Monroe, Wash.
Jan. 16, 1906.

Dear Mamma:-

Last night's mail brought me a letter from you and one from Evelina that was mailed according to the post mark, at Oberlin on the thirtieth of December. It had no stamp and so was held till I sent the postage, 2¢. You may be sure I was very glad to hear from you. I know of course you must have been very busy. I only hope you aren't all tired to death to start the new term. Whom have you to help you now? Is Fanny still working for you? Who helped you and waited table when you had the dinner?

Do you realize that you did not enclose Whitney's bill as you said you would do? I wish you had put it in. Were some of Selden's things on the bill too? I forget what the bill amounts to but I think it is a little short of $50. Is that right. I can't pay it this month but unless some unforeseen difficulty arise at next pay day I ought to have enough to pay it. Pay-day I think will be the tenth of February.

My clothes are in about the same condition as when I was in Oberlin. I have bought working clothes and am pretty well fixed up in that line. A pair of 85¢ overalls lasts me from one to three months. I have started on my second pair since I have been here. I have two woolen working shirts. One cost me $2.25 and is really as heavy as a coat. The other I got for a dollar from a fellow who bought it for the same price and found it too warm for his work. He had it laundried. I have bought quite lately three pairs of drawers and an undershirt for 50¢ a piece. They look like pretty good stuff. I wore out one pair of 25¢ woolen socks but found they aggravated my chill-blains, so I got some 4 pairs for 25¢ cotton socks, which I like very well. Two pairs which I have had washed a number of times haven't a hole yet. The black socks you sent me I keep for Sundays etc. Of course that doesn't

wear them very fast. I have two good pairs of working shoes. One I have worn practically ever since I have been here and don't get show signs of wear. They have been resoled once. The other pair are a different kind but I am afraid they won't last quite as well.

My good coat I tore the other day and I don't know how skillfully I can mend it. I ought to get a new suit and hat before long. I think I'll get a black suit maybe. If I could afford it, I should get a medium or light weight long rain coat. Rather a decent one that would look all right even if it weren't raining. My slippers are beginning to give out too. Hardly anyone uses umbrellas out here and you never can tell when it will rain we can't take umbrellas down to town with any satisfaction anyway. Although it drizzled and rained nearly all the time I was in Seattle, I only saw two or three persons carrying umbrellas. I haven't unpacked my heavy overcoat yet because it is really too heavy for the weather.

You asked if I stayed at the Harger's while in Seattle. No I got a 75¢ room in the Antlers hotel and took a couple of oyster stews a day for meals. I went up to see the Hargers Sat. afternoon and they asked me to stay to dinner, so I stayed till about ten. They said they would have liked to have me to Christmas dinner but they went to Tacoma on Sunday morning.

It was very kind of you to send me the slippers Mrs. Marshall made you. I am almost sorry you did, for they would have been so nice for you on cold nights. I won't wear them at night for I am more than warm enough with our woolen sheets. I think I shall put some felt soles on them to wear in the house. Of course I received the Oberlin Calendar as you probably know by this time. We have plenty of room for it in our house. We moved out of the "shack" a neat little frame building several months ago.

About Mary and Ellen's failure to get insurance policies, I don't think they should feel at all discouraged. It is very often the people whom the insurance companies won't accept that live the longest. The examination is a very arbitrary sort of thing and often very

ridiculous. Harry's accident insurance got so much bigger when he become shingle tallyman that he gave it up. There isn't a bit more danger in the job either than what he was doing before. I have thought some what of taking out an accident insurance instead of paying a dollar a month at the hospital. I am afraid though I'd have to pay too high a rate for working in a mill.

Jan 26.

Here I have left this letter unfinished for more than a week. I am awfully sorry. I have had a four day's lay off on account of a big boil on my neck. I worked a while with it but found it too much. I am all well now. All of us boys have been similarly affected. I was the last one to come down and I have finished mine I think, but the other three still have some trouble. I think it is the water that causes it. Harry Villet has been sick off and on since before Thanksgiving and has lost a good deal of time. His sixth ~~that~~ successive boil developed into a six headed carbuncle. He has just cured that and is now being troubled with three new boils. My boil was clear up in my hair but I was swollen way down under my ear so that it looked like the mumps. I don't anticipate any more troubles as my blood is in pretty good shape.

I wish Selden would write. I was awfully disappointed not to send him any Christmas present. What did he think of my giving him a safety razor and his sending me the one he has. I'd be willing to make the trade. I really will have to get another razor. I go to the barber all the time now and I don't like to for I am afraid of catching some skin disease.

I hope I'll get some letters before long. I don't get much over an average of one a month all put together.

Lots of love: Willie

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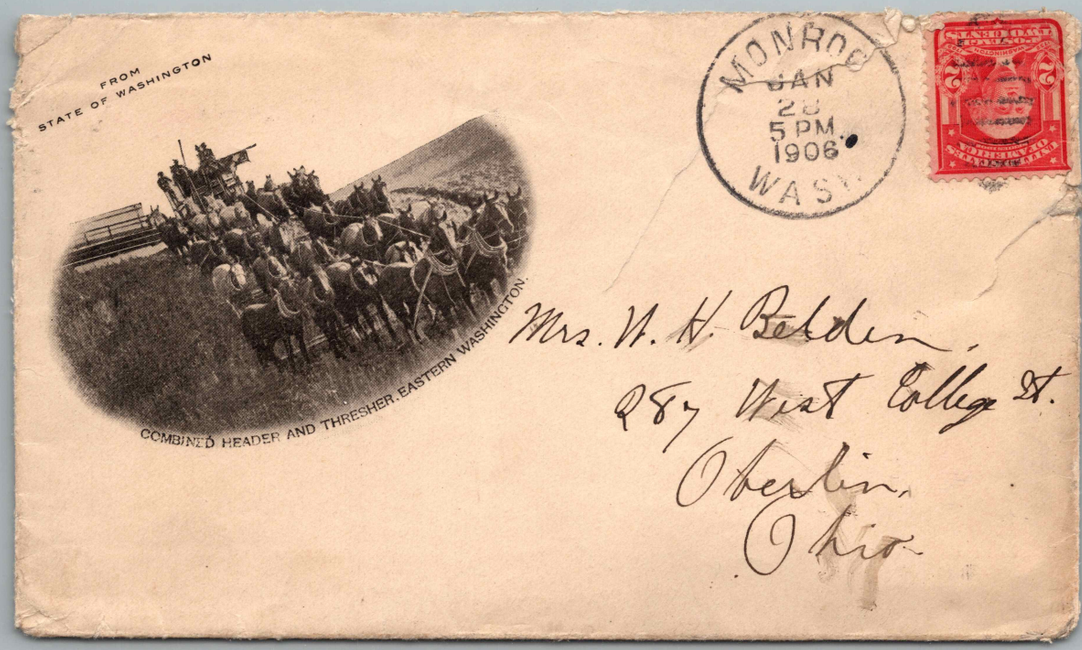
FROM
STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMBINED HEADER AND THRESHER, EASTERN WASHINGTON.
MONROE
JAN
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5 PM
1906
WASH
Mrs. N. H. Belden,
287 West College St.
Oberlin,
Ohio

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