



Mrs. A. H. Belden,  
Bridgeton,  
New Jersey.



Muscatinie Iowa

Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 1889

Dear Mrs Belden

Thank you  
very much for your Christmas  
greetings which I received the  
day after New Year, and should  
have acknowledged before but  
was called away from home.

The second of Jan, being  
the anniversary of Mamma's  
marriage we had a small  
dinner party. They had been  
married 28 years. The day here  
was a beautiful one, warm  
and sunshiny. So warm  
that we had the door open

out doors, of course there was a little fire in the stove but not much.

Today has been rainy and the whole winter has seemed much more like spring than any other part of the year.

Our sleigh has not been out on the road. Last week we had some snow but it blew off the roads and left bare ground or else filled ~~the~~ them so full that we are obliged to travel in fields.

For three weeks before Christmas there were meetings in our church. About 25 will join the church I believe.

We have a very able pastor, who is well liked by all.

He is ~~very~~ young, being only 24 but is well educated

and has traveled quite a little.

The boys and young men of this vicinity who are rather a "wild set" have a great deal of confidence in him. Six of them were converted during his meeting. Of the young ladies I will not speak, for Mr. Streckengast is not married.

How well I would like to visit you, you can scarcely imagine. But if I had plenty of means to travel I could not come just at present. Papa's health is quite poorly and he is not willing to have me away from home but very little. I am not what I used to be, "an eastern girl living in the west" but a western girl.

hear from  
you and  
Mr Belden  
I do & not like those pictures  
I much  
I prefer than  
we do.  
Ever your friend  
Minnie D. Gorsuch  
P.S. Mamma  
wishes to be  
remembered to  
you & Mr Belden.  
Papa has  
enjoyed reading  
"Among the Turks"  
very much.  
M. S. W.  
Muscalini  
Iowa.

Box 877.

I had been quite sick a short  
time before they were taken, but  
now I am looking more like  
myself.

You or Ellen did not  
speak of Millie or the "baby" as I  
still think of her. How tall  
is she? I hardly suppose I  
should know her, but I  
think I would the other  
children.

Papa does, but very  
little letter writing now, but  
we would all be glad to

Muscatawi Iowa

Dear Ellen

Have you been looking for a letter from me, while I have been looking for one from you, which I received last Sunday. It came in Tuesdays Mail but I was at my unts and did not come home till Sunday.

Your birthday present from your Aunt Ellen was very nice. I wonder if I ever told you that I got a gold watch on my last birthday, and a gold ring before that. My ring is not

plani, but chased and cut so  
it has 12 corners, I have  
never seen any just like it.

What school are you going to  
now? I suppose Mary came  
home in time for Christmas

Our class in Sunday school  
gave our teacher a Teachers  
Bible. It was a complete  
surprise to her. Our minister  
presented it to her in  
Sunday School the Sunday  
before Christmas. She gave us  
each a Christmas card.

We think a great deal of  
her, because she is a good  
teacher and then she is  
always there, if she does  
drive herself and bring two  
little children with her.

Their Papa wont go to church  
but goes hunting on Sunday.

You wanted to know about  
my pets. In the house I have  
my bird, "Beauty". How he does  
sing sometimes, and he can  
scold too, if ~~he~~ wants any  
more seed or fresh water before  
I get time to clean his cage  
in the morning. Then I have  
3 kitties but they stay out  
doors because cats dont know  
any better than to catch  
birds, but we all pet them.

When ever I am at the barn  
I pet the cows and horses.

We have some cows that  
are so gentle you can take  
hold of their horns and lead  
them around. We have one  
little white calf only two  
or three weeks old, but that  
I have not seen ~~that~~ for some

Write to  
me soon  
and tell  
me about  
you  
Christmas

time, for it is not at the farm.

I have been taking care of the chickens and having half of the money the eggs come to, for my spending money. I don't use it to buy clothes with but just to get little things with, that I want. We have about 40 hens now.

I wish you and Mary could come and see me, we would have a gay time eating apples, nuts and pop corn, for we have lots of each. I could not promise you any sleigh rides, for the snow has not come yet this winter. With love to you all, I close.  
Minnie



she is not strong. I am very well indeed, Mrs. Mearns has  
his ups & downs,  
is feeling quite  
well now, but  
can do no hard  
work. Charlie is  
still at home.  
I still wish  
to be  
remembered  
Ever your  
humble  
friend,  
B. Chivers

Thank God for our  
other letter  
I.D.

Muscataine Iowa  
Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> 1889

My dear Mr. & Mrs. Belden,

My  
conscience has been accusing  
me for a long time for not  
writing to you, acknowledging the  
receipt of yours, concerning your  
revel and also the one contain-  
ing the birth of your little boy,  
hope and trust that both mother  
& child are still doing well, the  
boy growing nicely!

I could rejoice with you that  
so many among the youth were gather-  
ed in the ranks. Do not think I  
ever told you that Mainie came  
out more decided two years ago than  
she ever had before, and united  
with the M. E. Church with, <sup>which</sup> we

had  
connected ourselves, and still  
worship. We have enjoyed our  
church privileges much better the  
past year than at any other time  
since we came here, our pastor  
was transferred to another confer-  
ence so left us in the middle  
of the year, a young man not  
through with his studies being  
sent us in his place. This was  
a year ago last May; he succeeded  
so well in gathering in a good  
congregation, filling our almost  
empty church, that a paper was  
sent to Conference (which meets  
here in Sept.) asking that he  
might be returned, which  
was done; we enjoyed quite a  
revival last winter which  
gathered in many of the young,  
a number of heads of families,  
and what I thought worthy of note,

all but one who joined on probation  
held fast their profession, and  
were taken in as full members.

Then we observed Easter Sabbath,  
Children's day &c, church being  
beautifully decorated for a country  
one, with pictures, evergreens,  
flowers &c. appropriate exercises,  
conducted by the Sabbath School  
under the supervision of the  
pastor and Superintendent.

This was a new thing in this  
community, and it all has tended  
to put new life in the church,  
and last winter S. School was held  
all winter, with good attendance  
which was never done before.

Next week Conference meets  
again, and we are trembling for  
fear some change will be made  
as this one I have spoken of, who  
is with us, is not through his

studies. Has married since being here with us. Since he has been here have realized more than ever that a live pastor will make a live church and vice versa. We are not Methodists enough yet to give up our dear "Old Evangelist" it is the one link that I dislike so much to sever. Saw by that you were at Clifton Springs again this summer, trust your family are all well, will I <sup>ever</sup> see your faces again, and those children, our paths in life are so different, I often think we will never meet, but we often think and talk of you, and of the past when you were with us, and Missie often talks of her year with you. I would like to see her looking as well as when she came home from you, but