address: Franklin Venango Co Penn

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Cooperstown, Ill. on Jul 16, 1887; post marked received in Franklin, Pa. at 2 PM on Jul 18, 1887; the stamp has been cut from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: July 15, 1887 (7-15-1887)

Writer of Letter: Lizzie Bunce

Location of Writer: Cooperstown, Illinois

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 embossed blue lined writing paper in purple ink; the embossed symbol is a round belt-like circle with the word "GENEVA" inscribed in the middle; 3 pages.

LETTER

Dear Sister "Katie"

I hope you will pardon me for not answering your kind letter sooner. I've been very busy this summer that is one reason why I have not written sooner and another excuse for not writing is because I just can't write a letter worth reading of course you know that without being told

I fear Vint will be disappointed at not hearing from Louis he is not at home today or I would have him write he does not like to write very well he says you will think that he ought to write better than he does I would just give anything if Vint could see him I know that he would be proud of him. He is just as much like his papa as he can be

Well "Katie" I've nothing to write that will interest you much I guess I will have to tell you something of our turkey's and chickens. We have over 200 young chickens large enough to fry, and 40 young turkeys. I went out to day to look for blackberries but I could not find any. I suppose you are not bothered having to run over the hills after such things. I do not think that people who live in a city have to work like those who live on farms, their work is not at all the same. I know that I do more tramping around than any old horse we milk two cows and they each give three gallons of milk our cellar is quite a distance from the house so you may know there is a good deal of work about taking care of the milk. I want you to write and tell me all about yourself and the babies I would like so much to see them. Tell Vint I will write to him soon.

I will close this poorly written letter, hoping to hear from you so. I remain your
loving sister
Lizzie

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: . V. P. Bunce, Esq

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Crawfordsville, Ind. On Aug 5, 1887; post marked received in Franklin at 8 AM on Aug. 8 1887; yellow-colored envelope with partially torn cancelled two cent stamp.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Aug.5/87 (8-5-1887)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Crawfordsville, Ind.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 "onion-skin like blue lined writing paper in purple ink that has bled through each of the pages; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son:

Allow me to trouble you again with a letter. I hope you are well, but your health is so precarious that I feel uneasy unless I hear from you from time to time. I wrote you the 28th June. I told you, perhaps, that I was using a catarrh remedy for which I had promised to pay in a month. Just when this payment became due, Charley returned from a trip in Iowa and was kind enough to let me have \$5 to pay the bill. He has furnished me with \$12.90 in cash, the greater part of which paid for bringing myself and things from Illinois and my doctors bill. It looks hard that he should have to advance me money, and board me too. I am relieved of vertigo and giddiness, but catarrh remains – it will never be removed. My lungs are somewhat affected, and I feel confident it will terminate in consumption.

I do not know whether or not I have told you (my memory is wretched) about the lawsuit I shall have with Martin Howell in Oct. I have instituted suit against him for \$500 damages. It is in the hands of J.J. McDonold, County Judge of Brown. I allow him one third for his fee. He feels confident of success. But this will make me a trip to Brown, which I estimate will cost me about \$15. I have stated my case with Mart. to Charley, and he is very favorably of it. I have said nothing to him about lending me money to pay my way to Brown, and I shall require a heavy coat of "brass" on my face to enable me to do so. If you can lend me the amount, or any part of it by the 1st of Oct., let me know it. I have not heard from you since the 8th of May at which time you told me you had to had to pay some pretty heavy bills by July. I hope you have been able to meet those demands. How is business with you, and how is your health?

I am very comfortably situated here, and expect to remain here through the winter, and how much longer is uncertain. If I get money of Howell, I shall feel greatly tempted to visit you;

if not, I'm stuck. But I hope you will let me hear from you, be your circumstances what they may, that I may rejoice or sympathize with you, as the case may be.

Your affect. Father,
E.P. Bunce.

Aug. 9th, 1887

Dear Daughter Kate:

I should be greatly pleased to have a line from you once again, and hear that you are well. I wish I could see the little boys. Tell Alfred his grandpa Bunce often thinks about him and would be mighty glad to see him. Remember me kindly to your father and mother, brothers and sisters. I hope they still retain kind thought for me.

Your affectionate father,
E.P. Bunce.

POSTCARD

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce. Esq

Address: Franklin, Pa

Other Postcard Notations: No return address; one-cent postmarked sent from Crawfordsville, Indiana on September 6, 1887.

POSTCARD HEADING

Date of Postcard: September 6, 1887

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Crawfordsville, Indiana

Other Remarks: Written in brown ink.

POSTCARD

Crawfordsville, Ind. Sep. 6/87

Dear Son: I will add further to what I said yesterday. Charley may not want to leave Crawfordsv.; if so I expect to remain where I am. I am very kindly treated here. But whether I succeed in my suit or not, I shall not need any help until the latter part of Oct. and none if I do. Florie's health is a little delicate but Charlie is as stout as a buck. My own is fair, except the catarrh. Please write.

Your father, - E.P. Bunce

POSTCARD

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce. Esq

Address: Franklin, Pa

Other Postcard Notations: No return address; one-cent postmarked sent from Versailles, Ill
October 8, 1887.

POSTCARD HEADING

Date of Postcard: October 8, 1887

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, Illinois

Other Remarks: Written in purple ink.

POSTCARD

Versailles, Ill, . 10/8/87

Dear Daughter - A thousand thanks for your kind letter of the 29, just rec'd. I left Crawfordsville last Monday. My case in court will be tried next Wed. I have got securities for the cost Charley furnishes me with money to pay R.R. Fare. He is kind to me. I regret that I made request of Vincent, but I know not what to do then. I can stay with F this winter. I will write more in full after court. If you write address me here.

Love to you & Vincent. E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Penn.

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "If not demanded in 10 days return to F. Buckley, Clear Creek, Ind."; post marked sent from Clear Creek, Ind. on Oct 15, 1887; Post marked received in Franklin, Pa at 7:30 AM on Oct 17, 1887; the stamp has been cut from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 10/14/87 10-14-1887

Writer of Letter: Florence (Bunce) Buckley

Location of Writer: Clear Creek, Ind.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper; the embossed symbol is that of a "flying dove with an envelope in its beak" with the word "BROCTON" inscribed it; 3 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother,

I can not help thinking it a little strange that you never answered my letter. That is all past now, but I would like to have your answer to this. We have moved from Crawfordsville onto a farm owned by Charlie's employer, and expect to remain here for the winter, it is not determined what we will do after that. I suppose you know that pa is in Brown attending his law-suit, and I hope for his sake he will make something out of it. I received a letter from him a few days ago, in which he told me he heard you were "all broken up." Will you please write to me and tell me the meaning of that. I was in hopes pa could stay with you this winter, for it is not agreeable to Charlie to have him with us. He has given him upwards of \$25.00 since he was with us, but he does not mind that. They are so different in their ways, and pa's fond of arguing. But I can't tell you to give you any idea of it. Charlie does not quarrel or say anything disagreeable to him, but nevertheless it is not pleasant. And, besides, I wanted as little to do this winter as possible, for my health was very poor all summer. I've been taking medicine now for some time. Can you not make it convenient for him to stay with you. Charlie will pay his expenses. I don't know of anything more to write until I hear from you. I hope this will find you all well and that you will write to me right away. We have just moved in and things are not straightened up, and I'm tired, so goodnight.

Your loving sister,
Florence Buckley.

P.S. Address me at Box 86. Charlie sends his regards, and says he is getting along nicely and is pretty busy.

F.B.

ENVELOPE**Addressed To:** V. P. Bunce, Esq**Address:** Franklin, Pa.**Other Envelope Notations:** No return address; post marked sent from Mound Station, ILL. on Oct 17 1887; post marked received in Franklin, PA at 8 AM on Oct 19, 1887; two cent stamp remains on envelope but is torn off on right side.**LETTER HEADING****Date of Letter:** Oct. 16/87 (10-16-1887)**Writer of Letter:** EP Bunce**Location of Writer:** Mounds, Ill.**Other Remarks:** Written on 5"x8" red lined writing paper in purple ink; 3 pages.**LETTER**

Dear Daughter:

I arrived here last evening, and find my son-in-law David & family all well. I reached Mt. Sterling last Tuesday to attend to my suit in court, which was set for Wednesday. I took board at a restaurant at a dollar a day. Several cases took precedence of mine till Saturday. Everything was in readiness in court, but during Friday night, my lawyer, J.J. McDannold, was taken sick, and could not attend to business in court, further than to get a lawyer to draw up an application to the court for a continuance of the case. This has been much expense and disappointment to me. I shall have to attend court again in the spring, if I live and can get money to pay railroad fare. But I have learned all that the defense has to offer, and he has hardly a shadow of affect. There is no question but that I shall recover damages for some amount. In fact the defendant has been heard to say, that he expects to have to pay some damages, but not as much as Bunce charges."

I shall leave tomorrow for Virginia, which I expect to reach in a few days. There I must stop, and write to Charlie Buckley for means on which to return home to Ind. I took with me only about enough to bring me here.

My health is pretty good and I pass the time at Charlie's very pleasantly. It would afford me a great pleasure to visit you, & see your little boys, but my circumstances will not permit.

I wish Vincent would write to me, at reasonable intervals. If he is sick, I would like to know of it, if he is unfortunate will he not let his father know it? It hurts me to hear of his failure in business, but it hurts me still worse, when he fails, for months, to reply to my letters. I sincerely sympathize with him, and hope his business will soon assume a better shape. I do not expect him to help me; I would help him if I could. Remember me kindly to him, with love to yourself and little boys.

Affectionately yours,
E.P. Bunce.

P.S. Address me at Virginia.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Nov 19th 1887 (11-19-1887)

Writer of Letter: Jessie Bunce

Location of Writer: Mound Station Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on a folded 8 ½ x 6 ½ blue lined sheet of paper in purple ink; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Bro. & Sister:

Have you forgotten that I exist? Have I offended in anyway? If so forgive me. I have heard of your misfortune and you have my sympathy, yet I congratulate you. Gladly would we part with our farm, all we possess could we only bring back the brightest jewell of our home, our little Ruby. For my part it seems as though the object of all ambition is removed from sight. One of the warmest, most unselfish little hearts is stilled. The burden of her daily caresses to me, as she put her white arms round my neck were, "Mamma loves her girlie baby" and "Mamma could not keep house without her little house keeper." I had told her so, so often. This is no more than you have had to bear though. We send you one of Ruby's pictures a fairest(?) like (?)...for the troubled look on her little face. Vincent those little lips uttered only what goes to make this life pure and virtuous. Young as she was (2 yrs, 6 mo,) her mind grasped ideas ahead of her years. She went as pure as she came. Perhaps our pride in her was too great. It seems as though the curtain had been drawn over one of the brightest dreams.

Perhaps I weary you with thoughts that I love to dwell upon, and will close them. But the least that can be said of her in her words She was "Papas little lady." "Mammas little housekeeper" faint ideas indeed. Our boy is doing nicely if we can only keep him is 6 mo, 17 days old. Grandpa Hosford called him Orville and Mr Vance said his little son should go by the name of Vincent. Both names please me. He is a bright baby with black hair and blue eyes and as large as any year old baby we have seen lately. If we can only keep him from taking Scarlet fever. Ruby died of this Nov 15th.

Dear brother and sister will time ever heal the wound? Write and tell me for it really seems more than I can endure.

Your Lov. Sister,
Jessie.

POSTCARD

Addressed To: Mrs. Kate Bunce

Address: Franklin, Pa

Other Postcard Notations: Noted on front of card: "If not delivered in 5 days return to E.P. Bunce Virginia, Ill; one-cent postmarked sent from Virginia, Ill November 26, 1887.

POSTCARD HEADING

Date of Postcard: November 26, 1887

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Virginia, Illinois

Other Remarks: Written in purple ink.

POSTCARD

Kind wishes to Vincent

Virginia, Ill., Nov. 26, 87

Dear Daughter – Misfortune attends me. My kindhearted, affectionate brother John who had agreed to keep me thro. the winter was kicked by a horse last night, from the effects of which he died at four o'clock this morning. His family are suffering great grief, besides being greatly embarrassed financially. I have not yet had any consultation with them about staying here. If I cannot, I must try Charley Goodall, or go to Brown Co. and try to get board till the spring.

Your affectionate father E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: May 5/88 (5-5-1888)

Writer of Letter: EP Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on a 5 x 7 single sheet of brown lined writing paper in purple ink; very faded and difficult to read; 2 pages.

LETTER

Dear Daughter:

My health is reasonably good at present, tho I had sick...days about 3 weeks ... I am on the back.

I have not yet recovered a cent in my lawsuit and I am living with friends. I have just received a package from Vint

I want to stay with youthe fall when the evenings will be long enough for meIf you can't, David can let me stay with you which I do not

Write me soon without delay ...whether or not I can stay with you.

Your father,
E.P. Bunce.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Penn.,

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Mound Station, Ill. on May 24, 1888; Postmarked received in Franklin, Pa at 8 AM on May 26, 1888; stamp has been cut from envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: May 88 (5-24-1888)

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writer: Mound Station, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in purple ink; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother and Sister:

Your letters were received in due time.

Dear Katie your trials seem multiplied. I realize through my own tears what your mother heart suffers. Let us try to persuade ourselves that the loving Shepard had need of the little lambs now gathered to the fold.

Baby Ruby has certainly left a pathway for one to follow by trying to make myself worthy of the meeting destined for us.

Perhaps their baby faces and fingers will be the first to greet us at the door which is the inevitable. For I fondly hope we shall know and claim our own in the hereafter. You and Vincent have our sincere sympathy in your bereavement.

Vincent I want you to write to me for Katie if she is not yet strong enough. I want to hear of her returning health.

Kiss baby Vincent for aunt Jessie and tell him he has one of the noisiest cousins, that he ever heard tell of. He is over a year old but does not stand alone as he is too heavy on his little limbs.

I too received a letter fro Pa and to tell the truth I don't know which way to look or move. Mr. Vance at present is simply a farm hand and you know something of the wages given them. Out of these he is making three different payments besides our taxes, feeding a little stock, and our living expenses. Mr Vance declares under no circumstances it is impossible for him to take him in the summer. I know he speaks the truth. We have a plenty, but what I waste would not keep life in any thing.

By being carefill now we hope to do better after awhile.

But in spite of all this we are going to help Pa all we can. I have written to Florie and Charlie, and notwithstanding what you said will ask you too, to help him. For you know what the

result will be if we do not, and I don't know what else to say.

He wrote me a letter not long ago which I send you to read and after having read it you will not wonder at my being confused for our plans are such that we could not do this, for he would not go West again. What can I do?

Vincent please help him a little this summer as you can and we will do the same. I may not have done right? in asking you to this, but did not know what else to do.

Charles Guthrie's wife died about a year ago. He died in Iowa this winter.

I will close asking you to write me soon.

Your lov., sister
Jessie Vance

P.S. Promise to say nothing about it & I will tell you more in my next.

J

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Vincent P. Bunce, Esq

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "If not delivered in 10 days return to EP Bunce, Versailles, Ill."; post marked sent unable to read location but dated Jun 23, 1888; post marked received in Franklin, Pa. at 8 AM on June 25, 1888; stamp has been cut from envelope; color of envelope is aqua blue-green.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 6/21/88 (6-21-1888)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in purple ink; embossed symbol is a crown over a crest with the inscription "ST CLOUD"; 7 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son:

In the fore part of May, I received the little box with tokens of Alfred's death, also your letter concerning "Katie's" illness. Can it be possible I did not answer you? I surely did; but I find I have failed to make any record of it in either my letter book or diary. If you write again, please give me the date of the letter, if you have it.

On the 10 of May I received the pittance of \$30 (the balance after paying my lawyer's fee) the amt. awarded me in my lawsuit. I had promised Maria \$10 of it on what I was owing her, and I sent it to her without delay. I have a little of it left yet.

In the fore part of May, I was greatly embarrassed. I had written to Florence for "\$5 or less," but got no answer. David said (in Jessie's letter) "he could not take any one into the family this summer," tho I had assured them I would do all the work they would want done in their garden and potatoes. I tried to find writing in the stores but failed. I was visiting among my friends, who received me kindly. I, at length, told them I must go to the Poorhouse, but they said that "would never do." On the 16 of May I drew up a brief article in which the subscribers agree to entertain me, free of charge, one night every two weeks till Sep.20. At that time the evenings will be long enough to make classes in Book-keeping. I got 15 names signed cheerfully. The following are the names: Wm. Ravencroft, Charley Root, Thos. Vandeventer, Wm. Vandeventer, Lawrence Dennis (old Ben Robinson's son-in-law) Wm. Greenwell, Frank Clark, N.B. Cox (Pole), (?)D. Greenwell, Peter Thomas, James Fry, Wm. Perry, Jno. J. Taylor, Elmer McCoy, Thos. Root, Oscar Robinson, Frank Hosford, and there are other places where I stop occasionally. I have a regular circuit, and it would do you good to see the smiling faces and hear the kind words

with which I am greeted. Robert Reid allows me to keep my two trunks and a box in his ware room without charge. I impart a good deal of instruction on my rounds on various subjects to old as well as young.

Perhaps I have told you of a fall I got on a sleety sidewalk on the 24 of March. I was badly hurt in my back. I apprehend I shall never fully recover from the effects of that fall. I do not suffer regular pain, but it hurts me to rise from my seat.

On Sunday, May 6, I experience a hallucination that greatly surprised me, and which surprises me yet. I was passing, in the afternoon, from Frank Clark's to Wm. Stewart's, who had invited me to visit him. Instead of going to Stewart's, I stopped at L. Dennis's, old Benny Robinson's son-in-law, fully believing I had reached Stewart's. I am perfectly familiar with both places. There was no one at home. I waited till the sun was about an hour high, when Dennis with his wife and two children and old Mr. Robinson, who is extremely infirm, drove up into the horse lot in his wagon. This did not dispel my illusion the slightest! I was amazed, but I finally came to the absurd conclusion that he had met with Stewart in town, and it was agreed that Dennis and his family should stop over night on a visit, and that he, Stewart, would soon be along! I concluded that, if this was the case, there would be no room for me, and that I would travel on to Geo. Burgesses's. I bade the "supposed visitors" good-by, and walked out of the yard into the road, recognizing every object, but believing it was Stewart's. I made about ten steps in the road when, in an instant, I knew where I was! I went to Stewart's, and staid over night. Now, what was the cause of this hallucination? Was it my embarrassed circumstances, when I hardly knew one day where I should go the next? I have experienced nothing of it since.

My health is fair. I have a fair appetite, relish my food but am not hearty, have good digestion, rest well, and weigh 127 lb; but I am feeble. I am greatly troubled with a gummy secretion from the eyes. My catarrhal complaint does not increase.

But perhaps you are ready to ask what I do. Why I walk on an average, about two miles a day, read books and newspapers, and discuss science, religion, and politics, - yes, and pet the little children. This is the "fix" my sons-in-laws leave me in. Well, I'll try to stand it, if they "kin."

But I feel extremely anxious to hear from "Katie". I fear I shall never again see her in this world. I hope she is in better health. How is your own health? How are you succeeding financially? Let me hear from Katie's relatives, and give her my love.

Your affectionate father,
E.P. Bunce.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce,

Address: Franklin, Penn.

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "If not demanded in 10 days return to Chas. Buckley, Clear Creek, Ind."; post marked sent from Clear Creek, Ind. On Jul 2, 1888; post marked received in Franklin, Pa. at 2 PM (date unreadable) 1888; stamp has been cut from envelope; 2 pages.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: June 30th 1888 (6-30-1888)

Writer of Letter: Florence (Bunce) Buckley

Location of Writer: Clear Creek, Ind.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined stationery from "Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railway Company." in brown ink; 2 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother and Sister,

I received the paper announcing the death of little Alfred some time since. I hope you will forgive me for not writing sooner, but I have not been able. My sincerest sympathies are with you, and may God help you bear your loss, and be reconciled to His will I hope this will find you both well, and the baby, too. I believe you never told me his name. You have another one to think of out this way, for we have a little boy at our house, born the first of this month. He weighed twelve and half pounds, and is a remarkably good baby. I am not feeling very stout yet, but hope to be myself again before very long. It has been so long since I received a letter from you that I hardly know what to write. I would like to hear from you occasionally, and hope to hear that you are doing well. Accept my love and best wishes, and write soon to

Your loving sister,
Florence Buckley.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce,

Address: Franklin, Pa

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "If not delivered in 10 days return to E.P. Bunce, Mounds Station, Ill."; post marked sent from Mound Station, Ill. on Sep. 8, 1888; post marked received in Franklin, PA. at 10 AM on Sep 10, 1888; stamp has been cut from envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Sep. 8/88 (9-8-1888)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Mounds Station, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in purple ink; embossed symbol is a crown over a crest with the inscription "ST CLOUD"; 8 pages.

LETTER

Dear Son: - I received a letter from you dated May 4, to which I replied June 21. In your letter you stated the terrible afflictions of your family. I deeply sympathize with you, - 'tis all that I can do. When I read (as I frequently do) those tender, affectionate lines in Katie's letters to me, my mind is overwhelmed with sorrow at her late troubles, trials, and afflictions. But do you serve me right in not letting me know, from time to time, her condition - whether she is dead or alive? I must know soon. If you cannot write to me, I must make inquiry otherwise; I can stand suspense no longer. Let me know, not only the physical condition of yourself and family, but also your financial condition. I make this request as a favor from a son to an aged father. O, how I wish I could see my affectionate daughter Katie once more!

I will now tell you something of my present condition. I am enjoying reasonably good health. My hearing is very deficient, but gets no worse. My right eye remains good. I made a little money last winter at teaching evening classes in book keeping. My suit against Martin Howell, for damages, netted me about \$20, of which I paid your aunt Maria \$10, and I still owe her \$15. My board and incidental expenses to May 1, exhausted my small means, and I was greatly at a loss what to do, for I could find no employment, till next Sep., when the evenings would be long enough to teach book-keeping again. I felt greatly inclined to throw myself upon the County, but some of my friends said, "no, that will never do." About the middle of May, I drew up a brief paper, in which the subscribers agreed to entertain me one day and night, without charge, every two weeks until Sep 20. The paper was signed with alacrity wherever I presented, and I staid with the following persons till Aug, 1: Charley Root, Thom. Van., Wm. Van., Wm. Raven., Oscar Robinson, Lawrence Dennis, Elmer McCoy, Thos. Root, John J. Taylor, Wm. Perry, Frank Clark, Wm. Greenwell, Horace (Hop) Greenwell "Pole" Cox, Peter Thomas, James Fry, and some others. While stopping at those places, I gave all the instruction I could, by giving and receiving questions, and answers to the same.

But perhaps you feel curious to know where I am now. Well, on July 31, I dropped into Versailles and received a letter from Jessie, informing me, that a Mr. Nokes, a neighbor of hers, desired to see me, that he might employ me to teach his children in his own house. Vance having sent me 50 (cents) to pay my fare, I took train next morning for Mounds, went out to Vance's (about four miles,) and he introduced me to the Nokes. Cap. S.D. Nokes is a wealthy farmer

living in the western part of Brown co. He is 54 years of age, his wife is 50. He has five children living. His oldest is a daughter, married, and living in Mo.; his second is a son, 19 years of age, and has lately entered Quincy Business College; the third is a girl of 13, the fourth a boy of 7, and the fifth a girl 5 years old. Of course they have hired help. Altho they are people of wealth and culture, there is not the slightest manifestation of aristocracy in them. They are sociable and kind, and the children are remarkably quiet and well-behaved. Nokes did some hard fighting in the civil war, and is a genuine Republican. He hired lady teachers three winters previous to the last, but last winter his oldest son, Ocar (?) attended the district school, his 13 year old girl, Bird (Birdie) boarded in town, and the two younger ones, Grant and Jessie, remained at home.

And now, the agreement: He thinks he will want me 4 or 5 years, or perhaps longer if we can agree and he will pay me \$4 per month, rather light wages, you will say. But I have first class board, washing, lodging, and mending, the year round, free. If I am sick, he says he will not turn me out of the house, but will take care of me, and I shall have medical attendance, if necessary. I am too teach at whatever time in the year he may desire.

We live in a spacious two story brick building. My school room and bedroom are adjoining rooms on the second floor, and are all that heart can wish. When the ground shall become muddy, frozen, or covered heavily with snow, when Boreas blows his 20 (knot) gale across these bleak prairie farms, I will walk up the carpeted stairway in my slippers and take my seat by a window, while the winds will howl in vain. But a cyclone of some kind may possibly soon sweep all this away. I can scarcely realize my situation – it is magnificent. The little ones are good they are sweet. “Birdie” will be a perfect “heart-wrecker.” My only drawback is your situation, but this is a serious one, - I wish I could help you. I hope the day is distant, when I shall have to call upon you to help me.

Cap. Nokes is a prominent man, well and very favorably known throughout the county. I do not know what he is worth, but he sold last year, \$2050 worth of apples, vinegar, and cider – the product of his own orchard. A rebel bullet past through his left thigh, slightly injuring the bone, - he draws a pension.

I live about half a mile from Jessie and visit her frequently. She wants you to write to her. Perhaps you know, Nellie was married Aug 8, to one John McClure, a farmer living a few mile from Virginia. But I fear I am becoming tedious, and will come to a close. I hope you will not fail to write to me. I hope Katie has recovered hr health; give my love to her. I remain,

Your affectionate father,
E.P. Bunce.

P.S. Has Miss Della, your sister-in-law, recovered her health?

E.P.B.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce, Esq.

Address: Franklin, Pa

Other Envelope Notations: Return address "If not delivered in 10 days return to E.P. Bunce Mounds, Ill; postmarked sent from Mound Station on October 6, 1888; stamped received in Franklin on October 9, 1888 at 12 Midnight; stamp removed from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: October 6, 1888

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Mounds, Illinois

Other Remarks: Written on folded embossed lined writing paper in purple ink.

LETTER

Mounds, Ill

Oct. 6/88

Dear Son:

You cannot imagine the satisfaction – the delight – the relief of mind, that your more than welcome letter of the 4, afforded me. When I read that "Katie has entirely recovered her health" I had to stop and take a long breath. When I look upon the little tokens of love she has given me, and read her kind, affectionate letters, my feelings almost over power me. I wish I could assist you and her in some way; but all I can do , is to sympathise with you in your griefs and misfortunes. The loss of little Alfred must be a great source of grief to you. I know this by experience: the loss of your brother Francois, a perfect model of a boy, physically, intellectually, and morally – a stroke from which, I am inclined to think, your mother never never fully recovered; and your little eleven months old brother – the little angel – Robert (Florence has his miniature photo) and that other beautiful little baby boy of two days – Origene Skinner – all these , with your good sister Roberta, I have had to part with. But I fully believe thay are all in the happy spirit world, where sickness, sin, and sorrow, are no more. You have lost children before, but the are better off than they would have been, had their life been protracted in their frail bodies. You express a wish that Lewis could be with you. I sincerely wish he could be with you and Katie. He always salutes me with an affectionate "how dy do, grandfather?"

I wrote to you sep. 10, an eight page letter, but as you make no mention of the letter or its contents, I aapprehend you did not get it. But I will refrain from recapitulating the contents of that letter, until I hear from you again.

My health is good; my weight is 129# - this is 5# above my average weight. I am only

half a mile from Jessie, and I visit her frequently. She and little “Vintie” are well. David is troubled at times with kidney complaint. He uses Warner’s Safe Cure.

Give yourself no uneasiness about assisting me. Take care of Katie – your little darling “Vinty”, and yourself, too. Thanks for stamps but it was necessary for you to send them. A widow Breckingridge took lessons of me a few days, preparatory to opening her winter term of school. She voluntarily paid me \$1, insisting that I should take it. It helped me, I assure you.

May I not hope to get a letter from daughter Katie soon? I hope you yourself will write to me, from time to time, and let me know what you are doing, what wages you are getting, where you are living, and what your prospects are for the future. If no unforeseen event transpire with me, I shall not have to call upon you for any help for a long time to come. I wish I could visit you and take that little “curly headed” boy in my arms and kiss his ruby lips. Kiss him for me, and tell him about his grandpa Bunce. Wishing you and yours health and happiness, I will close.

Your affectionate father,
E.P. Bunce

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Penn. (Venango Co)

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Mount Sterling, Ill on Jan 28; post marked received in Franklin, Pa. at 9 AM on Jan 30, 1889; stamp has been cut from envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 1-27-1889 (1-27-1889)

Writer of Letter: Lizzie Bunce

Location of Writer: Cooperstown, Ill

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in blue ink; the embossed symbol is an oval inside a diamond shape with the inscription "PIONEER";
4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Vint

Your most welcome letter, was, received yesterday and read with much pleasure. And I must confess that I am considerably bothered to know why you are so anxious for me to make you a visit. Certainly I could not think of refusing your kind invitation under the circumstances.

