

## LETTERS OF A PROSELYTE

### THE HASCALL-POMEROY CORRESPONDENCE

#### INTRODUCTION

**I**N THE middle of the nineteenth century America was moving west. It was commonplace for individuals and families to uproot, to leave home, to leave the near and dear and familiar, with confidence that a new and better life could be found. Little people were caught up in the surge of movement—economic, political, and purely personal motives propelled them. If some of these same people were swept along by a religious appeal, they were doubly driven.

Here in the letters of Irene Hascall Pomeroy and her mother, Ursulia B. Hascall,<sup>1</sup> is recorded in miniature a large sweep of American history. The letters are full of the dreams, faith, and hopes of the writers; yet, they are universal in that they express the dreams and yearnings of countless others. Though universal in appeal, the letters are intensely personal and reveal that their newly-found faith, Mormonism, formed the warp and woof of the lives of Irene and Ursulia.

The years during which these letters were written, 1845 through 1854, were for the Mormon Church critical years of decision. The Prophet and his brother Hyrum were dead! The Church, temporarily leaderless, was threatened with destruction from within and without. Pillaging, burning, and desecrations forced the Mormons to abandon their city of Nauvoo before they were ready. Under the leadership of Brigham Young the exodus took place, and the great trek across

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[The original Hascall-Pomeroy letters are in the possession of Mr. C. Corwith Wagner of St. Louis, Missouri. He graciously permitted copies to be made for publication by this Society. Many other items of great historical significance have been obtained through the generosity of Mr. Wagner.

Albert E. Smith, a great-grandson of Ashbel and Ursulia B. Hascall and a grandson of Thales Hascall, cooperated extensively in the preparation of these letters for publication. Mr. Smith was county agricultural agent in Utah for many years, and is now professor emeritus of Utah State Agricultural College.—Ed. note]

<sup>1</sup>The name of Hascal, Hascall, Hascaul, Hascol, Hascole, Hascoll, Haskal, Haskall, Haskil, Haskill, Haskol, Haskoli, Haskul, Haskull, Haschal, Haschall, Haskel, Haskell, Heskil, Heskil, Huskill, and spelled in various other ways, is more universally and presently characterized by the form "Haskell." See Lake B. Noyes, *The Ancestral History of the Pioneers of Deer Isle and Their Descendants* (n.p., n.d.).

the plains was accomplished. Although the Saints reached their haven, the first few years were precarious ones. Much unrelenting toil, faith and courage were required in order to bring stability and security to the new "Zion."

With her pen Irene captures the emotional climate in Nauvoo as the Saints feverishly endeavor to finish building their temple, but she also records the minutia of daily life. In addition, many people prominent in the affairs of the Church, then and later, are introduced. Ursulia's letters written from the "Camp of Israel" to family members in Massachusetts depict the misery and suffering of many, but still reflect the courage and fortitude of the people as a whole. The trip across the plains and, finally, life in the Valley of the Great Salt Lake is vividly portrayed by both Irene and her mother.

Irene, a bride of a few months, and her husband, Francis M. Pomeroy, left North New Salem, Massachusetts, for Nauvoo early in May, 1845. They traveled by way of Hartford, Connecticut, down the river, across Long Island Sound to New York; to Philadelphia; then by rail and canal boat to Pittsburg; on down the Ohio to St. Louis; and up the Mississippi to Nauvoo, arriving there late in the same month. On March 12, 1846, nearly a year after Irene's departure, Ursulia B. and her twelve-year-old son Thales<sup>2</sup> followed. They went by boat from Boston to New Orleans, and up the Mississippi River to Nauvoo where they joined Irene. The husband and father, Ashbel Green Hascall, went with Samuel Brannan and his party on the ship *Brooklyn* which sailed for San Francisco on February 4, 1846. His family never saw him again, however, for he died before reaching Great Salt Lake City.

Irene was a daughter of Ashbel Green Hascall and Ursulia B. Hastings of North New Salem, Massachusetts. The English ancestors of the Hascalls came to America in 1649, and Benjamin Hascall, Irene's ancestor, fought in the battle of Bunker Hill. Ashbel was the owner of a large tract of farm and timberland from which he secured an income as a millwright.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Thales H. Haskell later became a prominent scout and missionary to the Indians. He pioneered southern and southeastern Utah, northern Arizona, and southern Colorado. See "Journal of Thales Haskell," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, XII (January-April, 1944), 69-98.

<sup>3</sup>Noyes, *op. cit.*, 5; Thales Hastings Haskell, "Autobiography" (for the years 1834-1909), MS, 2. Typescript copy in the possession of A. E. Smith, Salt Lake City, Utah.

As a result of L.D.S. Church missionary activities in and near New Salem, many converts were made, among them the following families to which these letters refer: the Hascalls, including Irene and her mother; the Ponds; the Farris; the Woodburys; and the Aikins. One special friend of Irene's, Emeline B. Woodward, was baptized a member of the Church on the same day as were Irene and her mother, March 1, 1842. Emeline later became the wife of Daniel H. Wells, and was a noted writer and leader among Utah women.<sup>4</sup> Colonel Wilson Andrews,<sup>5</sup> to whom many of these letters are addressed, was Ursulia's brother-in-law; he was married to Samantha Hastings, her sister. Irene, therefore, is the cousin of his children, Ophelia, Waldo, and Phoebe, who are mentioned. Another cousin, Caty, or Catherine R. Hascall, was the wife of Thomas H. Woodbury who is the son of Jerimiah Woodbury.<sup>6</sup> While she was in Nauvoo, Irene had an apartment in the home of Stillman Pond.<sup>7</sup> Since Jerimiah also had a son, Stillman, this may be confusing to the reader.

In the summer of 1844, Irene met and married Francis Pomeroy. His conversion and their marriage is described as follows:

A church conference was held at Petersboro, New Hampshire, on July 12, 13, and 14, which he [Francis] attended, and after hearing Brigham Young, Orson Pratt, and the local elders speak, he was fully converted and asked Brigham Young to baptize him. Before the three-day conference had concluded, he had seen Brigham Young again—and this time Elder Young had performed the marriage ceremony for Francis Martin and Irene Ursulia Pomeroy. It was during this conference that the news of the martyrdom of the Prophet and Patriarch at Carthage, Illinois, reached Elders Brigham Young and Orson Pratt.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup>*New Salem, Franklin County Massachusetts, Vital Records of New Salem to the End of the Year 1849* (New Salem, The Essex Institute, 1927), 127; Augusta Joyce Crocheron, *Representative Women of Deseret* (Salt Lake City, 1884), 62-71; and Andrew Jenson, *Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia* (4 vols., Salt Lake City, 1901-36), II, 731-34.

<sup>5</sup>*Vital Records of New Salem*, 54.

<sup>6</sup>Frank Eshom, *Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah* (Salt Lake City, 1913), 1259.

<sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*, 1107.

<sup>8</sup>Frank Pomeroy, "Genealogy of the Pomeroy Family," *Improvement Era*, LV, (February, 1952), 124-25.

The Pomeroy were of French and English origin. Early emigrants from this family came to America in the seventeenth century and settled along the seacoasts of Massachusetts and Connecticut.<sup>9</sup> Some members of the family later became seamen, and Francis was one of them. He sailed for seven years and eventually became first mate on a whaling vessel.<sup>10</sup> While on one of his voyages, he was shipwrecked off the coast of Peru. After being rescued by Peruvian seamen, he remained for two years in Peru before finding passage to the United States. During that time he learned to speak the Spanish language, which proved useful in dealing with Spanish traders in Utah in later years.

Irene became the mother of eight children.<sup>11</sup> At the time of the "move south" to avoid Johnston's Army, she suffered a burned hand which did not heal, and as a result she had to have her arm amputated. The shock undermined her health, and she died at age thirty-six in 1861 at the home of her life-long friend, Emeline B. Wells. Ursula then took full charge of the children and kept the family together in Salt Lake City until Francis became well located in Paris, Idaho, where, in 1864, he had gone into partnership with Charles C. Rich in a saw- and gristmill business.<sup>12</sup> Ursula remained in Paris until the time of her death, August 5, 1875.

Francis continued in the milling business in the Bear Lake country until 1877 when he moved to Arizona with most of his family. There he became one of the original pioneers of Mesa City.<sup>13</sup> He died February 25, 1882, leaving many descendants who have become leaders and prominent men in the West.

The letters total twenty-four in number and bear dates between May, 1845 and August, 1854. They were delivered by chance travelers, L.D.S. Church messengers and by mail. Eleven are dated at Nauvoo, Illinois, two at Camp of Israel, and the other eleven at Great Salt Lake City, Utah Territory. In the interest of clarity some minor changes have been made in the use of capitals and the addition of periods. In the main, however, punctuation and spelling are

<sup>9</sup>*History and Genealogy of the Pomeroy Family*, 2 vols., Salt Lake City, 1912).

<sup>10</sup>Zula R. Cole, "Biography of Ursula Haskell," MS. 2. Typescript copy in the possession of Mrs. Zula R. Cole, Logan, Utah.

<sup>11</sup>Enshom, *op. cit.*, 1157.

<sup>12</sup>Zula R. Cole, "Sketch of the Life of Irene Haskell, Wife of Francis M. Pomeroy," MS. 3. Typescript copy in possession of Mrs. Zula R. Cole, Logan, Utah.

<sup>13</sup>James H. McClintock, *Mormon Settlement in Arizona* (Phoenix, 1921), 21.

essentially the same as in the original. The five letters here reproduced constitute the first installment. The remaining letters will appear in subsequent issues of the *Quarterly* during 1957.

## I

Addressee: Mrs. Ursulia B. Hascall  
North New Salem  
Franklin Co. Mass.

Postmarked: Pittsburgh Pa., May 14 [1845]

Philadelphia May 5th [1845]

Mother I suppose by this time you [would] like to know how we prosper. We are now in P., waiting for cars. We arrived at New York from Hartford 4 o'clock friday morning on Steamer Globe a very pretty boat; we had a beautiful time on the water it was quite calm; Wm & his wife thought I would be seasick crossing L. I. sound but I was not in the least, I liked it very much.

When we arrived at N. Y. we went to the Prophet Office<sup>14</sup> saw Elder Brannan and wife but did not see Parley Pratt (we might have started immediately for Philadelphia but if we did we could not have time to go to the Office at all we chose rather to remain untill next morning. We went to a Hotel on Washington St. It was a beautiful day. We walked around the city untill [space cut out] saw very many curiosities, went [letter cut] Office received considerable instru [letter cut] that stays at New Y. in place of B [rannan?] while B. remains at Singing.<sup>15</sup> He gave us several books to distribute and one to send you. He pasted the wrapper on for me (I mailed it at N. York). Purchased five boxes of pills for one dollar. He thought a few potions would be sufficient to place my blood in a healthful condition. He said I was billious but nothing seated. We visited

<sup>14</sup>The *Prophet* was a weekly periodical published in the interests of the Church in New York City from May 15, 1844 to May 24, 1845. It was succeeded by the *New York Messenger* which ran for twenty numbers, the last issue appearing November 15, 1845. Parley P. Pratt and Samuel Brannan were editors of both papers at various times. Andrew Jenson, *Encyclopedic History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints* (Salt Lake City, 1942), 579; 681.

<sup>15</sup>"Branches of the Church were formed during 1838 at Singing, in New Jersey, at Brooklyn and at other places in Long Island." Parley P. Pratt, *The Autobiography of Parley Parker Pratt* (New York, 1874), 155.

Bowling Green, Castle Garden, Croten &c.<sup>16</sup> Saturday morning we came here where we remained over Sabbath. We stopped at one of the City Hotels. Here I learned some City fashions, eating eggs in a wine glass and the like but did not practice. Perhaps you would like to know what we had to eat; for dinner we had Roast Beef Roast Lamb Boiled Fowl Boiled Ham Shad Greens several kinds of desserts Cranberry Pie Custard Pudding &c. Saturday afternoon we went around the City, I will tell Thales<sup>17</sup> some things I saw. I saw a little dog not so big as Frolic with but two legs. Never had any fore legs could not walk at all, Saw a sheep with five legs a rooster with three a chicken with four legs & four wings, a bear a Turkey buzzard Turtle dove Rattle snake white mouse Alligator Monkeys Bald Eagles &c. &c. Sunday morning after breakfast we went in pursuit of a Mormon Meeting [and] found one. Elder [Jedediah M.?] Grant Presiding had a first rate meeting. I saw but one old man and one old woman among the whole but what sung. Elder Grant preached concerning baptism for dead. He said we need not be afraid of being left without a leader while either of the twelve or one seventy left. There are now twenty five seventies most of them at Nauvoo.

Johnstown, May 10<sup>th</sup>

Saturday after we have just crossed the mountains in cars; we actually passed through one of the Allegany mountains. It was so dark I held my hand close [to] my eyes but could not see it. I presume it was the same place Mirancy went through. We are now waiting for the freight cars to unload into the boat. We came from Phila- to Columbia in cars (we sent another paper from there) from Columbia to Hollidaysburg by canal, from Hollidaysburg here by cars. We did not go in a section boat.

<sup>16</sup>Bowling Green is a triangular bit of park at the foot of Broadway in lower Manhattan. Its use as a village green and parade ground dates from early Dutch occupancy of New York. Castle Garden is a large circular building in Battery Park at the tip of Manhattan. It was built as a fort in 1807. Subsequently, it served a variety of public uses, including a landing place and temporary headquarters for immigrants. The Croton Aqueduct for many years was the main water supply for the city of New York.

<sup>17</sup>Irene's brother. See Introduction p. 54 above.

Monday afternoon May 12th

This is your birthday I believe. We are now on the canal. We expect to arrive in Pittsburg<sup>18</sup> tomorrow evening; we shall then take steamboat to St. Louis. It will probably take more than four or five days from Pittsburg.

We have had first rate journey so far. Had no accidents lost none of our baggage neither has any one stole any of it. Our journey has been much more easy and pleasant than I anticipated. I am no more tired than when I left home. I live as easy as I please; while on canal we board ourselves. We can have almost any thing we wish to eat; we buy considerable milk; where we are now eggs are four cents a dozen & thirteen for a dozen; we see very beautiful land and flowers you know not how good land looks; it is very beautiful. Grain is headed and I have seen some grass mown.

Love to Father, Thales & Grandmother<sup>19</sup>

We received a card from Elder B. as the prophet mentioned placed ourselves in care of Harnden & Co., paid our fare to Pittsburg which was nine dollars apiece without baggage; our baggage weighed five hundred and fifty. We are going through another mountain. We have got through. I stood on deck while we were going through. The water from a well above dropped on me. Give love to all the girls, to Uncle Sam's family, Uncle Wilsons, Uncle Bens, Uncle Jacob's Mrs. Clarks, Mrs. Russels, Wm & Clarissa and finally every one.<sup>20</sup> We have not been obliged to [be] in doors but about fifteen minutes on account we have had two little showers. We have had an excellent journey so far. Tell Father no one has cut open our bale yet; but we have not got there. I have oranges in abundance. I shall send this from Pittsburg. Love to Ophelia in particular.

[Irene Hascall]

<sup>18</sup>Irene and her husband, Francis, traveled from Philadelphia to Pittsburg via the "Philadelphia Portage and Canal System," which was 320 miles long. It consisted of horse drawn cars of the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad to Columbia, then canal boat to Holidaysburg where the Allegany Portage Railway began and which carried them to Pittsburg. See Ray Allen Billington, *Westward Expansion* (New York, 1949), 336.

<sup>19</sup>Ashbel Green Haskell, father of Irene; Thales Hastings Haskell, brother of Irene; Phoebe Page Hastings, mother of Ursulia Haskell.

