

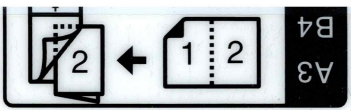
The name of our new pony for which we traded Buck is Pinty. We have all the names in the family now except ours, Nellie, Mary and Pinty! We will have to get horses named Bill & Charlie next I guess!

Chinook, Cereal, Alta  
June 30, 1912.

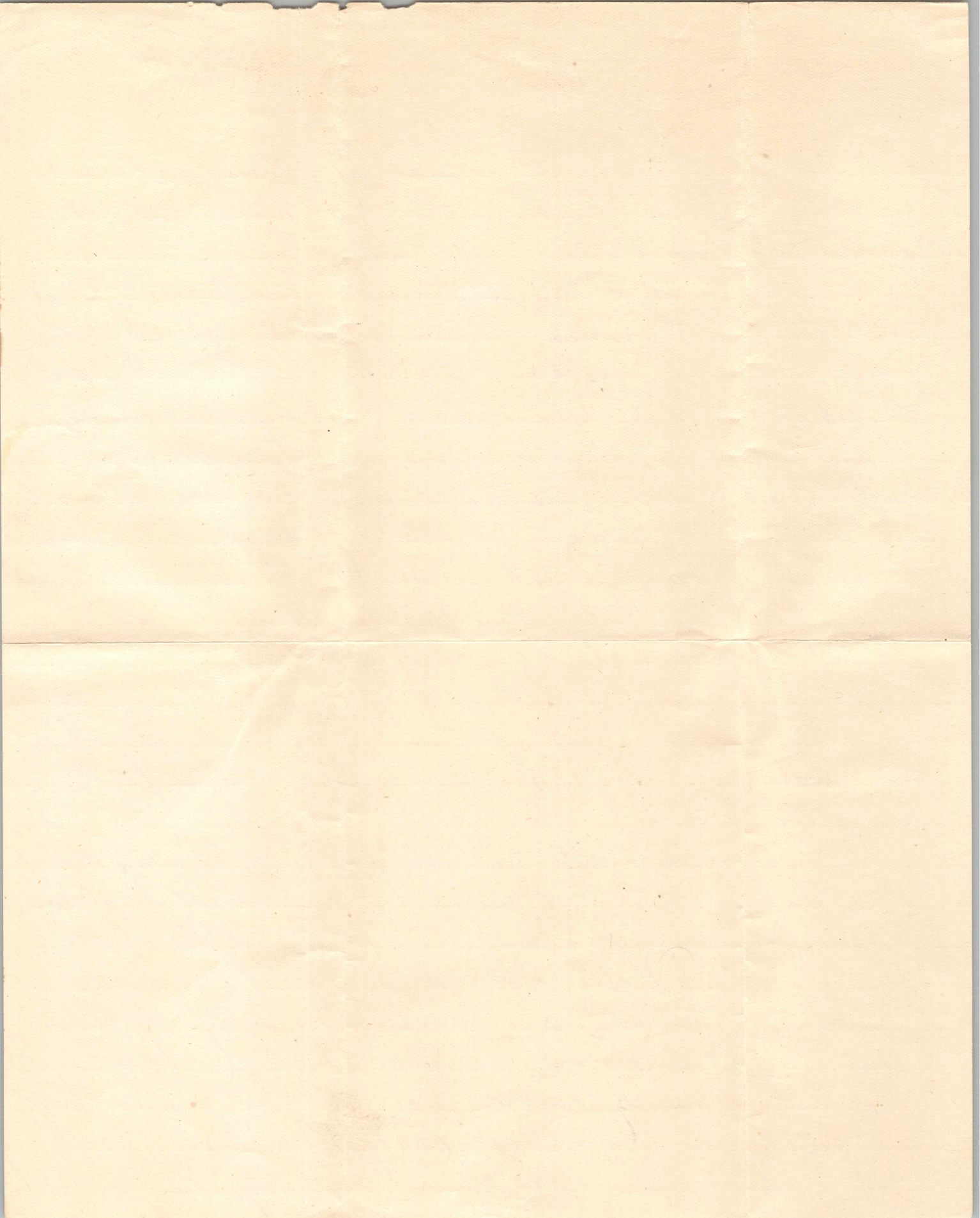
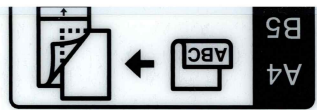
Dear Mother

We received your letter to Cereal in this last mail. I am awfully glad to hear from you all again. You ought to be able to write of how now that college is over. I am glad that you are a walking cyclopedia of Alberta. Don't make people think that this is the best place on earth to get rich because it is not. It takes a long time here, the same as anywhere else for a person without capital. The difference between here and Oberlin is that this country is getting more valuable every year, and there the value of land & property stays about the same.