Please give me a little hint when you write what you want with me. (Mama is very anxious that you shall tell.) I think that I can get ready in two weeks from now. will that be soon enough?

Now I must tell you about Louis if he goes he will have to have a new suit of clothes. This seems like too much to ask of you, but we are just not able to get them for him you can send him the clothes or send me the money and I can get them here to fit him. Louis is tickled half to death thinking he is going to see you.

I shall not answer your questions but will tell you everything when I get there. Tell me in your next how I shall go. I will write again when I hear from you and tell you what day we will start. Hoping to hear from you very soon I remain

Affectionately yours,

Lizzie.

"Vint" should you send Louis a suit be sure and get it large enough he is not here now or I would send you his height her wears no. five shoes.

L.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. Vincent P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, "Venango Co" Penna.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent is unreadable; post marked received in Franklin, PA on Aug 11 at 7AM; stamp has been cut from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Aug the 8th 1893 (8-8-1893)

Writer of Letter: Kate Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 6x12 ledger sheet (numbered "106") in brown ink; 1 page.

LETTER

Dear Papa.

I sent you a letter yesterday as Uncle Frank and Wm Dewitt went to town. I am almost crazy this morning over Aunt Levie's capers and I am determined I wont stay another night here. She and Sarah Dewitt are capable of doing any-thing. If any of the children or myself get poisoning or die suddenly you can put the blame on them. I am going to take the children up to Mr Orrs this afternoon and stay all night – then I will try and see Aunt Kate tomorrow and see if she will let us stay with her until you answer this letter. The first chance I get I will ask Uncle Frank to get me two boxes then I shall pack every thing for shipping. I know he will make it all right if Aunt Kate is willing for us to stay there. If I don't hear from you between this & Monday some-time I will start Tuesday morning Aug the 14 (if I have to beg my way) to meet the one I love better than all on Earth Hoping and Praying you have met with success, ere this and trusting I may be spared to meet you is my earnest desire from you loving wife

Kate

Kate Curry came home with Aunt Kate

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Warners New York

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles, ILL on May 20 1894; post marked received in Warner, NY on May ??; cancelled two cent stamp remains intact on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Tuesday Evening May the 22nd 1894 (5-22-1894)

Writer of Letter: Kate Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 6x8 blue lined sheets of tablet paper in pencil (pp.1-4) and brown ink (pp. 5-6); 6 pages.

LETTER

Dear Papa,

I received your postal and was glad to hear from you. I never saw a change in the weather as we are having snow, we cant keep warm enough at nights I almost freeze. I have been feeling poorly even since you left. And it is all I can do to keep up, Thursday, Friday and Saturday I had to go out every few minutes in the rain to hunt wood to keep the children warm. Saturday afternoon Minnie Gray came over and stayed quite a little while after she went home Colman came and chopped me enough to do me over Sunday. Sunday afternoon Mr and Mrs Gray went up to Franks and I presume mentioned to them about the wood. I was in he act of going to bed when Uncle Frank, Lou, Sam, & Allen came in, and they acted to me as though they were ashamed. Saturday morning I fainted several times and at noon I was taken unwell I don't think I even suffered more and to day it is all in my head, if you were only here to take care of our little darlings I would be in bed. I hope it will get warm again soon for I know I would feel better. Vincent, Annie and Frank has a great time wearing your old vest & hat, every-night –Vincent puts them under his pillow. Aunt Lou came down twice yesterday, once to gather greens and a I loaned her my dish pan to take them home in she returned it in the afternoon, if it only gets warm tomorrow I will have to wash a little. I received a letter from Della, Aunt Kate is down sick in bed again, so they tell me. You remember the young man that came with Mr Orr to see you while you were sick in bed he started to go to Mr Lagsdon & was to return after he was gone several days Mr Orr discovered he lost seventy five or eighty lollars. The young man is missing and they cant find him.

Lidia came over this afternoon and wants me to be sure and come & spend the day at there house before I leave. Vincent has just returned with the milk. Aunt Lou gave him a rose bud wish you could only see him. How delighted he is. I will close as my head is hurting me. Hoping

to hear from you soon also that it wont be long until you will be able to send for your darlings
With lots of love & kisses from children and self I am still your loving and faithful wife Kate

Here it is Saturday morning and your letter not mailed. I presume when Uncle Frank goes to town he will bring me a letter from you. How delighted I will be, only hope you are pleased with your place and it wont be long until you send for us, it is so lonely and I can hardly get enough wood to do on, perhaps it will come home to them some-time. Thursday Afternoon Mrs Gray and Minnie came over. Then Mr Gifford came. Maggie Orr and Mr Frost. so it made it quite pleasant for me. Mr Gifford said he was coming up did not come last for me this week, he said the reason he did not come last – Will and his boy were down sick and Ida had to be there, and George Lalo wife want to get through house-cleaning

Uncle Mart passed several times but never looks towards the house. He had Lizzie Boyer, Wash Davis family. Uncle Franks there Wednesday. I have not seen uncle Frank to talk so I do not know what he thinks of her. Sam told me yesterday that they were all coming to there house Sunday but they have not mentioned it to me. Hoping you are well with lots of love from the babys and self I am as ever your loving wife

Kate

The children talk and cry for you every day. now send for us just as soon as you can.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Warners New York

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles, Illinois on May 38, 1894; post marked received in Warner, NY on May ??, 1894; stamp has been cut from envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Monday Afternoon May the 26th 1894 (5-26-1894)

Writer of Letter: Kate Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 6x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; unable to distinguish the embossed symbol; 6 pages.

LETTER

Dear Papa,

I received your letter late Saturday and was delighted to hear from you. I am so angry at the folks here that I hardly know how to write. Uncle Frank went the first of the week and invited Mrs Lizzie Boyer Ettie's family, all of Uncle Marts, Taylor Behenier, they tried to keep it from me. "Sam had to tell me." I never let on that I know any thing about it. Saturday morning Uncle Frank stopped to take your letter to town George Dewitts was with him. I had sent for Sam to come & chop wood but he would not come & as I had my clothes sprinkled I asked uncle Frank if he would chop me a little wood. George & he together chopped a few pieces. Mr Dewitts said I would think you would get awful lonely here by my-self, why don't you bring the children and come over often we would like to have. I then said all right Mr Dewitt you can tell Mrs Dewitt if nothing happens I will come and spend Sunday with her. He said all right be sure and come but he said it is not telling where I will be. I said all right that I was not coming to see him "but Mrs." Sunday morning I got up early and got the children all dressed and my-self riged up thinking I was going to Mrs D and was watching for Wash Davis as I was going to ask him to take us over their I wanted to see Lizzie. while we were in the road watching I saw Mrs Dewitt and Effie cut through the wheat field to Uncle Franks when they got to the top of the hill looked around to see if I was looking, in a few moments Wash drove up. I think Mrs Boyer perfectly lovely there isint any nicer. she kissed me and I felt as though I had always been acquainted with her she wanted me to get in and ride up with them but I told her I wasnt invited. she then gave me Grandmas picture. some of them know I intended going to Dewitts so I told Ettie to be sure to tell Wash then he would take us to "Mrs Orrs" he came & took us there we had a nice time then Wash called for us about half past three took up to Franks as Lizzie wanted to chat with me then they rode us home when they came. when John went asleep I sat there nursing him Aunt Lou never asked me to put

him down Ettie asked me if I wasent tired nursing him and why did'nt I put him down in front of Lou and she never said a word. Frank commenced to fret for bread when he saw Etties eating I asked Lou if she would give him a piece She gave the others cake, bread & butter with sugar on and Frank only bread & butter I came home I tell you with my feelings hurt I could not sleep for it last night and if I get a chance to tell Frank will speak my mind plainly. Allen & Sam fight so with Vincent I will not send him there any more the dog bit Vincent of the arm yesterday. If I get a chance I will give him a button.

Wash & Ettie said they would come up for us a Wednesday. They have the scarlet fever at Mr Giffords and both Mr Tools so I will not attempt going there, but I have promised to spend a day again at Mr Orrs and Mr Grays then that ends any visiting there. Aunt Lou sent word down with Allen at Noon if I wanted to send you a letter to have it ready as they were going to town, but I done with her. Mr orr, Maggie & Lydia told me yesterday it was ashamed the way the scholars picked at Vincent at school so I have made up my mind to keep him home. wish you could only see the pets, how they do miss you. now you can see how things are and what I have to work in so p l e a s e do not keep me here longer than you can help it. You will have to be careful what you write me as Uncle Frank opened your letter on Saturday he might do so again I think he had lots of cheek. Tell me in your next about when you will send for us With love and kisses from babys and self I am still your loving wife

Kate.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Warner, N.Y.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Versailles, Illinois on Jun 7 1894; post marked received in Warner, N.Y. on Jun 9, 1894 at 8AM; stamp has been removed from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: "In the Country" May the 30th 1894 & continued on June 7 (5-30-1894)

Writer of Letter: Kate Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 6x8 blue lined tablet paper in brown ink (pp. 1-5); continued on 6x8 pieces of blue lined ledger paper in brown ink (pp. 6-11); 11 pages.

LETTER

Dear Papa.

I received your good long letter you don't know how home-sick it makes me for you. I wish we were only settled. I cant bear the thoughts of remaining here especially on "Lous" account. Uncle Frank was here a little while this morning I told him I was hurt, he said I knew Lous sentiment about "him and I" and it almost kills me to think any one has such an opinion. Bow has just returned in company with Mrs Gray Mrs Dewitt from Marys grave and stopped a few minutes I have the children and my self all ready to go to Wash Davis when he calls she seemed a little surprised and about her first words were she bet you would return here. I told her you did not say so but seemed pleased with Warners she then wanted to know when you would send for us. She said she did not see how you could live that way. But suppose you would send for us in another week. Then she went on to say how lonely it was for me here and she didnt see how I could stand it. Then tried to scare me. You can see from her very action her happiest time will be when I am away so they never can see me but I feel confident that she and uncle Frank thinks you will return. The she ended the conversation by saying if you were not satisfied you said Mrs Miller would give you some thing else. So you can plainly see how her mind is. I have wrote you several letters I presume you have received them ere tho, and as I have said before I will do the best I can but hope you may be better satisfied there and will send for us and that we will all be happy yet. The children as well as my self have all colds I never saw the beat of this weather it is more like fall than Spring and we are nearly froze to day. and are with out a fire because no wood cut.

Mrs Dewitts said this morning they would take the large "bedstead" I wish you could have met "Mrs Lizzie Boyer" I think perhaps she might be able to do some- thing for you. I promised

her when I got to you we both would write her as she wants us to correspond. If Wash don't forget to come after us I will get him to take us to Versailles tomorrow and mail one my self. I am sick for some-thing good to eat. We are all stalled on our green stuff it seems as though I would do any-thing for some fresh meat The meat that Uncle Frank got us we can hardly use. How I do wish we were some-where and you only satisfied and doing well I think I would be the happiest mortal living. How would it be if you are not satisfied at Warners to look some-where else out there you know the house rent is paid here until August.

Uncle Frank has just come down to chop a little wood. He did not know Lou was here he told me they and Dewitts were going to Mount Sterling tomorrow. By the way Lou and Sarah had a talk about us up there the last time they were there.. I never saw the children so uneasy and fretful as they are now. And I believe we are going to be disappointed. I have stopped and made a fire I tell you it feels good. I will close for just now as I will have to get the children some-thing to eat Hoping you are well and will be better satisfied. Write me often and tell me when you think you can send for us is the wish of one that loves you, the children all join in sending love & kisses

Yours affectionately
Kate.

Tuesday Evening June the 5th 1894

Dear Papa. You will see by this letter I wrote you some days ago but did not get a chance to mail it. I had it ready for Frank to mail at Mount Sterling but he nor Lou stopped. Fred stopped Friday night from town with me a letter from Nannie and said Aunt Kate wanted me to be ready early the next morning and she would send for me. Uncle Sion called before the children had there breakfast we went over and stayed until Sunday had a nice time we talked of you lots on your birthday and how I did wish for you Papa. Will Sellers and Ettie Davis took dinner at Aunt Kate's Saturday. Ettie said at the table in front of all, she saw many one treated mean but she never saw any one treat another like Lou did me on that Sunday. I don't think I shall ever over look or can treat her right. I told Uncle Frank all, and told him to ask Ettie. Ettie never called for us we were all ready but she failed to put in an appearance. She said Saturday she would come this week but I will not go in that direction as the fever is to bad. Frank, Lou, Sam, & Allen came to Aunt Kate's Sunday for dinner I wanted to leave but Aunt Kate would not hear of it. Will and Alta were also there. We road home with Uncle Frank. I thought Saturday Kate would die she had another bad spell.

Thursday morning June 7

Dear Papa.

I have been trying all morning to get over to Cooperstown as I am in need of a few things I sent over to see if Minnie and I could take Jap's pony but it is sick or he says we could have it in welcome. They said we could take there buggy. Uncle Frank told me not to pay a dam bit of

attention to Lou he would see that I should get milk and when I wanted horse I could have one. I have never asked for one until now. I told Vincent to go up and ask Frank if I could have one horse. Lou sent him home, and told him they were working the horses. I sent him back and told him to go to the field where Uncle is working and ask him as I need some sugar and things. If Lou sends him home again I will go up at noon and ask him my-self. It is a lovely morning and how I do wish we were only together. How we do enjoy our garden and I never use any but I wish you had some. we have had three messes of our new potatoes this week & by Sunday our peas will be ready for use. Well I am doomed to disappointment. Uncle Frank sent word over he would go probably tomorrow & he would get me what I wanted I went up to Mr Orrs got an old chicken, for 20 cts 2 Doz eggs 10 and carried a bucket of sour milk. The chicken is on cooking and how I so wish you were only here to have some. I am going to take part and fry for tomorrow and make the rest in soup. Every is good and kind to us but Lou and all that is the matter with her is jealousness if you send us a little money we can stay here two or three weeks longer and it will give you a chance to get a house and have some-thing to work on. Now write me just as often as you can for you don't know how lonely I get and send for me just as soon as you can. I am doing my best here take good care of my garden and my pets.

Aunt Kate told me to be sure and send you the two rose buds and she will write you just as soon as she is able the white rose is from your Mother's bush and the red one from grandmas I will have to tend to my dinner now. Hoping to hear and to see you soon. I am with love and kisses from our little darlings. I am your loving wife Kate.

P.S. Vincent said while I was cleaning the chicken he wanted your piece as he was the man of the house now.

Lute Sellers address is
Ashland Cass Co.
Ill.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Warner, N.Y.

Other Envelope Notations: Return address states If not rec'd in 30 days return to Mrs. D.B. Vance, Mound Station Brown Co., Ill; postmarked sent from Mound Station, ILL on June 22, 1894; postmarked received in Warner, N.Y. on June 25, 1894 at 6 a.m.; cancelled 2-cent stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: June 19, 1894

Writer of Letter: Jessie Bunce

Location of Writer: Mound Station, Ill

Other Remarks: Written on folded embossed lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Mound Station Ill

6/19/94

Dear brother Vint:

Here I come to trouble you again! I will not allow you to get out of mental sight as long as I can coax you to write and I have wherewith to write to you. How is your health this time? We are as well as usual. Vintie's foot is no not well yet. I suppose uncle Frank told you of it, Dr. Leucas removed the main splinter from the tendon a week ago Sunday, and I took a very small piece out last evening. It does not keep him from running and climbing from morning till night.

I wrote to Katie before you took sick but rec'd no answer. Is she with you? Give my love to her by word or letter, and a kiss for each of the babies. Could you not have come to see us before going away? As you did not I'll think the very best of it and wish you success in whatever you undertake.

I visited Pa a week ago Sunday. He is weak mentally and physically. Every thing is neat and orderly about him and goes ahead with the precision of clock work. But I think the intolerable fumes of tobacco smoke has a great deal to do with Pa's nervous weakness, and he ought to be away from there on that account if no other, and I shall use my influence to that end. D is plowing for himself this fore noon, will help Mr. Chapman cut hay this afternoon. I have canned 8¾ gal. of cherries besides cleaning house in the last two weeks.

Now Vint write to me let's have nothing to regret on that score at some future day. You know you've only Peach bloom and Pug left of your brothers and sisters. Some day the roll will call as usual and the silence of one or, perhaps more of our voices will thunder louder than a hundred startling voices a something that will never leave us till the end of all things for us. At some future day perhaps it will be our fate or mine to turn, alone, and dust the "picture that hang on memory's walls". Let us resolve what the character of those pictures shall be, whether to be regretted and shunned, or whether by them at some later day we shall be "sustained and soothed

by an unflinching trust, approach the grave like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams.”

Perhaps this is tiring to you and I will change the subject.

I've not heard from Florie for over two months, as her health is not good. I wrote to her today, fearing she might be sick. One week ago they had rain at Mt. Sterling, almost a deluge. But a half nite or so west of that at the R.R. crossing you remember Mr. Osbourne said the dust was not laid. Corn looks very well or fairly so, but we are beginning to need rain and will need it badly before long.

If you can not write everytime Vint an equal welcome will be accorded Katies' letters. Only be sure to send more of them.

Be sure to tell me where Katie and the little ones are. I wish she would or could write to me.

Write soon to

Your loving sister

Jessie.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V.P. Bunce

Address: Warners New York

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles, Illinois on June 28; post marked received in Warner, N.Y. on Jun ?; the stamp has been cut off the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: "Monday Morning" 6/25/94. (6-25-1894)

Writer of Letter: Kate Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 8x6 blue lined ledger paper in brown ink; 6 pages.

LETTER

Dear Papa.

Oh! How I wish I was only with you. It will kill me if I have to stay here much longer and have that "Basterd Lou" act with me as she does. I never remember seeing a wind storm like we had last night about midnight. I thought every moment was the last. This morning we all were eating breakfast out on the poarch when Uncle Frank stopped a few minutes on his way to Georges Dewits to see "Frank Avery" as he is nearly dead there, (and to tell me), he got throwed from a horse last night, when "Lou" came in from of the gate and shot her tongue to Frank and me, she would not come in I tell you Frank was hot, he told me to tell her to kiss my ass. but I remained silent I tell you Papa it hurts me. Your last letter I wrote you Uncle Frank opened it and addressed it over he says he tore the envelope but its thin, he asked me last Friday. (Aunt Kate, Maud, Mable, Sam, Allen & Uncle Frank was here to eat with me). If there folks ever asked me to eat with them and I said no it makes him feel bad to treat me this way. Then the Sunday they went over to Behimers(?) Mrs wanted Lou to bring me & she wouldent but stopped here on her way home. Yesterday all the relatives was at Uncle Marts, but me.

To night Aunt Kate starts for Iowa. I baked yesterday and will send her some for her lunch this afternoon with Frank. she seems to enjoy herself so much with me and likes my cooking. Uncle Sion came last Monday and took over and stayed until Tuesday evening. she wanted me to help her I did lots for her. Friday was the last day of school they had a picnic we all went and had a delightful time there refreshments were elegant wish you could only see how your pets all enjoyed it and wished for you. Minnie Gray, Nora Stevens, Maggie and Lydia Orr, asked me if the young folks could come and spend the evening with me. I told them yes. They all came. Lewis was here Fred, Sam and Allen was here so was Uncle Frank a little while we made benches in the yard they all had a nice time it was the first time I had a lamp lit since you left. They are all coming back tomorrow "Tuesday evening" to have an Ice cream supper. Lewis is coming he, Frank Dewitt and Fred are getting it up. The neighbors are all kind and comes to see me only Lou and she talks about me to some of them for they have told me so. I have promised Mrs Stevens to go up there and spend a day this week. she is expecting to be confined soon and if I want any

milk, all I have to do is to send up and I tell you I get good. Mr Davis just drove in the horse lot for corn. I asked how Frank Avery was he said a little better and they have taken him home. Jim Orr and "Willis" just stopped and asked me what was the trouble up to Uncle Franks he said they both called him in but he would not go. he said he could see some-thing terrible going on. he also added he guessed Lou was jealous, like "Sarah Dewitt." now please send for me for I cant stand it. I was taken unwell yesterday again and have been feeling miserable ever since you left here. John has one tooth clear through and three almost through. I let Vincent go up with Mr Orr after ten cts worth of eggs. wish you could only peep in and see how nice the children are playing. Vincent often takes a good cry for you my but this is a nice mommy Uncle Frank will mail this as he goes to see Aunt Kate off tonight. Hoping you are well With lots of kisses from us all, and to see you soon & that Uncle Frank may bring me a letter from town from you

Lovingly yours
Kate.

Please send for us just as soon as you can

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Warners New York

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from ? ILL ?? 1894; also post marked from Versailles on Jun 30 1894; the cancelled twp cent stamp remains on the envelope in good shape.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Thursday June the 29th /94 (6-29-1894)

Writer of Letter: Kate Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on one page of blue lined 6x8 ledger paper, one page of 6x8 blue lined tablet paper, and two additional torn scraps of other paper all in brown ink; 8 pages.

LETTER

Dear Papa.

Your dear good letter received yesterday and how delighted I was to get it. how thankful I am that you have been spared to us, let it be a warning to you Vint. try and be as careful as you can for it would kill me if any-thing happens to you. I expect by this time you have received my letter of Monday. Isint it dreadful to think of Lou. Jim Orr tells they had a fight. I see very little of Frank and when I do he has nothing to say, but looks bad. Lou with her sluring talk tells Vincent occasionally some-thing to tell me, but I treat it with contempt as I shall her. Frank says now that I was not in it as he wants me to be friends again but Mr Orr told me what they said and I know what she said to me. Uncle Frank hates it as it is out. he came here and he and I nearly had it. he wanted me to send for milk and I did not want to send. he sent Vincent and that is the way she gets a chance to send me word by Vincent. I hardly know how to advise you but as she is jealous it seems as though I could never live here then Uncle Marts folks have acted so to me.

But I wish as soon as you could you would either send for me or come for I cant stand it, and here by my-self. I am afraid to sleep with the door open and we really suffer and the bugs are so bad. today it is all I can do as to keep up, as I told you before with my back and Lou I have wished for you and a doctor to-day. some-times I think perhaps I am breeding I was taken unwell in three days after you left here, but I really did not think I wasted enough, and I have been a little every day now for two weeks. then I get so deathly sick if was only convenient for me I would like to see Sib. but as I have said to you before I will die before I ask for a horse. this is all the paper I have so I will have to write close. Vincent cryed when I read your letter to him you never will know how we all love you and are talking constantly about you. I will send you the letters. Lewis was riding from the corner home. It was Mary Mallory & her husband that did it. I told you about Lewis announcing that night here of the party that he would furnish an Ice cream supper for Tuesday night. Here they came & Lewis never showed up it made me feel bad but he and Fred

were drunk that night. I gess Fred averages about two nights to the week. Aunt Kate started Monday have not seen any one to inquire about her. I went over there and worked hard for her and I blame that for hurting my back so. be shure & tell me in your next just what you think you will do if you do not intend to send for us. I will have to try & get a rocking chair some-where. then the berries are getting ripe so I will know how & what to do. my but they are plentiful. most every-one is through harvesting here and are complaining of hard times. I get so worried I hardly know what to do I sent Vincent up for sour milk to bake biscuit for in the morning & they sent him home with out any you don't know how hard it is for one to get little things. now I have sent the dear little soul over to Mrs Graves and it is almost dark will write a little in the morning as I will have to nurse John now.

Friday afternoon. Uncle Mart was just here stayed quite awhile he makes me weary does not hesitate to ask me if he see's any thing he wants my large Iron spoon I am using to get to the potatoes out. he asked me for when he want to go to Franks. I invited him to come back but he never said for me to come. he was anxious to find out how much you are getting I read him what you wrote. How I want you to either send for us immediately or tell me what to do for I know Lou is fooling with the wrong person when she tackles me again. I will say perhaps too much. then the worry-ment is to much for me. Frank when he comes in looks up to see if they are looking and that makes me feel bad. It is terrable warm and as I am not able to walk will have to send Vincent up to Mr Orrs for sour milk & a little lard. I told Mrs Gray if she was willing for us to stay the last night there I would give her some-thing for it and she said perfectly. I do dread the long ride and feel sorry for the children but I will be glad to get separated from some. Mat Wiat was here last night to see me he is working for George Dewitt. I have been baking light bread ever since you left but am out of yeast. John is going to beat Frank talking yet he can say many words. climbs from the poarch to the kitchen, and knows every thing you say. how I do wish you could only see all your pets. write me just as soon as you read this so I will know what to depend on. will love to get Uncle Frank to get me flour and some things tomorrow when he goes to town. Hoping you are well & to hear soon from you very soon with lots of love from the children & self I am as ever Kate
my back is a little better just now. Uncle Mart said they had not heard from Aunt Kate.

Saturday Morning

Dear Papa. Uncle Frank came down a little while last evening before dark he wanted me to impress on your mind that we would have to leave here the 15 of Aug. he went on to say that there was nothing here for you to do and you had better send for us. They all act to me as though they will be glad to get rid of us. how I do wish we could be together by the 4th of July. I am waiting for our breakfast as the biscuit are baking. wish you could see the darling children. Mrs Orr & Maggie came down yesterday & stay quite awhile. I promised them to go up & spend the day before leaving.

If you can send for us in your next letter. Lovingly Kate.

Dear Papa. this is all the letter I can find. hope it is the one if I remember rightly you put the

other one in that large pocket book tell me if this is the right one. I tell you it is warm just now Vincent has gone to Mr Orrs. I went out in the garden this morning and picked each of the children about a dozen re raspberries they were tickled and wished you had some. does your land lady set a good table. trust it wont be long until I can cook for you. this is all the paper I have now so will have to stop. Mat told me Cyntha Armstrong has had a fight with Mrs Rang. I think she and Sarah Dewitt would make a good team. she told us that George was going to send her adrift Sunday for shooting about "Frank A" he was hurt bad and is not able to get out of bed yet. lots of love & kisses from one who dearly loves you.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Warner, New York.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent on Jul 10, 1894 from Beardstown, ILL.; post marked received in Warner, N.Y. (unable to read date and time); cancelled two cent stamp remains on the envelope intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: In the Country July the 8th (7-8-1894)

Writer of Letter: Kate Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on torn sheets of 12 inch lined and red and blue margined ledger paper in brown ink; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Papa.

Uncle Frank brought me your letter this morning and how delighted I was to get it. Lou went and told Sarah Dewitt so "Mrs Gray told me" that Uncle Frank was keeping me and my children & helping you that she had to work like a slave and I derived all the benefit. then Mrs Dewitt asked her if she thought I was bad with Frank. she said as soon as she could she would reveal some-thing to her but she was a fraid of Frank. I sent for Frank & Lou to come down. Lou would not come and I up and told Frank of course he did not believe it asked for her & she denied it. but Aunt Kates remarks were just the same so I know she did say it. Lou has passed a great many times and never bowed or looked the way I was until Friday morning she & Sarah were going to town when she bowed they are the only ones that treat me bad for the other people cant do enough. I went & spent the day at Mr Orrs yesterday. they had me make noodle chicken soup for dinner. Mr Orr & Ed Tolls caught a lot of fresh fish and they had them for supper. my but we all had a nice time. Mrs Orr walked home as far a the school house then the girls in there beaus brought me home. Annie stayed all night. Vincent went up to Uncle Franks last Monday morning and I know deviled him about the horses for he came back and told me to hurry & get ready that Sam was going to take us to Cooperstown and sure enough he did come. we all went over & took supper with Mama. she killed a spring chicken & had a nice supper how we all wished for you. Sam promised to take the horses the other night while we were eating supper Annie reached across the table to take some of Franks eggs with the butcher knife. Frank grabbed with his left hand to get the egg when she jerked the knife and shuch slitts on his two middle fingers I never saw I thought he was going to bleed to death. Vincent started up to Franks told Lou and she sent word back she would not come then her went to the corn field and told Frank. he and Allen & Sam came down. it makes me sick to think about it. we spent the fourth at home. I got the children a nice dinner Mary Gray gave me green beans and beats and I bought a spring

chicken for a shilling. we all enjoyed it but longed for you to with us. Mr & Mrs Gray stopped a little while on there way from Versailles. Mrs Orr and family spent the fourth at Mount Sterling they saw your Father there. John the night that Frank got cut broke one of my nice dishes. he climbs up every where & is so quick about it that it keeps me always on the alert just a few minutes ago he spill the ink on his good dress. he has another double tooth does not care to eat much but I tell you he nurses. I had to send for a sack of flour yesterday coffee and quite a lot of little things as we were out for several days. Dr Bradberry of Cooperstown committed suicide on the fourth by shooting him-self.