<sup>20</sup>Thales Haskell lists his father's brothers and sisters as: Rebecca, Samuel, Johnathan [died early], Catherine, Jonathan, Sally, Benjamin, and Jacob. Thales Haskell, "Autobiography," MS, I.

## II

Addressee: Mr. Ashbel G. Hascall  
 North New Salem  
 Franklin Co., Mass.

Postmarked: Nauvoo Ill., June 4 [1845]

Monday June 2d [1845]

Dear Parents I have been in the great and beautiful city of Nauvoo one week. I arrived saturday night at one o'clock. I did not go to see Roselle<sup>21</sup> but husband did. We found a company of Mormons on their [way] to Nauvoo (eight in the company). As there would not be a safe place to leave our things at Alton, It was twenty miles into the country where Roselle lived so we could not take them with us; and we all thought it best for me to keep on with the company; we had a very pleasant time and did not lose any of our things neither did any one steal them. We had an excellent journey not one stormy day on the road. Husband arrived Tuesday evening. He saw Roselle and one of his aunts but did not see Frank.<sup>22</sup> They have not heard from him, think perhaps he has concluded not to go. I think perhaps we will make R— a visit before winter. She wanted very much we should.

I cannot wait any longer before I tell you what a beautiful place Nauvoo is. I was very much surprised to see such a pretty city. I thought it would look like poordunk or something similar. But I cannot describe the beauty of it on paper. I presume every one would not think it so pretty but it is the prettiest place I ever saw for a large place; as far as we can see either way are buildings not in blocks like other cities but all a short distance from each other. The ground between them is all cultivated it looks like a perfect garden.

We have commenced housekeeping. We have part of Br. Ponds house. It is quite convenient. We have a very pretty room with three windows, front entry and outside door and backdoor, a cupboard, closet and fireplace. It is quite a pretty house but not all finished. Made of bricks, four windows in front below and four half ones above. It is situated on Munson street<sup>23</sup> in one of

<sup>21</sup>Roselle Pomeroy, sister of Francis.

<sup>22</sup>Frank Pomeroy, brother of Francis.

<sup>23</sup>See map of Nauvoo in B. H. Roberts, *Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (6 vols., Salt Lake City, 1930), II, 200.



the pleasantest parts of the city not much more than one fourth mile from the river. We can see the boats as they pass. Tell Grandmother I can stand in the front door and count 40 quite large trees and more than 50 about as large as the maple trees in the garden and at the back door they are so near together I cannot count them, besides woods on the other side of the river as far as we can see there are woods also out back of the city.

I have been to view the Temple. It is a splended building. The top stone was laid with Praises and Hosannas the morning before I arrived and that day they rested from their labors. The roof is partly on. It never went on so fast before. Half has been built since Joseph was killed. It was not expected the stones would all be laid until fall. They are now encouraged and think they will be able to have meetings and commence endowment before snow falls. More than three hundred are at work on it and the rest help by paying their tything &c. The Nauvoo house goes on too the dom [dome?] [is] omitted until the temple is finished.<sup>24</sup> I have been to meeting in the grove both sabbaths. Such preaching we do not have in New Salem. I delayed writing on account of the trial of the murderers at Carthage.<sup>25</sup> It is thought the murderers are at liberty; all is peace and harmony here; they say we need not fear the mobbers for they fear us much more than we do them; they send out spies and guards to see if the Mormons are not coming to mob them but they need not be alarmed; we expect the temple will have to be completed with a sword in one hand and tool in the other. The twelve are all here but Elders Pratt and Woodruff and six of them near us, in the same neighborhood. I have seen all that I am acquainted with; went and stayed with Catherine two nights she is quite happy and is well. I had a first rate visit, Tuesday about ten o'clock. She said she "guessed" our mothers did not think we were together gathering strawberries on the prarie.

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<sup>24</sup>The cornerstone for the Nauvoo Temple was laid April 6, 1841. Under the direction of Brigham Young, the building was rushed to completion and was privately dedicated April 30, 1846, with public ceremonies taking place the following day. Endowments and other sacred ordinances took place prior to the dedication as early as December, 1845. The building was destroyed by fire in October, 1848.

<sup>25</sup>The trial of the murderers of Joseph and Hyrum Smith took place during the latter part of May at Carthage, Illinois. They were acquitted on May 30, 1845.

I told Thomas [Woodbury]<sup>26</sup> Wm wished him to write the new teachings. He said, "tell William the new teachings are if he stays there he will go to hell." Cate was very much pleased with her presents. She could wear her dress without altering except the tuck. Emeline<sup>27</sup> is well and teaching school in private family. She is quite fleshy. They appear to like her very much. Mrs Brimhall is well and doing well. Has everything [she] needs, "send[s] love." Mr Aikins family are well. Mr Aikin and Calvin have been teaching school. They live nearly a mile from here. Mr Buss family are all well, Mrs Fleming has been quite sick but is some better. Mr Buss makes chairs and is doing well I believe; we have bought some of him. The rest of your acquaintance are all well excepting Sister Pond, has not been very well since her child died. Wm Smiths wife is dead. Elder Farr is married and is one of our nearest neighbors.

I suppose you would like to know how I look keeping house, well I look pretty slick excepting the floor. It has rained a little and it is covered with tracks of black mud. Clarrissa will know how. We think we will not have a stove [?] till cooler weather. It is very warm today. We have bought a real pretty baker. Emeline let me have her table. She said she rather I would have it than not. We have things convenient to cook with. There is a cellar kitchen with a stone fireplace well and oven in it where I can wash and bake if I wish. We have a supply of provision for the present so I think there is no danger of starving. Flour is 3.75 per barrel butter 8 to 10 [cents] lb, eggs 4 to 5 cents a dozen, sugar 10, molasses 40 cents per gallon, pork 5 cents per lb, milk 2 or 3 cts per qt, corn 37½, potatoes 25 and dry goods as cheap as in New Salem. I suppose they will say, Yes all cheap but where do they get any thing to buy with.

Any one that will work can have things to eat drink and wear. F. has not engaged any work yet. He and Br Pond are going

<sup>26</sup>The "Record of Marriages" in *Vital Records of New Salem*, p. 127, for May 8, 1842 shows: Woodbury, Joseph J., "Elder" and Mary Ann Lindsay of Petersham; Thomas II., "Elder" and Catherine B. Haskell; William H., "Elder" and Clarissa H. Browning.

<sup>27</sup>Haskell, "Autobiography," 2, "My only sister Irene, eight years older than I, and myself, were sent to the village school until I was ten years old. Sister Emeline B. Wells was a chum of my sister Irene and attended the same school with us at that time. Braiding palm leaf hats was our spare time occupation and I was saving all the money earned to buy me a pony."

up the river tomorrow after a raft of timber wood &c. He will probably work on the temple considerably. You need not worry at all about us. We shall get along first rate if well we are both well yet. The times are much better here than I expected. Hats sell well here now. All the merchants agreed not to bring any from St. Louis and all the people wish are braided here from 37 to 50 number 4 others in proportion.

I have scarcely room enough left for love respects and compliments. Give them to all and tell them I am contented and happy and do not wish to return. No I would not live in New Salem for the whole town unless I could have a band of Mormons with me and hardly then. Mother if it is a possible thing you must come. Love & Affections

Irene

Tell Father to come to and Grandmother I am not Homesick. Francis sends love. Give my love to all that wish it. Br Pond and Girls send love. They are building a wall 14 feet high I believe enclosing 7 or 8 acres but does not take in the city buildings. They are building an arsenal also. Within the wall will be all kinds of flowers and trees. Tell Thales to take good care of Billy Ora and the chickens. As soon as convenient you must write. They did not cut open our great bale. I did not break my looking glass. 2 of those small plates and 4 saucers were broken and one of those little glass plates all rest safe, Love to all

### III

Addressee: Mr. Ashbel G. Hascall  
North New Salem  
Franklin Co. Mass.

Postmarked: Nauvoo Ills. July 13 [1845]

Sunday evening July 6 [1845]

Dear Parents I think you would like to hear from us again by this time; at any rate we should from you. The fourth of July is just past. I suppose there were balls, tea parties and the like in the east, but here there were nothing of the kind. The Mormons think the liberty and independence of the United States has been too long trampled upon to be celebrated; about two hundred and fifty

little boys were out dressed in uniform. They train every week. They look very beautiful.

July 12th Saturday

I am well and enjoy myself. I am truly happy. It seems if you were here it would be almost heaven on earth. I think I am as well as when at the east. I have not had even a bad cold since I left home, but with F. it does not agree as well to be in this climate. He went the river for a raft of timber and wood and was exposed by working in the water and soon after he returned he was attacked with billious fever but Brandreth's pills and emetic onions with the elders soon restored him. He has not yet regained his former strength but works some cutting up his raft &c. He thinks it would be quite good business to raft timber. He has worked on the temple some. It is very excessively warm at present. Nearly all that work out of doors are obliged to stop work in the middle of the day; the thermometer stands between ninety and one hundred in shade and one hundred forty five in sun. The corn is so high we can [look] out upon the city and see the tops of the houses. For curiosity I will go and measure a stalk—it measures eleven feet and a half. I presume I could find one twelve feet. Sister Pond has just brought an ear and laid [it] beside my letter it is as long as this sheet and large enough to roast or boil. We have had green corn hear several days green peas shell beans new potatoes &c. For my supper I am going to have some blackberries and milk. I have had as many as I could eat today. They bring them into the city to sell from the prairie, I "guess" you would like to know if I have as many little messes as I did at home. I do, I have butter sugar lard eggs molasses raisins &c. We have a quart of milk every day of Edithia Anderson. We talk of having a cow of our own. F. has gone now on the prairie to see about one and to get six hens of brother Woodbury. Catherine is well and the rest of them well except Stillman. He is about the same as he has been. Sister Brimhall has just call to see me. She sends love and says let nothing hinder you from coming to Zion. Brother Buss family are well. Elder Aikins and all with whom you were acquainted. I have seen none of Elder Harris family. Emeline is in tolerable health. She received a letter from Pallas and Lucy a short time since. The temple grows very fast. Elder Hyde has gone to purchase canvass for the outer court or tabernacle [to] spread in front of the temple for meetings. They

expect to commence giving endowments in a few weeks.<sup>25</sup> The steeple of the temple is some distance above the roof. We hear the laborers sing and shout as they raise the timbers. Our meeting ground is now in a grove opposite the temple church. Hundreds of people I never saw before as attend meeting. How limited is your knowledge of the doctrine of Christ. If you could here the preaching from the stand you would think all you did know was sectarianism. I am in a very great hurry because the mail goes out tomorrow, Samuel Aikin was baptized this week.

Love to all to every one. Tell Thales to come out here and join the trainers. Tell him to write to me a letter and you write too if you have not. I have not received even a paper. Write all the news. I shall write to Ophelia next in a few weeks.

Love Love Irene

I will write to you often. Prepare to come. I would like to have Grandmother eat supper with me.

#### IV

Addressee: Mrs. Ursulia B. Hascall  
North New Salem  
Franklin Co. Mass.

Postmarked: Nauvoo Ills. July 30 [1845]

Saturday July 26 [1845]

Dearest Mother I have received a letter from you today; with what joy did I receive it. I went out among the corn it was so high it seemed like going into a grove. I have not cried so much about home since I left Mr Smiths Big Waggon, but I did not weep because I wished to return (far from me); it was because you were not here. I think if you were here we would have a little heaven below. You asked me if you and Thales were to come alone what you would find for employment. You need not think about that if you can only get here. If you have not one cent you will be provided for. Husband thinks he can take care of us all, if he is well and I think so *too*. Provisions you know are much cheaper here than at the east. The crops are expected to yield abundantly

<sup>25</sup>See note 24 above.

and groceries about the same. I think you could find something to do. You can make men's straw hats. They sell for a dollar apiece cash. Straw is very plenty and you can braid as well as the best and sew them too. I believe Thales may take care of my Cow and Hens go to school (tell him the scholars have one playday every week) and have a real trainers cap (not an old hat with a feather in it) and some white pants trimmed with red. you must come Mother. It will be perfectly right if you come and leave everything that you cannot get to come with you and every body. We have had our patriarchal blessings and mine says I will be the means (if faithful) of having all my living and dead friends in the first resurrection, so if you have to leave Father and Grandmother there is a way they can be saved in the first resurrection. Every one has to be tried and make a sacrifice like faithful Abraham when he offered his son Isaac. If we give up to the Lord and do like him we shall be blessed as he was. I think this must be yours. You need not worry about father we will have him saved. Tell him he will be much safer as to the Indian's if he is with the Mormons than he will [be] there for great judgments are coming on the gentile world and those who wish to escape must flee and they have already commenced fires mobs destruction of crops, rumors of war. Sister Pond says tell him there is no people so friendly to the Mormons as the Indians.

It says in the bible there will be safety in Zion and Jerusalem and in the remnant which the Lord our God shall call which is the Indians.<sup>29</sup> I have written so much and have written nothing but about you coming to Zion. It is what occupies my thoughts most and all I have to trouble me, but I think there will be a way for you to come by spring. Make preparations to come early on account of low water. You can come much cheaper if you come in high water. I presume there will be some one coming that you can come with. If there is not you can come alone. Husband can meet you or some way. Get ready and some way can be contrived. You need not buy anything that you have to pay money for; you can get them just as cheap here. Money is better than anything else to bring. Don't try to bring any furniture except a bed and clothing. You can bring your crockery or not just as you wish. Tell Father

<sup>29</sup>According to doctrine as recorded in the *Book of Mormon*, the American Indians are the descendants of a branch of the House of Israel, who fled under the leadership of Lehi from Jerusalem just prior to its destruction in 600 B.C.

to come with you and if he does not like he can go where he does like to stay. Well I will write about something else now I think.

#### Sunday morning

We are well contented and happy. Husband [has] nearly regained his strength. When I last wrote he had been sick with billious fever. I suppose you have received it by this time. I have not had even a bad cold since I left home. I think I shall not go to meeting today. I have been every sabbath when there was a meeting. It has rained one or two sabbaths so we could not meet in the grove. The Temple progresses finely the roof is nearly shingled the frame work of [the] steeple is nearly as high from the roof up as the body of the Temple. They expect to commence the endowment this fall. Concerning the dedication I do not know when or how it will be. The Saints never were prospered as they are at present. The city looks like a garden almost. Things grow so beautifully and every lot is cultivated. Yesterday I had some peas corn squashes new potatoes. Edithia Anderson sent me the peas and corn. We had cucumbers and squashes more than a week ago that we planted after we came here. Tell Thales I have six hens one which looks very much like his and I call it Thale's Pullet. We expect to have a cow tomorrow or next day. He must write me letter and send by those that are coming if he has time before they start and you too and all that will. Sister Pond says tell William and Joseph to bring "lots" of leaf and she will braid hats this winter to pay. We think there will be a market for them in St. Louis next season.

Tell Grandmother if she was here she could [eat] as many blackberries as she wished. Francis went the other day and picked our water pail full and some more. Catherine was out and made me a visit Friday with Thomas Stillman and her little girl. She is tolerably well. The people are all well with whom you are acquainted I believe. Stillman Woodbury is not well yet he has a lame side. Emeline is well. Elder Harris family have had a letter from James. He had shipped for three years. Mother Pomeroy did not feel very bad she said Francis always had come back and she thought he would now.

