

Chinook Alta  
Sept. 22, 1912.

Dear Momma :-

Your birthday letter received on the exact day and Mary's two days before. Thank you for the good wishes. I appreciate them just as much as the check you were unable to send.

As to our money affairs. Our pre-emption extensions are still unsettled and are going through a good deal of red tape. I have to send off another letter to the government tomorrow with affidavits duly witnessed etc. The more red tape the better for us of course as it lengthens the day time till the day of reckoning.

I didn't sell Daisy as Mrs. Melville didn't have the money but she wants to buy Daisy later but I doubt if she will have the money as her husband is embarking on the hardware retail business in cereal and will probably be quite a ways in debt at the start. He will have pretty strong competition too I'm afraid. Ed Stuart offered to trade me a good work horse for Daisy and \$25 to boot and said I wouldn't need to be in any hurry about paying the "boot". This is a good horse weighing a half more than Daisy but is twelve years old. It would be a good trade but I don't think I'll take it as I don't really wish to sell except for cash and a high price at that.

... | over | ...

We have about \$20 now in the ex chequer and still owe Shabiro \$8.40 for harvesting our grain. (He has paid him \$35.) Our dismal day comes November 1 when we have our hail insurance note <sup>\$28.80</sup> and money note \$2.00 to meet. I think Selden will start at photography again though I can ill spare him. Our crop is all cut and while not very good except one piece of oats which should yield about 100 bushels to the acre, ~~we~~ we have enough ~~oats~~ for this coming year's feed and about \$350 to \$400 worth of grain perhaps if we could get it threshed. Of course the threshing bill will be quite a sum and we must have some granaries built etc but the great question is whether we will be able to get threshed. There are no big farmers near us to draw the threshing machines so we will have to get threshed when we can, say after snow flies or next spring.

The train sometimes keeps us awake at night now with its tooting. We can see the smoke or train for twenty miles or more each direction.

There is a little activity in town now - three (gran) elevators are in the air but not on the ground, several lumber yards are starting, a livery is in operation and a couple of stores and on

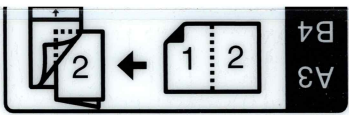
We will also have 200 bushels of potatoes.

implement dealer or so. If all these things  
are so now they will be soon. The railroad  
is prospecting for a water tank and a gravel  
pit.

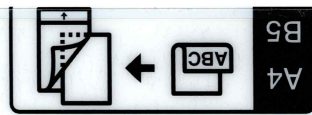
At Selden's request we have divided up our horses,  
I have Daisy, Lis & Bobe and Ting and Dolly, Babe's baby.  
Dolly is ~~Bobe~~ apparently the poorest colt this year  
and has had quite a little sickness and now has  
goiter on her neck and is maybe blind in one  
eye due to running into a post. Selden has Peter,  
Mary, Nellie, Dotty & Kitty. Kitty & Dotty are both  
fine colts, Kitty is as big as any colt around, is in fact  
as big as a registered ~~Ellydabolt~~ of Dave Stewart  
a month younger.

Must close. Hard freezes every  
night now but maybe it will warm  
up soon. Our first hard frost came  
September 15<sup>th</sup> and only one before that  
was August 30 which did not hurt tomato  
vines.

Willie  
We ate our old rooster for my birthday. We have  
about nineteen young chickens of which seven are  
roosters. We are going to trade roosters with a  
neighbor. Some of our roosters crow a little.



FRONT



*[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged paper]*

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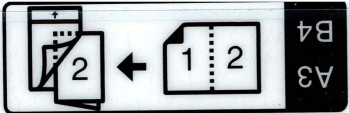
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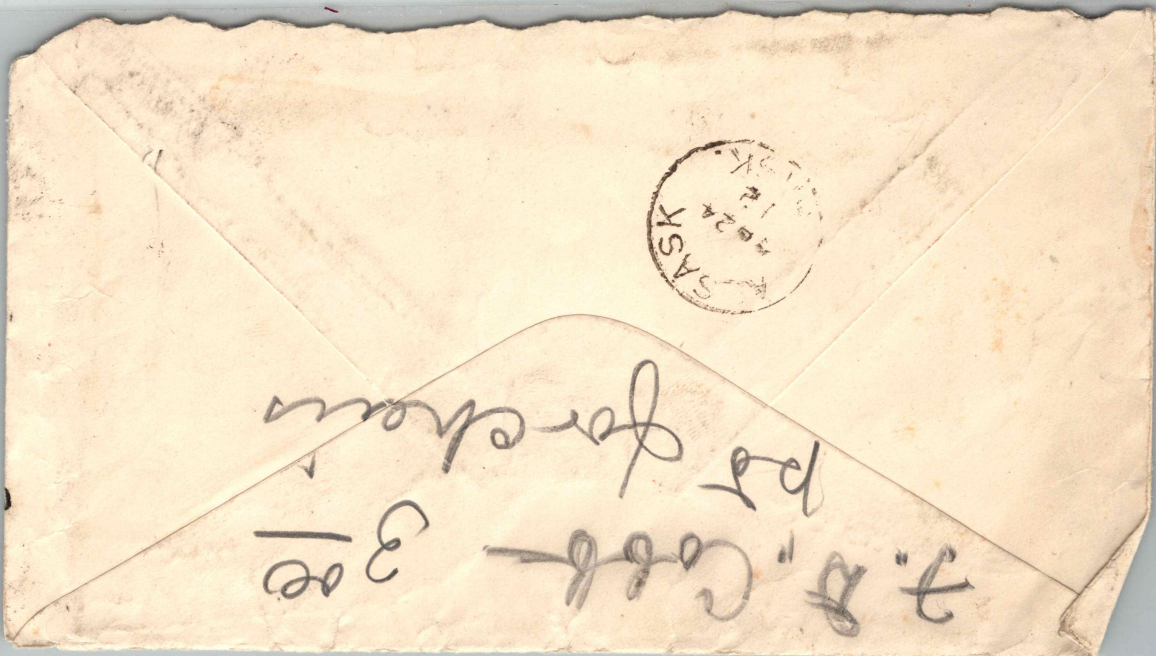
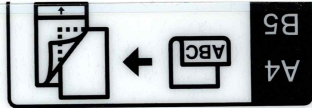
CHINA  
SM  
ALY



Mrs. W. H. Belden  
289 West College St.  
Oxford Ohio.



FRONT



J. B. Cobb  
300  
pt for check