Monday July the 9'

I had to stop writing you yesterday as Uncle Frank, Mart and Alma came of course I thought they were going to stay for supper I turned in and got a nice supper had every-thing on the table when Luman drove up for them and they all went away it is needless to say I was angry. Last night I thought the bed bugs would carry us all away. I tell you I cleaned for them to day. I know you will be surprised when I tell you just after dinner to day down comes Uncle Frank Lou, Sam and Allen they stayed there hours or more. Yesterday she would not look this way when she passed on foot while Alma was here. she looks as though it nearly kills for me to speak to Frank. I have an awful sore mouth. Frank & John are very bad in there bowel's. I will have to close for this time as I am out of paper. Hoping you are well and to see you very soon with lots of love from the children and self.

I am Kate.

P.S. just made such nice raisin loaf wish you only had a piece of it.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V.P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; the words "Warner New York Box 199." are lined out on the envelope; post marked sent from Versailles, Ill on Jul 24, 1894; post marked received in Warner, NY on Jul ?; also postmarked received in Franklin PA. on July 27, 1894 at 8 AM.; cancelled two cent stamp remains on envelope and is about 95% intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Tuesday Morning July the 24 ' 1894 (7-24-1894)

Writer of Letter: Kate Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 6x12 lined and blue and red margined ledger paper in brown ink; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Papa.

Received your letter last evening and you cant imagine how delighted I was to get it and a little disappointed at its content. Mr Gifford came up one week ago to day and took us all down there we stayed until Saturday morning had a nice time only Frank & John cutting teeth made it hard on me. Frank mouth was full of cancared sores he could hardly swallow water or milk so you can imagine what a time I had with him & John is cutting 8 teeth all at once you might say and I can truly acknowledge I never was a better child only greatly petted on me. I stayed all night at George Tolls they all wished to be remembered George & his wife told me that Ettie Davis told them that Lou and Sarah circulated that Lou caught Frank with his hand up my clothes. Yesterday we spent the day at Mr Orrs and some of there neighbors have been talking about it. There is no use talking but Uncle Frank seems so different ever since Lou acted that way he looks to me as though he is afraid of her. I asked him yesterday to bring me 25 cts worth of sugar and I would pay him just as soon as Mrs Gray pays me she owes me 75 cts and I guess she will be able to as I loaned to her on the 2nd and have even asked for. but no sugar came. "In regards to going home", I have not received a letter from there for nearly two months I wrote Della last. don't know whether Nannie is there or in Pittsburgh. If you was to say move there, I would go at once but for me to take the children there and Alf the way he is, I would rather not go. but as I said before if you only consent to move there, I would run the risk and would go to Mrs Engles or Mr. Boyer until I could rent a little place. now I am tempted to say to you to let us move there. I mean to Franklin. let me remain here two weeks longer and if you are not satisfied where you are you certainly will have enough to buy you a ticket to Franklin. and after you get there you can go to the Jamestown ticket agt and buy a ticket for me to come there for \$15.85 and if Mr Dewitts & Uncle Frank do as they said about taking bedsteads I will have enough to pay at least one months

rent for house. and it certainly looks to me as though Mr Gill or Mrs Miller will do some-thing for us. and I cant help but think that there is a bright future for us. There. I will write to Della and mail it at the same time I mail yours shall find out what is going on there. You may thank God that you did not remain here and put in a corn crop for it is a perfect failure here on account of dry weather. every-one feels bad about it. the stalks are there and growing but-"no corn" Uncle Frank had the thrashers Saturday Lou had Aunt Ann, Sarah Davis, Rosa Clark and quite a lot there. When Uncle Mart and Ann went home they would not even condesend to speak to me and I know they saw me. Write me immediately so I will know what to do I had bettered stay here till the very last moment and I think it a wise plan for you to stay there until you get enough money to go to Franklin.

Dear Papa.

I don't understand or see why I am to be tortured to death in this way Uncle Frank seems to think of you & I and asks me every time he sees me to come up and as I told you before Lou has been here several times & I have never been there after I wrote your letter I went to borrow her wash board as (she sends here when ever she wants any-thing) she called me a liar told me I was a bad woman and would of hit me in the face if it hadent of been for her Mother. she also said Vint Bunce told her I was the biggest liar on earth and you wouldnt believe me on oath. Now Dear Papa when write me if you didnt tell her that, I want you to write her but send it to me and I will mail it to her. as sure as I am living if she ever shows her self inside my door I will kill her dead.

I walked over to George Dewitts & all around to find Frank & as soon as I am situated her nasty dirty lies going around and her trying to injur an inocient woman I told her this morning I had both a Mother & a Father. after she acted that way & walked home. now do just as you please. I will not seal this until I see some one to give it to as perhaps I will want to say some thing more

Papa you write Uncle Frank. Lou is mean enough to do any thing if they would sraghten (?) me to death. tell him it wont be long until you will send for me. I am so worked up I scarcely know what to do. Lovingly your wife

Kate

After dinner Mr Gray is in the field loading his wagon with wheat to haul to town so I will get him to mail this the more I think of Lou the worse I feel about it & one that lies as she has done is capable of doing any-thing so I think it best for you to send for me just as soon as you can I have sent for Frank to come down but as yet he has not come. I shall express my thoughts pretty free to him I some-times think after I hear from you I will have every thing in readiness & be ready to start to you so answer this just as soon as you read it Kate.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, "Venango Co" Penna.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Versailles, ILLINOIS on Aug 8; no post mark received; stamp has been cut from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Monday evening Aug the 6 – 1894. (8-6-1894)

Writer of Letter: Kate Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on one and a half sheets of lined blue and red margined ledger paper in brown ink; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Papa.

I received your dear good letter a little while ago. how I do wish I was only with you tonight. I know you would not be so blue. be brave and think constantly how four little darlings are waiting to meet there Papa and Vint you know you have never been loved by any one like me. for I can truly say I have always loved you. Yes more & more every day. I walked over to Wm Engles this morning & took the children my back tells it tonight the children would not eat any dinner so I had to come home & get a warm supper. They are cross & fretful now I will soon have to take them to bed. we have had some cold weather but no rain. Uncle Frank was here a little while ago and he says I will have to leave this sure by the the 15 Mr & Mrs Gray have moved so if you don't send for me I don't know what to do. Uncle John wants the large bedstead and will give me five dollars for same. and I will have all together in money "ten dollars" if you send me the rest and wish me to I will then start immediately for my pet

Tuesday Morning

It is early & the children are all asleep. I have had my breakfast. could hardly sleep for the pigs rooting around the house now I will try & finish my darlings letter Papa dear of course it is pretty humiliating but I want you to go up ask for Mrs Miller say you must see her, tell how much I appreciated her kindness & you too. Then say my reason for not writing to her on account of a poor way to have letters mailed and as soon as we get settled I shall write her. Then you state to her your situation & you are anxious to have us come there & she will help you. I am positive you also see Mr & Mrs Engles tell them how you have been treated & I know between them they will get you some-thing. You be sure & thank Mrs Engles for her kindness to me. tell her I often think of her. make an excuse for not writing also say how much Annie talks of them. You make it appointed to see you your-self "John Wylie" tell him how you are situated and you are anxious to have us there & he must give you a job. how I do wish I was only there I know I could get you

some-thing to do. I want you to see there parties sure. send me the rest of the money to buy ticket with to come to Franklin. with. and I fell positive it will be the best for us. As there is nothing here to do, for any one. Dave Vance has been here nearly a week trying to get some-thing to do & can not succeed Will Sellers & Vete are out of employment cant get any thing to do Every one is complaining wheat is being refused at 30 ct. Every thing else is a failure on account of dryness. The children are all awake & Frank is beshit from head to foot. Vincent & Annie is singing after the call is over. here comes Uncle Frank he bought a wardrobe from some Sale saturday it is locked & he wanted to borrow our keys. You write me just as soon as you get this for I am doing on as little as I can. I wont spend one penny & I cant get along much longer & as I have told you Grays have moved, & a family "John Peacock" are moving in here on the 15' so I will not know what to do. send me what money you can and I will be all ready to come on next train to you. John has 16 teeth & Frank 18, he makes more of any effort to talk than Frank. I will have to wash some to day. I think you can borrow a little money from Phil En & send for us at once for as I tell you we are out of every-thing and I wont spend one penny only to mail your letters. now darling be sure & do what I want you to & all will be well with us yet. Praying, Hoping, & Trusting for an early meeting & that God will lead us safe to you is my earnest prayer from your loving & faithful wife

Kate.

Send me a letter just as soon as you get this tell me where you are staying and if our folks treated you well. Hoping you are well and ere this have met with some-thing to do is the wish of one who loves you. the children all join in sending love & kisses to all be shure & see Mrs Boyer tell her I will see her soon.

P.S. darling do now what I want you to for I do think it best for us to be there as there is nothing here & a poor show for our boys some-day perhaps we can own us a little home & be independent form every one, let us hope for better times

Aunt Kate will be home to day. give my love to all, the folks, tell me all in your next

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V.P. Bunce

Address: Franklin "Venango County" Penna. "1306 Elbow Street"

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles, ILLINOIS on Aug 10 1894; post marked received in Franklin Pa on Aug 12 1894 at 9 AM; cancelled two cent stamp remains on the envelop intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Friday August the 10th 1894

Writer of Letter: Kate Bunce

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on a page and a half of lined blue and red margined 12" ledger paper in brown ink and pencil; letter has disintegrated at the center fold to some degree; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear Papa.

I received Dellas letter yesterday afternoon and was glad to get it. Mrs Engles came while we were eating breakfast and brought me some fresh milk and just as we got through eating Mrs Stevens her married daughter and all the children came & stayed until eleven oclock so It made it pleasant for me she brought me for a present a nice dish ...so you can see the neighbors are good to me. I went up to Mr Orrs the other night & took supper but did not stay all night. I don't want the "earthly devils" to think I am afraid of them. Lou had all the Dewitts, Aunt Kates folks and Kate Curry there yesterday Sam came down & told me his Ma said for me to come up. but Aunt Kate says she knows he lied. then he went up and told Lou in front of them all I would be up in a few minuet. I think he just wanted to see another racket. Aunt Kate , Maud, Mable & Kate Curry took supper with me. Fred took them home. Fred will not speak to me. I like Kate very much, she is handsomer than Nettie we all talked about you. Aunt Kate complained so to me & I did not ask her if we could stay with her until you would send for us. she said Uncle Sion would have to go to town & buy Lard, meat, soap & others to numerous to mention. I think Lou is carrying on so for fear Uncle Frank will help us. it would not surprise me in the least if Uncle Frank leaves her. Mr Orr told me it is spread all over the County. You see just exactly how I am situated so please send for us to come there I think it best for as I have said to you before Lou and Sarah will kill some of us yet. then Mrs Gray came over the other afternoon in the wagon to dig potatoes. she stoped a little while & took Vincent over to the brick to get a few cooking apples. When Mrs Dunbar pitched on him asked him where his nasty old stinkin father was did you go to Mrs Miller & do what I asked you to. I really think it will be the best for us to come to you as every-thing here is a failure this year and people are complaining of extream hard times. I never saw as warm

weather in my life as we are having just now I will have to go some where this afternoon & get a little flour as I am out it makes it so hard on me then we havent had any meat for quite a while. Dick Cleaveland has bought this place and want to move here just as soon as he can. he told me so him-self. So you can see just my situation. Frank worries for fear you will write him for me to remain longer.

Give my love to Mrs Tom Cal tell her Annie wants to write her a letter I expect she will send it in this to her. I wrote her a short time ago did she get my letter? Dave Vance waited to see Aunt Kate but she told me she could not help them any way. John is bad in his bowels the past few days then the nights are so warm he cant sleep. he is asleep now. I guess I have told you every-thing Hoping that one week from now I may embrace the one I love never to be separated until death chases one is my earnest desire I remain your loving wife Kate.

Give our love to all the family and friends tell them I will soon see them all and will answer Della letter

Lovingly Kate

remember in five more days I have to leave here.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce Esq.

Address: Franklin, Venango County, Pennsylvania

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Versailles, ILL on August 13, 1894; postmarked received in Franklin on August 15 at 7 A.M.; 2 cent stamp embossed on envelop

.LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: August 13, 1894

Writer of Letter: F.M. Hosford

Location of Writer: Versailles, Ill

Other Remarks: Written on folded lined writing paper in brown ink

.LETTER

Versailles Ill. Aug 13th 94 Mr. V.P. Bunce

Dear Nephew

I have just hauled your house hold goods to the Depot – they will be shipped tomorrow. I Brought Kate and the children as far as Kates and they will start from there for Franklin in the morning. All are well. Write as soon as they through.

Your Uncle

F.M. Hosford

(Also included along with this letter was a 3x5 printed card advertising a local saloon in Sterling)
S.T. Ranney's OAK HALLSALOON is the

BEST PLACE IN THE CITY

To get the Choicest And Purest Whiskies, Wines, Beer and Cigars

.MAIN STREET, MT. STERLING, ILLINOIS

On the back of the card was the following poem:

Who Shot the (picture of a cat)

Mary had a little cat,
With curly, short black hair
And every where Mary went
Her cat was always there.
Now there were many naughty boys,
And Mary knew the brats;
Who with there little squirt guns,
Were always shooting cats.
But Mary's cat was closely hid
Beneath her under skirt.
And thus escaped the boys.
And never got a squirt. Now
Mary had a gay young beau,
And like all other beaux,
He kept his nasty little squirt
Concealed beneath his cloths.
One night as he was courting her,
And by his side she sat,
He reached beneath her petticoats
And said: "let's shoot the cat!"
And did Mary swoon or faint?
Well, nary swoon nor holler;
She only let him blaze away
And charged him half a dollar..

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V.P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Pennsylvania

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "Return to VERSAILLES, Brown Co., Illinois, If not delivered in 10 days."; post marked sent from Versailles, Illinois on Aug 14, 1894; post marked received in Franklin Pa on Aug ?; this is a prepaid envelope with a two cent cancelled stamp intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Aug 14th 94 (8-14-1894)

Writer of Letter: F.M. Hosford

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; 1 page.

LETTER

Your goods are on the road you will see that it cost something to start them I think Katie will have money enough to pay Freight – be sure and be ready for them when they arrive

Write soon

F.M. Hosford

(Included with this note is a "Bill Of Lading dated Aug 13th 1894 showing the items received from Mrs. Kate A Bunce to be shipped by The Wabash Railroad Company to V.P. Bunce in Franklin, Pa. The items listed included:

1 Bndls Bedding & Oil Cloth
1 Child's Chair 1 Baby Cab
1 Cook Stove 1 Basket & Cts
1 Bell (3) Pot & Skillet
4 Boxes of H. Goods
1 K Safe

Weight was listed as "950"

"Relied(?) to Val \$5.00 per Cnt by shipper. Charges guaranteed by F.M. Hosford"

E B Owen
agt

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Penna

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Mound Station, Ill (date unreadable); post marked received in Franklin, PA on Sep 10 at 1 PM; two cent cancelled stamp remains on envelope and is about 90% intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Aug., 31st 94 (8-31-1894)

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writer: Mound Station, Ill

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in black ink; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear brother "Vint" & sister Katie

At last I've got my fingers out of the fruit, so to speak, and will answer your letter.

I understand Katie is with you in Franklin. I wish I could have seen her before she went. Tell her she owes me a letter. "Vintie" was running in the garden one day and stumbled, sticking a cut weed into the top of his foot and it pierced and was held fast by the tendon for five weeks before it was removed. I kept his foot poulticed and drew out several splinters. I took him to the doctor the second time at the end of five weeks and he cut the weed out, and I took the poultice off at the end of 7 weeks.

Pa came to see us yesterday, will leave us tomorrow.

Could we have had but one good rain at the right time I would have had a fine crop of corn.

Tell Katie if she were only here we'd have a good time visiting, Mr Miller has built a \$1,200 house and Mr. Chapman has added a 14x16 dining room, and you can immag the finishing throughout is of the best of both houses, and the furnishing!!!

Mrs Miller spent the afternoon with me not long ago. I enjoyed the visit. She and Mrs Chapman both inquired about you.

I've canned 14 gallons of cherries & green grapes and 7 gallons of the nicest grape jam besides a bushel of dried apples. I'm bound to have a little fruit this winter anyway.

You cannot tell green grapes from gooseberries by tasting them. I have about 200 chickens. I've put down five gallons of "Pickled Lilly" and am scheming to get that amount of mince meat put down too. I may have to go shabby but I don't mean to starve if I can help it.

I raised about 25 bu of potatoes, but I'm afraid they will not keep well, the sun shone so hot on them for some time before digging.

Florie told us in her letters she would come to see us some time soon. I've watched and waited till it seem to me she'll never get here. I do want once more to see my baby sister.

Pa's health is better at times than at others. He gives out sometimes and it is positively unsafe for him to go any where by himself. His voice is not much more than a whisper any more but is better at times. He comes to see us every week or two.

"Vintie" says tell Vincent he will start to school in two weeks and he wishes he were here to visit Leslie Miller with him. Bertha says tell Vincent and Annie to come over to see her some time.

D says tell you he is still alive and at work as hard as ever. He was disappointed that he could not have had a longer talk with Katie, but his time was short.

I wish I could see you all. I have so much to talk about and I can't half write it.

Kiss all the little ones for aunt Jessie and tell them she thinks of them every day.

"Vint" take good care of your health using it to the best advantag. We wish you all happiness and success in every way. Write soon to your loving sister Jessie Vance

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Pa

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Mt. Sterling Ill on Sep 8 1894; post marked received in Franklin on Sep 15 1894 at 1 PM; the envelope is completely ripped apart with the two cent cancelled stamp remaining about 80% intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Sept 7/94 (9-7-1984)

Writer of Letter: E.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Mounds, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined folded writing paper beginning in purple ink and then in pencil for the remainder of the letter; 2 pages.

LETTER

V.P. Bunce,

My son, I do not trouble you often with a letter; I presume you have trouble enough otherwise. I presume you know my condition financial, physical, and mental. Circumstances compel me to be at the Brown Co. Poorfarm. I have been here about two months. I am unable to earn a cent on account of weakness of the brain. I have continual swimming of the brain which causes me to fall by the road side. What can I do? Think of me a moment, Vincent. I am 78 years old. I need a thing sometimes. What I need at present is a pair of slippers. The shoes I have are closefitting, hard to put off and on, and would be adapted to fall & winter. I need some 40 cents or 50 cents at present. Can you send me a pair No. 8? Do if you can. I am reasonably well supplied at present with other things.

Try to get your little ones to remember me. Kiss them for me. We may possibly meet again. Kiss Katie for me. Remember me kindly to your mother and other kinfolks. Remember kindly your old father,

E.P. Bunce.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V.P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Pennsylvania

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles, Ill on Dec 1 1894; post marked received at Franklin, PA on Dec 3 1894 at 7 AM; the stamp has been removed from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Nov. 29th 94 (11-29-1894)

Writer of Letter: F.M. Hosford

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on blue lined 5x8 writing paper in brown ink; 6 pages.

LETTER

Mr. V.P. Bunce

Dear Nephew

I rec'd a letter from you a few days after Kate got to Pa. You said you would both write in a few days. I have been expecting a letter ere since but no letter. I thought I would write and see if you were alive. We are all well. Lou and I have been at Kates to day eating Turkey. Kiser and wife John and Phebe were there. It is raining to night and freezing as it falls in the first rain for a long time the roads have been as nice as in summer time till now. Bill Armstrong got an arm caught in the machinery at Tile Factory and only lived a few hours. He sold house and lot to Mrs. Miller for \$450 and wait two years for the money. I traded Dixie to Bill Watts for a yearling steer sold it for \$15. And bought 2 calves with the money. I have the horse yet he is blind. I have ten calves, sowed 50 acres of wheat it looks well corn was nearly a failure this summer it was so dry. I have cribbed all except the field by the house have about 500 Bu. In crib. I rec'd a letter from F.L. Hungerford (F.M. Strong's lawyer) a short time since he says the Security Co. has not brought suit and he understands they will not he says. The heirs can appeal from distribution of the will. And there is a plenty of time left. I don't know what they will do. Did your house hold goods get through all right. I will have 2 months of school in tomorrow. will be glad when the term is out. Lewis was over here about 2 weeks ago. I am afraid he will get into trouble if he does not change his way. I understand he took about \$27.00 belonging to his grandmother last week slipped off to Mt Sterling stayed several days and spent the money. They talked strong of arresting him but will not I guess. If your write him don't tell him how you heard the news.

Joseph A. Cox was elected Co. Treas. And Ed. Purcell Co. Clk. Brown Co. elected the straight Democratic ticket and I think they are the only Democrats elected in the U.S. I am going to sow 60 acres in clover in Spring plant 20 acres of corn and make about 2 miles of fence I have about 20 shoats five sows bred and not enough hogs for meat Kate Curry has been with us since August until 2 weeks since she went home. She found all well at home. No corn raised in Iowa this year.

I want you as soon as you receive this and tell me all the news. What you are doing &c. &c. Will Sellars has built a house on Sihons place just north of the Orchard and is living there. Tell Vincent Allen is going to school and reads in the second reader. They are digging a reservoir in Mt Sterling to supply the City with water it is 12 ft. deep and several hundred ft. in length. It is situated East of where you lived and just north of the new house. Shank built on East side of road. Tib and husband live 1 ½ miles N.E. of Maysville he is working for one of the Dunhams. She came up Sat. last and will go home tomorrow evening. Charlie DeWitt helped himself to 4 bu of Clover seed belonging to Mrs. Dosier took it to Beardstwon and sold it and is now working one year at Juliet for the people of the State of Illinois. Don't fail to write immediately and tell all the news.

Love to all
Your Uncle
F.M. Hosford

P.S. Old Thos Vandeventer died day before yesterday will be buried to day. Marion Grover's father was buried yesterday.

F.M. H

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Feb. 6th 95 (2-6-1895)

Writer of Letter: F.M.Hosford

Location of Writer: Versailles Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in black ink; 8 pages.

LETTER

Mr. V.P. Bunce

Dear Nephew

Yours of Dec. 19th was rec'd in due time. Was glad to hear that you and family were well. And that you were doing well. We are all in good health and able to eat all we can get. We have had a fine winter not too cold to work any time till the 25th of Jan'y. It commenced snowing at that date and has been cold ever since. We have fine sleighing. It is snowing to day. I hope the snow will remain till the middle of March. I am writing at noon and the scholars make so much noise. I cant do much. We rec'd the pipes and razor all right. I smoke in mine everyday I gave the boys theirs but we did not get together Christmas. I was at home most of the day. went to town in the afternoon. I will send your razor as soon as I have time and your letters and table. School will be out the last day of Feb. Then I will have some time of my own. I will send the razor by express and the other things by freight. My bay Highlander filly died this winter I found her dead in the pasture. found one of my calves dead last night so you see I am in good luck. You wanted to where I sowed wheat. I sowed the 20 acre field by the house and 30 acres on the S.E. part of the farm. Tom Vandeventer's sale of stock and farming implements amounted to near \$1700. Jes Kirt died of Lagrippe the 28th of Jan. I do not remember whether I told you of Laura Kirks death or not. She died last Fall. There is not much news to write as everything is moving along just about the same as when you were here. Kates health is not as good as common the cold weather seems to have a bad effect on her she and Wills family were at our house yesterday. John goes along just the same he has had all his upper teeth pulled. That means a new set of teeth I see he has notified Analena Hosford to appear at Mt. Sterling the 25 day of Feb. That means divorce. Mart is selling nursery stock for Martee.

(The following has been penciled in at this point in the letter: "Aunt Kate was fathers mothers sister Aunt Kate Hosford C.L.B.)

We have put a new fence around the Cross Roads Cemetery. It cost us near \$60. Stephen D. Cox has commenced selling goods in Cooperstown. The old lady and Lewis keep well, he was over a

few weeks since.

Thursday Morning. 7th I am at school house and no scholars. Yet it is blowing almost a gale the snow is flying and the roads are drifted full of snow. don't think I will have much school to day. Dave Vance stayed all night with us about a month since they are all well. Ellison is living with Dave. I think he gives them his pension for keeping him. I was glad to hear you had a steady job and in doors at that I hope you may be able to retain it. There is a good living in 8 dollars per week. School will be out in three weeks from to day. I have a great deal of work to do this Spring. So much fence to build and brush to cut. Tell Vincent Allen goes to school every day and reads quite well and writes some. I could not read much of Anna's letter but I knew she wrote it and I imagined the contents. Dunbar's two boys have just come. John Stephens and Jake Stellar joined the church at Spunky this winter. Don't you suppose the ducks will get a rest on Sundays this Spring? George DeWitt is going to haul hogs for Gray to Mt Sterling. Gray will move to B.S. Rowlands Mt Sterling farm one week from next mon. he now lives where Dan Dunbar used to live Ben Andy Pool and Frank Ingram are talking of trading all their land and personal effects for land in Mo they are going to look at the land as soon as the snow leaves. My opinion is that Ben will have to do something before a year. There are so many farmers here in debt I look for the fun to fly before long. We are living fat on rabbits. Allen and Sam have just come and I will close till noon it is nearly nine.

Noon. 16 present, sun shining and snow blowing for all that is out. They have a new girl at Geo. DeWitts born sometime in Dec. The boys forgot the dinner bucket so will do without dinner till night. It is to blustery to go home. Wash Davis is as ornary as ever is in town most of the time playing Pool and drink-whiskey. I have heard no more from the East. I don' know whether I wrote you about receiving a letter form Hungerford or not. At any rate he said that day the Pres. of the Security Company died. And he now understood that the S.Co. would not bring suit for construction of will. He said the heirs at law could bring suit for construction of will if they saw fit and that they had plenty of time left. I believe I have written all the news so I will close and write to Kate so I can take the letter to town Sat. if I go. I want you to write soon and not wait as long as I have for you have more time- don't wait a month but you and Kate write in a week or less.

Your Uncle

F.M. Hosford

P.S. Feb. 8th Mercury went to 21 below last night and some thermometers went as low as 27. It is blue cold to day.

Write soon

F.M. Hosford

(Written in pencil is the following: "Frank Hosford our brother named for him")

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce Esq

Address: Franklin Pennsylvania

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles ,Ill on Feb 9; post marked received in Franklin Pa on Feb 11, 1895 at 7 AM; stamp has been removed from the envelope; on the front left hand side of the envelope it is written: "Frank M. Hosford ans'd 4/14/95 Easter."

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: February 7th 95 (2-7-1895)

Writer of Letter: F. M. Hosford

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blued lined writing paper in black ink; 4 pages.

LETTER

Mrs. Kate A. Bunce

Dear Niece

Your welcome letter of Dec. 10th came to hand in due time. I was glad to hear from you. And was also glad to hear you and family were well situated. I hope you may continue to prosper and that V.P. may have success. We are having cold weather since the 25th of Jan'y with plenty of snow. Very blustery to day. I am glad you are happy in your new home. We are all in good health. Tell Vincent and Anna I often think of them and can see them in my mind coming down after milk. And I can see just how Frank looked standing at the gate and waiting to ride with me when I would pass with the wagon. Andrew Lear lives where you lived past summer. Everything looks just as it did when you left the place. And I think of you all every time I am there or pass which is every day. Ed Lear married Nellie Brewer Georges oldest girl a short time since and lives there with his parents. John Stephens' family are well three of the girls at school to day. Orrs family are well. There has been very little sickness this winter thus far. Geo. Ingles lives in the same place. And is preaching for a living this winter. Did your household goods get through in good shape? I will send your table when school is out. I have been in the school room for nearly 5 months and am getting tired of it. I will be glad when the term is finished which will be the last day of Feb. It is getting along towards one P.M. and I must hurry. Tell Vincent to be a good boy mind his father and mother and go to school every day. It has been very dull here this winter nothing going on. Since the snow the sleds and sleighs have been running very lively. I was so lazy that I neglected to dig the potatoes that grew in your garden, and now we are out. And potatoes are worth 80 cts per Bu. Your neighbors in Mt Sterling are getting along about as usual, or was the last time I was there. I understand that Mrs. Armstrong has moved to Mo. Tell Vint Stephen T. Ramsey has gone to the wall and made an assignment. I think likely he will keep on in business. I think he has assigned to keep clear of Court. He has payed heavy fines for running a

poker room. I will tell him how he pans out in my next letter. I have finished Vints letter and written this since noon. Don't you think I have done well It is now 5 min till one and I must close. Remember me to the children. And write soon and don't fail to write soon.

Your Uncle
F.M. Hosford

(Written in pencil at the end of this letter is: "Uncle Frank Hosford with the peg leg!")

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mrs. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Penn.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Mound, Ill on Jun ?, 1895 at 5 PM; post marked received at Franklin, Pa on Jun ? 1895 at 7 AM; stamp has been removed from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 6/2/95 (6-2-1895)

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writer: Mounds, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in pencil; 6 pages.