I will send you a neighbor<sup>30</sup> with this; the times and seasons<sup>31</sup> have not been printed they are behind on account of paper or some such reason. I braided a number four double brim for a shoe maker and he made me a beautiful pair of Kid shoes. Francis I expect will go out on the prairie to work this week. We live very comfortably and if he is well we shall get along first rate. You must write when you can. Send me some papers. I would like first rate to read a Greenfield paper. Send a Prophet or Messenger<sup>32</sup> I suppose it is now. We do not take them. I shall write as often as I have any news. I would like to take a peep at Mirancy (Tell Ophelia I have commenced a letter for her.

We wish to be with the twelve you know but we are at liberty to stay if we please. Joseph preached just before he died that this city would be head quarters, but there is a time when the Saints will enter the secret Chambers for the scourges and judgements to pass through and purify even this city but when I do not know. Love to all. We send love to you all in particular.

[No signature but in the handwriting of Irene]

V

Addressee: Miss Ophelia M. Andrews  
North New Salem  
Franklin Co. Mass.

Postmarked: Nauvoo Ills. Sept 21 [1845]

[July 4, 1845]

Beloved Cousin It is independence day.<sup>33</sup> We celebrated that day in the east but we think now the independence of the United States is too near gone to raise the flag of liberty, if not of the whole community, of the mormon people. If we could be in each others society today I think we would enjoy independence in the superlative degree. If we were at New Salem I think we would ramble through the woods and over the hills and dales of some of

<sup>30</sup>The *Nauvoo Neighbor* was a weekly paper published from May 3, 1843 until the exodus of the Mormons from Nauvoo early in 1846. John Taylor was editor.

<sup>31</sup>The *Times and Seasons* was published monthly and semi-monthly from November, 1839 to February, 1846. It was the organ of the Church and ran through 131 numbers or six volumes.

<sup>32</sup>See note 14 above.

<sup>33</sup>In the preceding letter, dated July 26, 1845, Irene states that she had commenced a letter to Ophelia. This is perhaps the one started on July 4.



the rocky pastures; or perhaps we might open our *Commonplace Book* or write a piece of poetry or composition. What fine times! All this is passed; perhaps forever.

If you would step into Nauvoo, enter at the lower landing, pass up Main St then Munson St until you came to a one story and half brick house very pleasantly situated between two others of similar description. Step into the front entry open the door on the right (without knocking) there you would see Irene; it is not yet three months since we parted but it seems a long long while. I am very happy and contented but have not forgotten old friends. Well after we had talked over things which have transpired since our separation we would "take a walk." Where would we go; to view the great and beautiful temple. O now I think! We would go down to the beautiful Mississippi and take a pleasure ride; we think some of going this afternoon. Will you join us? If not otherwise engaged, I think you would gladly.

Sabbath morning Sep, 21st I think you must excuse me this once for delaying so long this letter as I never did before. I never before commenced a letter without finishing it immediately. I would think tomorrow perhaps there will be a better opportunity. It is, has been so very warm it was as much as a Yankee would like to do to keep from "roasting." I have been engaged in domestic affairs this morning; but thought I must omit some things until I could finish this letter as the mail goes out this afternoon. I have delayed sending it of late on account of the persecution which has been raging against the "Mormons" in the neighboring villages.<sup>24</sup> I presume you have seen the accounts in the daily papers. I believe in most instances their lives have been spared but they have burned their houses their barns filled with grain and drove those out that were sick and not able to get out without help exposed to the hot sun. Such cruelty! The mob said they were going to drive every Mormon from the state. They could [not] raise force enough to attack the City so they took the adjoining towns. One hundred and twenty teams were sent from here to Lima<sup>25</sup> to rescue the

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<sup>24</sup>Anti-Mormon violence was resumed in September, 1845, which led to the exodus of the Saints from Nauvoo early in 1846. For an explanation of these events 110 years later, see Claire Noall, "The Plains of Warsaw," pp. 47-51 this journal.

<sup>25</sup>The Morley Settlement where much of the anti-Mormon activity took place was located in Lima Township, Adams County, and about 25 miles south of Nauvoo.

people and bring them with their goods and grain to Nauvoo from the hands of such a band of ruthless Mobbers. They were so enraged at the Sheriff<sup>26</sup> because he took measures to stop them from burning and destroying that he was obliged to come to Nauvoo procure one or two hundred armed horsemen to protect himself and family to Nauvoo for safety. He has removed his family here as the only safe place; but the mobbers under force of the law have been compelled to disperse though not until several of them were killed. I think I have written as much of this as will be interesting to you.

I have been quite well and healthy ever since I have been here; husband was sick when we first came but he is now quite well. How I wish you could make me a visit, what happy times we would have. I made a visit last week to Cousin Cate's on [the] prairie. She has a fine son born 11th Sep. She calls his name John. Mr Woodbury's family all have the fever and ague or chill fever but are none of them very sick. Mr Aikin's family are well I believe generally. Mrs send love to Grandma Andrews in particular and all other friends. All the people from New Salem are generally well. Mr Ponds family all well. Abby sends love and Lizzy. Abby wishes she could see you a little while but shall [she?] has changed like all others although she is not married but still there is a little Abby left yet. I have not and will not I think at present if ever.

Emeline is well is teaching school has thirty or forty schollars [at] dollar and half per week. She is same as she used to be though not quite.

I received a letter from Mother the fourteenth. She wrote Mirancy was going back. Perhaps you will go to. I would [like] to have you take a trip up the Mississippi and make me a visit. I shall be too late for the mail if I write much longer and I want to write a line for Mother. I hope when you write me you will finish your letter the same month certain. Write all news. I hope you get along with your school pleasantly and *other matters*. Love to all. Love to you and Uncle Oliver especially.

[No signature but in the handwriting of Irene]

[Letters to be continued in the April issue]

<sup>26</sup>Jacob Backenstos, sheriff of Hancock County, obtained for himself a secure place in Mormon history by his defense of law and order in these troubled times. See Roberts, *op. cit.*, 473-83.

LETTERS OF A PROSELYTE  
THE HASCALL-POMEROY CORRESPONDENCE  
(continued from January issue)

VI

Addressee: Mrs Ursulia B. Hascall  
North New Salem  
Franklin Co. Mass

Postmarked: Nauvoo Ills. Oct. 5 [1845]

Friday 26th Sep 1845

Dearest Mother, I suppose you have just received a line from me in Ophelia's letter but you said you would like to hear every week; but I have such wonderful news! Last wednesday morning (Sep 24th) at break of day we were presented with a beautiful little girl weighing eight pounds and a quarter. It is the prettiest little babe I ever saw. (Every body thinks their own is the prettiest I can almost hear Grandmother say) but every one that see it say ("what a pretty baby"). I will send you a lock of its hair and some for Grandmother (rather Greatgrandmother) and Ophelia and tell you some how it looks. It has Irene's Cowlick and eyes but a wider forehead round face quite short features dimple cheeks small mouth double chin with a small dimple. A smile rests on its countenance. I hope we shall not think too much of it; but we look at it and say how came it to be so beautiful. I cannot describe it so you can tell how pretty it does look. I wish you could see it. I am afraid it will not always be so pretty. It has not cried at all except when it was hungry or dressed. It does nothing but nurse and sleep. It has taken nothing except one teaspoonful of cold water since it was born. I have plenty of nourishment and no trouble any way. I had forgotten to tell you how well I was but you can judge by my writing. I have had an extraordinary comfortable time. I set up yesterday two hours or more and I have set up now two or three hours. The baby appears to be perfectly well. Sister Pond says I must not write too long. I have a first rate appetite [and]

have taken no medicine of any kind nor shall not have too unless I take cold. I am very careful.

Wednesday Morning Sep 31

Our lovely babe is one week old this morning [and] is as pretty as ever and appears to be perfectly well excepting when I eat too much pumpkin pie. I made eight yesterday myself. I am now quite well. I did not lay down at all yesterday. Have been in Sister Pond's room. I have had no particular nurse but I nursed myself and that is why I am well so quick. I would not take any doses myself nor let the baby. I was very hungry, but I ate light food at first. I think I shall be able to go to conference some. It commences next Monday. We have not decided for certainty about the baby's name but think we shall call it *Eugenia Francelle* if you have no prettier one. I will kiss her for you. I wish to finish my letter this morning because the mail goes out today so I have sit down and left some things which ought to be done. Husband did most all the work and has gone on the prairie with brother Pond to cut some hay. They cut hay here until frost comes; we have had no frost here yet to kill the vines.

Francis health is quite good at present. Brother Buss is dead was buried yesterday. His disease was fever I believe. Sister Buss has not recovered [her] health since her child was born. She has been crazy but is not now. She is quite feeble. Whitney went off Streamboating and came home sick in the summer [and] has not been well since. Sister Fleming is well and is helping them. Catherine has had the chills some since her baby was born but has been out of door since. She has cured them I believe. The baby has waked now I must stop. I have dressed her and she is asleep again. Thomas has the fever and ague and [also] their little girl. The rest of Mr. Woodbury's family are better than when I wrote before. Brother Aikins family were well excepting Samuel, the last I heard. Brother Ponds family are well. Sister Brimhall is well sends best wishes. Says you be sure to come in spring. Emeline is well. Has had to leave her school that the school house might be occupied as tenements. There are three families in it I believe. The people are gathering in very fast. Abby has been assistant teacher in a school taught in the music hall but the school stopped on the same account. All is peace at present; the people of the adjoining towns wish the

Mormons to sign a treaty that if they will let them live here in peace this winter they will leave in the spring. The twelve have issued a proclamation that if they [the non-Mormons] will let them alone this winter and exchange fat cattle [and] waggons, buy the houses and land or assist in renting and do what they can to prepare us for journeying all that follow the twelve will go where they will not trouble [the] United States with Mormon religion.<sup>1</sup> The answer the people give to the proclamation is expected this week. As soon as the matter is settled and I find out more about it I shall go to contriving some way to get you here to go with us. How can I go without you! Or how can you stay behind! You must not be left if Francis has to come clear there after you; do not worry anything about it there will be some way. I suppose father would not like to travel across the rocky mountains but I should think he might like it real well for he can hunt all the way I think. Probably they will cross the rocky mountains to a healthier climate. What good time we will have journeying and pitching our tents like the Israelites. If we stay here I want you should come early in the Spring just the same for husband will have to go preaching to the nations of the earth. If they do not all go there will only [be] a colony sent, so is said. You can come if you think so. All things are possible to him that believes you know. I know you would enjoy yourself here now.

Tell Aunt Milly I am happier than I used to be now I have such a pretty little girl to "fix up." Tell Uncle Thales the baby's hair is such color as his. Ask him if it has got a pretty name. I wish I could run round there once and see the girls. Harriet wished she could see Irene. I "guess" she will wish she could see Irene's baby. Love to Ruth and Sarah, Maria and Lydia, Ann, Candace, Julia and Harriet Calista, Calista Brown and all the girls. Tell Mrs Orcutt I should like to know how big her baby is. When you read this Letter to Grandmother she will make that little - m - with her mouth and say there never was such a baby before. Love to her and to Thales. Tell Thales when he comes to bring the baby something pretty.

<sup>1</sup>For a detailed account of the proclamation as issued by the Twelve under the date of September 24, 1845, and the answer given by the non-Mormons, see B. H. Roberts, *A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (6 vols., Salt Lake City, 1930), II, 508-14.

I have just been out of doors it is very pleasant. Ask Father if he feels any older since he is a Grandfather. I think he would be proud of his little granddaughter if he would come and see it. I want to see Ophelia. Tell her to look at that little lock of hair and think how Irene's baby looks

[No signature but in the handwriting of Irene]

## VII

Addressee: None

Postmarked: None

[A penciled memo "Nauvoo Sept 1845"]

Dear Mother I received another letter from you the 14th. How happy I was to see something that came from you and here how you all were. I had written since I received your letter but you had not received it when you wrote I suppose. I am very glad you wrote again so soon. I was afraid you would be negligent. Husband and I are both well contented and happy. If you were here and Thales how happy we would all be. You must come if you have to sell your bed one day, take the money and start the next without saying anything to any body. I think it is possible or will be. I have great faith. Get ready make all calculations to come early in the spring. Have father come if he will. It seems almost if I could see him I could persuade him; how I wish he would come here and learn to be good. I hope when you write next you can see a way you can come or some prospect. Have faith! We are both very anxious about you. We wish you to be with us, it will all yet be well I think and we will enjoy each others society. I presume you have heard of Mobbing burning &c in towns around here but no deperadations have been made in the city. I will send you a paper containing some particulars. All is peace now. I was not at all frightened when every intelligencer brought threats from the mob. They dare not attack the city it is too well armed if the charter is taken. The Sheriff went with forces from Nauvoo to bring his family into the city for safety ("though not Mormons"). They sought mormon protection as if all others would prove traitors; when the mobbers saw them coming they Hallooed Nauvoo Legion and fled

while they were just firing a building.<sup>2</sup> Nauvoo Legion strikes terror to their hearts.

You wished to know if Sister Aikin looked [the same]. She is the same "old sixpence." She is not changed at all. Sister Brimhall has an excellent place to where she has the advantage of getting many instructions. George A. Smith one of the Twelve lives in the same "old sixpence." She is not changed at all. Sister Brimhall has a son born the last of August. Mrs Gay Mrs Ponds sister has one and Mrs Davis, Mrs Ponds Mother is well and does not wish to leave this place until she gets her endowment in the temple at any rate. I went and visited Catherine last week. She has a fine son born Sep. 11th born while I was there. She had a dream after Little Sarah died. She dreamed Elder [Heber C.?] Kimball one of the twelve laid his hands on her head and blessed her saying she should have a son near the time of the commencement of the endowment in the temple and his name should be call[ed] John. She calls it so. They are getting along well. She fed the baby next day herself. Thomas is well. The rest of Br Woodbury's family have fever and ague or chill fever. Emeline is well [and] is teaching common school nine shills per week. Tell Father we still have enough to eat and drink. When we first came [we] bought half a barrel of flour and paid money and before we went to house keeping I was out to Mr Woodbury's and braided a hat as all the rest were braiding. I sold it at the store for some sugar and salaertas<sup>3</sup> and the like. We had meat potatoes butter of Mr Woodbury and Francis worked for him and we have not spent I do not think more than one dollar for provisions besides that half barrel flour since we have been here. Francis has been at work for wheat and corn of late. He can earn one bushel of wheat or six bushels of corn in a day and we can sell them at the store and buy what we wish.

It is very pleasant here. We have not had a frost since we came until last night. Mrs Pond is very kind to me indeed. She takes quite an interest in my affairs. I had some homony for supper last night. You wonder where we have a hen house on purpose and a yard for our cow. We have a real pretty little cow two years old. She

<sup>2</sup>Sheriff Backenstos' account of events mentioned here can be found in *ibid.*, 490-503. For specific mention of the removal of his family to Nauvoo see especially p. 494.

<sup>3</sup>Saleratus was a natural form of potassium or sodium carbonate used as a baking soda. Irene purchased it at the store, but the early-day travelers found it in its natural state. Early journals contain many references to it.

gives 5 or 6 quarts a day *milk measure*. We gave ten dollars part money part store pay. Love to all. I shall write again soon

[No signature but in the handwriting of Irene]

### VIII

Addressee: Capt. Ashbel G. Haskell  
North New Salem  
Franklin Co. Mass

Postmarked: New Bedford Ms. Nov 8

[A penciled memo "Nauvoo Illinois Oct 1845"]

Dear Parents having an opportunity to send a line to you by Br. G. B. Wallace who is going to Boston and goes by way of New Salem to transact business for Sister Aikin; he said he would call and see you; I thought you would be pleased to see some one who had seen Irene in Nauvoo. I showed him the baby that you could see some one who had seen your little Granddaughter. She can not talk yet but Sister Pond says she laughs when she talks to her. She is three weeks old to day and weighs nine and quarter pounds. She looks prettier than ever she is so much whiter. I am quite well. Went to conference every day (three days). O! such a glorious meeting. It was in the temple. There were five thousand people present. They looked a great number to me because I never saw so many together before. The temple progresses rapidly. We mean to have it dedicated before we leave it.<sup>4</sup> The church as a body intend removing in the spring and husband says father must come and go with us. They will have such good times gaming. I think if you would come you would not be sorry. They have their arrangements made. They are going in companies consisting of one hundred families each, every company half a mile apart, every waggon two rods apart. They make calculations for twenty five hundred families.<sup>5</sup> The rich promise to sacrifice all except what they need themselves to help the poor so they all can go that wish if they are here. You must come. How can I go and leave you this side the rocky mountains

<sup>4</sup>See *Utah Historical Quarterly*, XXV (January, 1957), 61n.

