

Chinook, Alaska
Dec 16, 1911.

Dear Mother

I am afraid we have not been writing very often lately. Something seems to stop us every time we get ready to write. We don't take over the mail as often as we did either & we usually get someone else to get it for us.

We have been having real nice weather ever since the middle of November. The second week of November we had a cold spell. You read in the paper that it was 20° below zero here but it was

down to -40° . The winter started extra early & extra cold ~~but~~ so that we were ~~not~~ taken unawares & sort of surprised but since then we could hardly wish for new weather, real mild & sunny almost every day & hardly any wind. The sleighing is fine now. I wish we could afford to buy a set of bobs to use. We have borrowed Shabino's just now & Will is away to the coal mine with them & four horses, Mary, Daisy, Buck & old "Screchie". I guess he will bring back about a ton

and three quarters

Sunday afternoon.

There has been a very heavy fog all day and it is so quiet that it is oppressive. Mr.

Shabino was over here this noon to borrow some old Saturday Evening Posts from us. He only stayed a few minutes because he was afraid this fog might start some bad weather. I don't think so tho. He is going to Cereal tomorrow & will mail my letters. You know Cereal is that store & post office at which we bought some groceries

4.

while you were here. we get almost all of our provisions there now. It is only about seven miles from here. Mr. Shabins gets his mail there now instead of Chinook. You can address us there if you want to. It is Cereal, Alberta via Alask, Sask. The mail would get there quicker than to Chinook but we don't go there as often altho Shabins would call for our mail every time he goes.

I guess we haven't told you that we wrote to Aunt Jenny again. Will write

a very frank letter telling her
all about our financial troubles,
asked her to answer & tell him
if she were displeased at his
writing to her. The letter was
mailed the first of December
so of course we have not
received an answer yet. The
letter was about four or five
pages long, I don't know
whether she will read it all
or not. If she does I think
she will answer something
unless that Mr. Tufts reads it. I
guess he has a few little Tufts
to get money for, hasn't he?
I hope we do get even a little

money. We ought to buy our
seed grain now to plant
in the spring. If we wait
until the last minute we
might not be able to get
good seed & maybe none at
all & would surely not get
it sown in time. It will
take in the neighborhood of
seventy five dollars to buy seed,
and I certainly don't see where
that much money could be
found. We have a standing
offer to sell the colts but next
year they will be worth twice
as much as they are now &
the year after as much again.
If we get a chance we are
going to sell Buck, but he
will only bring about seventy-
five dollars & we need forty more
than that to pay the interest at

7.
the bank & Will's insurance.
I do hope that Aunt Jenny
will help us this time.

I suppose that everything
& everybody is in a rush in
Oberlin now on account of
Christmas coming. If we
didn't have a calendar I
wouldn't know that there
was to be a Christmas. I
think there is to be some
sort of social in the new
school-house the day after
Christmas. Will is on some
committee & has been away
at the Stewart's a couple of
times to practice quartets
he & the Stewart's intend to
sing. The minister lent him
his guitar & he is going to
play some on that too. I

Will had a good guitar.
He would get heaps of pleasure
out of one. I wish I could
play any instrument or even
sing. I hope I can take
lesson in singing if I ever
go back to Berlin.

We are going to have
rabbits for Christmas dinner
I guess! We only have four
left now out of the twelve
that I have shot & they are
not so good as the fine
ones are now. I hope I can
shoot a nice fat one
pretty soon. The last three
I shot had about a pound
a piece of clear fat on them.
They ought to be fat eating
out of the garden and pots
from around the oat-stack!

9.
The rabbits are getting scarce now
tho. when the full moon comes
again maybe I can shoot
some more. I am getting to
be a very good shot with
the rifle by moonlight. The
last rabbit I shot by
moonlight a full hundred
yards away, thru the heart,
& only shot once. The one before
that I shot thru the heart with
one shot at about sixty yards.
It is pretty hard to see the
sights on a rifle by moonlight.
I wish I could afford to
buy some more cartridges,
I have only twelve left. We
have only bought fresh meat
once since last summer & we
have had plenty so my shooting
rabbits is quite a money-saver.

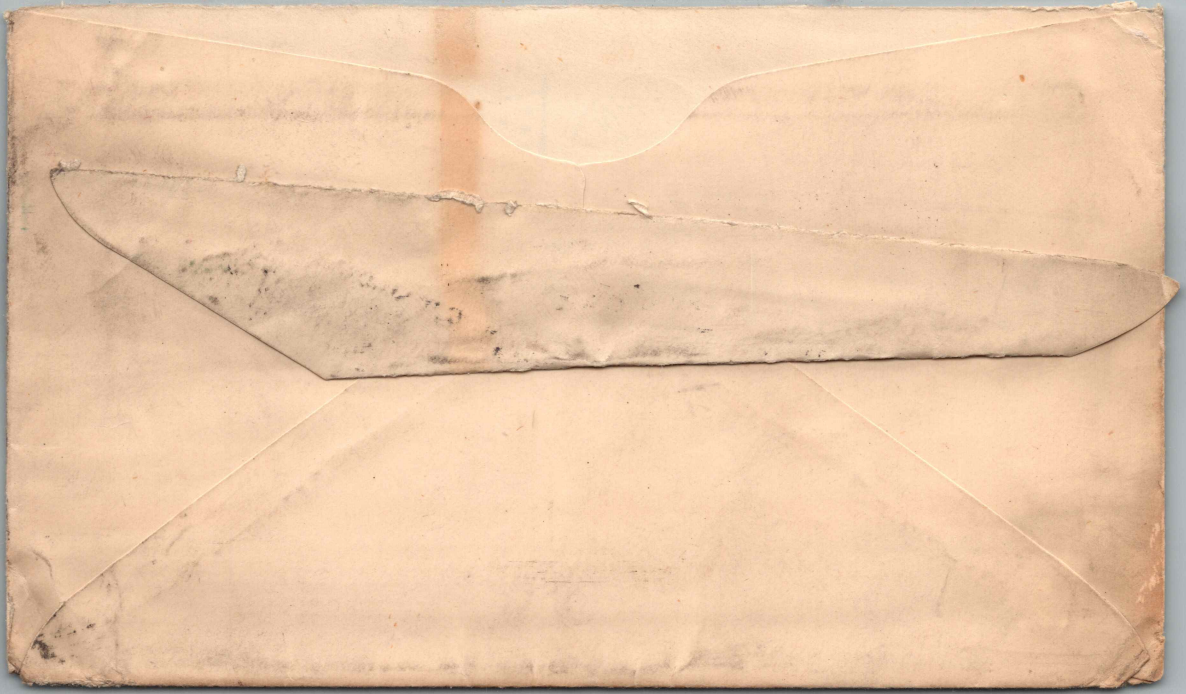
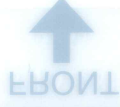
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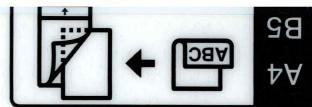
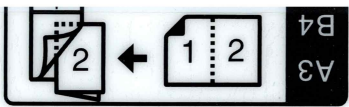
I should have written all
Christmas letters last week
but I didn't. I wish you
and many a very happy
Christmas & New Year.

Lots of love

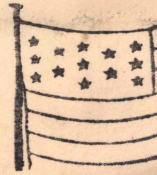
Your most affectionate
son Selden.

Charles Selden Belden
Chinook, Alberta
or Cereal, Alberta





Dec 16, 1911



Mrs. William H. Belden
287 West College St
~~Oberlin, Ohio~~

Youngstown
Ed. W. H. Taylor
215 Haseltine Ave.