LETTER

Dear sister & brother –

Your kind and welcome letter was duly received. The past two months have been very busy ones for us both. D. has been doing a little work for all the neighbors besides doing his own. I have about one hundred little Leghorn chickens. Neither Pa nor I know anything about the lock of hair found in your account book.

You both remember the Mr Robisen when you visited us last? He is supposed to have been poisoned through his beer, of which he always kept a stock hidden in his grainery. His sheep shearer was made sick by drinking from the same bottle while a hired hand who helped dig Robisen's grave died within a few hours after drinking from a fresh bottle next day. It was Frank Mayfield.

Katie, I have visited both Mrs Lucas and Miller within the last month. They both spoke of you. Mrs Chapman payed me a visit not long ago and I enjoyed it so much. Mrs Lucas lost her mother not long ago.

You asked about Pa. He is very feeble. I visit him and bring him out as often as I can for he is homesick and lonely all his time. I am only waiting to be enabled to bring him home.

Katie how I should enjoy looking over your presents. Imagine they as nice as can be.

We have payed nothing on our place for nearly two years. Of course Mr Miller could have taken it off our hands but instead has acted very generously. When D. asked him how much he'd give for the place to be handed over he gave D a beautiful dark bay, 5 yr's old, sound without blemish, lots of life, and will weigh about 1300 when in good order. Nothing pleases her better than to fly over the road ahead of the cart. She will not shy and is perfectly bidable to D's hand and voice. She is naturally high headed and has such pretty large, full eyes. She likes to be petted and bends her pretty head close to mine to be made much of. Then D. bought a cart mare for me, working 12 days to pay for her. She is blind, black as night, eight years old and when in good order will weigh 15 or 1600. The children crawl all over her. You can guess D. keeps them

all well polished and they do not lack for petting. I sold \$10 worth of chickens and helped D. buy a no. 1 harness, but we have nothing to hitch them to but a cart. We stay on the place this year.

D – started for the bottom lands near Meredosia to day, will not be back for a day or two. Has a few acres of corn out down there, and will be gone two or three days. He says that part of the country is alive with renters putting in the bottom land crops.

Bertha is going to school. She is as good natured as ever, and is as great a prattler as ever, but does not speak all her words plainly yet. Her teacher is Daisy Ross of Mount Sterling. She calls Bertha her five year old baby. Bertha and Vintie remember all their little cousins. Kiss them for us.

D. said last night to tell Vint he is seepy and is just getting in to bed, for him to come over and take breakfast with him Sunday and they will take a spin behind his bay mare.

“Vintie” asks cousin Vincent to write him a few words the next time mamma and papa write.

Katie you can't think how glad I am for you now that you are among your own people and I know you are better satisfied. If it could only be so we could see each other once in a while. But my heart ached for you, for you seemed to feel in a sense lost when out here. But we can live as near right in one place as in another and wherever you are my best wishes go with you.

Vint you asked about the family record. I know of only one that Pa wishes to keep by him as long as he lives. He is naturally enough feeble and childish now, and deserves nothing but kind words and any thing we can do to cheer his old age. When shall I ever be able to do more for him than I am doing, or shall I ever? This thought is aging me faster than my years.

I hope you are all well. Take good care of your selves. D. and the children have all been sick of colds. D. in particular. I will begin putting up cherries next week. I hope you will write us sooner next time for we never hear of you otherwise.

Your loving sister

Jessie Vance

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V.P. Bunce, Esq.

Address: Franklin, Penn.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from new Albany, IND on Jul ?, 1896 at 4:30 PM; post marked “transit from Louisville, KY on Jul 26, 1895 at 3 PM; post marked received in Franklin, PA (unreadable); the two cent cancelled stamp remains on the envelope and is fully intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 7/25/95 (7-25-1895)

Writer of Letter: Florence Bunce

Location of Writer: New Albany, IND

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined embossed writing paper in brown ink; the embossed symbol is a flying dove with a parcel in its beak with no inscription; 8 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother,

Your welcome letter, which was quite a pleasant surprise to me, was duly received and I'm sorry to have been so negligent in answering it. I've been very busy most of the time, so between the two excuses I write few letters except to Charlie.

You were in N.Y. when I last heard from you. I hope you are all well and that you are doing better financially, but anything is acceptable to nothing during these “good days of Democracy.” How does it suit you anyhow, and what side are you on? Give the Demmy's rope enough and they'll hang themselves; they have the rope in abundance and they are doing a first class job. (Excuse my poor pen).

You have indeed a time with sickness. Our boys keep well, only Woodie has a touch of catarrh which is yielding to treatment, and for myself, I'm never well and never sick in bed. I sometimes think if I could have a good thorough spell of sickness I'd then get better – but maybe not.

Woodie and Lucy have attended Kindergarten up to the last of May, but this Fall Woodie starts to school. Lucy is only five next month, so will have to attend Kindergarten another year. We have had a model teacher up to the close of this term, but they have another for this winter whom I don't fancy so well. Tell Vincent to write to Woodie, for he likes to receive letters though he does little writing himself yet. He took primary work this year, but is not far advanced. Cousin Vintie writes to him occasionally. Woodie has one of the Chautauqua slate boards – since he was four years old. They are excellent for children I think. Woodie is splendid in drawing and I'm going to have his latent developed when he gets a little older.

I have the bird yet that you gave me, and he is a splendid singer. We named him Benjamin Harrison, and we would miss little Benny dreadfully.

Jessie wrote me of Vete's death – was it not sad. I do not hear from any one in Brown

except Jessie, but she keeps me pretty well posted on the news. I did correspond with Parthenia Reich till last fall, when I wrote her that I was coming over; but did not get to go, and have not written since. I was so disappointed in not getting to go. I sent Uncle Frank any quantity of political literature last summer and fall, but do not know if he took the trouble to read it. It was out and out Republicanism, and I hope that together with the hard times has converted him. No place in the country has felt the depression worse than New Albany, I guess, for it is a manufacturing city and is dead accordingly.

What is the trouble between Uncle John and Analeria? Have Aunt Kate and Uncle Frank taken the trip to see you yet? They might call around this way, I think. Write me all the news and soon, for I like to hear from old Illinois and you, too for I don't know when I'll get over there.

I'll take a fresh page for the important news. To begin with, I want you to write at once to Uncle Mart and see if he is coming to Louisville to the G.A.R. encampment, or Uncle John, either or both. I want to know right away, for they are looking for a big crowd and big time, and if my room is not taken up otherwise, I'm going to take some lodgers for that week. Please write to them for me and tell them to answer at once. I can get from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day apiece for boarders.

I'll tell you all about Charlie, now. His address is Waterford, Ontario, and I want you to write to him, for when we move out there, we will both arrange it some way so you can get acquainted with my hubby – one of the best in the world. He was out of work all last winter, and as W.R. Woodard has never paid him, the least he could do was to get him a position on an engine on the Toronto, Hamilton, and Buffalo R.R. of which he is Gen'l Mgr. Charlie is firing now, but has the promise of an engine the first opportunity. He used to be engineer for W.R. on the O and M in Ill a long time ago. He has been at work there since the fore part of last March, and I got a most welcome letter from him today in which he tells me he is going to move us out there soon. We've been seeing some pretty tough times ourselves, but have providentially escaped sickness except for an attack of lung trouble Charlie had after first going out there. I think the changes of climate caused it.

I have worried myself nearly sick, Vint, about pa. But now that I know we are going to move where Charlie is, and can get along cheaper, I begin to see a way where I can pay his board. It costs us so much to live this way, that I had begun to think we'd never be able to do anything for him. Jessie says he has failed badly, and I'm afraid he is not long for the world. I pray that he may be spared long enough that I can get him away from that place and he can end his days in peace.

Well, Vint, I've written you a good long letter, and I want you to return the compliment without waiting so long. Give my love to Katie and the children and tell her I'd like to hear from her. I send her the pattern also, and hope it is not altogether too late for her to use it. It has been loaned out for over a year, and she is welcome to keep it as I never use it any now.

Don't fail to attend to that matter about writing Uncle Mart. I want him to be sure to come and write me and I'll meet him at the depot and take possession.

Hoping to hear from you soon and with love to all, I am,

Your affectionate sister
Florence.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Penna.

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "Return in ten days to D.A. Vance Fargo Brown Co. Ill."; post marked sent from Fargo Ill on Dec 12; post marked rec'd at Mount Sterling on Dec 12 at 10 AM; post marked rec'd in Franklin, PA on Dec 14 1895 at 1 PM; cancelled two cent stamp remains on the envelope and about 95% intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 12/12/95 12-12-1895

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writer: Fargo, Ill

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 unlined writing paper in brown ink; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dear brother:

I had thought not to write till you wrote. But my resolves are as nothing now. Vincent, if you ever loved the mother who bore you trample the devil of stubbornness and prejudice out of your heart and mind be a thorough man for once in your life in the strictest sense of the word. I know how you think and just what you'll say or would say. Leave it unsaid this time and act.

For four years I've shouldered the heartbreaking load alone that others might be spared. It is time you shared the burden to some extent. Through rain and shine, heat and cold, I've gone often and often twice walking eight miles that I might comfort the poor old broken father. He is my father, and if I should have no love, I, from the bottom of my heart, thank my God I have a conscience, and am not dead to gratitude for my bare existence. If you could see his feeble steps, and hear his meaningless talk, your heart would soften though it were of stone.

He is sick, not bed fast, but what you do for him let it be done quickly. I doubt his being here in the spring.

If I could only bring him home. -If you and Florie will help me I will, that he may end his few days with me. I've shared our little money with him, buying a book or two that I might supply him with pencils & paper & candy for his throat. All he asks now is a gift of oranges & candies, a pair of carper slippers for aged feet. A letter that he writes or an envelope he addresses are never sent as it can scarcely be read and almost with out meaning.

I've said nothing about Katie in this matter as I know her loving heart too well. We are none of us perfect, but no one can truthfully say Katie would withhold the needful or ignore charity. You may think I am speaking unduely soon but if Pa is here three months from this time it is more than I expect, knowing his condition.

He has a troublesome cough, a continual looseness of the bowels, and is oftener wandering in his mind than other wise.

My one prayer is this, help me make his last days comfortable and when we can do only one thing more let that be a casket and robe that he may not have to depend on the charity of strangers for his last need.

All letters and money ought to be sent to me for he can not take care of or spend it himself. I do not exaggerate believe me once for all, and I've told you none too soon.

Do not add a shadow of remorse to your after years Vincent by ignoring this letter. Take heed to it and let me hear from you once each month for awhile and a little money if only a dime each time, and I can imagine our angel mother will be near to bless you and your efforts.

Pa asks for nothing more only to have me near him. I ask all this for him of my own accord, and shall so all I can for him as long as he has the breath to call or say.

Jessie

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Penna.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Fargo, Ill on Dec 26, 1895; postmarked Mount Sterling, Ill. Dec ?; postmarked received in Franklin, PA on Dec 29 1895 at 9 AM; cancelled two cent stamp remains on the envelope intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Dec. 25th 1895 (12-25-1895)

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writer: Fargo, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; 12 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother:

Your letter and money received. It seems a mountain of wealth and light to me, and "Vint" if I've misjudged you I'm glad in one sense of the word.

"To err is human.

To forgive divine"

Forgive me this for you have proved yourself any thing but heartless. But your long silence has deceived me more than once.

I could do nothing with the money for some days on account of the continental rain. I went to Mt Sterling through a dreadful mire to get some medicine for pa. Some glycerine and whiskey, cough drops and oranges. You would have been well repaid could you have seen the look of childish pleasure on his face when I put a pair of carpet slippers on his feet. Cough drops 15 cts, oranges .15 slippers 40, whiskey .85.

He seemed a little stronger when I was there the other day, but he can not be moved out till the roads are smooth and the weather mild. It would make him sicker. Dr. Lucas says he can not cure him. He say his system is a wreck, worn out, but we will try Vint, to make his last days weigh on him as lightly as possible. I'll go to him as often as I can and use the money you sent judiciously and give an account of all I spend. Florie sent me \$5.00 today. I have enough now to supply him with oranges and cough drops for months. I am so glad you could send that money, and I'll take good care of it. I can sleep at night now instead of lying and thinking, thinking. Do not worry about pa only have a care for him, and I'll do all in my power to make him comfortable. I don't know how his sickness will turn. His stomach is so weak he vomits at the table. The Mt Sterling doctor did not give me a definite answer.

You can tell us nothing about hard times, Vint, and I wish you may get easier work soon.
Be careful of yourself.

Vintie was ruptured when quite small and I had cured him on one side when he was affected on the other. But thank goodness I have cured him, with home-made trusses.

Tell Katie to burn a little sulphur in each room once a week to keep scarlet fever down.

Bertha and Davie slept with Vintie when he had it and never took it, and if she would take equal parts of lard and quinine mixed and rub herself all over with it after taking a physic, she could soon get rid of the Gripper.

I know something of the expense of a hired girl.

We've all had a round of bowel complaint, fever. Vintie had heart failure with his trouble. Davie had a sore throat, bowel complaint. D. had short spell of fever. I fared better and was up after a day, and I thought I would not bring Bertha through. We walked the floor almost a week before we could ease her pain, neuralgia and the weather was so hot. We had to keep her head and limbs warm and her body cool. She had sore throat, bowel complaint, with remittant typhoid and malaria. She has not regained her nervous strength enough to go to school this summer, or winter, but she is as gay as ever now.

We moved to Fargo about two months ago and as I told Florie there are just about enough neighbors here (about a dozen houses all told) to all come out and hang over the fence to see the fun, when two neighbors get to quarreling. They have nothing good to say of one another if they can find anything bad. Don't you envy me my surroundings?

D. rented an old lady's farm. She's pleasant enough most of the time. But she takes a great deal of medicine and some times gets nervous, and then she just scolds like a fury. We let it pass and she's all smiles again in a day or two. She has been so for a score of years.

We let Miller take our place back and he gave us the prettiest mare on his place. She was two pretty for us to keep and D. traded her for a brown three year old that had been raised by hand and a pet, and a little black jersey cow. She is gentle as a kitten and comes to me if I call her name, and is three years old this spring.

D. has a chance to trade our pet mare for a heavier horse but not a gentle one. Mr Miller gave us a horse that had cut him self badly on the wire but he's getting along finely now.

May be we will rise above our troubles yet, if nothing happens this fall but she is sick like every body elses hogs, been so for five weeks but we think she is a little better the last few days. Some of the farmers have lost all their hogs. Miller's are dying fast and all are sick.

Bessie Chapman nearly died last week but is better now.

You know King Kerley is almost blind, two of his sons are near sighted. Newton sent back to California for a lady who might pass for totally blind. He married her. Her deportment and figure remind me of Katie but she has black hair, purple eyes, and fair skin. Their little baby lived to be two months old. I went to help her care for it as often as I could, but it died, the doctor told me because it lack needed sight of the mother. She seems a pleasant woman and pretends to miss me since I left the neighborhood.

Vintie says tell uncle "Vint" he goes to school and got 'licked' once for flipping shot across the school room.. and says "I'm not going to let that teacher whip me again you bet." And for very good reason. His papa promised him a second one when he got home if he did. He is growing a little, eight years old in May and wears a No 12 suit.

Tell Katie when Annie coughs to give her small drinks of cold water, rub her chest, inside of hands, and soles of feet with lard and turpentine, and heat her feet thoroughly on going to bed. It seems a 'mussy' way but Mrs Miller find it very effective. A piece of soft flannel on the chest is necessary item.

D. raised five acres of sod corn on the Meredosia bottom this year and raised several loads of corn. No rent Mart Clark is paying \$9 per month house rent in Mt Sterling. Keeps a team for hauling and works on an average 3 or 4 days in a week.

“Steve” Raney has failed and living I don’t know how. He was unable by law to collect his debts. Ashford Brewer was his bartender and they seem to cling together in a lover like way that is beautiful to see. D. met them one day carrying a painting outfit between them. Randy got into a fight on the street with another man of about his own size every way.

I never told you how near D came to getting the position of Superintendent of County one year ago. The subject was brought by the Committee before the Supervisors and they voted on it for two days, finally the chairman had to decide the question and spoke in favor of Mr Langan catholic and because he had not seen the kind of man D. is. Mr Stevens (dem) and Mr Wilson (rep) both worked hard for D. and they said Langan was badly worked up lest he should lose the place. Mrs Langan got excited one day while I was there, and as good as begged me to persuade D. to not run this time. But I tried to soothe and got her to promise there should be no hard feelings between us, as we always spoke well of Mr L. She said she always treated pa as a brother, they were hard run, no house to move to, would have to rent, and there was no money in it anyway.

The Supervisors declared L. asked too much and must come down or out. This year Mr L. came down \$75. He has \$500 in bank an eighty acre farm paid for, stock and machinery, family carriage, but “there’s no money in it! Two or three urges to try for the place and the recommend sent in for him had the names signed to it. Wm. Lucas, Anne Lucas, Cap.S.D. Nokes, John Chapman, Wm Osbourne, Ed Kerley, W.J. Taylor, Anne Taylor, Slater Berrisser and Hop. Greenwell. He said he got these names easily and got them with no second asking. Vint this shows for itself how far our neighbors trust us, and believe us capable if only we had a chance. Mr Lucas told D. I was a woman who could make any thing last and go a little farther than any other woman he ever saw. And wanted D. to make an engagement with him before he signed his recommend. He did not wait to hear all the paper read before he was hunting for his pencil. Well, D. attended this time but, the job was kept close for some cause. Wilson, now on the Committee, said Langan had done so much for him. Joe Parks, another told D. , if Langan had not run D. would have been chosen. They were careful to not let it come out to be voted on. D. had gained in voters among the Supervisors, and they knew it. All that kept him from that position this year was, none but a few knew, or had seen him.

Langan is all smiles when he sees us and never fails to shake hands. I can’t say as much for her. She has red hair and ----- you know. 10P.M.

Good night and pleasant dreams, Love to all

Jessie Vance

P.S. Let me know if you have an easier place to work. I hope you may get one. Kiss all the little ones for

Your sister J

This letter is for Katie as much as Vint tell her please write me. I’ll try not to be in such a hurry next time.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce.

Address: Franklin, Penna.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Fargo, ILL on Feb 24 1896; post marked received in Franklin, PA on Feb 26 1896 at 1 PM; stamp has been removed from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Feb 23. 96 (2-23-1896)

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writer: Fargo, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 6x8 blue lined thin tablet paper in pencil; letter has shown some disintegration; 7 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother & Sister: I suppose you will both be surprised at my answering your kind letter so soon. But I think you will pardon me when you learn the cause.

Pa is far from well. He is so weak that I have to help him dress, undress, cover him up when he goes to bed to say nothing of having to sleep (when I sleep at all) in such a position. That I may see him should he get up in the night which he frequently does when he knows nothing of what he is doing. His mind is so wrecked. I sometimes have a hard time getting him to go to bed or not to go to soon sometimes and twice he drew his fist on me. If he goes to bed too early, he is restless all night and that breaks my rest till I am nearly worn out. If I let him stay up he wanders around in the cold or calls me. His cough is very hard on him and his breath is so offensive I keep a cloth or sulphur burning all the time. He is subject to chills and then his mind is a perfect blank and I must stay by him all the time till up in the night, one time till 3 o'clock. He has no fever at these times. I've had at times to make special dishes to give him something he can keep on his stomach. His steady diet is soft boiled eggs, cream on his bread & milk with a little hot coffee in it and eats pitifully little, sometimes drinking one half of the coffee and eating nothing but half of the egg. I give him a little whiskey three times a day, and two Pierces Pellets in the morning to move his bowels. But they seem to be so torpid. The pills move him only once in five or six days and then in a very moderate way. If I give him medicine that purges him, he gets delirious and almost beyond control

He asks for candy often and eats a little over 5 cts. worth a week. It has a tendency to quiet his cough. From first to last I've spent \$2.05 for him. Vintie made him a present of a pretty lead pencil. It was two weeks before Pa sharpened it and I don't think he has ever used it. I have faith in you to send more change before long Vint. My whole heart is set on it. I think I'd nearly lose my mind were he to go away again and D. declares I must not carry the burden alone and says when you and Florie become unable to help me, he must go back where people are paid for that labor. If you only knew just how it is you would see the justice in this seemingly hard sentence.

D. is preparing to go to work and is making next to nothing now and will make nothing after awhile when he gets to farming.

I do not know just the extent of D's plans for the summer. I think he will receive $\frac{3}{5}$ of 15 acres of oats, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 12 acres (I think) of corn, $\frac{1}{2}$ of several acres of hay, and $\frac{1}{2}$ of 11 acres of corn for another neighbor. The old lady he rents of is 'crankiness' personified or he could raise twice as much.

I thank you Katie for writing me such a nice letter. I enjoyed it much. You can understand this when I tell you I cannot go out at all now on Pa's account and he is too weak to even cross the yard. A letter from you is a delight.

Take good care of your self now Katie...Each little one coming into this world is a joy and blessing, and embodiment of Love to its self. But I was in hopes you had done all that was necessary for your country and won a needed rest.

I'd like so well to see you all and would like to send a word to each and every one, but I've lost so much rest and have written a lot now. I'm glad you wrote to 'Potch'. You said you hoped pa would get stronger but Vint he never will. Dr. Lucas says his diseases are chronic and his age is going against him. Don't fail to let me hear from you with two weeks Vint, and don't think we'll have a chance to do any thing for Pa much longer.

Your anxious and loving sister

Jessie

8 P.M. Dear Brother & Sister

I have just changed or helped Pa change his clothes. When I had finished he turned to me before getting into bed and kissing me said, "What should I do without Jessie. She's just the sweetest girl that ever was. So kind, so kind." So you see he realizes his helplessness and appreciates my efforts, clumsy as they are.

I don't think he'll rest well tonight. He does not act sleepy.

Jessie

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce.

Address: Franklin, Penna.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Fargo, ILL on Mar 10, 1896 & Mount Sterling, Ill. @ 6PM on Mar 10; post marked received in Franklin, PA on Mar 12 1896 at 1 PM; cancelled stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 3/10/96 (3-10-1896)

Writer of Letter: David & Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writers: Fargo, Ill.

Other Remarks: Both letters written on 5x8 blue lined thin tablet paper in pencil; letter embossment reads "Foxhall"; 6 pages.

LETTER

Vincent Brother

You are aware of the fact I suppose that Pa is staying with us. It is worth a great deal more than \$5 a month just to are for him

because of his inability to even dress or undress himself. To say nothing of the special food prepared for him such as his stomach will retain.

We have between 2 and 3 dollars for his slippers, medicine that he must have, and candy for his cough.

We are simply living on expenses now. I am earning little or nothing although I am working all the time. Will you let me hear from you by the end of ten days? If not I must take Pa back where he came from. The care, and demand for attention from him is hourly by day and almost so at night. You see my resolve is with the bounds of reason.

I will wait 10 days for your reply.

Your brother D.A.

Vance

P>S> \$5 per month between you and Florence is all I ask expecting his medicine of senna and pills.

D.V.

Fargo, Ill

Dear brother:

D is such a poor writer (thanks to his indulgent father) that he requested me to write to you for him. I knowing all so well I cannot blame him. I've tried to do my part, but my very brain feels as though I could stand little more.

Please do not keep us in suspense as to what you mean to do. The money, if you can

pay at all is easier paid in small sums an often.

Pa's mind is a thing of the past. He sits most of the time with his mouth open if not all the time. That tells how much mind he has. He can not reason about anything any more that an infant. D. and I have some times to almost force his clothes off him at night. And his bowels would be the cause of his death in a short time if I did not look to them. He rallied for a while after bringing him here. But began to fail in a week or two. I am almost certain Vincent that palsy and bronchitis on his lungs are killing him. It is only a question of time. He can scarcely swallow for choking and he never walks across the floor. Sometimes I am obliged to carry him to and from his bed after he has taken medicine.

I have to get up so often in the night for him that I have put his cot in another room that D may be able to sleep more. I occupy a single bed in the same room with Pa to keep him from God only knows what. He broke a lamp chimney one night trying to handle a lamp while we were asleep. It's going pretty hard with me to be up so much of night then up early and late, early on D's account, late on Pa's account, but I am willing to go till I fall even if by doing so I can keep him with us.

D. has never denied me a favor, he has always made my happiness his pleasure, and been kind to me in word and deed ever since I know him. But he has born a great deal on Pa's account and mine is the fault if there is any. D is about worn out in more ways than one because of him and whatever he does I've not heart to condem him. Only God help my poor weak mind if Pa goes back to the "farm" to die, within a mile or two of me. Dying by inches & among paupers.

Vint if you cannot carry your part, say so. We are doing so for you, now, but how long can we do so and stand under it without help. I'll never ask you more. I'm tired of continual pleading, and my brain feels ready to burst with loss of rest and anxiety.

Ever your loving sister

Jessie

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Penna.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Fargo, Ill on Mar 12 1896; post marked received in Mount Sterling, Ill on Mar 12 at 6 PM; post marked received in Franklin, PA on Mar 14 1896 at 2 PM.; cancelled two cent stamp remains on envelope and about 85% intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 3/12/96 3-12-1896

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writer: Fargo, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 embossed blue lined writing paper in pencil; the embossed inscription is "Foxhall"; writing also continues in the left hand side and top of page 1; 2 pages.

LETTER

Dear brother

Your kind and generous letter was rec'd not five min. ago. Accept our heartfelt thanks.

Sorry to hear of your sickness. Can not you buy a box of quinine and take 3 heavy doses a day for 3 days and omitting it for three days for a month. This is a tonic and expeller of malaria. You need it.

All is well as usual here except Pa. He is no stronger and never will be. He is slowly growing worse in spite of all my care.

I have to take the entire care of him as D. must rest all he can in order that he can go on with his ceaseless round of work.

I believe you'll over look our last letters as both of us had lost so much rest, we hardly knew what to do. but your generous letter gives me strength. Pa is a burden to himself and suffers a great deal with his chest and is now unable to sit with out a prop to his back although he can stand alone for a few moments. Drs. Lucas and Irwin say we can only relieve his. We cannot cure, but rest assured I am doing all I can, and Vint If ever we are in position to do so I'll remember your self denial for Pa's and our sake.

Your sister

Jessie

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin. Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Fargo, Ill on Apr 4 1896; postmarked received in Mount Sterling, Ill on Apr 4 at 6 PM; postmarked received in Franklin, PA on Apr 6 1896 at 7 AM; the stamp has been cut from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 3/22/96 & continued on 3/23/96 (3-22-1896)

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writer: Fargo, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in pencil; it is continued on a single torn sheet of ledger paper; 8 + pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother and Sister:

It seems almost an impossibility for me to write you every week, but I'll do the best I can. I've not heard from Florie for some time and must write to her before long. How I do wish I could see our baby sister!

Every one around here have severe colds. Our little ones have missed school on this account. A Miss Cronin teaches this term. It is to be hoped she'll do better than the last teacher we had.

Let me know of the health of all

Do not worry about any shoulders not being able to carry the load Vint, but there's one thing I can't do, and that is to get the means to provide Pa with the necessities. We will see that he needs for nothing as long as you can help us in this way.

Pa calls for or asks about no one but "Jessie". Imagine a peevish baby asking for mother, and you know all. He calls me 'mother' often and sends for me at least 6 or 8 times when I am busy cooking a meal. I help, or rather dress and undress him daily, as he is now almost unable to stand alone. He has been taking a medicine that has eased his cough greatly but his bowels are as stubborn as ever to move. I must give him laxatives to move his bowels once a week and he seems to get weaker every time his bowels move. If I did not give him pills he would be either taken with a prostrating looseness, or possibly inflammation. Don't you think I'm right? His mind is getting feebler again, and he calls for coffee day and night. A table spoon would more than hold what he eats at one meal, but he drinks about half a cup of coffee, and he just will have it. If I argue with him about it he gets angry, and his mind and strength seem to leave him as a result of the excitement.

His clothes are horrible to wash on account of his helplessness. They smell so strong and the stains are hard to remove. As you know, I cannot leave to go to a neighbors, for him & he

hates to have a neighbor come in it makes him cross. If I were to tell him it was bed time at noon he would believe it as he can not tell the time of day and often tells me to go to bed just after he has waked from a nap in the day time.

A neighbor has called so will close by telling you that Ida "Bills" wife, has taken the wrong road. You may give it its strongest meaning. Food for reflection-

Kiss all the babies for us and accept our love and best wishes. Write soon as you can

Jessie.