<sup>5</sup>For detailed accounts of plans for the move, see Roberts, *op. cit.*, 521-41.



and yet I cannot stay when God calls us to go. The twelve and Joseph received revelations concerning it before Joseph died. We expect to go in the first company (You must come). Husband is now very well. He talk[s] of steamboating at 20 to 25 dollars per month. Catherine came out and made me a visit at conference, brought both children [and] staid all night. Sister Buss baby is dead and she has not yet got well. She says she and Susan will go with the church. Whitney says he shall go east. Sister Aikin is well. Br Aikin has been quite sick but is better. Samuel has been down here horseback. His lungs trouble him some yet. Mr Woodbury's family are better. Sister Brimhall is well and Emeline. I want to write a few lines to mother.

I thought you would like to know what I did with my breasts. I had no trouble at all except sore nipples and they are sore yet. Tell Grandmother I tried her medicine. I have not had my breasts drawn there has not been a cake in them. I get along first rate. I should write more but Br Wallace goes today I expect. Tell Grandmother I think she could stand it, to come too if she will think so. Love to all. (You must come) Write soon.

Irene

## IX

Adressee: Miss Ophelia M. Andrews  
North New Salem  
Franklin Co. Mass

Postmarked: Nauvoo Ills. Dec 24 [1845]

Dec 20th

Dear Cousin. Picture to yourself the same rude wild girl seated by a comfortable fire saluted by the cries of a lovely babe for a mother's care. Since I wrote before I have changed in circumstances but not in person. I look back to the time when we ranged the fields and pictured to our imagination our future life. We were happy then and now it is realized. I am still happier. (My blue ink is frozen)

I received a letter from you and a catalogue for which I am greatly obliged. The catalogue brought fresh to my mind the happy

hours spent in the old Academy. I well remember how reviving the morning breezes were as we hurried up the hill expecting every moment to here the ringing of [the] bell. Do you remember the time I crossed that little brook below the mill with my composition. I had an excuse for that day and took no thought of the morrow.

I do not wish myself back to New Salem to stay but I would like to make a short visit. I am boarding with Br Pond. Lizzy and Abby are at home now. I have been trying to have Abby write a few lines in this to you but she does not know what to write. It is getting late and I want to write a few lines to mother. Good bye, write again.

With affection Irene.

Dear Mother I received a letter from you Dec 10th. Was surprised to find another letter so soon but was very glad of it. You said you perhaps I might think [it] strange that you wrote so often but the oftener the better. You must write just as often as you have anything to write [and] I will do the same. I had not much to write this time as I mailed a letter for you. You mentioned in your letter about what I wrote concerning your coming and Francis going back after you. If there is no better way, no one coming that you can come with I think he will come for you or meet you at New York. Perhaps Br Wallace will come that way. I [think] you had better write to him if I can find out where you must direct your letter. I will stop on the way to the office to his boarding place and if I can find out I will write with a pencil.

The Temple still progresses. Hundreds have received their endowment washings anointings &c. I expect I cannot have mine until husband returns. I expect a letter from him soon. When I write to him I will tell him to write what he thinks will be best. I think when he is at St. Louis he can work for wages as far as Pittsburg and if he can it will not cost much. Be of good courage. I wish you to get me some of those horn spools of thread at Mr Orcutts and get some silk, for Eugenia Francelle a net cap if Grandmother is able to make it; get some if you can a little lighter color than my hair that will be the color of her hair. Take all the comfort you can. Think that all will be right.

Irene

[In pencil] Direct your letter to George B. Wallace Boston).

Sunday morning

Ophelia it is a beautiful morning. I wish we could enjoy each other's society a few moments and talk of the past and future but it is impossible. Abby says give my love to Ophelia. Give mine to Uncle Oliver. I expect soon he will be cousin Oliver. I am going to take a walk this morning will you go with me?

Good morning

Irene

X

Adressee: Mrs. Ursulia B. Hascall  
North New Salem  
Franklin Co. Mass

Postmarked: Nauvoo Ills Jan 23 [1846]

Tuesday Evening

Dear mother, I received your letter friday evening. I dare not rejoice as much as I feel but I am so happy thinking I shall see you so soon. If I am disappointed I can hardly bear it and that father has concluded to go also I thought he loved us. I knew he did. I suppose if he goes with Elder Brannan he will go before you receive this, if not, if anything should happen that he should not go with him, tell him to come with you. I think we should have a better time out nights if he were with us to tell us how much harder he has fared. I do not know when we shall go. I expect there will be companies going all summer and we shall go as soon as we can procure a sufficient quantity of provisions and team. If husband is well it will not take him long to fit out himself. I have not heard from him since I wrote Ophelia. He was then at his sisters in Alton [working] in [a] slaughter house [and] expected to go on the river as soon as it opened. It is now open and I think if well he is on the river. I am well and so is Eugenia. She has never been sick. I do not keep dosing her with teas and drops. She is four months old and weighs fifteen pounds. I hope you will

soon see her and then you will know how pretty she is. (she sits in my lap now watching the pen). I am now at Loring's Farr<sup>6</sup> nursing his child a little boy named Enoch. His wife has a broken breast. It is only a few rods from brother Ponds. Catherine's health is better than it has been. She was down here on a visit a while ago. She has the ague all the time nearly. She asked me if I wrote [you] she was going west. I told her yes. She said then I will not have to write it. She is quite anxious to see her father's family. She thought if her father and Wm started for [the] west they would not return until they had seen her. Wm and Clarissa arrived here a few weeks since and left Br Russel and wife at Ottawa. Clarissa is keeping house and Wm has returned for them (all well). Sister Clark says tell her children to prepare to come and get all they can to bring with them and that she would not go back for "all the world." Calvin Smith was married last Thursday to Sarah Fish, Br Ponds girls had a letter from Mr Whittemore also Br Pond received one. He mentioned about this climate curing the Asthma but there are cases of it here. I have seen one. I will tell you the rest when you get here. E has looked to see me write until she is fast asleep. She is very good natured. I want you should bring some fine writing paper. Tell Thales to be sure and bring my paint brushes and that piece of green paint I gave him, and if Mr Phillips fig tree is alive I want you should press a leaf for me or mark the shape of [one] on a piece of paper. I had rather have the leaf. I should have written sooner but the mail does not go out till tomorrow. Send papers on the way if you have a chance. Give love to all, all going to bed and leaving me. I would like to write longer but have not time. Tell all the girls and all my old friends I have not forgotten them. Get to Boston in season. Good night. Love to all that ever wish to know about Irene. I should write to a great many of my friends but I write to you everything I should to them and they see the letters. I wish Moria Hatstadt could come. All send love once more. Good night all. Get my Philosophy.

Irene

Loring [Farr] sends his best respects. Tell Grandmother I wish she could come too. Love to her. Tell Father I think Eugenia has a little of the Wheeler about her

<sup>6</sup>For the activities of Lorin Farr in Nauvoo, see T. Earl Pardoe, *Lorin Farr, Pioneer* (Provo, 1953), 58-92.

## XI

Addressee: Col. Wilson Andrews  
North New Salem  
Franklin Co. Mass  
with haste. Please forward)

Postmarked: Nauvoo Ills. May 3 [1846]

Nauvoo, May 2d, 1846

Dear Brother & Sister & Mother, I expect you have been to the office for a letter until your patience is gone, but I assure you it is not negligance. I was six weeks from Boston to Nauvoo into one day. 28 from Boston to New Orleans it began to rain and the wind blew. About sunset, that night after I left you standing on the wharf, the ship rolled and pitched about, we all began to be sea sick. I began to vomit and I was glad to scrutch for my berth with out any ceremony, no undressing. I got off my cloak and bonnet the best way I could. Thales was not much sick did not vomit but twice at all. The company were all as sick as I was, except an Englishman, he took care [of] us all night and day made us gruel of oatmeal, and rice soup, to keep us from starving, it was very fine living. I was hungry enough to eat anything I ever saw cooked, but we had vomited so much they durst not have us eat anything. If I could have found a piece of dry fish I should have helped myself without asking. I could not sit up until Monday about 11 o clock then we had hastepudding and molasses. After that we eat all we wished to. Thales caught the measles on board ship had not recovered when we arrived at New Orleans, (although he was not very sick I gave him sasfrass tea, croup syrup, and Brandreth pills,) April 9th in the evening we slept in the ship. The next morning brother Wallace went in search of a boat for St Louis, found one, the pride of the west, Capt, Smith, fifteen dollars cabin passage every thing found, and a negro to wait upon you, make your bed, bring you water, take care of your room in every particular, [or] three dollars steerage, and find yourself and half price for Thales. I took cabin with the millionares, and two of the mormon sisters with me. Carpet two dollars per yard, everything else equal to it, the table was furnished every day with roast turkey, or pig, and all kinds that you can think of, puddings and pies, the best I ever ate,

plenty of claret for dinner. I took a glass, with a piece of ice in it, to drink with my dinner. The best of tea and coffee for breakfast and supper and a darky behind your chair every meal to run at your bidding. I have not wanted for a good cup of coffee. I forgot to tell you we went immediately on board the boat and had everything found us, until it sailed, which was the 11th in the evening [at] 10 o'clock. This was Saturday. [A] week from the next Monday, 10 in the morning, we arrived at St Louis, Brother Wallace went for a boat again, found one going to sail that evening, about an hundred rods from where we landed, we all walked and [had] a drayman with his mules to take the baggage (O I forgot to tell you it took three great negroes to carry my chest on to the boiler deck, where I could see it and open it when I pleased, without any expense to me,) we all thought we could go steerage passage to Nauvoo. The time would be so short and we could live almost any way. When we got to the boat it was crowded with all kinds of human beings, horses and dogs. No place for us there. Four dollars cabin passage and all found. We all went cabin except the englishman, he went below and took care of the baggage, it was steamboat Tempest it did not sail until the next evening. It cost us nothing. But such delays did not suit us very well. We had been so long on the way we expected our friends would think we were shipwrecked. We had been sailing about three hours, such hallooing a man overboard, such a running to and fro some after their sons some after their husbands. I run for Thales found him in his room with brother Wallace both in bed. It proved to be a young man from St Louis going up the river to get work, he had an horse with him, his father and his cousin, a young lad about like George, he [had] only fifteen dollars with him that was in his pocket. It was very dark. They searched for him but could not find him, it cast a gloom over the boat for that night, the next night towards morning, they cried out again a man overboard, they stopped and searched for him, but could [not] find him. They both fell in stepping from the steamboat to the barge that was fastened to the boat. The next afternoon we arrived at Nauvoo saw Miram [?] Clark. Thales says here is Hiram [?] then Maria, then a gentleman says is this Irenee mother, she sent me to see if you had come, and to take care of your baggage, then I saw Irene come bounding across lots, you may guess the rest, I found her babe much handsomer than I expected. It has not one homely feature,

she is keeping house in the house with Lois Crashes that married a Thompson. She has enough to eat of all kinds. Francis is steam-boating from St Louis to Galena. Passes Nauvoo every week. He has just bought a hundred pounds of nice sugar and a box of raisins. She has pork and ham dry fish mackerel and veal. We have the old fashioned soups milk a crust. Mother knows how Thales likes that, Irene is first rate cook, she cooks and I eat my allowance I assure you, I am growing fleshy. We expect to start west in about two weeks. Francis has gone to St Louis to get things for us on the journey, and others sent by him to get coffee tea sugar powder and everything that they can get cheaper than they can here. Good[s] are very cheap in St Louis, I have got me a flounce [?] bonnet, Irene and I have been out today to get some trimming. I will send you a piece of it 25 cents per yard. Saw some of the nicest goods I ever saw in my life. Team after team is going over the river every day for the west. I saw sister Aikins before I got my bonnet off the [day] I got here. All the family came in a few minutes then sister Ponds children. Brother Pond had gone to help some over the river. Sister Pond was not in a situation to walk so far. The next morning I started for brother Russells, to see Catherine but she had gone before I got there, and I have not seen her yet. She suffers a great deal with ague and so does her husband, I am determined she shall write. Sister Russell has got her chest that she sent by water. I paid no extra freight for my big chest, after I left Boston, in all the tugging from place to place it cost me only one dollar in the whole. Tell mother, Pomeroy had a letter from his mother in March. Irene has answered it. They have written back and forth several times. His mother says they must come that way and not go any farther west. This is the thing she never expects to see again she feels very bad, Mrs Clark and her three children keep house in a chamber where sister Aikin lives, Mrs Harris treated Emiline well. She has been there and staid a fortnight. She has had a letter from James. He is going [on] a whaling voyage three years, then he [is] coming home to be an husband and be steady. She has gone with a family to the west, and so has sister Brimhall. I have not seen them, We are going to have two yoke of oxen two cows four sheep and everything else as much as we can carry, Give love to every one that inquires after me, Tell Mr Goodnough brother Aikin have his letter without a murmur in my hearing. I want to tell mother something about the prophets Joseph and

Hyrum. She knows he said he should not be brought back alive, he told the twelve before he went to Carthage, what to do with his body and when they brought the bodies home every body saw them in the mansion home and then they took care of the bodies and filled two coffins with stone and had them buried them and the world does not know any thing about it.<sup>7</sup> I saw ever so many locks of Joseph[']s hair I wondered how they came to save so much. At last they told me he was not buried. I went to a festival in the temple. Irene carried her babe. After I saw five babies I thought I would count all that came. There was thirteen like Irene's and as many more that could walk, if some die I think there is a number live. Thales is out of patience with the mud, he wants to be going where we can pitch our tents and have grass all round us. I am not home sick or discontented but I am happy and satisfied so far. You must direct your letters to Francis Pomeroy and we can have them forwarded to us.

From your daughter and sister U B Hascall

I did Whitteman's errand. I shall send a piece of Eugenia's dress which I bought in St Louis

## XII

Addressee: Col, Wilson Andrews  
North New Salem  
Franklin County  
Massachusetts

Postmarked: New York [?] 5 Cts 12 Dec

Camp of Israel, Sept 19 1846<sup>8</sup>

Dear sister, In the wilds of North America is the residence of your affectionate sister. Not unhappy and suffering, no, far from it, not none of our family. There is nothing that would induce me to leave the company of the saints of God, unless it is the salvation of my friends and dear relative[s]. O how gladly would I rend the thick

<sup>7</sup>See Roberts, *op. cit.*, 293.