I am afraid we are going to have a very hard time to make the first payment on our preemptions. I can earn enough money to pay the interest on both of them, back interest included, which amounts to about one hundred & fifty dollars but I don't see how we can get the three hundred & twenty dollars for the first payment. If we don't pay we will probably lose them so that if we cannot get enough money there would



FRONT



no sense in paying the interest & lose it too. If we can get enough money for just one we will try to save one anyway. Well is thinking of writing to Mr. Loveland to borrow the money & when he sends the money for interest. That makes me think we have the money to pay the interest this time. I earned it from the photographs. I have sixty dollars in my pocket just now. I certainly hate to part with any of it! I have been hoping to get enough money ahead so that we could buy another pony but it looks now as if we could not buy anything. We live awfully poorly to save money. I don't believe there is a single person around here that spends as little as Ford & I do. I plan to get as many meals as possible at the grading camps when I go to take pictures & get orders & also when I deliver them. I eat all I can while I am there & then starve while at home. Sometimes I manage to get the cooks to give me left-over things to bring home. At one camp where there is a woman cook I got two whole pies, a jelly roll and pieces of bread & cake left over, a piece of liver about three pounds and all I could eat for supper which was nothing small!

I have really done fairly well at the photo business. I took the first pictures about the 20<sup>th</sup> of May, and since then I have made \$108.65 and spent twenty for supplies. I keep very accurate account of all I make, & all I spend for supplies. I have spent about twenty five for our living expenses and miscellaneous things, including a water-barrel which we needed very much and a can of coal-oil which costs two dollars. This is certainly the most expensive place to live of any that I have ever known. I am awfully glad to be able to get meals at the camps you can just bet.

I am entirely out of plates now and cannot take any more pictures until I get some. I sent for more in May but have not been able to get any yet. Last week we telegraphed for some to Saskatoon but they said that there were none of my size in the city. I hoped to get them for the first of July. There is to be a big celebration at Cereal on the first & I was planning to have a tent & make post card portraits besides making big pictures of the crowd & small post card views but I have no plates now so cannot. It will probably mean a loss of thirty or forty dollars. Tomorrow is the first &

it is raining a little tonight and looks like a three day rain. I do hope it rains so that the celebration has to be postponed. I also hope it will rain on account of our crops too. If it does not rain much within a week the crops will be a failure. The Marquis wheat is practically all headed out now, only about knee-high and blighted somewhat, and is turning color at the bottom. The oats are heading out a little too. The flax is the only crop that does not seem to be hurt any yet.

You may be interested to know at what price I sell the pictures. The large size  $6\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$  are 60 cents each \$7.20 per dozen; the next size  $5 \times 7$  are 45 cents each; \$5.40 per dozen; post cards, private, \$1.50 a dozen now, I have been making them for \$1.25; post card views, public, two for fifteen cents or 90 cents per dozen to the public; to the stores they are from fifty-five to sixty-five cents a dozen; I get fifty-five cents a dozen for post cards at cereal, and have sold them about fifty dozen. From Excell and Langme I get sixty-five cents, and have only sold them seven + five dozen respectively. I get sixty cents per dozen from Chirooks + have so far sold them only six dozen. You can see that I can afford to get less per dozen for fifty dozen than for only

six dozen or so, when I have to go so far to deliver them. The new city of Chuvok is five miles <sup>north</sup> Cereal is eight miles north-east Lanfrie is ten miles east and Excel is sixteen or eighteen miles east.