3/23/96

Well Vint, Pa capped the climax last night by telling that young man to "tell his business like a flash and be gone." But for want of breath Pa's voice and speech was broken and I don't believe the fellow understood him, and I did not enlighten him. D. was out at the time. Pa managed to keep us both awake till nearly 3 o'clock last night and D was so sleepy he overslept till nearly 6. I don't know how to manage to get him to lie still, for when he gets up he can not cover himself again. He kept calling me and talking all sorts of nothing to me.

Truly speaking Vint, as he can not improve, it will be a positive release for him. But the positive stamp of nature, his will, keeps him from sinking faster.

When he drinks he seldom swallows the last mouthful, consequently the next time he opens his mouth the content pour onto his vest, coat, and pants, let it be water, coffee, phlegm or all three. All his clothes have to be changed and washed regularly. The lap board and his plate was such a sight this morning that after cleaning the worst off I had to sit and battle with the spasms that overtook my throat and stomach. I don't know how much of it he had taken into his mouth again. It was sickening! You must not think I am complaining. I only want you to know Pa as he is today, a complete wreck of second childhood. Help me with him Vint. till the last, and though we may be sorely taxed we will be able to lift our heads and smile with the rest and with out a pretense of a sigh knowing that nothing has been left undone. Some of my best friends, former neighbors are lying very sick but I can't to them, and Newt Kerley's wife the blind woman sent for me but I can't go.

Do you get any of the Brown co. news? The court list this year was something beautiful to see. One of the longest Brown Co, has ever had. I see Elizabeth Hosford put in a plea for separate maintenance from John Hosford. Spike Gifford went to Tenn. I believe and bought home a wife. Black measles are raging all around. D. says you are partly right in what you said in your letter. Frank Peacock married Lydia Herreld. Is the last name spelled right? But he says "Bill Jack" Taylor gave him a history of Tom Jackson and told him he raised him, and I well remember the beautiful span of gray horses Mt T. gave Tom when he came of age, and helped him to buy a farm. It does not matter much now, who raised him or what he possessed.

J-

(Continued on a torn sheet of scrap ledger paper)

If any one goes in my place he just makes things lively for all of us. He told uncle "Billy" Frank that I could cover him best. I know although he suffers more physically his mental suffering must be terrible. Neighbors offer to help us, but he will have none of it. He may linger 4 or 5 months

& he may not live one week. Vint, I wish you and Florie between you could send me enough to get a washing machine & wringer \$4.00. I have to wash Pa's bed clothes every week, and it is heavy work after being awake till one and two in the morning. I think, Vint, he realizes that he is slowly going from us and he fears to be left alone at night. If I do not come at his first call he yells as loudly as he can and after I get up he refuses to sleep or let me do so.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce.

Address: Franklin, Penna.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Fargo, ILL on Apr 10, 1896 & Mount Sterling, Ill. @ 6PM on Apr 10; post marked received in Franklin, PA on Apr 13 1896 @ 7 AM; cancelled stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 4/8/96 (4-10-1896)

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writers: Fargo, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on folded 11x12 plain paper in pencil; 3 pages.

LETTER

Fargo Ill 4/8/96

Dear Brother and Sister.

Last Sunday I gave Pa the weekly pills and senna to relieve his bowels as he was getting delirious and weaker. They moved without purging and never ceased moving and he continued to grow weaker. I made chicken soup and fed him often one or two spoonfuls. A neighbor urged me to give him some of her soup for a change. Hastily swallowing a few bites of dinner and taking a saucer of the soup to feed him again, saying I would not leave him in his present weak state. I fed him two sips with a pinch of bread in each. The third strangled him and the frothy phlegm began to rise in his throat & mouth, which he was unable to spit out, or swallow to any extent. I wiped it out of his mouth one after D. had turned him face downward but was unable to reach it again. I urged him to swallow it if he possibly could. The last he coughed up seemed to leave the air passages perfectly clear. Taking my seat beside him I held his hands and slowly by drops gave him whiskey and water to revive him but without avail. While holding his hands he said to me, "I can't go any farther." I think he knew he was going from us as he answered all my questions intelligently though indistinctly. When I asked him if he suffered any pain he answered, "I hurt all over" and his looks, his quivering lips, and his hands and stiffening form was proof enough without his struggling voice.

I stayed by him till he could no longer look at me which was till after 4 o'clock. Then taking his poor suffering face in my hands I kissed him for us all and left him with D, Mr. Nokes and another neighbor who held his hand till his trouble was over.

Yesterday morning I asked him if he knew it was his birthday telling him I had nothing but a kiss for him this time. He said he had not thought much about it. Bertha and I each gave him a kiss. Before night he know another birthday and nature seemed to mingle her tears with

mine for it rained and the wind moaned all night as I sat to watch him for the last time.

All I can do now is wish, wish, wish I could again be able to put my arms about him in his helplessness and see how kind and tender I could be for one week, day or little hour even. He has not worn his glasses which were priceless to him, more than a day out of three weeks. I hold them and it seems like looking into his dear eyes once more, a part of himself. He has left some examples, priceless to me, and the good he has done in this life outweighed the bad 100 to 1.

We can do but one thing more for him, that is to strive to live not as he has done but even better. He loved us in his fatherly way and suffered mentally and in silence more than we will ever know during his last years. Knowing this I will strive with whatever "perseverance" nature has implanted within me and it will not prove a fruitless effort, God helping me.

Give our love to all and write soon to your sister. Jessie Vance

P. S. The neighbors have been kind and considerate. The hymns sung during the sermon were: "He leadeth me", "Tis well with my soul", and "What a friend we have in Jesus."

J

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce.

Address: Franklin, Penna.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Fargo, ILL on Apr 24, 1896 & Mount Sterling, Ill. @ 6PM on Apr 24; post marked received in Franklin, PA (unreadable); cancelled stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Undated (about 4-24-1896)

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writers: Fargo, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on folded scrap paper in pencil.

LETTER

(Undated Abt. 4-24-1896)

Dear Brother & Sister:

Your kind letters were duely rec'd. I too wish you could have been with Pa in his last days. But I knew how you were crowded for means, so did not even send word to ask you if you wished to come before he was buried. Did I do right?

But this I wish to say to you and Katie. You have been kind and faithful in caring for Pa in the only way you could.

Were it not that I have one of the kindest husbands in the world I should have been tried beyond my strength and feelings lately.

Pa suffered little or no pain but his weakness tried him severely. Kate asks me why I did not let you know sooner. You know I wrote you telling you Pa might linger 4 or 5 months but he might not live a week longer. He insisted on being dressed on Sunday and died on Tuesday and I felt satisfied he was not well enough to even sit up.

About two months ago, he asked me if we could bury him by our mother. I told him I did not know where we would be and for him to not think too much on this subject but we would do the best we could for him. He studied a few moments and said, "Burry me by Ruby." I told him I was perfectly willing for him to have his choice.

It was a cold, rainy dreary day when we laid him away and I could not go farther than the church as I had a severe cold on my ungs and Bertha took sick just before I started.

Pa's mind was too near gone to mention any one only as I called their names to him. He spoke of you when I did. He called Davie, Frankie during his stay with us.

Do you wish to help pay the expenses of Pa's funeral Vint? Supervisor Stevens told D. the county would do it as he knew you had not much money on hand and he has none at present. But if you and Florie wish to help pay it we'll have this arrangement canceled.

Let me hear from you soon Vint.

Pa told me to send you the "record" and with it the request that you send it back inside of a year. Will you remember and respect the last request he ever made of you? Please do not forget it. You will receive it with this.

Accept our love and write soon.

Your lov. Sister
Jessie

P.S. Sarah Vandeventer and Mrs. Rachel Mobly are dead. Uncle Franklin and Ed Clark came to a "tie" for assessorship and drew cuts, Ed winning.

Vint, our family is growing less and less only three of the nine left. Some day there will be only two left, and the day will come when the letter sent will receive no answer. But as long as life lingers, in my heart you and Florie shall receive word from me for every letter you send as proff of my undying love and in memory of our Father and Mother.

Your sister
Jessie

An additional note was inside this letter:

Vint: Please find out what it would cost to have two copies of this record printed as we cannot all three have the original book let us each have a copy. Will you or Katie see to it?
Please do: Your sister J.

ENVELOPE**Addressed To:** V. P. Bunce**Address:** Franklin Pennsylvania**Other Envelope Notations:** No return address; post marked sent from Versailles, Ill on May 16; post marked received unreadable; cancelled two cent stamp has been ripped from the envelope with about 10% remaining.**LETTER HEADING****Date of Letter:** May 10th 96 & continued on May 14 (5-10-1896)**Writer of Letter:** F.M. Hosford**Location of Writer:** Versailles, IL**Other Remarks:** Written on 8x10 brown lined tablet paper in brown ink; 7 pages.**LETTER**

Mr. V.P.Bunce

Dear Nephew

After a long delay I will try and answer your letter. We are all in usual health. I have been hearing from you through Kate and have been careless about writing. Dr. Nevall of Cooperstown has just passed here and says Wm. Boss will live but a few hours. The relatives are all well. John sold his place to James Koch for \$1200 and lives with old Mrs Boss. He is farming part of her place and gets along about as usual. Mart is still at the same place and is the same Mart. Geo. DeWitt just left here. he borrowed \$3600 on his place this spring and is going to try it five yrs. longer. That is a great big sum and I would rather it would be he than I that has such a load to carry. Mine is enough don't know how I will make it with mine but think I will make it all right if I have health and reasonably good luck. The mortgages came due on the DeWitt land this spring. I paid the int. on my \$2200 and \$300 of the principal. that leaves me still owing \$1900. I remortgaged the Andrew forty for \$600 payable in one year don't know whether I can make it or not in that time, but think I can. The \$1300 on my 160 acres is due in 4 yrs. from this spring if I can make the \$600 int. and taxes this year. I can get through with the other easier. Dan Dunbar owed \$1800 and re mortgaged his for \$1700 so you will see I did better than he. George owed \$2900 on his land and borrowed \$3600 you will see that figure the wrong way. I have 50 acres in wheat it not promise very well. It is to dry and there is nothing in wheat at the price. (I used the wrong blotter.)

We have 35 spring pigs and two sows yet to have pigs. 35 shoats 11 brood sows a boar and about 800 Bu. of Corn. What I will get out of the mess is more than I can tell you all about when I unload. Every thing is so low that it is uphill biz to farm. I have to cows & calves and 2 heifers yet to come in. Freds heifer had a calf in the pasture among the hogs. They killed the calf and came near killing the cow. Don't know whether she will live or not. I have 5 yearlings and lots of pasture. Fan has a mule for the Dunbar Jack and it is entirely to small. Jams pony will have a colt in a few days. I still keep the same horses. And Watts still keeps the mule she is pretty well played. We have not planted corn yet will try it tomorrow (used the wrong blotter again.) the ground is so cloddy that it is hard to get in order. Jim DeWitt and wife were here day

before yesterday he is the same. Jim only older. I saw Jesse & Dave in Mt Sterling a few days since they are well. she told me that she heard from you often. so you are aware of your fathers death. the older generation is nearly all gone. In your last letter to Kate I notice you say that I must think you a rascal &c. I don't think anything of the kind and would like to hear from you and family often and the reason I don't write oftener is pure ornaryness. I am very busy and get careless about writing. We had a round up in the Township this spring. I ran for Assessor tied Dick Clark and lost in the draw. Dick and Geo Dewitt had a racket election day. Jim David took Clark up he was fined \$5 cost about \$45 making \$50 then Clark had George arrested he was fined \$1. Costs about \$39. So you see it was quite expensive to both. Geo. says he will appeal. I have heard nothing from the will case this spring have written to Hungerford to day will hear from him in a short time and then write you at once if anything favorable should occur. The case was to be heard in Apr. don't know whether or not it was. It may be in law several yrs. Don't think there is much in it. I have never seen Gifford but once since he came home I met him and wife in the road did not talk with him I have set a dozen different Sundays to go down and see them but every time some one will come and knock me out. Avery is not married yet. He has a lady helping Mamie keep house by the name of Lydia Tharp. Every thing is moving along about the same as when you left here. People all complaining of hard times. I see by your letter to Kate that Vincent and Anna are doing well at school and that Frank and John are terrors. how I would like to see them. I imagine I can see just how they look. Tell Kate that she promised to write in your next letter and when I receive it I shall be disappointed if she don't write. Sam is over at Kate's today. Said he would be home by noon but has not put in his appearance yet. Don't be as negligent as I but write as soon as you get this tell me what you are doing and every thing that you can think of Write me all the news and tell Kate to be sure and write.

Love to all
Your Uncle
F.M. Hosford

May 14th

Wm. Boss died the 11th Old Fan died of Lock Jaw the 12th We are having a picnic with her young mule. had a fine rain last night. it is cool and cloudy to day. Finished planting yesterday. I never saw such an early season leaves full grown and Bill Watts says we will have frost the 1st of the month. Write Soon

Love to All
F.M.H

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Penna

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Fargo, Ill on Jan 17 1896; post marked rec'd at Mount Sterling, Ill at 6 PM (date unreadable); post marked at Franklin, PA (unreadable); cancelled two cent stamp remains on envelope, is ripped and about 50% intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 1/26/1896 (1-26-1896)

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writer: Fargo, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; 8 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother & Sister:

You rec'd a letter from me I suppose letting I had rec'd your order for five dollars. I spent 1.75 of it for Pa soon after receiving it and did not succeed in getting Pa home till one week ago today. He was pretty badly off and the move did him no good. But I did get him home and am giving him whiskey and pills. His bowels never move without pills or diarrhea resulting from constipation. I try to avoid this by giving him a few drops of whiskey (all his stomach can bear) I am getting him strengthened up a little. His food too, of milk, butter and rolled oats is easier and more nourishing than pork, molasses, and coffee, such as he has been used to at the County Farm. There is no denying the fact that the life was killing him. Of course Vint I or we are in for it now, for he's old, exacting & sometimes positively snappish. But my concience part approves so heartily the step I have taken that I cannot regret it, only help us that he may never go back for I know now to a certainty that he has not been kindly treated and the inmates of the institution pushed him, (they did not dare to strike) down twice. Just think of the shame. Most of the inmates are more like brutes than mean. They are so ignorant and stubborn.

He manages to get across the floor on an average of once each day, and needs no pushing to get him down. Of course you see from this that I have as good as another child to care for he waits on himself for nothing, and cannot do so to any extent. Since bringing him home, his mind is a little better, but he can hardly dress himself for very feebleness. I don't see how he manages at the Farm, as he says no one helped and he is oblige to have some thing to spit in as saliva flows so freely as to run from his mouth unnoticed by him. He says it sometimes seems to come up his throat causing him to vomit.

I always wrap his feet at night as he will not take the pains to warm them and they are sure to feel a clammy coldness. But he is happy as can be at being with "David" and "Jessie" once more and I hope his ever leaving us will be in the natural way.

He can not go any distance on foot and riding makes him sick so I am sure to be at home

should any one come. I have received call from almost every lady in town and have returned all but two. I'll return all first calls and then I'll quit. I do this much for politeness sake, for I feel very little interest, if any, in the neighbors, they are nothing like those we had a year ago.

Well Katie, we all have or have had the grip. Bertha simply took down with a burning fever aching limbs and head and sore throat. I gave her a heavy physic and rubbed her little body all over with equal parts of sweet lard and an equal portion of quinine. She had no more fever and although I could trace a cold easily enough, she was as lively as ever next day. I bathed her three or four times with the lard and quinine, and she's her own little self once more.

Frank Allen and his wife are down of the grip. He is badly off I guess as he complained to D. of his back and lower bowels as though his kidneys and bladder were affected. Allen says he feels as though his innards were mortifying. And that would be an absence of all feeling, would it not?

Our yard is well sprinkled with limbs broken from the soft maple trees by a heavy sleet weighing them down. The weather has not been warm enough to melt the ice and the fruit tress are breaking badly.

Old Jethro Vanderverter and Julius Mobly's wife are dead. I think I told you old Mrs Reger is dead.

I do not get much news out here. How is Venazuela out there. There are lively times enough going on in some parts of the world. I hope it may get no nearer. What do you thing of Cleveland's sentiment on the V question.

I'm about sick of the grip, but of course I've not time to doctor my self and don't feel like writing any more.

D. is busy as can be. He has had to turn several men away that wanted his help in the fields and woods as he is getting his work arranged for ploughing as soon as the weather will permit. A great deal of it will be sod ground. His work not is not bringing him in much money on that account. Take this as I mean not as I say.

The children can not go out on account of the sleet and exposure with the grip and I'm glad to say they feel well, only they nearly bewilder me with their laughing and noise generally. So don't be surprised at this letter.

Did you know "Tommy" who married a Howell? B.J. Taylor raised him. He died not long ago.

Frank Peacock who married Fannie Root was very sick of typhoid fever for awhile and when he got better of that, had to be taken to a Quincy hospital to have a leg amputated. White swelling the cause. He is improving fast the paper says. They lost a little girl.

I take it for granted that you will write to us inside of three months at the farthest.

Vintie says tell cousin Vincent that he lives right in the Hub of creation. He says that means the middle of the wheel.

He is over half way through the third Reader, studies geography, arithmetic, spelling and writing.

Bertha says tell cousin Annie she has a lovely yellow haired dolly more than half as tall as herself. She calls her Bonny Jean. I took great pains in making the body for it and it is pretty.

Davie says tell cousin Johnie he got a little french harp Christmas and plays dominoes & checkers with Vintie and "sister" every day. How is the baby, give him a loving hug and kiss for

aunt Jessie I hope I shall get to see you and them some day. We are all young yet and such may be our pleasure again.

We wish you all a loving,

Good night

Jessie

P.S. Ravenscroft's wife died not long ago of our flesh. Another woman H- Vandeventer's wife died lately. A young woman.

J

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Penna.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Fargo, ILL on December 31, 1896; postmarked received in Mt. Sterling, Ill on Dec. 31 at 6 p.m.; postmarked received in Franklin on January 2, 1897 at 3 p.m.; cancelled 2-cent stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: December 29, 1896

Writer of Letter: Jessie Bunce

Location of Writer: Fargo, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on folded lined writing paper in purple ink.

LETTER

Fargo, Ill. Dec 29th 96

Dear Kate & Vint:

Please accept our sincere thanks for the beautiful gifts received in due time. When I held up the doll, Bertha began jumping and clapping her hands saying "Oh my baby, my baby, my baby." She has named it Annie Laurie, and she and Davie take turn about nursing it.

Tell little Frank I have read all about Santa Claus in the little book for Davie.

Our 'kerchiefs come handy now, for we've all had the 'grippe.' D. had congestion of the lungs and rheumatism. The doctor told me he could pull him through all right if it did not go to his heart. It did settle in his chest and I did not go to bed for nearly three weeks. D. was barely able to be up when Vintie came down, and missed three weeks of school

But we are all improving and we're very thankful things or events have turned no worse.

Katie you are fortunate to have regained your strength after your hurt. I've thought of you so often. How I should like to see the babies.

Mrs. Wm. Lucas has been in the Quincy Sanitarium for over three months. She has to undergo surgical operation but is slowly improving.

Do you know that the teachers are preparing to erect a stone of some kind at Pa's grave? Uncle Frank promised to help remove him to Versailles when the weather became cool enough. I wrote him some time in Nov. and have got no word of any kind from him.

As to those papers I don't think there is much concerning grandpa Bunce, but I mean to look things over well next summer after we get moved only 1 1/2 miles north of this, about 1/4 of a mile south of the road you traveled from Mt. Sterling to Mr. Millers and 3/4 of a mile S.W. of the County Home.

Well now I'll tell you what we are doing or trying to do. D. traded for a sow a registered strain. She is a monster and was one year old this summer her brood (Hello, I've found some

paper) Her brood came in Sept. and D. sold the three smallest for 2.50 a piece, Mon.

My big black mare's baby mule was 3 feet 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches to the hip of her shoulders when she came. She is black, gentle, broad breasted, very square hips, and took the blue ribbon at the colt show and would have taken it at the fair had D. taken her. Mr. Wells of Mt. Sterling whom D. patronized offered \$50 for the colt when she was five weeks old. I wish you could see her "Vint" people say she is the prettiest mule they ever saw. We have our 4 year old mare and D. bought a beautiful dun colored mule to mate 'Dixy'

She is longer bodied is two weeks older and weighs two lbs. more is the same in girth. We call her Dinah. Ds oats turned out comparatively well. He will perhaps have corn enough to do.

It looks as though with what we have we ought to get along well, but we have about \$100 of doctors bill and grocery debts to pay and by being careful I am hopeful of our being well established in a few years. Everyone around here seems to like D. and have confidence in him.

Charlie Chapman was married a short time after Pa's death. He came in to dinner one day and his brother Shirley found him half way up the well with his wife, cold and stiff in his arms. She had prepared dinner for the men and went to get fresh water for dinner. Being very warm and not over strong the current of cold air from the curbless well paralyzed when it struck her and she fell in. They buried her in her wedding dress of white Henrietta and silk and adorned her with her wedding boquet and even to her flowers on her white slippers for they had not yet wilted. Charley is at home with her father now.

Prior Vance's wife died last Sept. and he is , or was visiting Ill. Again. They say he's not changed a whit in the last twenty years. I laugh when I think of his keen looking eyes and his physiognomy generally reminds me of an iron wood tree, gnarled, and tough as the metal is named for.

D.'s youngest sister married a farmer (german) of considerable means, near Coalsburg. The Hartman Glee Club went to Chicago with one of our campaign speakers.

Of course D. helped McKinley all he could.

I hear nothing from the folks on the east of Mt. Sterling. I met Mrs. Newall & Maggie Peacock in town and had it not been that D. was with me they would not have known me. They thought I was sick.

I wonder if you or Florie miss Pa as much as I do. My heart aches for one look at his dear face as we knew it ten years ago. I sometimes forget and say to myself, "I must go see Pa." An indescribable pain goes through me when I remember he is beyond my reach. With his faults such as they were, the world could better have spared a better man.

Ten o'clock and I must close. Please Katie write too next time. With love from all to you all I am

Your loving sister
Jessie

P.S. Katie D. has bought me three turkeys. I mean to raise a lot of them next year. I'll promise you a neater looking letter next time. J

P.S. 2 I suppose you read about George Logsdons oldest girl. I understand her lover left suddenly "for parts unknown" and the poor girl shot herself. She was first alive when heard of it.

Edom Brewer had a cancer on one of his ears. It is getting much worse. Lindsay told D. and yet he will have nothing done for it.

Geo. Hill and Meserve have failed in the grocery business and have sold his stock in Mt. Sterling. Geo. Green D. bought two pkg. coffee of him and drew a prize with each, a beautiful glass water and cream pitcher. I needed both. I got a little rocking chair when I had traded \$20 worth at F. Curry's. I enjoy it very much.

Vintie and Davie were playing "make hay" a short distance from the house last summer after coming in they told the papa of a queer cloud they saw. Davie took a piece of rope and backing away showed me the exact motion of a cyclone in the air. It was a large, genuine cyclone between this and Mt. Sterling. Hundreds of people gathered at the Woodman Log rolling saw it.

We missed the chance of a life time. I suppose by not looking up at the right time. Geo. Alexander has again come back to Cooperstown but will return to Mo. in the Spring if he lives. They say he has Consumption.

I don't suppose I told you any thing you've not seen in your paper but I do not go out much and hear very little as our paper has run out and we take no one at present.

I have four turkeys instead of three.

D. Has rented some land for next summer. I've forgotten how much.

Florie promises me a visit next summer. You've no idea how much life the promise of that visit puts into me. There would be only one thing lacking that would be Katie and 'Vint'. I'm coming to see you some day away off in the future.

This is a long post script.

Jessie

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Master V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Penna

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Fargo ILL on Jan 11, 1897; post marked rec'd in Mount Sterling Ill on Jan 11 at 6 PM; post marked rec'd at Franklin PA on Jan 13 1897 at 1 PM.; stamp has been cut from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Jan. 8 1897. (1-8-1897)

Writer of Letter: Vincent (Vintie) Vance

Location of Writer: Fargo Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on a half sheet of 8x10 blue lined embossed writing paper in pencil; the embossed symbol is not clear; 2 half pages.

LETTER

Dear cousin Vincent:

I cannot tell you how glad I was to get the presents you sent me. What did you get for Christmas?

Polly's black mule colt was six months old the 19th of Dec., and weighed 538 pounds, and the mule Papa bought was 6 months old on the 6 of Dec. and weighed 540 pounds. Dixie is black and Dinah is light brown.

I have been going to school this winter. My teacher is a Catholic, but she is a kindhearted woman.

The teacher had the larger boys bring their axes and at noon they went up to the preachers house and chopped wood, and at the same time the big girls ricked it up. I took Papa's ax and helped them.

I would be glad to get a letter from you.

Your loving cousin, Vincent V.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Pennsylvania

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent is unreadable; post marked rec'd at Franklin, PA on Jan 16 1897 at 7 AM; stamp has been torn from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Jan'y 14th 1897 (1-14-1897)

Writer of Letter: F.M. Hosford

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 8x11 blue lined tablet paper in brown ink; 4 pages.

LETTER

Mr. V.P. Bunce

Dear Nephew

After a long delay I will try and answer your letter we are all well and so are the relatives. Joseph A. Cox will be buried tomorrow died yesterday. He has had no mind since he was sick two years ago. I read your last letter to Kate in which you state that you were still in the Foundry. I sometimes think you are better fixed than I am no debt and steady employment. I tell you times are hard here and laboring men can not get employment. I am not teaching this winter. We have sold 34 hogs and they brought 3 cts per lb. will sell 20 more before spring if they live, have 50 acres of wheat sown will try to do something next year but cant tell how it will pan our. I can tell you one thing and that is this. Farming does not pay I have made nothing since I have tried it for the reason that is costs more to raise wheat or Pork than you can get for it. Now I am going to tell you something that will interest you. The Supreme Court of the State of Ct. on the 7th day of this month held that the 13th Article of Uncle Theodore's will was void. That means that nearly \$10000 which was put in trust for the worthy poor will go to the heirs at law, and V.P.B. is one of them. It is more than likely that the case will go through other courts and we may finally lose it in the end but I think we will get the money in the end and the end may be now. I will keep you posted as to the proceedings. I got my news from F.M. Strong he sending me a copy of the daily Hartford Times and marked the proceedings of the supreme court. I will write you a copy and you can see for yourself Below is a copy

Supreme Court

3rd day of the January term.

Arguments were made in the case of Frank M. Stong's appeal. The circumstances of the case are Frank M Strong of Vergennes Vt. has brought an appeal in behalf of the heirs of the late Theo. P. Strong of Plainville from the executors account of the Security Co. of Hartford on the ground that

the item No. 13 in the will was void. by this item the sum of nearly \$10000. was left in trust for the deserving poor of Plainville the pastors of the Congregational Methodist and Baptist churches and two men one belonging to each political party to be appointed by the selectmen were appointed to administer the fund. It is held that the item is void on the ground that it is for the benefit of the tax payers, because of it indefiniteness in regard to the beneficiaries &c. and that it creates a perpetuity. Aty's F.L. Hungerford and John H. Kirkham appeared for the Appellant Frank M. Strong who is the deceased's nephew. Judge M.H. Holcombe appeared for the Plainville parties and Ex Lieut. Gov. G. Sill for the Security Co.

If I can understand language the meaning is this. It is held by the court that the item is void on the ground that it is for the benefit of taxpayer &c. &c. I shall write to F. Hungerford or Strong soon and will keep you fully posted. I have written to Jessie & S.L. Curry this evening. I want you to write in fifteen minutes after you get this and tell me all the news. Tell Kate I will answer her letter in my next. Write soon from your Nephew

Love to all.

F.M. Hosford

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce.

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent is unreadable; post marked rec'd in Franklin PA on Mar ? 1897 at 7 AM; stamp has been cut from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Feb. 27th 1897 (2-27-1897)

Writer of Letter: Catherine "Kate" (Hosford) Sellars

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 8x14 blue lined and blue and red margined ledger paper in brown ink; 2 pages.

LETTER

Mr. V.P. Bunce

Franklin Pa.