<sup>8</sup>According to Roberts, *op. cit.*, III, 50, the term Camp of Israel is explained thusly: "Accepting the theory that where the 'Douglas' sits there is the head of the table, which translated here means that where Brigham Young is there is the 'Camp of Israel,' as this moving caravan of exiles was called . . ."



veil of darkness, traditions and sectarianism, that covers their eyes and hearts so they might understand the plainness of the gospel while they have the open bible in their hands searching out their sabbath school below. I am sure you would like to be placed in the right way if you knew certain which it was, look about you and see if your preacher tells you things as they are in the bible, exactly, not I believe so, I think so, it is my opinion, and such stuff, it is of no consequence, if he does not know a thing, we can all guess and think as well as he, when a preacher says he knows a thing, and I shall find it so, when I meet him at the bar of God, and I find it agrees with scripture, there is no room for doubt. We have meetings every sabbath in a place fitted up in the woodland about a mile from the prairie where we are camped with our waggons and tents. We have it fixed expecting to stay until spring. There is two companies on ahead of us. One is stopped 150 miles from here the other has gone on,<sup>9</sup> there is about 800 waggons in this company with brother Brigham Young and brother Heber Kimball at the head, and more adding daily.

Now I will give you a history of my journey or a sketch of it, We started from Nauvoo the 30th of May. Had as good a waggon as any of them, three yoke of oxen with flour enough to last us one year, ham, Sausages, dry fish, lard, two cans hundred pounds of sugar, 16 of coffee, 10 of raisins, rice with all the other items we wish to use in cooking. I will describe our waggons and tent as well as I can. I wish I could make you know exactly how they look. The waggon is long enough for both our beds made on the flour barrels chests and other things. (Thales and I sleep at the back end, and F and Irene at the forward end while we were traveling if we camped too late to pitch our tent.) It is painted red. It has eight bows eighteen inches apart, a hen coop on the end with four hens, we had two webs of thick drilling. We put on one cover of that, then three breadths of stout sheeting over that and then painted it, the heaviest showers and storms does not beat through only a few drops now and then. Our tent is made of drilling sixteen breadths in the shape of an umbrella. A cord three feet long on the end of every seam and a pin on that to drive into

<sup>9</sup>It is possible that the two companies mentioned here may be the divisions of the Emmett Company. See Dale L. Morgan, ed., "The Reminiscences of James Holt; A Narrative of the Emmett Company," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, XXIII (January, April, 1955), 1-33, 151-79.

the ground. The pole in the middle that holds it up carries it three feet from the ground, then a breadth of sheeting put on the edge to let down in cool weather and fasten with loops and pins in the ground.

Now we start (every one is councilled to start as soon as ready morn or eve) saturday four oclock in the afternoon and went down to the Mississippi river [and] found a boat to convey us across. Landed safely on the other side, went three miles and camped for the night. Chained our oxen to the wagon after baiting, eat some bread and milk and piece of pie and went to bed in our wagon, never slept better. In the morning made a fire had a good cup of coffee, went eight miles, found a camp of fifty wagons and tents [and] stopped for several days waiting for others, we found some of brother Fars family, pitched our tent waited two days for them, and then commenced our journey in earnest. It was not many days before we bid adieu to the last house we expected to see until we had them of our own. We travelled for hours and saw nothing but the wide expanse of heaven and the waveing prairie grass not a tree or bush. Then we came to timber and water [and] camped for the night, do our cooking and washing all that wish to start the next day take wood and water enough to make our coffee for breakfast and hastepudding and milk for dinner. We always found wood and water as often as once in twenty four hours but not always at the right time. The company we were in killed several fat calves they always gave us some, we had the old fashioned soups with a light crust. We have had every thing on the way to make us more comfortable than any one could possibly expect, and in this way we travelled until we came to council bluffs on the Missouri river (you can find it on the map) There we found the camp of Israel with its leaders (or some of them I might say) waiting for a boat to be built to carry us across the river here we camped two weeks, then the boat was ready. All crossed as fast as possible, came on twenty miles this side of the river and stopped a while, finally Brother Young the president of the church said the best way was to stay here this winter, and let those that are ahead break the way and we start early in the spring. They consented to it, went to work.<sup>10</sup> cut grass and made such big stacks of hay as I never

<sup>10</sup>For the founding of Winter Quarters see Andrew Jenson, *Church Chronology* (Salt Lake City, 1914), 31; Roberts, *op. cit.*, III, 147-48.

thought of, for the cattle, building log cabins for their families. Some split the logs. Francis split his. They make boards and shingles here by hand. They brought saws and almost every thing else. They brought a carding machine. I think they will need it there is seven hundred sheep in one drove that is church property, there is lots of fat cattle killed, one or two every day this six weeks. We have some every week, Francis and Thales got a lot of honey the other day equal to Daniels, the warm biscuit and honey [and] a good cup of coffee is not so mean. Do not worry about us, I think we shall get along with as little trouble as other people that live in painted houses and carpet floors. The Mexican war is no trouble to us at present. It is rather a benifit. President Polk sent two officers<sup>11</sup> to our President Young for five hundred able bodied men to take Sante Fee and he might have it for a location. Polk would find everything [and] pay seven dollars and a half per month to the soldiers 40 [?] to the Capt and so on to officers, President Young started out immediately from camp to camp, soon enlisted his five hundred men, sent them on to fort Leavenworth there to receive orders from your President.<sup>12</sup> They stayed there a while, received there money sent home to there families considerable of it. They do not need of it at present, and they put it into President Youngs hands for the benifit of the church. He sent one thousand dollars to St Louis to buy goods of all kinds.

We are all well and have been excepting a few days. Francis had an ill turn and so did Irene. Francelle is a beautiful child. She has had the whooping cough the old fashioned way. [It] took of her flesh some, [but she is] pretty much over it, Thales stands all kinds of w[e]ather. He has had only one ill time since [we] started that was bowel complaint. For two or three days [he] did not take anything but pepermint. I do not see but he is as contented as he would be there. He would like to have one play with the boys he used to play with. He began a letter - he said it would be all mistakes and he would not write. His business is herding cattle with several other boys. He says he is a sick of it as finds [blank] he

<sup>11</sup>Captain James Allen recruited and organized the Mormon Battalion. See Hamilton Gardner, "The Command and Staff of the Mormon Battalion in the Mexican War," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, XX (October, 1952), 331 ff.

<sup>12</sup>For another contemporary account and another point of view concerning the benefits to be derived by the Mormons for service in the Mexican War, see Hosea Stout Journal, entry for Sunday, June 28, 1846. Typescript copy in the library of the Utah State Historical Society.

says he rather they follow him than to go back. He has a peck of filberts he picked.

I commenced writing this letter the evening after I received your first. I hurt my eyes so much I have had to delay untill now before finishing. I received your last the 18 Oct I think Mr Woodbury did very wrong to misinform you. I do not wonder you thought [it] strange you had not heard from me. I think all his news will [be] about the same. The fact is he had no opportunity to know anything correct. His wife honored him so I hear by brother Ponds family. The Woodburys are all on their way here. I saw Catherine about four days before we started. She looked and appeared very natural. If her mother had come when I did she would have gone home with her I think and stayed a while. I think Uncle Sam has jumped out of the pan into the fire. Give my love to all husbands relations for his sake and their kindness to me, tell Mother I wish she belonged to this church. I think she would be much happier than she is now. If I had been in Nauvoo when I received your letter I would have sent some of Josephs hair. All that have any here is in their bosom pins finger rings &c. I do not know how their bodies are kept. Irene has not had time to write to O[phelia] she says but shall when she gets her journey [?] done, Give my respects to Mr Orcutt and wife. Tell him to go a head rip up the rumsellers, may God bless him and bring him into his fold, that he may have a part in the first resurrection for on such the second death has no powers. Remember me to every one that enquires after me. The temple was dedicated before we left. I attended. The Lord accepted of it. Elder Woodruff said he had had glory enough. His was joy so great tears wet the cheeks of many for joy. O dear sisters this not milleneim nor delusions I assure you. You tell Wilson when he writes to Alanzo to tell Mrs Leavet that the leaders of this church I find to be good men. She wished me to send her word what I thought of them. She had heard so much from Mrs Hudson that had left the church. Our tent is next to brother Chases so called by the church. He is a native of Coleswin. His wife was Tirzah Wells from Greenfield, the best of people. When I left Nauvoo I gave fifteen cents to brother Thompson to take you letter and send it to mount Pisgah.<sup>13</sup> That was the second camp. There they

<sup>13</sup>For a description of the first camp at what was later named Mount Pisgah by Parley P. Pratt (according to Roberts, *op. cit.*, III, 50), see Hosea Stout Journal entry for Monday June 1, 1846. Typescript copy in the library of the Utah State Historical Society.

took the name of every man that passed through the gate, then when a letter came it was forwarded to him. I began to think if you had written it was lost but at last it was cried on the stand a letter for F. Mr. Pond he went and got it, how the last came is quite remarkable. Dr Richards was at some office where he found it paid the postage and cried it on the stand at meeting. Some families that have arrived within a few days have suffered with sickness. All sick at a time. There has been over twenty deaths since we were on the way and since. We talked [?] [to] Brothet Wallace [who] said he had made seven coffins.

I think Aunt Nabbeys family has a bad fortune entailed upon them for some reason or other. I hope Wilson will not lose any thing by them. Tell Mrs Howard if she is glad I am, if not I pity her. I care not how well the old house looks I feel as if I narrowly escaped from Babylon with a mighty effort, it is not my wish to return. The Indians are very plenty here. They are here begging every week. Sometimes [they] steal a tin cup or garment if it lies in there way. Brigham Young has made a treaty with them. They are to have our houses and all the improvements when we leave. We found one tribe that had several that had been baptised by Joseph. They would say "me mormon"

Direct your letters to Huntsuckers postoffice Atchison County Missouri

U. B. H.

there is no end to them black walnuts in abundance hundreds of bushels of grapes orchards of wild plumbs, fifty bushels in a place, you never saw anything better [to] make pies and preserves.

*[Letters to be continued in the July issue]*

## LETTERS OF A PROSELYTE

THE HASCALL-POMEROY CORRESPONDENCE\*

(continued from April issue)

### XIII

Addressee: Col. Wilson Andrews  
North New Salem  
Franklin Co. Mass

Postmarked: Boston 5 cts 16 JUL

Camp of Israiel, Winter quarters  
Indian Territory April 1847

Dear Brother, and sister, I fear you have not received my last letter as I have not received an answer, I went to the office found a letter I thought it must be from you, but it was from Francis mother, I was disappointed. I assure you the time has now arrived that we are preparing to pursue our journey. Expect to arrive at our place of rest, before we stop again, only for repairs &c, about two hundred pioneers started two weeks ago, they calculate to get there and put in seed of various kinds long before we get there, the teams were mostly mule and horses. Francis was among the number<sup>1</sup> and Thales is to be our teamster. He thinks he can manage three yoke of oxen. Irene says he is a young man, he has grown tall and stout, his flesh is hard and health good. If he only had Albert here to go hunting with him he thinks

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\*The following series of letters describe life during the winter at Winter Quarters, the trek across the plains, life in the Old Fort during the first season in the valley, the gradual emergence and growth of the City by the Great Salt Lake, Indian problems and the impact of the gold rushers on the economy of the infant community. This is the third installment of letters. For the first and second see *Utah Historical Quarterly*, XXV (January and April, 1957), and for identification of many people mentioned herein, see Introduction and footnotes in same.

<sup>1</sup>Francis Pomeroy was a member of the original band of pioneers, numbering 143 men, 3 women and 2 children, which left the Missouri River on April 14, and arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley on July 24, 1847.

they should kill lots of prairie hens wild turkeys geese ducks and maybe a deer or buffalo, his business this winter past has been chopping the wood at the door, and the care of one cow. Our other cattle have wintered on rushes forty miles up the Missouri river with five or six hundred others. There was ten men chosen to herd them, and keep the indians from killing them, Francis was one of the ten, had 2 dollars per head. We have lived in our log cabin through the winter very comfortably. We have a brick chimney and hearth, (two thirds of the people have them made of sods and they do very well), a window with four lights of glass 10 by 12, gave eight cents a light, the furniture consists of sacks barrels chests trunks and two wild bedsteads with curtains from eaves to floor, my chest for a table, We have had plenty of provisions except vegetables, we have had beans enough and some potatoes, this spring there is abundance of wild onions and artichokes first rate, there is a store opposite of us with every necessary, English and west Indies, goods coffee sugar, salaratus all fifteen cents per pound. First best sugar house mollasses one dollar per gallon, I think we shall get along first rate, there is companies organized of hundred, and Captains of fifties and tens, we are going in brother Wallace's Company of fifty.<sup>2</sup> The Woodburys are going with the same company. They are twenty miles from here. Thomas has been here and staid over night. Where William is they do not know. Brother Aikins family are at Garden Grove some distance back, Samuel came on with brother Ponds family and died here away from father and mother, I suppose you have heard of the deaths in brother Ponds family. The children are all dead but Elizabeth [and] Loenza, when they were on the way here they turned from the main road into a settlement where he and Samuel could earn two dollars per day with their teams. It proved to be an unhealthy place, They were all taken sick and they came away as soon as they could, but they were unable to take care of them-

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<sup>2</sup>George B. Wallace was converted to the LDS Church by Joseph Smith. In 1844 he traveled extensively throughout the country electioneering for the Prophet for the presidency of the United States. In Nauvoo he was an undertaker and followed that occupation later in the Salt Lake Valley. Wallace was a captain of fifty in the A. O. Smoot Company, and upon arrival in the valley on September 26, 1847 built one of the best houses in the Old Fort. Many important meetings of the general authorities of the church were held in his cabin during that first winter. He was among the first missionaries in the valley who were called to go abroad.

selves on the road and suffered for the want of care, Lowell died before they arrived, the rest lived to get here and then dropped away one after another, Sister Pond has not recovered and I fear she never will, Brother Ponds health is very poor. Sister Clark died on the way here. She wore her self out with hard work I think, I never saw a female that could live and do as she did, The children came on with P. Rockwell<sup>3</sup> they have the first rate families to live in. Hiram lives in the same family with Emiline. She thinks them the best people in the world. She is as happy as a queen, has everything to eat, drink [and] wear. She instructs the children has the care of their clothes and does as much or as little as she pleases. Tell mother sister Murdock is here with her family. Where brother Harris is we do not know. Sister Brimhall is well. She did not grieve much for the Prichards loss. We have now and then a newspaper from New York. Shall we believe the cracking asunder of the Union of the United States, Yes, sooner or later the Lord will avenge the blood of his martyred Prophets and persecuted Saints, Unless they repent and restore their right. Irene read President Polks message. It's as harmless as milk and water. I think he is as Eliza Smith said about my going to singing school—I should not do any hurt if I did not any good. The ship Brooklyne has landed we hear and printed a paper.<sup>4</sup> I suppose Uncle Sam has received one by this time. I expect Francis will see husband before we shall. How are all the people in the old neighborhood? Still by the ears or has Mr Orcutt left them to their destruction. I should be happy to see him and wife and little Dwight [as] he runs and talks by the side of his father. Give my love to them and all the rest that inquire. How is mother. Has she had one of her hard colds, if she has I fear she had not

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<sup>3</sup>Porter Rockwell was a close associate of the Prophet Joseph Smith. He was also a member of the original pioneer band, in fact, a member of Orson Pratt's advance company which entered the valley ahead of the others. He was closely associated with the Overland Mail and the Pony Express, one of the stations being at his home 25 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. He served as deputy marshal of Salt Lake City for a number of years.