I hope that no other photographer comes here to work. I might have to lower the prices, and I surely would not get as much to do. I can get more business to do now than I can handle alone. I wish I could have someone to help me. Will helps by hauling water & sometimes washing pictures but nothing more. With an assistant I could make more than twice as much. I plan to make post card views of everything that happens and hope to soon have them for sale in all the stores along this line. I want to go to all the stores right away & introduce myself & get a trial order but cannot find time to get away. If I can get the start of other photographers & have all the dealers selling my views I will get along all right. These Canadians usually stick to the first thing & are not so kindly toward a newcomer, so if I am the first, I stand a good chance of being the only one.

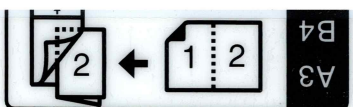
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I am sorry for the poor photographs that tried to sell you the post cards of the house. I sell that kind of views at \$1.50. The difference between there & here is that there salesmanship is the quality necessary and here speed and good pictures. I can sell all I can make, pretty nearly anyway. You need not tell anyone that however, because I would rather have it stay that way. I can take my choice of jobs now. I hardly ever get to bed before two o'clock and am usually up by seven. I am getting into the habit of taking a cold sponge bath every morning. It has been terribly hot lately and it not only cools me but wakes me up and helps in other ways also. When I build my three hundred dollar house I want to have a shower bath arrangement if possible & it should be possible, also running water for washing pictures, which would save an infinite amount of time & work.

I must go to bed now so good bye  
Lots of love to you all  
Selden.

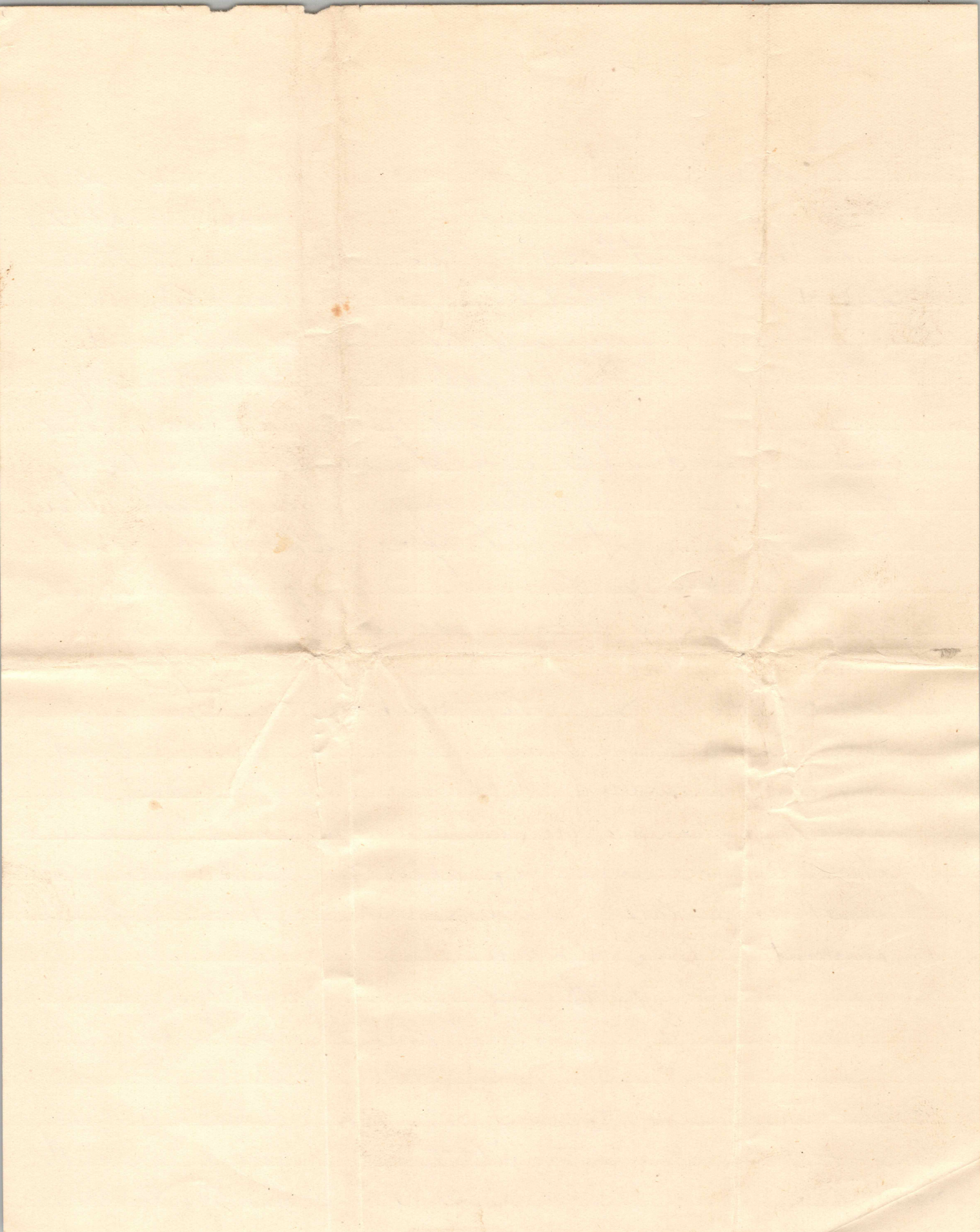
Please tell Luella to send me her address & every time that she changes to write the full address. I want to write often to her. I wish she could have come here this summer.