Dear Nephew

I rec'd yours yesterday and 28th

You see "Vint" how much I wrote you yesterday. I left off writing how much P wrote Mabel tried to finish the letter for me but I will send it along "just the same." Unc Sihon and I have been just about past going for the last three weeks. I think we must have the "grippe" but we are all right again. I was at Charley's three weeks ago – 10 days, he was down under the Drs.' Care for two weeks. Dr. Neville of Cooperstown waited on him Lewis drives for him so of course I saw him at Charley's that day. He was well also his grandmother he Lewis said he had not heard from you since

X mas and showed me the watch you sent him. Liz Lear was here to-day from Rushville she said he was up there last Sun. to see his girl and she was gone and he staid at her house over night Old Mrs. Hume has given Charley Smith a deed to her 80 acres George Tolle's wife did not think that fair so she hired Elmer Perry for her attorney and took it into court the result is they set off 1/6 of the 80 to her and \$75. for back rent and she paid Perry \$5 cost Ben Hume about \$2.00 as he fought it. There were 11 baptized to-day near Warren Newells I do not know who they were except Mamie Avery I have woven 25 yds nice carpet for myself this Winter Fred staid here last night they are all well Mart and the boys and Alma are here often they are all well now but like almost every one else they have been down with colds I think all will feel different after the 4th of March. The next day the 5th it will be two years since my baby boy kissed me good bye and told me "he believed it was coming light" the last words he spoke to me but it was not the last he thought of me Pink Nashe's daughter heard him say " don't tell ma how bad I am hurt"

If I only knew as much about "Lute's" death I would feel better about it but I feel satisfied that he went the night of the 7th of Feb 1885 in a blizzard on the Mississippi river We have been having a real cold spell here for the last week The roads are so rough they are almost impassible Mared is with Charley and Mattie this Winter goes to school with Charley. She is a good girl in

school and is getting along nicely in her studies I do not know any thing about the removal of your father only Dave wanted Frank to come up last Fall and help him about it Frank said he would go but did not.

March 5th

You would have read this ere now but Alma came here Wednes. night and sat till about 12 the next night George DeWitt and Frank came from town I prepared supper for them and they sat and talked till 11. Last night I was so sleepy I could not write To night Sihon and Mabel are in bed and I will try and write again and perhaps I will have a chance to mail it tomorrow Hen. Newell, Will and Fred were here for din. to-day Hen. said tell you that McKinley had a h—ll of a day to go home. It rained here all day and froze as it fell this morn there was no sleet and ice to be seen but plenty of water We butchered a 261 lbs hog to-day that we got of Charley for 3.25 per.cut.

Our hogs all died two years ago but Wills' did not take the cholera then, now Wills are all sick but if and ours are all right so far Wash has given Breckenridge a 2nd mortgage of \$200. Wash owed him \$218, but Breck threw off 18. Albert paid Wash \$25. in money for the rent of the house and gives him grain rent for the land. You come and bring your family to-morrow and I will cook you some backbones Tell Vincent he wrote me a nice letter and that I will ans. soon. Tell Annie her pictures were very nice I hope she will get see the day that she can make as nice pictures as her grandma Bunce used to When is Frank going to send your center table and little trunks of letters? Sihon is snoring like a good fellow We are all feeling well now except Mattie and she is better you never heard of such appetites as we have and I am thankful that our cellars are well filled with vegetables and fruit I rec'd some papers from Cecil H. I see by them he has been very ill He sends me the Monticello Express often with pieces marked He wants me to make them a visit next Sun as aunt Sarah's three girls will be there then But I can't go The mud is a ankle deep We have been trying to go to Mt Sterling for weeks but the roads are too bad if they are not muddy they are frozen and so rough Love from all to all and write soon or sooner

Lovingly Aunt Kate

Vint write oftener I think Katie might write a little too Tell her I think the next one ought to be called Katie as always seemed to me as though that should have been Annies name.

C.P.S.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Penna.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Fargo ILL on Mar 27 1897; post marked rec'd in Mount Sterling on Mar 27 1897 at 6PM; post marked at Franklin PA on Mar 29 1897 at ? PM; stamp has been cut from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 3/22/1897 (3-22-1897)

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writer: Mound Sta. Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 6x9 blue lined brown thin writing paper in purple ink; paper is disintegrating especially at the folds; 8 pages.

LETTER

Dear Sister & Brother:

I wish you could know the pleasure it gives me to receive a letter from you.

Katie, be as kind to yourself as possible. Try a half cup of hot water before getting out of bed and try the same remedy whenever you feel sick. Do not eat anything you suspect disagrees with you and just as limited diet as you can and live, for your stomach is sensitive at present and will not, or rather cannot stand much. A porous plaster (the kind that does not blister or course,) worn over your kidneys and one over the pit of your stomach will strengthen and stimulate those organs. I hope you are mistaken about your fear of dropsy. Our physicians tell us dropsy is always caused by some ailment. It is not a disease itself as soon as the real trouble disappears such symptoms go with it.

As you cannot, Vint, really carry Katie's trial, not so much as relieve her of the half of it, you can do more than all this by being considerate of her feelings in every way. It brings its own reward ten-fold.

Mrs Lucas passed the winter at her father's in Clayton. She passed through a terrible severe operation but is regaining her health very nicely.

D. started for a Dr. for one of our neighbors about two months ago, and the horse slipping fell on his right ankle. It swelled pretty badly, but when he proved his limb was not broken, by his being able to work all the joints. I went to work with cold salt water and keeping a heavy cloth constant cold, I succeeded in getting him on foot again. He kept his foot and ankle bandaged during the day to keep back the swelling and it pains him some even now. I find a sprain is or can be as bad as a break. Had the ground been frozen on the surface instead of being slightly thawed his ankle must have been broken. The accident happened only a short way from our house.

Our little cow is one of the gentlest you ever saw. No, we don't tie her foot to milk. I've

seen four children milking her at the same time, or rather trying to milk and Bertha and Davie climb up and sit on her back. She will come from across a field if she thinks you've got a piece of biscuit or disk of slop for her.

We have had, it seems to me, more than our share of sickness this winter, and we are not rich by such proceedings. And all produce has been so cheap it does not answer the purpose to sell, and yet that is our dependence. Corn .20, oats .12, hogs .03 and so on.

The weather has been rainy for over four weeks so now the roads are impassible. D. being disabled with his foot could not get his wood up earlier and now the roads prevent it, and it is time he was breaking ground for oats, or nearly time.

The republicans held their yearly convention at Fargo yesterday. It is only a yearly diversion for them for the democrats have a majority in Little Brindle. The R.s nominated Walter Bennet and D. for constables. D. declined but they did not accept his refusal. Of course it will amount to nothing any way. I asked him what he thought he would do with his "white elephant" if he should possibly be burdened with it, but he does not seem to know more than I do about it. It will never make him rich.

Well Katie I have my garden seeds and I can hardly wait for the ground to dry out. I've set only one hen, My big turkey D. brought weighs over 20 lbs. He is a beauty. D. bought three hen turkeys and the youngest weighs 15 lbs.

Our little ones will have 1½ mile to go to school, and I dread it for them.

If only I had the strength there would be many things done that I can only wish for. Uncle Frank promised to help remove Pa's remains. We left the time his choice, and he has done or said nothing. D. Cannot do all by himself and so we must wait till we can hire it done in part. We put off filling the grave on this account.

What can we do, do you know?

Kiss all the little ones for us and tell them aunt Jessie thinks of them every day. Annie must be a "great big" girl by this time.

Bertha is letting Davie get ahead of her in size and learning too, although she is fond of learning. Davie often asks Bertha to read to him. He sits beside her and when she can't pronounce a word she spells it and he tells her what it is. And figures are his joy. Our Bertha is a sweet, loving, and obedient little being but a spell of fever she had 2 years ago has left it effects for she is more delicate than ever, and we shall always try not put too much work on her little body and brain, at least till she has improved in bodily strength.

The boys are rugged and noisy.

3/24/97

D. went to see Mr Lucas since I began my letter and he told D. Mrs L. was not at all strong, not even able to do a little cooking for herself, as he found her trying to do when he went to see her lately. Her father and sister having gone over into Mo. for a visit as she assured them she could cook for herself and her little girl while they were gone. Mr L. had to put them in a boarding house before he came home. With all their money they are unfortunate for Mr L. is some times so disabled with kidney disease as to be unable to be about.

Don't let it be too long a time before writing again for I want to hear from Katie.

Our love and best wishes to you all. Write soon to

Your lov. Sister
Jessie.

P.S. D. says tell "Vint" he means to hang on to those mules for some time yet, and also to become better acquainted with the American hog. He has two beautiful specimens that might be registered. The oldest is almost three feet high. She is the one that was so sick a year ago. The other is her daughter and will be as large I think.

J.V.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Penna.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles Ill on Jul 29 1897; post marked rec'd in Franklin Pa on Jul (unreadable); stamp has been cut from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: July 10st 1897 (7-10-1897)

Writer of Letter: Catherine "Kate" (Hosford) Sellars

Location of Writer: Versailles Brown Co. Ill

Other Remarks: Written on 4x8 blue lined tablet paper in brown ink; 5 pages.

LETTER

Mr and Mrs "Vint" Bunce

My Dear children

The little girls and I have been alone since Thurs. Unc. Sihon and Will are at Charley's making hay on the Prelines Knobley(?) place I do not know how long they will be there as they can have 80 acres of grass to cut for half 40 acres of clover and timothy, and 40 of timothy Geo. Briggs is working with them Sihon and the boys have two ricks of timothy and clover put up on Unc. Marts place Mared and I went berrying this morn, when we came in I sat down to rest my thoughts fell back to Maria I got Grandpas's bible to see what year she was born. She would have been 55 years had she lived till the 29th of this month. While looking at the record I noticed aunt Prisan's death had not been recorded I put it down it being the first I ever wrote in my great grand father's and my fathers and now Frank's bible, but he insist on my keeping it with me. In it I saw where you recorded "pa's" death (I well remember where you sat and I watched you write) I said to my self I will write to him to-day if nothing else is done. So here goes.

Every one has their wheat and weeds there is not over half a crop for any one and some plowed their wheat up and put it to corn They think we will have bread and perhaps seed Frank will have about 300 bu. We had a very dry June until the very last of the month it commenced raining and rained about every day until last Mon. since that time it has not rained but I hear the thunder roll now It is the hottest weather I ever experienced I do not see how the poor men stand it in the fields and you Vint I have thought of you so much roasting near that hot furnace all day. The little girls and I are nearly cooked The two last days I feared for anabel just at night, day before yeterday she had a spell of about 2 hours of fever and vomited I bathed her good she finally commenced sweating and the sweat ran off of her yesterday the same thing repeated only it came on before noon To-day she has escaped so far Poor Katie when will she get rid of her surplus weight I pity her Maggie Peacock is looking since the 6th Mag Jones had a girl last week Ettie

Robbins will be laid up in about 5 months by her cousin Geo. Tucker Harlan Black and Ollie Ransom (Andrew DeWitts girl) were married a few weeks ago in about one week she was confined her baby lived about a week and died One of the triplet Douglas girls hauled Otis Boss (the boy Andrew Boss raised Frank Orr's boy) over the coals before Sihon He is now in the cooler at Mt Sterling the last case of the kind on the docket is a groves girl and she is after Charley Ferry I am witting under the cherry tree in the west yard with my skirt unfastened and only two buttons of my basque buttoned but thank fortune the wind has started up nicely I do not feel as though I could gather berries this year but I guess I'll have to help We have a good garden there are plenty of apples we have three trees ready for use now I wish you could have all make use of We are using new potatoes Sihon and Will have cut about 400 tobacco plants and they are nice too. I would hate to think I had it to use. Your horse shoes got through all right. I took Marts to him He thinks they are just right I think if I now arranged the colors "don't you forget it." I think of you every day Maggie Peacock has her first girl I was all the she help she had I don't know whether I have told you or not but her father bought the Unc. Mart, Wash Davis place for her so you see Wash is out of a home Sihon came home this morning from Charley's and Alta and I are going to town and I will finish this I will try and do better next time It seems to me we never so busy Will is off with a thresher. Our threshing is done we only raised 60 bu. Sihon will help Hen. Newell this eve Wiley's folks have sent for Alta to help them cook for threshers so you see I must go to town alone I am almost as crazy for the paper as ever grandpa was when it comes our mail day. I rec'd a letter for Cecil H. he writes Daniel Pettis died at his son's in northern Minn. But was brought home for burial Now write soon I never wanted to hear from you worse in my life I am going to send you a present ere long Tell Katie she must name her next girl for herself
Good by to all Write

Aunt Kate

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Chic.&Lou R.R. TR 6 D.L.; post marked rec'd in Franklin PA on Sep 2; cancelled two cent stamp remains on envelope in excellent condition.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Aug. 29, 1897 (8-29-1897)

Writer of Letter: Florence Bunce

Location of Writer: New Albany, Ind.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 unlined writing paper in brown ink; 8 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother:

I am getting to be a very poor correspondent, but I just can't write a letter when I'm down-hearted - I'm that nearly all the time. Charlie had work this summer, but he had to work for so much less that he ever did before that it did not help him out of the rut any. He is away out in Vermont now with two horses, and as I've not heard from him for nearly four weeks I can not tell how he is doing. Not very well, I guess or he'd write. I get so out of patience with his careless way of doing things that I get nearly wild, but I might as well say nothing, as it does no good anyhow,

The boys are well and will start to school Sept. 7th. Woodie will be in fourth grade and Locy in second. I am in good enough health, only I have nervous trouble, brought on about two years ago, and am afraid it will stay be. I weigh 122 lbs. - the most of weighed in summer since I got married. I did my own housecleaning this spring and it took me about two months to finish the job. Charlie kept two hands the greater part of the time and we boarded them to save money. So you can see I was pretty busy and writing letters during that terribly hot weather was simply out of the question.

Since Charlie's been gone (he left July 6th) I've had my hands full. A friend of his has let us have the use of his cow, a nice dark Jersey heiffer, and I have them to get from pasture mornings. But our own bossie is about dry now, and it does not take so long to milk; but while it was so hot, I did think I'd die while milking. Keeping cows is not very profitable here, for by actual count, there are, within four squares, "only" eighteen cows. I sell butter but it isn't cash - this town is run on credit - and the only advantage I see is having your own milk and butter.

How are times out your way, Vint? They are awfully dull here but if you could know the people you'd not be surprised at it. This place will be at the tail end of the procession of good times.

Charlie has not got his pension yet, and I don't know why, as they told him last winter it

was awaiting action of the Dep't.

About Charlie getting a position with Miller and Sibley, I don't believe he'd take it, as he don't want to be under a boss. Old W.R. was slick enough to know it and never interfered in that way; but I'll take the money even if a little bossing goes with it. I don't know what he'll do this winter, maybe be out of work again all winter the same as last. I haven't the strength to bear trouble, and I make a poor excuse for a poor man's wife.

Vint, I didn't think you could be a Democrat. I'm one of the rankest of Republicans and I don't know but what I out talked Charlie during the campaign. Did Uncle Frank ever mention to you of my sending him clippings some time ago? But you couldn't turn him with a pair of mules.

Did you learn anything more concerning that will case? I think it was a little unfair to us, don't you?

I was surprised at what you wrote me about Luman. I hear from Jessie quite often but she perhaps did not know of that. Have you heard from her lately? When she wrote me a short time ago the children has all had scarlet fever and little Davie was but just out of danger. I have not heard any more since I wrote her soon after. Poor sister! She has a great deal of sickness, and I do wish I were where I could help her. I was expecting to make her a visit this summer, but as Charlie did not so as well as he expected I've had to postpone it again. Perhaps it is as well, as Jessie told me the scarlet fever was all through the neighborhood. Perhaps I can go next year.

Vint, how about that miner's strike? Do you think they are as badly paid as they claim? I have been told by one who has been among the miners at Brazil, Ind. that they are as a rule, a drinking class and made good wages but spent it all for drink. I take the daily paper part of the time and interest my self in all that's going on. I wish I could be where we could exchange views and have an argument once in a while, for I can't write half what I want to say. It is only through you and Jessie that I learn of what is happening in our old home, but even at that I've nearly forgotten the names of our old friends. Aunt Kate wrote me once, telling me she didn't want me to consider the letter a dun, but as I sent her the money I intended but could not get to her before she wrote, and have not heard from her since, of course I shall always look at it in that light. I know a little about some of our relatives, Vint, and I intend to stay away from them and ask no odds of any of them. They feathered their own nests and saw to it that we didn't though. Tell Katie for me that I'd rather it were she than I, but I hope all will go smoothly and I would like to see all the little ones I've not seen at all and the rest of you too. A kiss for you all and love in plenty, and I hope you'll always retain your job, Vint, for I know what it means to be "out of a job." I do wish we could get away from this place.

My eyes are giving out from writing as long, so will close for the present. Don't postpone answering this and I promise not to be so negligent in the future.

By the way, Vint, I wish I were a man; I'd start off tomorrow for the Klondyke.

As ever

Your loving sister
Florence

New Albany, Ind.
(New No.) 1402 Charles St.

Aug. 30. Just received a letter from Charlie today. It is as I thought – he has not been any too successful, but is doing, I guess, as well as we need expect. He is at Burlington, Vt. this week. He does not say when he'll be home, but I suppose not before Oct.

Does Katy want a pants pattern? I have one too small for Lucy.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Penna

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked from Fargo ILL I Sep 29 1897; post marked rec'd in Mount Sterling ILL on SEP 29 at 6 PM; post marked received in Franklin Pa on Oct 1 1897 at 1 PM; the cancelled two cent stamp remains on the envelope and is about 80% intact being torn on the side.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Sept 19/1897 (9-19-1897)

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writer: Fargo, Ill

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 unlined embossed writing paper in pencil; the embossed inscription reads; "HYGEIA SPRINGS"; inserted in the letter is a 1x5 slip of paper with a note written Sept 27th; 11 pages.

LETTER

Dear Sister and Brother, Katie & Vint.

Many a time I've told D. that as long as we can keep our health we're never really poor. But poverty at last has come again.

Three little girls of the neighborhood came down of Scarlettina. One family called it a "bad cold" and called no doctor, one borrowed a book, doctored for symptoms and said nothing till a neighbor noticed the scales on the little girl. But we would run no risk of something worse and sent for Lucas for Bertha and she was up and out in a week. We bought lemons for Bertha and Davie planted some of the seed in a tin can requesting Bertha when he took the fever to water and care for his lemon plants. He was half as sick as a result of grippe, and when he took the fever it caused complication of lungs, stomach, bowels & kidneys. After the delerium of fever has passed, his mind has never wavered.

But the doctor gave up all hopes in a few days, and at the end of three weeks we asked for consultation with Parker of Mt Sterling and he spoke doubtfully, and said Lucas was doing all a man could do. (Davie was taking 6 or 7 kinds of medicines.) besides 3 local applications and injections, for he had an uncontrollable bowel trouble for over 3 weeks reduced as he was and still the brave little fellow kept up to the unequal struggle.

Lucas at the end of 10 weeks gave him up, and D. sent immediately for a strange doctor at Mt Sterling. Hope ran riot in my heart again for I rebelled at the thought of parting with my baby. Dr Cowen came that evening but could give no positive answer as Davie was lying in a stupor of opium. But he left just two medicines and a "blessing" on Lucas.

The heavy soirlee? came off his mouth and tongue in such heavy pieces in a few hours that

it sickened him, but still he failed. Cowen came again in 3 days at which time Davie had been lying in a cold dripping sweat for 16 hours. Cowen looked at him soberly and said, "The little fellow has not much left to build on." He said Lucas had starved him and given improper diet – and enjoined us to nourish him. He simply doctored his stomach and bowels and let his kidneys rest, and the dropsy which had touched him from head to foot began to recede inside of 24 hrs. That was 3 weeks ago, and yet he can not turn himself in bed. One little thigh is in a bad condition and our best efforts will be required to keep it from suffering. You can imagine we are leaving nothing undone. Neither D. nor I have undressed for sleep for over 3 months, and neither of us slept intentionally for 2 weeks. I've waited on him during that time asleep, my eyes wide open, I did not recognize him at such times. D. has barely plowed his corn over and it is all he has done for 3 months till the last 3 days, except to take an equal share of my labor. But Davie declares no one can do any thing right but 'mamma'. For that reason I get nothing else done. Every one says our boy has the most wonderful vitality they ever saw.

'Vint', that boy is to me what "Frankie" was to Ma. You will understand me. "Mamma" is all in all to Davie. Her word is his little pleasure, and a crossword from me will cause the tears to show and his lips tremble.

He is a good boy with all a boy's love of fun. He wears a small size man's hat. Bertha and Vintie have done a greater part of the work during Davie's illness, and I never saw children put on flesh as they have. Bertha is getting plump as I used to be and Vintie looks as though the bees had stung him all over. It seems odd to have my 10 year old boy come and putting his arms around me kisses "mother" as he sometimes calls me, his eyes all the time on a level with mine. He's willful as well as loving hearted, and is completely wrapped up in guns and engines. You'd be surprised to see the guns and revolvers he whittles out, hammer, trigger and all. They are nicely and truly shaped, and he reads history with delight especially the war parts. He is playing war now, on the floor placing the infantry, cavalry, battery, &c.

This letter is nothing but 'us', excuse me.

Katie, tell me of your health in the next or have Vint for I know you feel little like writing at present. Be as good to yourself as you can.

Vint do you belong to the lodge you spoke of. The I.O.O.F. I am glad you enjoyed your outing so much and hope Katie can share the next one with you. Such recreations are essential to our health, making us more cheerful, patient, and stronger for coming tasks. The wine taken in plentiful moderation, that lengthens life and can do no harm.

I sent a letter to aunt 'Ri' Bunce last Spring.

Nellie opened it at Virginia then sent it to aunt R. at Jacksonville where she was staying with Jennie and I got a letter from all three.

Ida Funk (nee Stewart) lost her husband and is married again. She has four children.

All have gone to sleep but my self. I did not sleep much last night. Davie was not so well and D. started for Mt. Sterling at 1 o'clock and so it has been for the last three months.

Mrs Lucas is at home again, feeling as well as usual. They sent off and got a fine double seated carriage, undercut.

You would be amused could you hear our new music. D. bought Davie a little metalophone. The metal pieces when struck give forth a bell like music. I've learned to play to entertain Davie.

The teachers have placed the stone over Pa's grave. I have not seen it. D. says it is about 3 feet high from the 'form' up. Will I ever get the remains moved?

My garden is nothing but a tangle of weeds. The rats relieved me of a hundred or so of my chickens, and 15 or 20 of my little turkeys died for want of care. But my baby is improving though slowly and I ask no more.

I am brushing flies with one hand as well as writing.

D.'s father is married a third time. He married a woman of Quincy of considerable means and they live there now. Wife no. 2 says he has no divorce and she means to make him sorry. She is one black eyed 'tartar!'

Dr. Cowen was called to see a man very low of Typhoid. He dared do nothing to reduce his temperature as is the rule in such cases. So he left him nothing but strychnine powders and at the end of the week he was doing as well as it was possible for him. He gave him nothing else.

Vint what shall I do with your share of the books. D. dreads to think of lifting and moving them all again this Spring.

We are dreadfully out of luck this year, but have time to think of nothing beyond Davie. But we are doing our best.

Kiss all the babies for me. In my little home "army" you speak of.

Write soon to me 'Vint' so I may hear from Katie.

Our love and best wishes to all. Sister

Jessie

21st. P.S. Davies present relapse proves to be Jaundice.

J

(On a slip of scrap paper included in this letter is the following:)

Sept 27 I believe our boy will live. He is more natural for 2 days.

J

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Penna.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Fargo Ill on Oct 13 1897; post marked rec'd. in Mount Sterling, ILL on Oct q3 at 6PM; post marked rec'd in Franklin, PA on Oct 15 at 7 AM; cancelled two cent stamp remains on envelope and about 70% intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Oct 10th 97 (10-10-1897)

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writer: Fargo Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 unlined writing paper in pencil; letter (P.S.) is continued in top margin of page 1; 8 pages.

LETTER

Dear Katie & Vint:

Your kind letter was received in due time.

Davie sends cousin Vincent his thanks for the pictures. He looks at them every day. I gave him the 'experiment' as you term it. I call it a pretty good beginning. You have fogged Johnie's corner of the plate in some way. Try again and send me another.

Franklin does look jolly and fat sure enough. A regular captain.

David began to gain flesh about a week ago, but is unable to turn himself in bed yet. Three days ago he became spotted in the cheeks and throat, with pulse very quick. He called for food but could eat very little. He said he could see worms moving in the food and around the edge of the cup and plate. I do not know what ailed him but worms.

He said that he could feel them in his throat, eyes, ears and stomach. May be I can keep my baby. We have worked hard for it. His bowel trouble was a looseness of the bowels. His little bed and clothes were not clean a moment for over four weeks. How he ever lived through is more than we can tell. I send you a powder that, as Cowen said, "did the work." They can be taken every 2 hrs., hour, or half hour and are perfectly harmless. I don't know what they are, and dare not ask him. He is of Pa's temperament. His business is his chief pleasure in life, and nothing about it is left undone.

He is a surgeon of surgeons at Mercy Hospital Keokuk Iowa and goes there for a day each week where he also delivers a lecture. He is Prof. of Rectal diseases and makes women's diseases and catarrh, specialties. He visited Davie when he was so troubled with Hay asthma he could hardly see him. Some times he is dreadful cross but never contrary. He makes very few calls one a week perhaps He told D. he had no desire to take the food from his or childrens mouths to get his bill. But if I could bring in a load of apples or potatoes or corn he need never bring the money, but refused to listen to any sacrifice on our part. He would accept nothing that

we had not enough of and to spare. He said plenty of other farmers owed him that he could get what he needed and charges only \$3 for a 7 mile drive. I believe him to be a thoroughly good man. He has a most lovable wife, who sends me word to call on her to rest myself when I go to Mt Sterling to shop!

One thing is very certain, had we not called Cowen when we did? Davie would have been in the cemetery in 3 days after Lucas left. Cowen delares it.

I think Katie had done wonderfully well for her country. My sincere wish is for her future good health and may she live to a green old age to enjoy the sunshine each additional embodiment of love she brought in the world. Let me hear of her soon.

‘ You set that suit off splendid in the picture Vint. I do not understand the Lodge degrees but take your word for it that you are away up. Of course I am glad to know it and I believe our mother’s only boy will fill each successive office with much honor.

What are the benefits derived form being a member of these Lodges. Are there not printed pamphlets setting forth benefits, that the public may read?

Vint, where did you get your “box”...and is it a tripod? What can you get a good tripod for, how much, I mean?

I’ve wanted one a long time and believe I could soon learn to make practical use of one, Could you pick one for me and ship the same if I find the price of one is within my means?

Please do not forget to answer these questions.

I borrowed a music book and learned to play the following named inside of 2 weeks, by memory. Browns Jubilee March, Russia March, Sweet Briar Waltz, U&I Waltz, and another march, forgot name, wish I could play them for you.

D. went to see Cowen about David yesterday. He had a very serious case on hand and said he’d come in the morning and see what he needed. He did not come this morning not this afternoon but tonight. All had gone to bed but myself and he walked in, examined Davie, told us it was nervousness, (instead of worms) mixed a cup of medicine and was gone. He is a man of dispatch or nothing.

Harness maker McCabe of Mt Sterling was his patient last night. He was stricken suddenly of hemorrhage of the bowels. He worked hard with him all night, gave him hypodermic injections of the strychnine to keep up the heart’s action. He said he did not do one bit of good, nothing touched his condition and he was still at is bedside this morning at 5 o’clock when he died. Cowen told us it seemed as though he had sickened to die.

Vint you did not tell me what to do with your part of Pa’s books. Florie told me to freight her part to her.

I’ve done pretty well for a short letter. Wish I had some neighborhood news that would interest you. Will Vance has sold his little farm. He paid \$80 for it and sold it for over \$300. If he had half a chance he’d be wealthy in a few years. But such a wife!!!!

Be sure to send me a price list of cameras, Vint and write soon. Our love to all. Your sister Jessie

Davie says don’t forget to tell uncl Vint of his new doctor.

P.S. Your name sake broke my last pen, and I can’t remember to get one till I need it, then I can’t

41/20/277

237

get it and have to use this pencil.

Good night,

Jessie

14th Davie is still improving though slowly.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Vincent Bunce

Address: Franklin, Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: Return address Return in Five Days to Ed. McCulloch, Masonic Building, Rooms 1 & 2, New Albany, Indiana and dated Nov. 3rd 1897; postmarked sent New Albany, Ind. on Nov. 4 '97 at 12 P.M.; cancelled 2-cents stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: November 3, 1897

Writer of Letter: E.M. McColloch

Location of Writer: New Albany, Indiana

Other Remarks: Written on folded Law Office lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Law Office
Of
ED. McColloch
Masonic Building, 2d Floor,
Rooms 1 and 2

New Albany, Ind., Nov 3rd 1897

Mr. Vincent Bunce

Dear Sir; Your sister Mrs. Buckley was in to see me a day or so ago to speak to me about the estate of Theodore Strong. I am well acquainted with Chas Buckley and family – Charlie has driven trotters for me and two brothers.

Now I made a suggestion to Mrs. B. and told her that I would make it to you. You and your two sisters and your niece – the four of you ought to employ an attorney at Plainville to represent you – in case Item 13 of the will is held to be void. Let the attorney appear for the four of your shares. By appearing for all four he could do so for a less per cent than if he represented one or two.