<sup>4</sup>Samuel Brannan and his company of 238 Saints, 70 men, 68 women, and 100 children, sailed on the *Brooklyn* from New York, February 4, 1846, by a coincidence the same day that the Nauvoo people fled across the Mississippi for the unknown West. The press on which was printed *The Prophet* and *The Messenger* was stowed aboard. Upon arrival in California (Yerba Buena) on July 31, 1846, the press was set up. It was used for various kinds of printing, and the *California Star*, the first paper in San Francisco was issued.



recovered, how is her lame toes, tell her to enjoy herself and be prepared for a part in the first resurrection, and live and reign with Christ on the earth a thousand years, if it not worthy of our whole time and talent. How is dear Waldo and all the rest of your little ones. Kiss them and tell them Aunt Lula sent it to them. I am not Aunt Lula here, it is sister Hascall, mother and grandmother. Francelle runs about and takes hold of my dress and wants I should take her, she looks like your children, very much as Phebe did at her age. Give my respects to Grandfather and mother Andrews. Tell them the mormons have built one of the best grist mills that ever was seen in the States. Although this is the indian territory when they leave it the next company will use it and so on untill all the mormons have passed along. It ground twelve bushel of corn an hour the first few hours. but they took it down to six bushels when they made a business of it. You spoke about dancing. I filled my other sheet before I thought of it but now I will tell you. The Mormons (as they are vulgarly called) do not have any guess work, in their exercises, they have a rule and the order of God, for all their movements, Thales attended dancing school this winter, they open their school with prayer and so they always do at their dancing parties or feasts. They have all the good and fat things they can procure for supper, I never saw a larger supply at any place. Each grade had a feast until they went through the camp, I went with the wives of the elders that are sent on missions, widows and soldiers wives. There is some of the smartest and best men and women here there is in the world, They dress superior to your New Salem people if they have had to winter in log cabins. I send this [letter] by a sister that is going to Boston to visit her friends. [She] returns in october. Her name is Sabra Granger. direct your letters to Francis M, Pomeroy Huntsakers Ferry Austin postoffice Atchinson County Missouri, to be forwarded to the Camp of Israel.

Your affectionate U B H

I send you a piece of my new sun bonnet the handsomest one you have seen.

## XIV

Addressee: Miss Ophelia M. Andrews  
North New Salem  
Franklin County  
Massachusetts

(Care of Col. Wilson Andrews)

Postmarked: Kane Io. May 16 1848 [in manuscript]

Great Salt Lake City March 5th 1848.

Cousin Ophelia, having a little leisure from domestic cares I thought [I would] write you a few lines knowing you would be very anxious to hear from us. We are all well contented and happy. We have a log house made of hewed logs sixteen by eighteen and covered with planks and slabs. Our fireplace is made of clay pounded into one corner and the fireplace cut out just such shape as you please. The rest is sticks plastered outside and in which makes it quite nice. We have quite a nice door made of fir boards which were sawed since we arrived. We have nothing but the boards of our wagon for floor yet. We have a window with five squares of ten by twelve glass and one of cloth pasted on. There is two beds at the east end of the room and curtains drawn across the room in front of the beds and a little chamber floor over the beds where we keep our provisions. Picture to your self Irene sitting in such a room as this writing on her same chest which stood in her chamber in Mass. Mr Pomeroy and Thales have gone to what is called the Cotton woods for poles to fence the land. Francelle is filling the little creampitcher (your mother and mine used to play) with water and washing it in the washdish. Mother is knitting. (I will fill this page with family concerns now I have come so near to it, and tell you on the next how we came hear and what kind of place it is). We have two yoke of oxen, two cows two heifers (two years old) a pair of horses three hens two chickens and a dog. We have killed one yoke of oxen for beef. We expect to have a garden in front of our house. Our farming land is five or six miles from hear. The houses are built adjoining each other and in the form of squares enclosing ten acres each. It was thought wisdom to have them in this manner for this season because we could

better defend ourselves from all kinds of danger.<sup>5</sup> When the companies arrive next Summer we expect to commence a brick house. There will be a city laid out then and each building will have land for all necessary purposes and a large garden and the farming land will be with out the city.

When Mother wrote you at Winter Quarters we were preparing for our journey still farther west. Thales went down into Missouri with Br Wallace and bought a new supply of provisions and we left Winter Quarters June 17th and I can assure you we passed through a variety of scenes a distance of ten hundred and sixty miles from W. Q. Rivers, brooks, mudholes, mountains, plains, woods, broken waggons Indians, Buffaloes, wolfs, deer, antelope, wild dogs, bears &c. The Indians were very friendly. They do not hurt if we kept strong guard out so they could not steal our horses and cattle in the night; We passed through some places where it [was] almost impassable, mountains of cragged rocks seeming as it were bending over us on either side of the road, at another time we would be on the side of a mountain below us on one side of the road 50 or 100 feet straight down as Grandmother says, on the other side a mountain and seeming every moment as if the waggon would be upset. This was the last part of the road. The first 1000 miles was mostly praries, see nothing but land as far as the eye could reach; You can look on the map and see where we came; We came nearly the whole of the length of the Platte river and camped on its bank most every [night]. We walked a great part of the way where there were bad roads (Catherine says tell them I could walk 10 or 15 miles per day). We generally travelled from 10 to 15 miles in a day sometimes 20 and once or twice 25. We did not travel on sundays on the whole we had quite a pleasant journey. We would (about half a dozen) go on ahead of the waggons, find some place of curiosity and wait for the teams to come up. How many many [times] mother and I would say how Aunt Samanthy would love to see this and that. Grandmother might have come if she had thought so. There is some older than she here. I presume you have heard of Richardsons bitters. The old man's

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<sup>5</sup>"Monday, March 6, 1848. The G.S.L. City fort contained 423 houses and 1,671 souls. Adjoining farming field consisted of 5,133 acres of land of which 875 acres were sown with winter wheat." Andrew Jenson, *Church Chronology* (Salt Lake City, 1914), 35.

son is here and his sons mother came from Vermont. Emeline is yet in W. Q. When we came away she was teaching school in the same family where she has been.

There was about 600 waggons came last summer.<sup>6</sup> Such only came as could buy provisions, the rest staid to raise it. We expect a much larger company this season. Well after all this long journey, when we were coming over mountains and between them all at once a little narrow passage between the mountains (called a can-nian<sup>7</sup> I think I have not spelled it right) opened into a beautiful valley. This is our place of residence. It is in the midst of the rocky mountains surrounded on every side by impassable mts. and just one passage in and another on the west side which will not take much labor to stop an army of ten thousand. Now let the mobbers rage. The Lord has provided this place for us and if we are faithful the troubles and calamities of the Gentile nation will not harm. when all is past, we will step forth from our hiding place the secret chambers spoken of in the bible. I wish you would come and stay with [us]. You would if you [could] see the future. But live in darkness, we know this is true, what you call mormonism. If we ever meet in the resurrection you cannot say I never told you. What I say to one I say to all who shall here it, and read it to every one you can (this part if nothing more) for I say it again. I know it is truth and I say it by the spirit of God. I would die in one minute for this gospel if necessary or required of the Lord. Remember what I say to you, I expect Augustus before long. He said he should come when he was twenty one. The journey does not seem to us now as it did in Mass. Why we [would] not think any more of coming back than we used to do of going to New York city. There is a large salt lake lying in the northwest part of the valley called on the map lake Timpanagus.<sup>8</sup> Its water is more highly im-

<sup>6</sup>According to B. H. Roberts, *A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (6 vols., Salt Lake City, 1930), III, 291, between the middle of September and October 10, 1847, 2,095 souls had arrived in the valley. Irene, Eugenia Francelle, Ursulia and Thales are listed as being in the Four Hundred, G. B. Wallace, captain of fifty, and James Smith captains of the first ten. See also Kate B. Carter, comp., *Heart Throbs of the West* (12 vols., Salt Lake City, 1947), VIII, 439.

<sup>7</sup>Emigration Canyon.

<sup>8</sup>Irene here indicates the confusion prevalent regarding the topography of the Great Basin. For a map of the area in 1826, see Hubert Howe Bancroft, *History of Utah* (San Francisco, 1891), 19. On his journey through the Utah country in 1776, Escalante gave the name Timpanogos to present day Utah Lake for the Timpanogos Indians who lived in the region.

pregnated with salt than those of the ocean. They make some of the nicest salt you ever saw. They can shovel up bushels of coarse [salt] on the bank. The mountains near the city are covered with vegetation. Those at a distance look rough and rocky. The timber is mostly on or near the mountains. Streams of beautiful water run from the mountains and empty into a river called Jordan which empties into salt lake. Some of the mountains are covered with perpetual snow. The climate is thought to be warmer here than in New England. The winter has been very pleasant. Feed for cattle all winter. Those that ran at liberty were grew fat all winter.

People have commenced plowing and planting some but it freezes a little [at] night. We have not had any snow to last long. There are some maple trees here, poplar fir cotton wood oak birch spruce and a species of hemlock. Br. Woodburys family are here and all much better than when they left Nauvoo. Catherine is well and children. Elizabeth and Loenza are well send love, Loenza is married to Joseph Kingsbury. I [suppose] you know that Abby is dead. When they left Nauvoo they went off the road into a very sickly town because they could get great wages and thought they would earn something. They were all taken with chills &c. and none but Br Pond E[lizabeth] and L[oenza] survived the disease. Br Aikins family are yet at W. Q. and William W. was on his way there last we heard from them and Mrs. Russel Maria Ellen and Hiram Clark. W[hile] at winter Q. H lived with Emeline. You have heard of dressing in skins. I will send you a specimen. Francis has a coat and pantaloons and Thales pantaloons. We can wash it and stretch it while it dries. Thales says he wants to see George & Waldo Albert and the rest of the boys very [much]. He is almost a young man, taller than I. We have heard father is on California shore and have wrote to him and expect he will come here this season. Tell Grandmother she would laugh to see Francelle talk and motion it out with her head like Aunt Phebe. Francelle has been putting my ink on her hair calling it oil. Mother says tell Grandmother and S. she [has] not been out of coffee yet and drinks it most every day. We have got company a lady from Cape Cod. I know you are a good scholar so I think you can read this. I have not time to read my letter you must guess at what is not here. It is a very healthy place.

I have not much room for compliments. Love to all who know

us. I think perhaps you are married. If you are love to your husband, Write as soon as possible. When you write pay postage or it will not come.

Irene

Let grandmother have the skin if she wants it.

[Note: On the back of the folded letter appears this notation—"Miss Andrews was this postage paid? P.M."]

XV

Addressee: Col. Wilson Andrews  
North New Salem  
Franklin County Mass.  
Please Forward

Postmarked: Kane Ioa  
Oct. 18/48 [in manuscript]

Great Salt Lake City, Aug, 8th 1848

Dear sister, The first mail arrived in this City August sixth by which I received your very welcome letter, dated October 12th. I began to think you had not received my last, and I should have to wait until you received Irene's letter to Ophelia before you would know how to direct your letters, I am so glad to hear that mother is live and well and your self and family. I never have been the least homesick or wished myself back, but O how gladly would I embrace my dear friends in my native town, especially my dear sister and family, you think we shall all return, but that will be as the Lord shall direct. We have been uncommonly blessed with health, and the lives of our cattle, while a great many others have buried their friends on the way, and lost their cattle since we started from Nauvoo, Brother Ponds family are all gone but himself Elizabeth and Loenza, they are here healthy and doing well. Father Woodburys family, Catherine and Thomas and children, are here and well. Calvin Smith is on the way, and Brother Aikins family I expect, but do not know for certain, there has been abundance of wheat raised here this season, corn looks well, we have had vege-

tables most all kinds except potatoes. Thomas says he shall have ten bushels. We had nothing but dried eyes to plant, they did not come up, I did not expect the mail to go out until next week, I heard this afternoon that it would leave tomorrow morning I took my pen and paper and said I would let you know I received your last letter, but not the one you spoke of that gave an account of Wesleys death. I think I shall when the companies come in. There is over nine hundred waggons on the way, they have a large bundle of letters we hear for the saints taken from the United States mail.

There is a fur trader from Connecticut that is acquainted with Francis friends, and he leaves this place for his native State in Sept, I shall write by him,<sup>9</sup> I write in such haste this letter will be like Lij Bridge, it made me think of her, and then I wrote it. Green has not arrived here yet. There has been a man here from the bay of Francisco, that has been acquainted with him ever since he has been there, He is well has five dollars per day at mill work. His wife came in the same ship, he has returned to the bay after her. He said he would bring my husband. He has never liked [it there], it is so warm and such an excessive sea breeze and poor water. This is the healthiest place I ever heard of, no colds and coughs not but three cases of fever out of six hundred families for nearly a year, two or three that came into the valley sick have died and four or five infants. Day after tomorrow we are to have a great feast.<sup>10</sup> Dine under a bower. Every family is invited in the city, every ten families is to furnish a table with the produce of the valley, every ten has a captain and every fifty every hundred to see that all is in order. Brother Wallace is the Capt of our hundred. There has been a small company of spaniards here from New Mexico with a drove of horses to sell. None can talk with them but Francis,<sup>11</sup> He had all the trading to do for the whole city. It has been a profitable job for him. The Spaniards gave Irene a horse (Thales says the [illegible] to ride in the valley) Francis one. Thales bought

<sup>9</sup>This fur trader is identified as Miles Goodyear. See Dale Morgan, "Miles Goodyear and the Founding of Ogden," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, XXI (July, October, 1953), 320.

<sup>10</sup>Jenson, *op. cit.*, 36, records: "Thursday, August 10, 1848. The Saints in G. S. L. City had a feast to celebrate the first harvest gathered in the Great Basin."

<sup>11</sup>See Introduction to "Letters of a Proselyte," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, XXV (January, 1957), 56. For an interesting account of the Spanish trade see also William J. Snow, "Utah Indians and the Spanish Slave Trade," *ibid.*, II (July, 1929), 69-73.

him one for eighteen dollars [a] fat grey poney. He has got to be a horseman, he rides all the horses but the wild ones. They jump stiff legged. He says you could not hire him to go back to stay. He says he should like to go and stay a week and play with the boys, he enjoys himself first rate, he loves the indians. We have two that live with us from the pacific coast. [They] talk spanish with Francis. I will tell you about our stock. Francis has eight horses all young and thrifty six cows two calves. Thales has two heifers come in in the spring. One calf he bought with herding, his employment is herding cattle [at] one cent and half per head. He drives out his herd in the morning then comes home, stays till after dinner takes his poney and gathers them up at night drives them home to owners, when ever he wants a lisure day to go a fishing or ride with Francis, he hires a boy to herd for him. He has a dog large and black a white ring round his neck, named Carl, that herds with him. We have sold and ate all our oxen but one (we have fat beef I assure you) he is rolling fat—they judge him to weigh eight hundred now. We shall kill him and sell him when the companies come in, only what we want fresh. There is no fruit but berries in abundance, grapes and currants are those fruits we take horses and waggons and make a business of gathering them. I lament Clarindas death. Dear little ones, how I pity and love them. Do kiss them for me. Do write me if sister Russell has apostatized. I cannot have it so. I had rather hear that she was dead, It is night and I must draw to a close. I have got to milk. Ire[ne] has gone to meet with the sisters to see and make arrangements about the feast. Francis has gone to mill. Thales has returned with his herd [and is] waiting for his supper, sis is playing about eating berries. Do write often to your affectionate sister.

U. B. Hascall

Direct your letters to Great Salt Lake City, Cane postoffice, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

There is a Brother Simeon Andrews here that looks like Wilson only he has black eyes. Says his relation[s] live in Mass. His fathers name was William. Remember me to all my relatives and friends. I shall write to mother in my next. We are going to write to Mr Orcutt. Thales says tell the boys there is a warm spring for people to bath in. He has learned to swim expertly.