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B4/B5

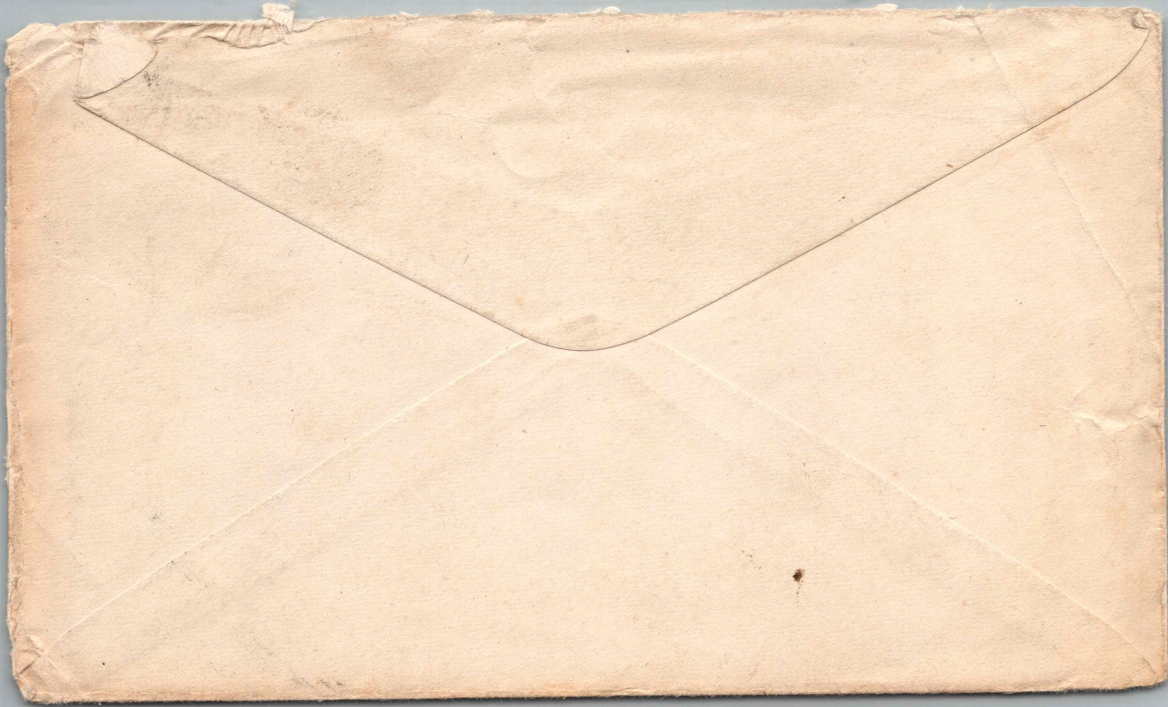


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A3/A4  
B4/B5  
A4  
B5







PA1A  
B4\B2

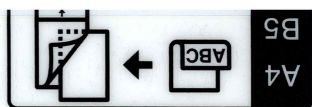
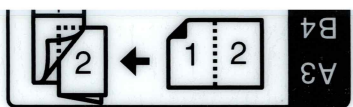


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FRONT



PA1A  
B4\B2

A3/A4 B4/B5



A3/A4 B4/B5

June 30, 1912



Mrs. W. W. Belden  
287 West College St  
Okeana, Ohio.