Mrs. B. is willing – Now write to your other sister Mrs. Vance and your niece, and have them consent to such an arrangement and then learn if some good attorney not already connected with the estate and ask him what per cent he will charge if he succeeds in establishing your rights. I write you out of pure friendship for the Buckley's.

Yours

E.M. McColloch

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce Esq

Address: Franklin, Pa

Other Envelope Notations: Return address reads: "if not delivered in 10 days return to M.S. Hosford Versailles Ills; post marked sent from Versailles ILL on Dec (unreadable); post marked rec'd in Franklin Pa on Dec (unreadable) at 7 AM; two cent cancelled stamp remains on the envelope in excellent condition.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Dec 7, 1879

Writer of Letter: M.S. Hosford

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in pencil; 8 pages.

LETTER

Mr Vincent Bunce
Franklin PA

Dear Nephew

8 oclock PM and I have just been reading your letter of mar 28-97 and concluded it deserved some recognition at my hands notwithstanding the delay It Surprised me very much to hear of Mr Pizer's Death so soon after making his acquaintance and return to Pa; I enjoyed his company highly he was a man of more than ordinary Inteligence besides being in my Estimation A Perfect Gentleman; He gave me one of his Perpetual Calendars which I prise highly; Please accept my thanks for good luck Horse shoe, it holds down a conspicuous place on top of the clock; Cant say it has enhanced my luck for I am Still an unfortunate Kuss and Started in wrong; from the fact I am better satisfied from than at Home; have been again this Fall on a visit in Green Co of A weeks duration; I am representing A Nursery which takes me from home A good share of the time, not much in it only about \$1.00 per day while at work but that beats nothing; the Boys are all at home do what is to be done in my absence the same as if I were home with them, also do all there is to do when I am at Home Alma is still at home one of the best girls there is in this or any other community. Health of Family is good, so I suppose I should be thankful if not contented; the hell of it is there are some People if they don't say scions will work their Fingers but still I have my own Pastimes; Caroline Pettis, Dans Widow is visiting in this and Pike Co will stay all winter Dan having died sometime last June of Alsess in Head.

We raised 40 acres of corn on Bill Stewards place the past summer have the stalk corn gathered 4 weeks ago have 9 acres of Shuck Corn to husk if we can get 4 days good weather for handling it can get my part 3/5 in crib have had no chance at it without working in rain and life is

to Short for that; Franks Family are well but Still making preparations to Starve to death I raised 78 bu of wheat on 22 acres the past season in stead of 25 as heretofore; and the present outlook indicates less next year.

Yes I am please with Wm and the Dingley Tarif Steal we will soon have a surplus in the U S Treasury in stead of A Deficit and I notice the People have long since stoped growling as A Rule, but the Crime of 73 Still hurts some people mostly though in the head Kates family are well as common in fact Kates health is much better than in the past; John and Family including his mother in Law are all well he has the whole outfit on his hands five besides himself

I think he jumped out a good Frying Pan in to hot fire Analene was and is A good Woman but unfortunate; he has Sold his place and I think it is about farted out I propose to hold the fort where I am till I am assured of something better; Scott has A wheel has made two trips to Pike and drives it on good roads wherever he has had occasion to go Tolle still survives; the same george Will farmed his place and raised a good corn crop he tended 40 acres; Tolle and Dave Lindsay had a fight this summer in Versailles and both contributed to the coffe fund

I witnessed the mill it was realy laughable to hear them blow in the absence of each other afterwards Mr Gifford will know just how they swelled out &c;

Behymer and Family are well and T is just making lots of money John Harald's wife is dead and Taylor is raising the Babe. I bought 9 head of sheep this fall expect to make my jack out of the Investment; have 5 head of Horses but there is nothing in that for me will milk 3 cows next summer likely; Luman and Alma just got in from an evenings visit with Kates folks, Kate rec'd a letter from you today. I can think of no more foolishness, So give my best regards to Mr and Mrs Gifford reserving A share for Self & Kate

M, S, Hosford

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Penn.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles ILL on Jan 22 1898; post marked rec'd in Franklin Pa on Jan 24 1898 at 1 PM; two cent cancelled stamp remains on the envelope and about 60% intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Jan 21st 1898. (1-21-1898)

Writer of Letter: Catherine "Kate" (Hosford) Sellars

Location of Writer: Versailles Brown Co. Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 8x14 blue lined ledger paper in faded brown ink; there are a few "ink spills" on the letter; 2 pages with writing in both the side and top margins.

LETTER

Mr. & Mrs. V.P. Bunce

My Dear nephew & Niece

Your last kind letter was rec'd in due time and I would have written sooner but the house has been full until today. Last eve Wills' folks and Marts young folks were here also Aunt Lizzie staid over night Alta Alma and Mared popped corn made candy and pop corn balls they enjoyed it thoroughly but as far as I am concerned there is always a dark cloud hovering around but I try to be cheerful but it is all I can do sometimes to be so. Lizzie left this morn and there has been no one here to-day except Fred was here about two hours and I have been so "blue" I have just been reading a letter from you written 14th March 1887. "Dan" Pettis' widow has been to Franks for the last 6 or 8 weeks She thinks of going home soon We are looking for cousin Cecil Hosfrod and perhaps wife here the last of this month although there is noting certain about it He wrote me he had an opportunity to go to Quincy Ill. the last of Jan. but did not know as he could accept it but hoped he would as he would like a vacation of course I gave him an invitation to come on down He sent us some pictures Christmas taken from the pictures of pa and ma that I sent them Pa's is good but ma's is not, looks more like Rowena than ma He asked me if you were living at the same place yet said he wrote you last Fall but had rec'd no reply He also said he would like to send you a pictures but did not like to send it on uncertainties Vint I do not want you to think hard because I have not given you a record of the families you asked for To tell the truth it would slip my mind when I would write . If I do not sent it with this I will send it soon Sihon staid with Charley Wednes. Night Frank took Lou to Behymess' to sit with Mrs. B who had lung fever (but is better now) and he came here and staid over night with me He says I must write to Vint He is too negligent Mart has visited you some time ago Many thanks for the pictures you sent The children have grown so I hardly could realize it to be them Mared goes to school Fannie Root is her teacher I wish you could hear her recite in grammar and tell what a noun is and give the singular or plural of nouns She never misses it such as woman mouse goose &c &c. Mared is a great help to me she can put a piece through the harness and reed as well or better than I for she has her first mistake to make I tell her when she gets so she can run, the loom it is hers but she

will go to school when there is one I have a carpet in the loom for myself now have 8 yards of the 25 woven it is for the front room Joe Giffords' buried their baby boy last Wednes, I did not know it was sick until after it was buried It died of ling fever One of Joe Roots girls has lung fever Vira and her husband are at Marts on a visit they are trying to rent a place in this locality Mart bought Ethie a gold watch for Christmas now he had got Alma a second hand organ You will see in the Enterprise that they have been having hot times in Versailles They came for Sihon Wednes. and he did not come home till Sat A detective paid his way at the Arlington in order to keep him there There were such crowds of both men and women that they rented Reids hall Hartman swore his case from before Kirkpatrick and Leggot swore his from before Hill and everyone thought Sihon decided just right People think Mrs Owens is greatly to blame and knew about the money There were 2 detectives in town one put up at each hotel after they had searched Owens' premises and started off the detective sent one of the constables and Dick Clark back to eavesdrop Mrs Owens gave the old man a scolding and they heard her tell him if they found any money in the woodshed they found it in a pile of rags They found some in a tin box next to one of the rafters Leggor is now keeping Ferry company in Mt. Sterling How do you and Mr. Gifford like Mark Hannah Do you think the case will be investigated If you can believe anything the paper says it ought to be looked into Don't you? Much love to all Write soon and answer all questions

You said Katie was 18 days old when her picture was taken She looks more as though she was 3 months old Hattie as been down to Mrs. Whited's she was here afterward she said Louis had rec'd photos from you Does he write to you?

C P Sellers

Excuse the blots The relatives are all well and as for this family our health is much better than last Winter Charley's health is better but he coughs some yet

Williams says his lungs are perfectly sound but he just looks so flat He is trying to get into the Woodman How did you happen to get out of a job? Kiss the babies all for me and don't forget to write

Aunt Kate

25th

snowing and all is well with us Sihon is going to town I shall look for letter right away

good

by
C.P.S.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, Penna.

Other Envelope Notations: No apparent return address; the envelope is ripped and shredded in many places; hand-written notation on the envelope reads: "Rec'd in bad condition at ? ? Pa. by V.P. Bunce; post marked sent unreadable; post marked Rec'd at Mount Sterling, Ill on Feb 14 1898 at 7PM; area where stamp was is torn away.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Feb 11th 98 (2-11-1898)

Writer of Letter: Jessie (Bunce) Vance

Location of Writer: Fargo Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in purple ink; 6 pages.

LETTER

Dear Katie and Vint:

I rec'd your kind letter gladly and hope Vint's hand is well by this time. It may be a "comforter" inasmuch as it will give you no chance to think of anything worse than it is. Nevertheless take care of it.

Tell Annie, aunt Jessie thinks she has a lovely dolly, but her Mamma has a lovelier one.

Annie's picture looks cute as it is and baby's is beyond words of mine to express she is the personification of sweetness.

Davie is very proud of his picture presents and sends his thanks for them. His own picture will speak for his health. He is tender yet from his long illness and will always be more or less same but goes without support of any kind. He says this picture is for cousin Vincent. Vintie being with out a brace (exp. about 25 sec.) moved slightly and spoiled his likeness. That light streak I think is a fault of the Paper. They took their own positions and Davie looks just like -Davie.

His shoes I made of two thicknesses of woolen lined with heavy cotton flannel and they're soft and warm.

There's only one doctor left in the world worthy of mention in Davie's estimation. The hand and mind that tenderly lifted him up and out of the Valley of Shadows, when his little life was so nearly gone he could neither call to or know 'mamma' received all his boyish worship.

I once asked him what he thought of doctor Owen, He replied, "I think he is nice and pretty and good, mamma."

In the mouth of babes hast thou indeed perfected praise. Chesterfield could not have eclipsed this compliment, simple as it is.

I'm having my ups and downs learning "picture making" but I mean to overcome in the end if nothing interferes.

Our mules will be two years old in June. The picture is spoiled by the trees. Dixie can hardly be seen.

I'll send a better one maybe when I get more Paper am just out.

I have used the "Peerless" Aristo paper. With Carlton's combined Hydrochinon & Eikonogen developer and Carlton's Aristo solution for toning. & What burnisher do you use? What kind of Paper and solution do you use? I am anxious to produce the rich brown shown in your picture of baby. The result of your efforts are fine.

D. broke the mules to work this winter with no trouble. When the roads are good he hauls light loads of wood with them, but they out walk our mare and so he does not work them much as he wants to make or rather keep them good travelers. He saddled and mounted them not long ago. Dixie took the proceeding in good part. Dinah rebelled in the beginning but gave up very gracefully. D. has set a price for them, but I'm almost afraid of our losing them as it is, so many insist on knowing the price set.

Mary Jane Gloze's husband a Mr Patterson and Amos Mayfield came to see us one day and D of course must show them the mules as Patterson is a stock raiser advertised. He wanted to know if they were not 3 years olds. They showed all due respect to the mules heels and were horrified to see Bertha walk up to Dixie and lovingly hug one of her hind legs. It must have looked ludicrous as well as risky to him. It pleased Dixie though and Bertha could reach no higher. Bertha makes pets of everything. She bridles and rides Maud, coaxes Dixie to the fence and sets the milk stool astride of her, teaches the little pigs to drink from a spoon helped the birds out by putting tin cans in the trees some of which they made use of, and she and Davie have faithfully fed them crumbs hung in little boxes this winter. D. calls her his third boy. I'm afraid she's never to be called a little lady, but we're anxious for her to gather strength and so she goes running over the pastures, play gun in hand, for many a sham hunt with Vintie.

To show you Davie is himself yet, I send you his answer to a problem. Bertha asked, "If Mary has 6 eggs and takes 4 to make a cake what part will be left?"

Davie was not long in saying "The yolks, or the whites anyway."

You can rest assured he does his part toward keeping the ball of fun rolling. I have a nice time trying to have the "blues" in the face of such a battery of railery.

Our run of luck has been pretty hard on us this year. The one blessing in all our cup of bitterness is our baby's life. That gives the bitter a sweetness and makes the draught more than bearable. His little helpless presence give us fresh courage. What mother would not feel so for a baby who says to her, "Mamma I look at you a long time for I like to see you." He abounds in odd little sayings that sound very sweet to me.

I must close now, Vint, and please Katie don't forget to write again.

Our love to all,
Your sister
Jessie.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: Return address is formally printed and reads: "Return In 5 Days to C.J. White Bluff, Tenn."; address is in purple type; post marked sent from White Bluff, Tenn on Feb (unreadable); post marked rec'd in Franklin PA on Feb 14 1898 at 7 AM; cancelled two cent stamp remains on the envelope in excellent condition.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 2/11/1898 (2-11-1898)

Writer of Letter: S. J. Whited

Location of Writer: White Bluff, Tenn.

Other Remarks: Written on 6x9 unlined letterhead from: "Office of C.J. Whited, Dealer in General Merchandise." in black ink; 4 pages.

LETTER

V.P. Vincent
Franklin Pa.

Esteemed Friend

I was very agreeably surprised to receive your letter of the 4th inst. I had been wishing for along time to hear from you and would of wrote to you but did not know where to find you, but I am glad to hear from you and that you are all well, and I hope doing well. I was surprised to hear that Philip Grossman and J.S. McGarry has had Financial trouble I always looked upon them as sure winners, they certainly had a hard streak of luck, let me know what it was. How about the Old Town I suppose there has been many changes since I was there. Nearly eleven years since I left there and I suppose I would not meet many of my old chums and associates there now we certainly all had a good time the last two or three years I was there I have wished many times that I had never left there, but it takes all this to make up our time in this world. I have been in the Stave business here with my Brother Joe, (you knew him on the Grant farm) I sold out to him last fall, have done nothing this winter. Charlie is going to put up a Stave factory and I am going to run it for him that is about the only business in this section of Country Nothing but timber hills and very poor land here, I don't remember whether Charles was married when I wrote you last, he was married 3 years last fall he had a very fine women and is doing very well they have one boy 2 years old, Clara has pretty good health, I think coming to Tennessee was a great benefit to her, she was married last June, to one of her old chums from Ills. His name is Charles A Hunter they are here with us

Frank has been reading medicine for 5 years. has been going to the Lectures 3 years will graduate in about 7 weeks at the head of his class I think he will go to Ills to practice, he went up to Ills last summer on a visit – as we thought – but I think it was to see his old sweet heart at any rate he married her and brought her home, she was a very fine girl a daughter of a Merchant in Dahlgran, she stays with us and he goes to college in Nashville, he comes home Saturday night and goes back on Monday morning. The rest of the children is all at home. Sam is the largest of the boys that is grown he is 18 and nearly as large as I am. Old Mary looks about the same to me but I guess she looks a little older to other folks, you remember Simeon My Brother when I was in pinegrove he never came home until about one year ago, he got sick with Consumption and came home to die, we don' think he can last but a few days longer, he is the only Boy they have, well old Friend- do you know anything about the Johnstons, and do you get any news from the west. Clara says she is going to write to Mrs Bunce in a few days. We have had no winter here only 2 little snows that barely covered the ground did not last a day.

Well Dear friends I would like very much to see you all, but in the absence of that privilege I will be glad to hear from you often My family all join me in sending our Love to you all

Yours Very Truly
S.J. Whited

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Versailles Ill on Feb ? 1898; post marked rec'd in Franklin on Feb ?; stamp has been cut from envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Feb 17th 1898 (2-17-1898)

Writer of Letter: Catherine "Kate" (Hosford) Sellars

Location of Writer: Versailles, IL

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; both side and top margins on pp.1 & 2 conclude the first part of the letter; 6 pages.

LETTER

Mr & Mrs V.P. Bunce

Franklin PA

Dear children:

As I am alone I will talk to you awhile (i.e. if Mabel will allow it for she is such a jabber) Sihon and Will have gone up to James Hursts to finish shucking Charley's corn. They had 15 shocks to shuck, to-day. Will husked 50 shucks this week for him. Charleys health seems to be better. He passed into the Woodsman all right. Dr. Williams pronounced his lungs sound. Time will tell. We all think he has taken a wrong step in coming out for Superintendent as he is sure to get beaten right at home for he made a mistake 2 years ago in voting for Simpson Dunbar for superintendent instead of James Hurst (dem.) I do not see what the boy was thinking of Hurst rented him oats and corn ground and gave him the school and could have had the 2nd term. He surely must have been hyp (*inserted:* hyp is OK) or hip notized. Which is it? He would have been successful in his aspirations only for that. The Hosfords both boys and girls never had better friends than the Hursts and Perry's. That is all the blot in Charley's record He is well liked as a man and Teacher. Will and family are well, Alta and children have gone to Unc. "Marts" to day Clarence reads in the 2nd Reader Ruby in the 1st. In two weeks Mabel will be ready for the 2nd. She talks so much I do believe I shall be obliged to stop writing until Mared comes from School.

Supper over and I will tell you Sihon is stretched on the floor Mared is hearing Mabel recite. News reached Ver. last eve of the blowing up of the Maine at Cuba but no particulars. The Republic is due to-morrow then we will get all. Bill Coffee's father wrote him if he would come home (in North Carolina) he would deed him his farm consisting of 300 acres. He thinks he will start about the 1st of March. Huldah Martha Wash and Etta have joined some church in "Dosh."

They say Mrs. Behymes had consumption. She says Doc. Williams told her if he could patch her up and she could stand it till warm weather she would then get along a while. Frank sold his hogs yesterday or rather drove them off for which he rec'd \$2.20. He says he is in better shape than he had been in since he moved. He sold some 10 12 or 16 acres of timber for \$100. And the party are to get the ground ready for the plow one year from this coming Spring. Lou sold \$50 worth of tom-turkeys. They have not sold their hen's yet. They always bring a better price in the month. His taxes were \$46.80. He got a tablet and a bunch of envelopes yesterday. I think you will hear from him soon. Martin is selling trees this Winter. I told him I thought it was about as bad as my weaving. By the way I about two weeks ago took 25 ½ yds of as pretty rag carpet out of the loom for myself as you would wish to look at. The girls and I spent last Sat with Hattie Tolle nee Gifford. They are all well. Mollie had a girl about 3 weeks or a month old. Geo. Hartman's father name is Wils.

John's folks are all well. Lizzie spent the night with me not long since. I rec'd a letter from Cecil Hosford Sat. last. Stephen and Henry Pettis made him a visit about the time he intended coming here. Henry would have come with him had it been so he could have come. The man for whom Cecil works goes to southern California every Winter. Another man went with him this Winter so they started a month earlier than other Winters and put a veto on his visit. Has he sent you the pictures yet? It is raining now. I was glad to know you got so many Christmas gifts. Charley gave me a set of knives and forks and pa a pipe. Mared got a card basket, hair ribbons, embroidered handkerchief, candy nuts and Mabel a tea cup and saucer, doll, candies &c. Katie do not forget to tell me the contents of the note Mrs. Miller sent you. I will send you my grandfathers Hosford and Strong family record. I took grandpa Strong's death from Unc. Theo's Bible but ma always said he died the 5th of May instead of the 4th. Unc Daniels wife's name was Paulina Ann Palmer. Paulina Ann Palmer her mother was a step daughter of ma's aunt Polly Johnson nee Rood.

Is this the record you wanted

Love and kisses to all

Aunt

Kate

Feb 18th

Sihon went to Mr Tolle's to mill to-day so Mabel and I paid Mrs Tolle a visit. There was a man there for dinner from near Chambersburg by the name of John Hume. He said Wils (I suppose his name is Wilson) Hartman is a cousin to John and Dan. His father's name was Henry. Analene is I think in Lane Co working at a private house. I am sorry you feel as you do about your circumstances. Vint rejoice as long as you all keep well and are all under one roof. If you were in my shoes you would feel much worse than you now do. If nothing happens your boys will be old enough to help you and I hope they will be the best of boys and the little girls too.

I hope will be a great comfort to you both in you old age I never can be reconciled to that poor "Leute's" fate I know he must have gone into the Mississippi half frozen and perhaps hungry I think his fate was worse than my baby boy's ("Pete") Of course I am not alone in this world of trouble. If "Leute" could come back I think I would be satisfied. Both write soon You do not know how I like to read your letters I hope those boils are well ere this

Feb 21st

All well and I will try to get this off this morn by Sihon I do not know as you can read it but I know you will excuse all mistakes Write soon both of you and kiss the babies all for

Aunt Kate

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Pa.

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from New Albany IND on Apr 26 98 at 1:30 PM; post marked rec'd at Franklin PA on Apr 27 1898 at 11:30 AM; cancelled two cent stamp remains on the envelop and is about 95% intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 4/25/98 (4-25-1898)

Writer of Letter: Florence (Bunce) Buckley

Location of Writer: New Albany, Ind.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; letter is concluded on the top margin of p. 8; 8 pages.

LETTER

Dear Brother,

I'm at my old tricks again – negligent in writing; but I've the same old excuse for it – busy. It is wonderful how fast old Father Time can travel, and then I've not been feeling very well a portion of the time. Woodie and Locy are well, and growing so fast I can scarcely keep up with them. Charlie's shoulder does not pain him any more from the hurt he received, but it grumbles at changes in the weather from the rheumatism.

I hope this will find you all well, and I want you to kiss the "babies" all around for aunt "Potchie." And Katy too, if she doesn't object.

I suppose your work is holding out steady now, Charlie has been working all winter, but at low wages. Still we could get along very well if had not to pay the debt he contracted last summer. It looks as though we are to be always saddled by debt, and all through poor management. I don't know when he will get his pension, as it will have to await its turn unless it can be made special. To do that he would have to get two witnesses to swear that he is pretty near a pauper, and they wouldn't miss it far.

But we do deny ourselves almost everything to keep up his insurance in the N.Y. Life; and I will never consent to let that drop until the boys get big enough to take care of themselves, should they live.

It seems to me we've had nothing but rain this winter and spring and a continual stretch of cloudy days. I suppose you also got the benefit of that "delightful" snow the present month. We've not taken our stove down yet, and was very glad to have the use of it yesterday, but today the weather is fairly reasonable. The Ohio river got very high and flooded many dwelling and business houses here and did a great deal of damages over in Louisville. I crossed over to take a view of it, and it certainly was a sight.

I heard from Jessie a few weeks ago, and she tells me Dave has decided to move to

Oklahoma. I could almost cry every time I think of it, and poor as we are, I am going to try to make her a visit this summer.

We had a very quiet Christmas, a few presents for the boys, but I don't know but what we are just as well off. I'm glad Annie liked the present I sent her. She is getting to be quite a large girl, and I suppose, of course, you are quite proud of your daughter.

We are having rather stirring times just at present, and it looks like as though they would be still now so before long. Isn't it a blessing that we have Wm McKinley at the helm? I see Paul Bryan is still making campaign speeches, and I wish some one would throw a rotten cabbage at his head. He has not offered his services to fight for his country yet. What he is fighting for is his pocket. He does not believe what he preaches. I saw and heard him when he was here one year ago last fall, and if his countenance does not show the kind of man he is then there is no dependence to be put in the face as an index to human character. You will see I am partisan, but when once convinced that I am right, nothing turns me.

I have been very much interested in the development of our affairs with Spain (it deserves a small s) ever since the blowing up of the Maine. My close attention to the daily news, together with my numerous household duties is one reason of my neglect in writing; but I think of you often. I expect to commence housecleaning this week or next and don't know how I'll come out of it. We are boarding the young man who works for Charlie, so as to save that much, and it comes fully hard on me.

I suppose you hear from the home folks occasionally. What is transpiring in "Little Brindle," anyway?

There have been a number of suicides in and around our town since the New Year, and two of them I knew quite well. He was a man about 68, grocer, German. We have traded with him a great deal since we lived here, but as he kept a first class grocery, we did most of our trading nearer by at a cheaper store. He was a very immoral man, and a hard drinker; and I am told that about two weeks before he shot himself, he made the remark to his wife, "Am I so mean that I can't get any rest?" God pity that man, and God pity us all. What is this poor world coming to? There seems to be so little of truth, and honor, and constant striving to out do and over reach each other. Perhaps I am morbid and prejudiced from living in this place; but even in reading that purest of papers "Inter-Ocean," I see much of it. And free from sensationalism, I see it all the time. I am striving to bring up our boys honest and truthful in spite of it all, for they will win in the end.

Well, Vint, I'll quit moralizing and will have to close my letter also, for it is supper time.

Of course we know how this war will end but not when. I tell Charlie that if it should happen that he would need to go, that I'd go, too. The boys are full of fight and hardly talk of anything else. I guess we wouldn't keep them long, if they were old enough to enlist. I'm a firm believer in the greatness of our country and there can never be an excess of patriotism.

Good bye, with love to all. Write soon to your loving sister

Florence

1402 Charles St.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Pa Venango Co

Other Envelope Notations: Printed return address reads: "Return in 5 days to C.J. WHITED, White Bluff, Tenn."; post marked sent from White Bluffs Tenn. on Aug 8 1898; post marked rec'd at Franklin PA on Aug 10 1898 at 3 PM; two cent cancelled stamp remains on the envelop about 90% intact.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Aug 8 1898 (8-8-1898)

Writer of Letter: S. J. Whited

Location of Writer: White Bluff, Tenn.

Other Remarks: Written on 6x9 unlined company stationery from the "Office of C.J. Whited, Dealer in General Merchandise." in black ink; 2 pages.

LETTER

V.P. Bunce Esqr
Franklin Pa
My old friend

I have been waiting a long time to hear from you, but it seems that you have forgotten me. I received a letter from you last winter and I wrote you and have been waiting ever since to hear from you I would like to hear from all my old friends in Franklin. I often think of the good times we had there in the years gone by and some times I wish I had never left there. Do you remember Simeon Whited Bro Jos son, he went west when I lived in Grove City. He never came home until the first of March of last year he came home sickly with Consumption and on the 9th of May of this year he died. Jos and his wife are alone now the girls are all married. My children are all at home yet but Clara Charles & Frank, they are Married and gone. They all live here though but Frank he is in Dahgran Ills.

Well V.P. I will not write much this time but will write more when I hear from you. Clara wrote to Mrs Bunce last winter but never got no answer. Write me along letter. Hoping this will find you all well as it leaves us

I am

Most Respectfully
S.J. Whited

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin, PA

Other Envelope Notations: The rerun address is in print and reads: Joseph A. Boyer, Attorney AND Counsellor-At-Law, 10 South Third Street, Philadelphia.; post marked sent from Philadelphia, PA. on Jan. 24, 1899 at 12-M; post marked received in Franklin, PA on Jan 25 at 11:30 AM; the stamp has been cut from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Jan 24, 1899 1-24-1899

Writer of Letter: Joseph A. Boyer

Location of Writer: Philadelphia, PA

Other Remarks: Letter is written on 6x9 unlined printed stationary in dark brown ink.

LETTER

Mr. V.P Bunce

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 18th is received.

The court in Connecticut decided the Theo. Strong Case in favor of the Charities, so that there will be noting in it for the general heirs outside of the special bequests.

Yours truly

J.A. Boyer

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V. P. Bunce

Address: Franklin Pennsylvania

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent in FEB 13 1899 from Versailles, ILL. at 7 PM; post marked rec'd in Franklin PA on Feb 15 '99 at 7 AM; stamp has been removed from the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: 2/12/99 (2-12-1899)

Writer of Letter: Wm. H. Sellars

Location of Writer: Versailles, Ill

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 blue lined writing paper in brown ink; 10 pages.

LETTER

Mr. V.P. Bunce

Well old boy my penmanship is not very good as you will discover and my Composition is very poor but I will try to answer your epistle of the 22nd of Oct 98. We are all well at present and I hope when this reaches you you will all be enjoying the best of health. We have been having some verry cold weather the last two weeks. Last Wednesday night it was 30 below K.A.R.O. how does that strike you. It strikes me verry forcibly. I went to town yesterday and coming home I froze the northwest corner of my nose right sharply but I thawed him out with snow before going to the fire and he is all right this morning. We had a verry sad accident in this neighborhood last Monday Elmer Dosier was working for a man on the Island by Meredosia. They were batching and running a sawmill and ran out of feed for their teams. They went across the bay to town and had the drayman to haul some feed down to the bay and unload it and they started to carry it over they had made one trip with a sack of corn each and were returning for another and to save time and travel were crossing lower down the bay when the ice gave way and Elmer went through The man that was with him started to go to his assistance when Elmer hollowed at him to go back or he would go in to as the ice was giving with him then. Elmer struggled in vain the man ran and got a plank but when he got back it was to late as he came up to the shore Elmer said my god I am cramping and went down to rise no more he had then broken the ice about 30 yds. he leaves a wife and one babe about one year old he had been carrying life insurance for \$2000. But had drope out about two months ago so his wife is left in poor circumstances.