## XVI

Addressee: Col. Wilson Andrews  
North New Salem  
Franklin Co  
Massachusetts

Postmarked: Kane Ioa  
Dec. 20, 1848 [in manuscript]

Oct 13th Dear Cousin, There was a gentleman here this evening [who] said he was going through to the States. Starts very early tomorrow morning expects to go to Boston, Mother said perhaps you would be more likely to get a letter this way than any other and I better write a little. She would write too but her eyes would not admit it. I think [this] will answer for a preface well. We are all well. Mother is milking Francis is writing a letter to his father. Thales is gone to see Hiram Clark. Francelle is asleep. We have just heard that Br Aikins family is within a few days travel of this place. They could not come last year for want of sufficient provisions. We are comfortably situated. If you have received our last letters you already know our situation. It has not changed for this year past. We have not yet built on our city lots but live in forts. Mother and I have both written this summer. We have a real pretty log house whitewashed inside and out [with] brick chimney and hearth, a good floor, a new table five chairs a rocking chair and a little one for Sis. She is a noble child. I dont expect you will believe how much she knows or how pretty she is if [I] should tell you so I will [not] spend my time.

We hear from father very little while he is in California working on mills [earning] from five to ten dollars per day. He is by all accounts just as he used to be. There was a gentleman here a few days ago who came with him from New York. He says he was very free with his money and very generous with everything he had and dranked before the ship started but lived the whole passage, six months, without a drop and was not sick a day and was very agreeable company. He has dranked since he arrived the same as ever. He sent word to us that he expected to come here in the spring. There is a man there by the name of Hascall that went through with the Mormon Soldiers. We heard that he said he should find him and bring [him] to this valley, if it was a possible

thing. He said he was his cousin. Mother says she thinks it must be Eliza Corey's brother. He is considerable old, short and thick. We have not learned for a surety his first name but think it is John as there was one by that name belong[ing] to the church in Nauvoo. He did not live in the city and I never saw him. (Thales has got home and sits and laughs so I can scarcely think because I asked mother three or four times over who she thought that Hascall was) There is a very extensive gold mine discovered lately in California and every body is digging gold the whole population. [We heard] that Hascall was there but we have not heard that Father was there. It was found by two of the Mormon soldiers.<sup>12</sup> One of the soldiers dug seven hundred and fifty dollars in one forenoon. The company of soldiers only staid two or three weeks before they started for this place and most all of them dug one thousand dollars worth and some more. They dig [it] up with dirt and wash it out. It looks like little flitters of melted lead only the color of gold. Sometimes there is little pieces. One fellow has a piece about half as big as a butternut worth 50 or 60 dollars weighing 3 or 4 oz. It is current at 16 dollars per oz. I must stop writing such trash for I want to write some to Grandmother. Give my love to all [and] write me as soon as you receive this. There is a mail now runs from here to Council Bluff.<sup>13</sup> Direct your letters to Cane's Post Office Council Bluff to be forwarded to the City of the Great Salt Lake. Remember my love to Uncles Aunts and cousins all old friend[s] and neighbors. The gentlemans name we send the letter by is Edson Whipple.

Irene

Dear Grandmother, I know how anxious you feel about us by your short letter enclosed in Aunt S's [Samanthy?] We are much better off here than I could make any of you believe if I should write all night. We have not one of us been confined to the bed by sickness a whole day at a time since we lived in this valley. It is very healthy here we have enough to eat drink and wear. We have now in the house 12 or 14 bushel of wheat some flour 20 or 30 lbs 2 bushel of corn 1 bushel of meal and from 50 to 100 bushel in

<sup>12</sup>On Monday, January 24, 1848, gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill where members of the Mormon Battalion were working.

<sup>13</sup>The records state that in March, 1849, a post office was established in Great Salt Lake City with Joseph L. Heywood as postmaster.

the field and buckwheat pumpkins squashes and have had plenty of melons and eighty pounds of fresh beef 2 pounds and half of coffee 2 pounds of sugar 2 or 3 quarts of Molasses eggs and a good many other [things]. There is 15 or 20 mills in operation making molasses of corn stalks. It makes very nice. There is no danger at all from the indians. Always when they come to visit us they smoke the pipe of peace and are very friendly. They sell their horses for clothes and dress up like us then they feel very big. There are two or three stores here.<sup>14</sup> I bought me a dress [of] dark gingham for 56 cents per yard. Cotton cloth is 25 cts calico common 18 cents [and] 37½. The prices generally are about double. Mr Pomeroy has 5 horses 2 oxen 6 cows. Mother has one cow Thales has 1 horse 1 heifer one fat ox to sell 1 dog 8 hens 3 chickens and I have 10 hens 15 chickens but we all live together only we love to call things ours. I have the promise of a kitten.

Br Woodburys are well, live out on a farm. Catherine lives about 40 rods from us. She is well and children. She has two. Emeline,<sup>15</sup> Maria, Ellen and Hiram all live with Bishop Whitney. Calvin and wife were here a few days since. He has good wife aged 18. Br Pond is well [also] Elizabeth and Loenza. L. is married. Jonathan Crosby and family came in today. Over two thousand persons have arrived this season from the states and some from California. (Mrs Brimhall is well) Addison Pratt<sup>16</sup> has just arrived from the Islands of the sea, expects to return in the spring with his family. He has baptized one thousand, two Kings and one Queen. Elder Simmons son is here, been digging gold, has got his pockets full. It is only 25 days travel from here to the gold. You must come and dig you love money so well. Love to all

Irene

<sup>14</sup>The "stores" to which Irene refers may have been itinerant merchants.

<sup>15</sup>Emmeline B. Wells came to Utah in 1848 as the wife of Newell K. Whitney, by whom she had two daughters. After her husband's death she taught school for a few years and then married Daniel H. Wells. At age forty-two she became interested in public affairs, worked in the woman's suffrage movement, edited the *Woman's Exponent* for a number of years, and was a president of the Relief Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See Carter, *op. cit.*, III, 118-19.

<sup>16</sup>Addison Pratt was the first missionary to the islands of the South Pacific, serving from October, 1843 to May of 1847. He spent the winter of 1848-49 in Great Salt Lake City teaching a school in the Tahitian language. He departed for a second mission to the islands, and after his return in 1852 he was disaffected from the church. He never returned to Utah to live. Andrew Jenson, *Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia* (4 vols., Salt Lake City, 1920), III, 698 ff.

Mr Pomeroy received a letter from his sister. His mother is dead. You need not worry he [Thales] is well and happy and never shows the least wish to go back. I am certain he would not go if he could. He likes this place very much. He said sometimes at Nauvoo and when he first started he wished he had staid with Albert he thought so much about their little plays but he has outgrown such little things. He is no longer that little Thales. He is a young man. Every one thinks he is 16 or 17. He is taller than I. He thinks if he can ride an antic horse and drive a horse team he is finished. He says sometimes he is going after father if he dont come before long. His horse is a wild flirting thing, just suits him he says. Grandmother you would think that little Thales would be killed certain to see him driving a herd of horses running as fast as his horse could carry him.

There are two springs here. One comes out of the mountain out of a hole 2 feet square. The hole is all rocks inside. It pours out and makes a little pond. The water is very warm. You cannot at first bare your foot but by holding your feet in a few minutes you can go in and bathe. It is a place for bathing for men women and children. The females go Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays. The other days for the men.<sup>17</sup> The water is very highly impregnated with sulphur, The other spring is very hot and there is another some distance from the city that boils. [One] can cook eggs or fry fish very nice.

There are some very curious caves here. One is [as] large as your parlor but shap[ed] like an arch over head. All over the top and sides are little round stones in so tight that you cannot pull one out.

We received a letter dated october one year ago. That is the last date we have received. In that we learned of Elvira's situation. I think they must have trouble. Mother says tell Aunt Nabby she thought she had gone to the west to spend her days. Tell Mr. and Mrs Orcutt we have not forgotten them. We have great hopes of them. We think they will come here. O how I wish you would

<sup>17</sup>The bathing facilities here described were apparently at the springs known in later years as "Becks Hot Springs." The resort became well known, and the water of the springs was used for medicinal as well as bathing purposes. See Edward W. Tullidge, *History of Salt Lake City* (Salt Lake City, 1886), appendix, 24, 25.

all come and repent and be baptised. Why are you so blind. Old Elder Farr has gone to Vermont to preach. Mother says tell Grandmother if he comes to Mass. to be baptised.

## XVII

Addressee: Col. Wilson Andrew  
North New Salem  
Franklin Co Mass

Postmarked: Salt Lake Cal.  
July 16 [in manuscript]

Great Salt Lake City July 6th 1849

Dear Sister, we received your letter dated Jan 1 and Ophelias dated February by the mail that came in, July 1, glad indeed to hear that you were all alive and well. I was afraid that mother and Waldo had been taken from your society as one was old and the other feeble. The last letter we had was Oct 1847, the mail will now be more regular, but it is impossible to pass through the rocky mountains in winter without people and animals both perishing. We are all well, Irene has a beautiful son born January 10th. Bright black eyes, white skin looks like the Hascalls especially Green and Thales. Francelle is a very interesting child, her face and head very round, fat and chuby looks as Phebe did at her age, except her head is exactly the shape of Ophelias. She is very handsome and can talk as fast as her great grandmother and her daughters. The City is divided into blocks and lots, Every lot has one acre and quarter, Francis and Thales have each a lot joining and as much land out of the city as they please. We have moved our cabin from the fort to the lots, shall live in that until we can build as we like, Francis has a carriage and a span of the largest and best horses in the city. We ride to meeting every sabbath. Do you think we are getting up in the world. Well we are. Thales had two cows. A few days ago he sold a cow and calf for thirtyfive dollars cash and his Mexican colt that he exchanged his pony for that he gave eighteen dollars for, for a yoke of cattle and thirty dollars, he is going to buy another [horse] of the indians. I kept one yoke of oxen at my own disposal that we came into [the] valley with. I gave forty dollars

for them, sold one for beef (the fattest ox I ever saw) for forty dollars in gold dust. I am going to have spectacle bows and thimble made of some of it, if I can find a goldsmith. The Woodburys are doing well. Brother Pond has married Abigail Thorn [is] doing first rate. Elizabeth is married. Loenza has a daughter. Sister Akins sends her love to you and family to mother Andrews in particular and her family.—arrived here rather poor, she braids hats, gets two to three dollars a piece. They are getting along well. Calvin has a son. Catherine has no more children, [she] lived with us eight weeks until Thomas could build his house on his city lot, Sister Murdock is here—she that was Sally Stacy, is neighbor to us—as strong a mormon as I ever saw, when Lucy Harris has a letter from her she will have the whole of her mind for she is not afraid to speak it or write it, brother Patricks family have not yet arrived.

Now for the gold mine the topic of conversation through out the world. It is a fact the Mormons found a gold mine<sup>18</sup> not in the rocky mountains, but in the California mountains eight hundred miles from this city, and two hundred from the bay of Francisco, the bretheren were on their way home from the Mexican war. They went back to Francisco and s[h]owed the ore to Elder Branan. He found it to be pure gold. They dug each a thousand or so and came to enjoy the way of the saints rather than dig gold when they could dig a hundred dollars a day with ease, and already there and small expense for living. It has made Brannan incalculably rich. The best time is now over as it requires double the labor now that it did then. There is gold, enough no mistake. It is to be found for five hundred miles is not doubted. Fifteen thousand have started from the States for the mines. Hundreds and hundreds came through this city worn down with fatigue, cattle and horses failing on the way with their burden of clothing and provisions. They have been obliged to throw out hundred of dollars worth to be wasted by the way side. When they get here they sell some of their waggons clothing provisions &c pack their mules and horses and proceed on with light loads and heavy hearts.<sup>19</sup> I do not say that all are heavy hearted to say, two thirds is no exaggeration, the thousands that

<sup>18</sup>See note 12 above.

<sup>19</sup>The disposal of merchandise by the gold rushers at cut-rate prices brought the first substantial amounts of goods into the Salt Lake Valley. The influx of people also provided a market for locally produced goods and agricultural products.

have gone by water has not been ascertained, think of the desperation of society in such a place with waves of men and very few women. Already has small bands of robbers concealed themselves in and about the mountains to rob and murder the gold diggers, this we hear from newspaper authority. Now dear brother and sister you have heard the gospel preached by our elders time after time and have not obeyed. (remember that no other elder but those of the Church of Jesus Christ of latter day saints preach the gospel) I call upon you to repent of your sins and flee to this City and be baptized for the remission of the same, by those who have authority from Jesus Christ, and I call upon all relatives and acquaintances and every one that ever knew Ursulia B Hascall was and is a Mormon to do the same, I call upon you thus that you may [not] rise up and say Ursulia you knew all this why did you not tell your only sister and her family before it was too late. Ophelia did I not show the prophecy spoken by Joseph Smith by the authority of Jesus Christ concerning the overthrow of the United States.<sup>20</sup> The destruction of the states as a nation is just as sure as the sun will ever rise and set. It is near at hand. It is all ready to burst upon it. May the God of Israel bless and protect you and bring you into his kingdom is the prayer of your sister

Ursulia B. Hascall

### XVIII

Addressee: Col. Wilson Andrews  
North New Salem  
Franklin Co Mass.

Postmarked: Kane Iowa Jul 8 [hand stamped black circle]

Great Salt Lake City February 14th 1850

Dear Sister, Spring is fast approaching. It appears as if the road through and over the mountains will soon be passible for the mail, I commence writing being alone, Irene and her children have gone to spend the day with sister Akins. Thales and B Akins have gone out to hear the news. The indians have [been] stealing

<sup>20</sup>See the "Revelation and Prophecy, given through Joseph, the Seer, on War. Given December 25th, 1832." *Doctrine and Covenants of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (Liverpool, 1879), Sec. 87, 304.

some of the cattle at Utah City,<sup>21</sup> A small company of the Nauvoo Legion have gone to give them chase. There was quite a number of missionaries sent from here in Oct. brother Wallace to Germany, Francis with brother Charles Rich one of the twelve, to the west, near the gold mines,<sup>22</sup> we are left with Thales for our man, He gets along first rate so far, he put in our wheat, got wood enough to last until February then he had nothing to do but cut it, and take care of our cattle and attend to his studies with Irene, We had a school [but] he rather have her for teacher, Francelle learns finely, sews prettily, sister Akins and Emiline call her Ophelia she is just such another, our little Francis Ashbel is a finished Hascall with black eyes. You said when I left I had clothes enough to last three years and then there would be a way to get more, and so it is, goods of every kind have been brought here in abundance. One store took 24 hundred dollars the first day it was opened<sup>23</sup> and nearly as much every day for a week, good calico twenty five cents sheeting twenty cents per yard sugar forty cents coffee twenty cents tea two dollars per pound. The gold diggers I call them—they call themselves emigrants—were furnished with the best of everything the eastern cities could afford, Their teams were worn so much down they were obliged to sell their clothing and provisions very cheap, A great number sold their waggons and packed their animals with just enough to last them there, Francis bought one hundred pounds of nice ham, for twelve and half cents per pound, some of them went as far as Fort Hall 2 hundred miles

<sup>21</sup>For a description of the Indian depredations in Utah Valley at this time and the use of the Nauvoo Legion to quell them, see Provo, *Pioneer Mormon City* (Portland, Oregon, 1942), 53-59.

<sup>22</sup>This trip proved to be an historic one. A party of missionaries under the leadership of Apostle Rich joined the body of gold seekers led by Jefferson Hunt and traveled with them for some distance. The Mormons left the main body, however, to follow the Walker cut-off. They became lost but finally made their way back to the Spanish Trail, where they again met Captain Hunt, with a small group of men, at the Muddy River. Due to dissensions among them and various other tribulations, only 12 or 15 members of the original 520 persons of the Hunt party survived. Great numbers of them perished in Death Valley, from whence its name is derived. The Mormon missionaries finally made their way to the Williams Ranch in the San Bernardino Valley. See John Henry Evans, *Charles Coulson Rich Pioneer Builder of the West* (New York, 1936), 180-94.