Alta I and our youngest a 4 year old went to Mo, and spent three weeks this winter visiting her folks and you bet we had a good time. Her grandfather was 84 last Nov. and a genuine old hardshell republican so much for him. Her grandmother will be 84 the 22nd of this month and can see to read without glasses as well as I can but for all that I found them to be the verry finest kind

of people. She also has three Uncles living there we visited them also. You say you think I am tending strictly to business I have quit that job 4 years ago and I don't think you have. Alta and I were at a dance at Uncle Marts last Thursday night and we didnt do a thing but dance till three o'clock in the morning we got home at four and went to bed and did not resurect until nine had breakfast at half past ten Can you beat that. Uncle John and wife were there also L.T. Behymer the old men played Mcginty and us young bucks done the fantastie to a finish. I saw Uncle Frank yesterday they are all well and he (Uncle) is still in the pig and calf business and prospering fairly well for a professor. Fred still goes down to Edom's there seems to be some attraction down that way that draws verry hard on Sunday evening something in the shape of calico I think. You ask how the water in the old well is there is about twelve feet of as good water in that old well as any man ever put down his neck and I wish you were here to partake of it it would do your soul good. Pa and Ma both joined the mormon church and were baptised last summer. Also Uncle Jim DeWitt Maggie Peacodk Levan Grady and mother and Bell Newell and daughter were baptised. I suppose you knew that Ethie sued Hyser for separate maintainence last fall she got \$900. a divorce and the children she bought the old Holinger place for \$550 and Bismark and Alma had the knot tied and they all moved in together. I rather think when Ethie got set up to house keeping her money was exhausted the court gave Hyser the privilige of going to see the children the 15th of each month.

The last I heard of George Brewer he was living in Bethel Morgan co I have not seen him for two years I don't think. I think he is the same old George and gets on a toot the same as ever. I suppose you see mr Gifford now and then. When you see him tell him I am still waiting for that letter so I can send those squash seeds and if he don't hurry up spring will be here and then it will be to late. I guess I will rest a while.

Well I have been over to Pa's awhile so I will write some more. Pa says to tell you he is still here and is glad of it. Ma says to tell you that she will write when the spirit moves her but I can not say when that will be. Pa is a verry devout mormon he returns thanks at the table and holds family worship ever night. I never saw such a change in any one in my life it seems verry odd to be around him and never hear him swear the mormons advise people to not use tobacco but do not prohibit its use Pa quit short off as soon as he joined them so know he believes their doctrine. The elders that have been stopping at Pa's left for St Louis last Thursday morning to attend conference but will be back Tuesday that is one of them will be back and bring another man with him they travel in pairs but I have never found a good pair to draw to. But all of them I have seen are nice men all the same. I wish you would come over in the morning and help me get up some wood as I have the last that is on the pile chopped up so it is a groundhog case get wood in the morning or sit by a cold stove and you know that would not suit me at all. I have never heard any thing from Leute I don't know what to think I sometimes think he is dead and other times think he is rambling around the world and will turn up in time but I do not know he was of a verry roving nature after Laura died and also liked his tea hereditary I suppose the only thing strange about it is not wanting to hear from his children if still alive but he knows they are in good hands. Well my nose is running so I can't do any thing but wipe it so I will close for this time by asking you to please write as soon as you receive this and I will do better next time Alta joins in sending

41/20/277

256

love to all

Your truly
Old Lenghty

P.S. Please don't forget to sent those pictures that you spoke of in your letter

W.H.S.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: V.E. McClelland

Address: Dodge Institute, Valparaiso, IN

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Franklin, PA on December 14, 1900; postmarked received in Valparaiso on December 15, 1900 at 6 a.m.; cancelled 2-cent stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: December 12, 1900

Writer of Letter: Vincent P. Bunce Jr.

Location of Writer: Franklin, PA.

Other Remarks: Written on folded lined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Franklin, Pa
Dec.12, 1900

My Friend Vernie

I thought I would write you a few lines. I will tell you about my accident. I was playing foot ball back of the school-house. I broke my leg the first of Dec. We are well but I am in bed. You don't know how I miss you. Frank McCullin hurt his wrist Saturday in playing foot-ball. I hope you are well. Write some I will give you my address. I guess I will close for today.

Good By.

Yours Truly.

Vincent P. Bunce

Vincent P. Bunce Jr.
Franklin, Pa.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Vincent Bunce Jr.

Address: Franklin, PA

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Valparaiso, Ind. On December 22, 1900; postmarked received in Franklin on December 24 at 4 a.m.; cancelled 2-cent stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: December 22, 1900

Writer of Letter: V.E. McClelland

Location of Writer: Dodge Institute, Valparaiso, Ind.

Other Remarks: Written on folded unlined writing paper in brown ink.

LETTER

Valparaiso, Ind.
Dec. 22, 1900

Friend Vincent:

I received your letter and was sorry to hear that you had broken your leg.

I suppose that there is lots going on in Franklin now.

I am studying telegraphy and typewriting now.

This is a pretty nice place here and is about the size of Franklin about 3000 of them are students who attend the Normal, Low, and Telegraph Schools.

I want to be home next spring to stay a while.

All At Present,

Write Soon,

Yours truly

V.E. McClelland

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mr. ?

Address: c/o Gen Del Cleveland Ohio

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmark and stamp on front of envelope has been ripped off; post marked rec'd in Cleveland Ohio Gen. Del. On Jul 25 1912 at 3 AM.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: July 24-12 (7-24-1912)

Writer of Letter: Anna

Location of Writer: 825 E. 6 St Erie, Pa

Other Remarks: Written on 5x6 unlined writing paper in black ink; 3 pages.

LETTER

Dear Friend Frank,

I received your welcome letter O.K. and I missed you very much since you have gone. I passed that remark to Bert last night and she said that, that was all I thought about her. You say that you would have to stay a week to get acquainted well I do not think you would you get acquainted in one day.

I think your pal is pretty mean not to go and see his girl after she went all the way to Cleveland to see him I'll bet you would do the same if it were me? How about it? No Sadie did not give me a bawling out. I guess she felt sorry for calling me in for she got up both yesterday and to-day and gave the boys their breakfast. I told mother about it and I guess she told Sadie to mind her own business. I know that there is someone who thinks of me. That fellow down in Wheeling sent me a letter and I received it yesterday morning but I am going to take my time in answering and then I will only send him a postal card. (Get me Steve). I wonder what he will think of me. I don't suppose I will receive any more postals from him but who cares if I don't. I hope you get a letter from home soon for you will be anxious I wish Catharine would hurry and answer for I am so anxious as you. It is raining to beat the band this morning and I have just got out of bed. I am going to give a lesson to night, but Bert wants me to go to Waldameer with her mother and her. But I don't think I will for if I don't give the lesson to-night I will have to give it some other night. I guess I will close

Your Ever Loving Friend

Anna

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: March 9th 1914. (3-9-1914)

Writer of Letter: Frank Bunce

Location of Writer: 4507 Clifton Ave Suite 1. Chicago, Ill.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x6 unlined writing paper in brown ink; 2 pages.

LETTER

Dear Mother:-

I received you letter last week and was glad to hear from you. I received a letter from Vincent last week he wants me to come out with him but I don't think for I am as far as I am going west. Mother I want you to send me my gold cuff button, cigarette case and match case I want them. Tell Father to find out how much my lodge dues are and I will pay it.

How much have in the Bank let me know and send me what I asked you I haven't very much news to-day but will have more the next time in the Best of Health working every night ans soon or sooner.

Your Loving Son.

Frank.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Miss Catharine L. Bunce, c/o C.W. Sellars

Address: Mt. Sterling, Illinois

Other Envelope Notations: Return address from V.P. Bunce Ald. 21 Nth 13th St. Franklin, PA; postmarked sent from Franklin on August 9, 1915 at 8 a.m.; embossed cancelled 2-cents stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: August 8, 1915

Writer of Letter: Vincent P. Bunce Sr.

Location of Writer: Franklin, PA

Other Remarks: Written on folded lined writing paper in black ink.

LETTER

Franklin, Pa., 8/8/15

Catharine L. Bunce,

Dear daughter I hope you enjoyed your trip and the grand Middle West as far as you saw it. You don't know how I would have liked to have been with you to point out to you the spots where I used to roam as a barefoot boy along the Wabash R.R. at Orleans, but best of all would have been if I could have been with when the old Illinois was crossed and have said to you this is the dearest spot on Earth to me Dear old "Brown County," where the nearest and dearest friend a boy or girl ever can have, lies. My mother. Oh how I wish she could be there to greet my darling. How that mother's love would go out to you. If she could but have thrown her loving arms about you and implanted a kiss upon the brow of my darling girl. And my dear old grandma, how plainly I can see with my mind's eye. The great and noble woman who always had her heart in hand, ready to help the less fortunate.

And Grandpa, that dear old soul that I loved to think of the days I spent with him of how I used to go toddling along after him, when he lived at what we called the "The Old Fort;" how I can see him with his hickory stalked whip of planted lash, old "Bluch" and "Jim" to avagon and old "Mike" following and always alert and woe to the dog that interfered with us or our outfit, as we trudged along with our load of wood to Pittsfield. And when we had desposed of our load the hungry boy was always his first care. And the sweetest morsel was mine and of my choosing. What do you suppose it was? "Ginger Bread." And I see him, too, when he and I went to the old house, then made a barn, and I asked him where his old sword was and he reached it to me and with tears in his dear old eyes, says "Vint" "they wanted to make a corn knife of it." You wont let that be done will you? What memories that old sword bro't to me of when a little boy, my dear mother used to tell me of how when she was a little girl, the boys of the militia used to lift their Colonel from the his door-steps and lift him to his mount. "Maj.", his dappled gray horse.

And there was Dear old "Uncle Billy" (have Aunt Kate tell you of him) and how Frank

and I used to torment the dear old soul. We ought to have had our backs skinned for it.

Well all that is left of those dear old faces now are Uncle John, Mart and Frank and that dear old Aunt Kate. How I hope you will love them and give them my love and tell them many and many nights, when the world is at rest, do I go over my childhood and see with my mind's eye a "moving picture" of my boyhood days and how I love to hold back the reel and make it go so slow that I may linger long with those dear ones with whom I then united to make the scene.

Darling give Aunt Kate a hug and kiss for papa and uncle Frank and Uncle "Mart" and tell them how I love them and how I would love to see them. And how I wish you could Uncle John too.

I know you will begin to think me childish but I had to just pen my thoughts or not write at all.

I had to stop writing. I got to "full," but will try to finish by giving you something of what is taking place here. Freddie Burgard was buried yesterday. Mr. Corwell who lived around the bend from Frank's store and toward the cemetery was buried Friday and Andy Hoer's wife died last week leaving a pair of twin babies. Henrietta went to the Park with her S.S. yesterday and had a good time. She lost her return pass and Anabel Shorts let her have money to return on. Mother and Mrs. Keplinger went to Chitaqua Lake last week and strolled through the Assembly grounds and of course visited the bargain counters before coming home.

I have not seen your teacher, but will. John is still going to school and is helping Frank. He is in the store tonight. Henrietta is with him. She is a great help, she thinks. She washes the glasses and dishes and likes to ring up the change.

Mother has been snoring this good while. You know how. The Rebeka's have a picnic at the Park Thursday and they are determined I shall go. "Maybe." Ruth R. is visiting in New Castle and Sharon. I got a notice from Newcastle P.M. that there was a card there for you on which 1 ct. was due. It cost me 3 cts. to have it forwarded here. When it comes will send it to you. Think it is from Ruth and she forgot to stamp it. I'll sue for the 3 cts.

Say "girlie" didn't you forget to send a card to some one? Now to make up for it I want you to write a letter to Vincent and tell him who and what you have seen up to time of your writing. Don't fail to do so.

I think he feels hurt on account of not having received a card. And you see Stella or any of Mr. Gifford's people drop a card to Vernie. He would appreciate it. When you see Louis tell that I have not forgotten him and that we would all like to see him and new daughter (in law) that is taking care of him. How I would like to eat a chicken dinner with them.

Frank is still doing an increasing business. Last month he did \$669 + and the first 7 days of this month he had done between \$170 & \$180 yesterday he took in \$40.80. It took some stepping. He told mother it was a dull day. She said she would give him \$40 for his recpts. Pretty good guess. It is 10-30 and I am at the office and John is calling for me to go up and help him close up. We will have to pack the cream, so I will finish this later.

11 P.M. and all in and I will try and finish my letter to you and write some others.

We still get a shower every day. Rained tonight but the day was fine and quite warm.

I suppose you saw in the papers of the great disasters in Erie where about 50 persons lost their lives in a flood caused by the breaking of a dam. The creek and river were at quite a high stage from the rainfalls above here. It drove the campers off the creek between here and

Meadville. Some girls camping near Shaws, from here, came near getting a wetting. They saved their goods & chattels.

We had a mad-dog scare here yesterday. A Mr. Wann on Uniontown hill was bitten by the dog which then continued its way downtown and was at last captured, after biting several dogs, and put out of the way by Chief Blakeley. Vincent chopped off the head, which was sent to proper place to be examined as to rabies, and John proceeded with the funeral, as usual.

I had no Police Court for today which is unusual. I suppose you attended the fair and had a pleasant time. It would give you a chance to meet many and see how they do things in "Little Brindle", and at the same time see many whom I should so like to see.

Before I forget, I want you to go and see Mrs. Rang who lives down near the water works and opposite to where we lived when John made appearance in Mt. Sterling and give her our love. And I would like it if you could meet Belle (Jones) Newell. She is a sister to the Mrs. Orr that mother told you to see.

I hope some one will find that "giraff" that got lost in the cornfield as you went out. I know you would see a "small" field or two on your route. Tell uncle Mart and Frank that I've got the ears of corn yet that I plucked from their fields 5 years ago. They are as solid as wood and I think to hard now for a cow to chew.

The mice got to it and after working at it a while, seemed to give it up for a tough proposition and gout. I was going to give you a list of names to see and meet but Charlie and Aunt Kate know them all and they will be able to tell you as well as I.

I will close now (12-45) and I hope you will have the time of your life and see lots of my old acquaintances, school mates and scholars.

Don't forget to write a letter to V. so he can say "Catharine wrote me a letter, you got cards." Drop us a line too. Remember to give my kind regard to all and love to ours. Now I must say good night with love & XXX.

Papa.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations ... No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Oct.8,1917 (10-8-1917)

Writer of Letter: Catharine Bunce

Location of Writer: Mayville, N.Y.

Other Remarks: Written on 6x9 blue lined letterhead that reads: "Thompson House J.A. Thompson, Proprietor Mayville, N.Y."; 4 pages.

LETTER

Dearest and darlingest Mother:

You have probably been very much surprised, but it is only as I tried to explain to you so often, that it would have to be. For mother, it is not wrong, you ought to understand, for even the Bible tells' that the children shall leave home, for homes of their own. You surely know and understand my feelings enough to know that I did not intend to stay away from your home and my girlhood home all the time. Why couldn't I still love Jack, and be his wife and still be your own girl. And mother, did I ever do anything really wicked or wrong to deserve the words Father spoke to me this afternoon? I have always been Father's little girl and why couldn't I be yet? I did tell you how it was. And I wanted to talk with Father, but would he listen? You know there is not another girl who loves their dear old daddy and mother, more than I. But mother I can't see that I have committed any sin. We phoned you this morning just as soon as we were married for we didn't want you and Father, to worry where we were. We were going to house-keeping in Franklin, and could see you all so often and other, I really meant every word and intended to keep my promises to you, you know I meant well. But it seems that Father does not want us back in Franklin, for mother it would be as I told you it would kill me if anything would happen to Jack. He has a fine place to work in Franklin, but we have made many friends all ready, everyone is kind and good to us, and Jack is not too proud to labor at a new work for his home and mine. If he were not willing to do this for me, or any other reason I would think Father's reproach right, but I can not see it that way. And mother down deep, deep in your own heart and down deep, deep in Father he knows the truth and the reason that I married Jack it was true love and I was not kid-napped, so mother please think correctly of your little girl and Daddy's too. For I mean this letter to Father as much as for you.

Still your
Daughter Catharine

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mrs. Catharine Black

Address: 1423 Liberty Street, Franklin, Pennsylvania. U.S.A.

Other Envelope Notations: Return address is Pvt John L. Bunce, Base Hospital 76, A.P.O. 781 Am. E.F.; postmarked sent from Army Post on March 14, 1919; stamped as "Passed as Censored by Dale Stark, Ist ame U.S. Army; no stamp but typed as "Soldiers Mail" ; The envelope is printed with the American Red Cross logo and A.R.C. A.E.F.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: March 13, 1919

Writer of Letter: John L. Bunce

Location of Writer: Base Hospital 76 A.P.O. 78 Am.E.F.

Other Remarks: Written on folded writing Red Cross stationery that notes: "On Active Service With The American Expeditionary Force."

LETTER

Vichy, France 3/13/ 1919

Dear Sister

I am writing a few lines and sending paper with part of the history of the center. We have a new commanding officer - our Col. Was relieved from our hospital. The new force is working to-gether and don't believe it will be so very long until we are on our way.

Well sister I am still watching the office at nights, I stay up to get a Midnight. I'll xxx then about one I spread two blankets on four chairs until five o'clock.

Then I go down to kitchen and get my breakfast; then I waken up the bugler so he can blow Revile at six, then I go to bed and sleep all morning. I am gaining some weight.

I will close hoping to see you soon.

We are both well.

Your bro's,

John

Enclosed in the letter were 2 pieces of silk about 10" x 11". The one is gold colored with a frilly fringe & not markings. The second in white silk with an extensive fine lace fringe and embroidered in the corner are the flags of the U.S. and France on a bed of flowers and the embroidered words "Souvenir de France."

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mrs John Black

Address: #1117 Schoonmaker Ave. Monessen Penna

Other Envelope Notations: Return address on back of envelope reads: "Mrs C?? Prall ?? Grant St Franklin Pa"; post marked sent from Franklin PA on APR 23 -24 at 1 PM; cancelled two cent stamp remains on the envelope and is in excellent condition.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: April 22, 1924

Writer of Letter: Ida

Location of Writer: Franklin, PA

Other Remarks: Written on 5x6 unlined writing paper in black ink; 7 pages.

LETTER

Dear Catherine

I rec'd your Easter greeting and want to thank you for same. I am always glad to hear from you and I am really ashamed of myself for not writing before this, but I will try and do better from now on.

I suppose you were all dolled up for Easter I got a new light tan coat and hat. I like them very much. I wish I could have taken a trip to Pittsburgh to do my shopping for I know I could have bought more things for what I had to pay here.

I suppose you will not know me when you see me because I had my hair bobbed 2 weeks ago. It looks real cute when curled but not so good when straight. Viola is going to have hers bobbed also. She has the front of it cut now but is still long in the back., Everybody's doing it Did you have yours cut yet?

I was married 3 yrs yesterday, Gee it doesn't seem that long. (And noting running around the house but a fence, ha ha).

My sister-in-law George's wife has a baby boy born Apr 6th weighs 4 ½ lbs. Poor girl had an awful time of it. She had eight convulsions and then after three doctors held a consultation at the hospital they decided to operate and took the baby from her side.

She is getting along first rate the baby is gaining also, and they expect to leave the hospital this week. That's enough to make any body back out. What say you?

Did you hear about Francis Nicklen's daddy dying. I did not go over to see him because my mother was sick in bed with rheumatism and I was taking care of her and cooking for Dad & Bill, so I was kept real busy. My mother is better now but has a cold.

I hope Francis did not feel hurt when Vi & I did not go over. (You know me never did chum very good).

What kind of weather are you people having? It certainly is terrible here. We have snow,

rain, hail, and everything here in one day. Today is one of those freakish ones. At the present moment the sun is shining but before long it will rain again.

The American Legion play "Clarence" will be this Wed Thur & Fri. We are going Thursday night. It is home talent and I think it will be really good. Suppose you kids go to a lot of good shows. All we get here is home talent and movies. Last night we had to pay 44 cents to see a movie. "Norma Talmadge in "The song of love" It was good but I don't think a movie is worth that price, do you?

Well guess I have raved enough so will close . Hoping to hear from you soon or better yet, see you.

Lots of love

Your friend

Ida

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: (Not in an envelope)

Address:

Other Envelope Notations:

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: January 25, 1925

Writer of Letter: Kate A. Bunce

Location of Writer: Not provided

Other Remarks: Written on plain unlined writing paper in pencil.

LETTER

Sunday Afternoon – Dear Catharine I received your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you it seems as though I did not have any visit with you you know you & Jack no more than get here until you returned home. I have bad news to tell you Bessie started one evening to come over here slipped & fell & John had to take her last night to the Doctors Virginia was sled riding down a hill the up shot is that she is laid with a broken arm they were all here last night for supper & when they went home this morning Annie sent Ruth up stairs with something she fell & mashed one of her little fingers Vernie came and fixed her hand then she sent for Father & Henrietta is up there now and I have Bill here. Annie never got a wink of sleep. So she certainly got her share. Mrs Elliott moves this week to her new home, don't you think I will miss her they are burying Cecil Griffen today Frank is away John come as yet for any dinner Henrietta made me a present of a five dollar bill this week I paid for the groceries and did not get a chance to spend one I for my-self I get all the meals now, received the meat loaf it was fine. I wish you would make a cake. But don't bother I never get any where yet it is much warmer today and if it continues. Frank says he will start with Father Mother & Henrietta down to your place. Father is wild to come. I receive the aprons as soon as you get one of the dark dresses made send it by parcel post for I need it badly did you forget handkerchiefs my heart is bleeding for Vincent please just as soon as you can write to the shut-ins and answer this right away and I will keep you posted.

Unsigned

(It is noted that the letter was written by Kate A. Bunce)

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope

Address:

Other Envelope Notations:

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: December 20, 1927

Writer of Letter: V.P. Bunce

Location of Writer: Franklin, Pa.

Other Remarks: Typed on blank typing paper.

LETTER

Franklin, Pa., Dec.20th., 1927

John And Catharine Black,
Monessen, Penn'a.

Dear Children:

Was glad to hear from you today and to know that we shall soon be with each other and enjoy another Christmas dinner with each other. Would that we ALL be around the board.

I got a letter from Louis last week. His address is Rushville, Illinois. They were all well, and he wrote me that Lillian's average in her studies at school was 98 $\frac{3}{4}$. That is fine and I certainly feel proud of her for having a showing like that. It shows that she is an ambitious little girl.

Drop a Christmas card to your cousin Neil Bunce, Ripley, Brown County, Illinois, in your own names. If you happen to telephone to Henrietta, have her to do so too.

I got a letter from Park and Alma. Park sent me a hand of tobacco and A hand made red bud pipe, I'll break into on Christmas.

I'll reserve balance of news until I see you. There will be plenty.

Your most affectionate Father,

V.P. Bunce

P.S. Got a card today from George Hartman, of Homer, today.

Louis address is. Louis said Lillian was 56 in. high & 89 lbs weight.

Louis E. Bunce, R.F.D., Rushville, Illinois.

V.P.B.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mrs. V. P. Bunce

Address: 1127 Graham Ave., Monessen, Pa. c/o John A. Black

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; post marked sent from Franklin PA on Mar 7 1931 at 1 PM; post marked received is unreadable; cancelled two cent stamp is still on the envelop in excellent condition.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: Sat. Morn Mar. 7th (3-7-1931)

Writer of Letter: Henrietta

Location of Writer: Franklin, Pa

Other Remarks: Written on 6x9 unlined tablet paper in pencil; 3 pages.

LETTER

My darling mother:

I bet you think I have forgotten you but I haven't. I think of you a dozen times a day and wonder how you are .

We got some eggs from Al's mother and I had them sitting on the table. Aunt Della came over and said "my what lovely eggs." Of course I knew she wanted some. So last Monday was her birthday and Al and I took her over a dozen eggs and she seemed pleased to get them. But mother that is how she used to say to you and I remember how you used to give her things. Lawyer Jobson went to Florida for three weeks so that is holding things up. Uncle Charlie said he should get everything fixed up as soon as he gets back from Florida.

Bessie and Vincent are still staying with me and Bessie sure is helping me a lot. I am getting so that I can hardly see my toes. Ha Ha.

Al is going to make me a stand with roller on and I am going to fix up a basket fancy so I can keep it down stairs. I am wondering if I can get you to be my nurse girl and watch the baby for me. I will buy you an ice cream cone a day to pay you. Ha Ha.

Frank and Charlotte come down once in a while. Frank thinks maybe he will be able to get a store in Meadville.

John and Sarah come down quite often too, they are feeling pretty good. I don't get to see Annie and Vernie very often for they don't come down and I have been up only once. The kids always stop if they come down town.

Have you been having nice weather down in Monessen? We have certainly been having lovely weather here, just like summer. But then it won't be long until it will be summer.

Mabel Culbitt was the other day and she asked me if I cared if she had a shower on me. I told her maybe it would be too much trouble but she wants to have one. So I guess she will have it in May.

Bessie told me to ask you if you stuck your hands in any more paint. Ha Ha.

Well mother I guess this is all I will write for now because I want to write Catharine a letter too. Now you be a good girl and it won't be very long until I will come down and get you. Hoping you are feeling real well and happy, loads of love and kisses, XXX OOO

Your loving daughter,

Henrietta.

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: Mrs. V. P. Bunce

Address: 1127 Graham Ave., Monessen, Pa. c/o John A Black

Other Envelope Notations: No return address; postmarked sent from Franklin, PA on March 26, 1931; cancelled 2-cent stamp remains on the envelope.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: March 26th 1931

Writer of Letter: Henrietta & Al

Location of Writer: Franklin, PA

Other Remarks: Written on blank writing paper in pencil.

LETTER

March 26th
1931

My Darling mother: -

How are you? I hope you are well and not worrying for it won't be very long until I will be down. Just one more week, I will be down the Saturday before Easter and if you are real good maybe the bunny will come to see you. I hope you are taking real good care of Catharine and Jack. Then when I come down you will have to take care of me too and then in a couple or three months you will have to take care of the baby for me. Won't we raise a nice baby between the two of us? You will be my nurse girl for me, won't you?

Well mother I haven't very much to write about this time but am looking forward to seeing you a week from Saturday and then I sure will talk a lot to you. The only other thing is I never was crazy about writing letters.

Now take good care of yourself for it will only be one more week.

Hoping this letter finds you well and happy.

Loads and loads of love and kisses XXX OOO

Your children

Henrietta and Al

ENVELOPE

Addressed To: No envelope with this letter.

Address: No envelope with this letter.

Other Envelope Notations: No envelope with this letter.

LETTER HEADING

Date of Letter: May 4, 1964 (5-4-1964)

Writer of Letter: Catharine (Bunce) Black

Location of Writer: Not indicated.

Other Remarks: Written on 5x8 lined tablet paper in pencil; 2 pages plus two pieces of scrap tablet paper.

LETTER

Tisy:

I thot you folks might get a kick out of these two letters - \$8.00 per week eh?

Lewis means our brother Lewis – I thot his name was spelled Louis. But I've found places where father had written it Lewis.

Allen was Uncle Frank and Aunt Lou's son. He was about Vincent's age. Was drowned.

Do you remember father talking of Uncle Frank. He was father's Uncle and yours & mine – great Uncle. His last name was Hosford and the same age as our father. So you remember father telling us of when he was a little baby. And his mother or Uncle Frank's mother went to town, Father would nurse at Uncle Franks mothers breast & vice versa.

Isn't it cute where Uncle Frank mentions your letter. You were so tiny honey. See I can understand from reading the letters Mother & father had been living in Ill. and had recently moved back to Franklin.

Sam, Fred, Allen, and a girl were Uncle Frank's children. Allen drowned as a young man while swimming. Some sort of accident I believe. The daughter died when about 16 or 17.

This is one of the letters the stamp had been taken off. But don't forget I'll save all letters for the "David" that is stamp collecting.

Catharine

Our father had never had any other teacher except his own father until he went to college.

May 4, 1964

Just think this letter is written, mentioning six generations behind you and I sister, then Ruth – makes 7 generations Loisanne & David Jr. make 8 generations that have been living to read it. Sorry I write so badly but guess you can understand. Little Mark could make 9 generations its

valuable sis. Your father was attending college at Champaign, Ill. It's a very big college now. Was very small when father attended. It is a State college & very well thot of.

Charley Post of the Post cereal Co. (Post corn flakes, etc.) was one of the men in father's class.

Isn't the letter a typical teachers letter to his son? The corrections are so sweet.

Catharine