<sup>23</sup>Records indicate that Livingston and Kinkead opened the first store in the city in 1849, with a stock of goods valued at \$20,000. It was located on First North and West Temple. In 1850 they erected the first store building on Main Street. That same year the firm of Holliday and Warner opened up a store located on Brigham Young's block, just east of the Eagle Gate.



from here and put up until spring, their cattle died and now they have just sent here for three hundred yokes will pay one hundred dollars a yoke, some prosper better, one man came in here with ninety pounds of gold averdupois weight. He belongs to the church came by the way of the gold mines through Oregon, grain is very high this winter, wheat four dollars corn two potatoes two per bushel wood four dollars per cord. Father Woodbury sold twenty bushels of potatoes to one, man for fifty dollars.<sup>24</sup> He raised several hundred bushels, he sells wheat and corn and so does Thomas, Catherine is well and all that came from N. S. Very little sickness here and few deaths, the troop have returned with quite a number of squas and children. They routed the indians. Some was killed some fled these they picked up and brought home with them. They have put one in a family dressed them like our people, they are going to teach them to read and work. They have the measles. It [is] spreading through the city. Last season they brought the whooping cough in here. It appears they have contagious diseases among them as much as our white people. Most of the tribes are friendly to the mormons. They begin to believe the gospel. The time will soon come that we hail them as brethren, O how I rejoice that I am permitted to be numbered with the saints of the most high Father. I have not cast one longing lingering look behind since I left my native land nor one sigh for my old habitation however splendid it may look. Pleasing indeed would it be to embrace my dear sister and her family and enjoy their society together with connections and acquaintances, but if they will not obey the gospel I cannot tell when nor where I shall have the privelege, be assured sister I am not deceived in the doctrines I have embraced, not withstanding all the evil reports you may hear, bad members we have amongst us to be sure, the wheat and tares must grow together until the harvest but that alters not the truth of the gospel, nor that Joseph Smith was a prophet called and ordained of Jesus Christ. May our Father in Heaven convince you of the fact is the prayer of your loving sister, Amen.

Dear Mother, I will address a few lines to you. Do not mourn my absence nor that of my children, but rather rejoice that we are seperated from the wickedness of the world and one with the

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<sup>24</sup>See note 19 above.

best people on earth, My Father in Heaven has seen fit to deprive me of the happiness of meeting my beloved Green in this City, beloved indeed he was with all his imperfections you very well know, he started for this place last july with ill health in a company of the saints that came with him in the Ship Brooklyn, with the family of brother Buckland, his health had been failing for several months, consumption no doubt, they asked him if he could endure the journey. He thought he could and if not he had rather die on the way than be left behind. He had always made his home with the bretheren was as good mormon as any of them. They told me [he] was very anxious to get to his family. He gradually failed lived but three [illegible] from the time they commenced their journey. He died very easy almost like falling asleep. They came to a beautiful place called Rock Valley, took him from the waggon laid him on a bed under a large tree a[nd] paid all the attention to him they would to a sick child, tarried there until he died a day and half, buried him under the tree in Masonic order, cut his name and age in the tree and the signs of free masonry. He had his clothes on. They wrapped a blanket around him put green boughs in the grave laid in buffalo robe and laid him on them, then put his overcoat over him then put on more boughs filled the grave [and] placed large stone[s] around. They think the place can be found this hundred years. He died honored beloved and respected. The greatest consolation I have is that he loved the bretheren and they him. He sent us word he was coming. Our disappointment was great. It was sometime before I could calm my mind and feel composed. I thank the Lord he even sat his face zionward and I shall hold on to the hope of having him in the resurrection to live and reign with the Saviour and saints a thousand years on the earth and inherit eternal life forever.

Your affectionate daughter

Ursulia B Hascall

[*Letters to be concluded in the October issue*]

LETTERS OF A PROSELYTE  
THE HASCALL-POMEROY CORRESPONDENCE\*  
(conclusion)

XIX

Addressee: Col Wilson Andrews  
North New Salem  
Massachusetts  
Franklin County

Postmarked: Kane Iowa 16 [hand stamped black circle]

Great Salt Lake City July 27 1850

Dear Sister, have you forgotten your sister or is it because she is a mormon in the rocky mountains or have my letters been destroyed by some evil hand that would still persecute the best people on earth if they had an opportunity, that I have not received an answer to my two last letters, one dated July 49, the other Feb. 1850, We received your letters by the politeness of Brother Patrick. There was much in them that we had not heard. I'd like to have you write about all my acquaintainces and relatives. I do not know why it gave so unplea[s]ant a sensation to hear [of] the death of Mrs Brooks as I never expected to see her. I always loved her and felt to mourn. I am glad that your family are well. I am not surprised to hear you have failed the most. I know very well the hardship and trials of body and mind. I think by this time your children can help themselves and you too. It is remarkable that mother is so well. I always wish I had brought her with me. There are a great number of aged people here. Not but one died in consequence of the journey, she caught cold carelessly. We are getting along first rate. Since Francis left Irene has another son with blue eyes looks

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\*This is the fourth and final installment of the "Letters of a Proselyte," written by Irene Hascall Pomeroy and her mother, Ursulia B. Hascall, the first installment of which appeared in the January issue of this magazine. In this series life in the valley during the first years of settlement, the growth of the community, and such important events as the laying of the cornerstone of the temple are depicted. In addition, the religious zeal and intense missionary efforts of individuals within the church are expressed.

like Aunt C Carey, born June 26, weighed 10 pounds. She dreamed she should have a son and call his name Elijah and so it is, she says she never combs Francelle['s] hair but she thinks of Ophelia, just such [a] head. I suppose you are grandmother by this time. I wonder if George is married. Tell him to come here and be a mormon and live with the saints and be happy. How is Waldo, is he able to come. Thales would like to see him here and take each a horse and scout the valley, no woods in the way. We have to draw wood from six to twelve miles. It is a perfect meadow one hundred and ninety miles long, twenty broad, interspersed with creeks, one river named Jordan, the mou[n]tains look like snow drifts from the city except they are green [and] all sizes and shape, Thales is now harvesting his wheat although he hires gold diggers to do the heaviest part, pay[s] in wheat as they are out of flour when they arrive here, our City is thronged with them. We can see the waggons pouring through the mountains into the city. They look like ships at sea. We look at them with pity. Gold is their God of course or they would not all [come] for it. Sometimes I think Samanthy is among them [and] going [to] stop with me. O how gladly would I embrace her. Shall I ever. O yes. I will cherish the idea however vain. It is not in my power to convince you of the truth of the gospel but it is in the power of my h[e]avenly Father with [whom] I will trust it. I grow stronger and stronger the more I learn, Sister Akin has not apostatized but she has left her husband and has a lot in the city. Lives with B. [Smith?] and Fanny. Brother Akins has a lot, lives by himself. The greatest difficulty I can find out from her is he married her for money and he is willing to own it. She is called Sister Smith, but I think she is Nancy Lozell and she shows it out pretty well, The Woodburys are well, raising heavy crops of wheat and everything else. We have five acres of wheat, twenty five [bushels] from an acre at smallest calculations—flour as good as any fancy brand you ever saw. I should like to have you eat some of my nice bread and butter together with every thing else the valley affords. There is quite a supply of goods here now, there are merchants on the way with heavy laden waggons, I have a new summer dress, I will send a piece. I am going to get me a winter dress like yours when the goods arrive. I have seen a number of the sisters that came with Green in the ship Brooklyn. They were on the way here with him to this valley. He told them a great deal about his wife and children, made them promise to visit us on his

account. They tried to make him think he would live to get here, but he said you do not know how I feel. They brought me a dress pattern and some other things that were his. We keep them as choice memmorial. You say you do not know why you did not say more against my coming here. I do not know as you said a thing. Mother never objected but appeared perfectly willing, she knew I was doing right. She was mormon enough to know that by the spirit that was in her. I have always wanted to write to Mrs Whittaker as she was once an orthodox sister and tell her that system of religion will never save her. Give my love to her, as she lives alone and has much time to pray, tell her to go in earnest prayer to our Heavenly Father and plead with him to show her the true and only way. Where are our Amherst kindred. Tell me about them. Some of them are not satisfied with the religion they profess if I may judge from what I saw and heard when I was last there. Where is Whittamore. Tell mother I do not think he ever sent her letter he wrote for her. Tell Eliza I love her and I wish her name was numbered amongst the saints, Give my love to all the Hascalls and every body else. I feel as if I wanted to put forth my hand and pull them into the ark of safety.

Thales wishes to tell Grandmother that he sold his oxen for ninety dollars in gold and silver and it about fills his purse she knit him, he belongs to the horse company of the Nauvoo Legion. [They] dress in uniforms, green coats trimmed with red, white pants, blue caps and green gaiters. When I started from Nauvoo I did not expect to ever see another hog, but they brought quite a number here when I came. Last spring we bought a pig, gave four dollars for it [when] six weeks old. Irene has a pet lamb named Billy that furnishes wool for our stockings. We have sold all our cows but three, pay a boy two cents for herding them on the prarie. There has been a school in every ward this summer. Francelle learned finely. She wishes she could see her cousins in Massachusetts and greatgrandmother. She says she must keep her little doll until she can get it. Mother our children look as Harriet Gleason did, as if they were imported. I [would] like to show them to you. I expect we shall have to live in our cabin with one room until Mr Pomeroy comes home or sends. Irene has some new bed curtains,

very handsome. I have my old ones. Thales sleeps in the tent. He says it the best place to sleep he ever saw. So much written for mother.

Your affectionate sister

U B Hascall

XX

Addressee: Samantha O Andrews  
North New Salem  
Mass.  
Franklin Co.

Postmarked: Salt Lake City U.T.  
Nov. 1

[Hand stamped straight line in black, hand stamped rate marks 5 X in black]

Great Salt Lake City Oct 29th 1851

Dear Aunt, I have neglected writing too long but I hope you [will] be more rejoiced to receive one after looking so long in vain. Mother received a letter from Ophelia not long since but they are so long coming. We have never received one less than six months. Mother has not answered it, she say[s] I must write for her. She will write soon but her eyes trouble her some and we are about building a new house and we have hired men and three children and meetings. I tell you we have never a leisure moment. If we do we are too tired to write so I think you must excuse not writing often. The mail leaves this city for the states every month and arrives from the same once every month. I should have written to Ophelia but very likely she had ere this left her childhood home. If she will write to me and tell me all about herself I will answer it. I expect my letters will seem as rough to her as Grandmother Hastings old letters did to us when we use[d] to read them to find the mistakes in them. Mother says she liked Ophelia's letter, it was just such a one as she wanted. It told about every body and every thing and that was the sort. She wanted to know how we all looked. Mother looks the same except she is more grey and looks some more wrinkled. He[r] humor does not trouble her at all except her eyes by spell[s] but not very serious. She does a great

deal of work but can stand nothing hard. We have a maid considerable of the time and should all the time but mother says she [would rather work] as long as she can, than to have one around in her way. Thales is a young man. He is very steady. He is now putting in wheat. He has a team of his own, a span of mules but he says he does not like farming much. He thinks a good deal of travelling to see the world. Hiram Clark has gone to the Islands, Sandwich I think. He writes fine stories. Thales is taller than Mr. Pomeroy. He think[s] of attending the high school this winter under the direction of Professor Orson Pratt.<sup>1</sup> He has never been to school since we left but has studied at home. I think we shall keep him untill he is a little older and he will not think of going. He likes the valley. He would never think of leaving it, only for a season. He often says he is going back to make a visit. My ink is so poor [but] if I stop to get any more I shall have no time to write. You wished to know how we all looked. Mr. Pomeroy is not altered much excepting older. He has been through a good many hardships in travelling.<sup>2</sup> He has been to the coast to the mines. He says it is perfect confusion—drinking gambling cursing swearing murdering burning and he would not stay there for all the gold there is there. As regards his own personal feelings he understands the spanish and was requested to go by the church [to] trade with the Spaniards. Well Irene—Thales says she isnt at all as she used to be. You know when a person changes from a wild rude girl to a mother of three children she must be somewhat changed. I asked him if I was better or worse. He said he did not know but he thinks nobody can make or do anything right for him but Irene. Any little puzzling job, where's Irene she can do it. Now the children, I expect it will not do for me to describe them. Francelle is a little girl of six. She is a fine scholar. She reads in the third class and spells in the second. She will take up any book and read all the people from New Salem say. She looks like Ophelia, she does except her eyes are black. Her head is just the shape of

<sup>1</sup>In October of 1851, Orson Pratt taught mathematics in the "Parent School" of the University of Deseret. The Thirteenth Ward School House was used for a classroom. On December 15, 1851, he commenced a series of lectures on astronomy and its religious implications, in the Council House. These educational efforts technically were part of an adult educational program. See T. Edgar Lyon, "Orson Pratt—A Biographical Study," *The Instructor* (August, 1947), 361-62.

<sup>2</sup>See *Utah Historical Quarterly*, XXV (July, 1957), 255, note 22.

Ophelia's. I never comb her hair but what it reminds me of old times. There is a lady waiting for me to go to meeting. Francis Ashbell looks some like his father but he is tall and slim. Thales says there isnt a child of his age in the city knows as much as he does. He will ride a horse on the trot with no one to hold him. Now the youngest. He is the smartest of the whole, little Elijah we call him. He is a great noble fellow, [has] a very high forehead, a deep dimple in his chin, features like Uncle Green, complexion like mother—black eyes sandy hair—but not as red as mothers. I think when he was eleven months he would ride a stick around the door yard with his brother.

The people from New Salem are all well. Mother Woodbury is dead. Father Woodbury married again a woman from Westfield. Catherine is well, has another child a little girl, calls it Maria Catherine. Emeline has two little girls. Her husband died one year ago<sup>3</sup> she sends her love. Brother Pond had a son born the other day, all well. Tell Grandmother how glad I would be to see her. Love to all

Irene

P.S. I want you or grandmother if she is living to get all the names and ages of all our friends or near acquaintance[s] and the time they died, day, month and year, all that you can. I mention Gran[d]-mother because I knew if she had her usual health she would love to do it. Our Grandparents Gran[d]father and Grandmother Hascall and their parents if you can, their names if nothing more as far back as you can trace it on every side. I will be very much obliged if you will ask uncle Jacob. I want to know when Aunt Lidas children died, Wilson Hascall, Silas Harding and every body you think I would be interested in. I received a letter from Augustus after it had been round by California, was very glad. Tell him to write again. I think they will come quicker now

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<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*, 250, note 15.



## XXI

Addressee: Col. Wilson Andrews  
North New Salem  
Franklin Co. Mass.

Postmarked: Salt Lake City Utah T Oct 1 [hand stamped circle in black]

Great Salt Lake City Sept 30th 1852

Dear Sister, The mail has just arrived from the states and no letter from you, Ophelia said mother would write soon. I have looked for a letter the two last mails and now I will not wait any longer but sit down this morning and write you all I can get time to, the mail leaves tomorrow at six oclock. I suppose you will wonder why I cannot write all day, Irene has a babe four weeks old yesterday, we have twelve in the family most of the time. Our girl had to leave last week, we cannot have the one we like until next week, Irene has three boys, John Hascall is the babes name, she has an indian girl Francis got to wait upon her nine years old, call her Anna Pomeroy. The children like her much she is a very kindhearted sensible child. She goes to school with Francell and Ashbel to Emeline. She [Emeline] is now teaching the second term. She comes here very often. We have a new house, a very pretty and convenient one, they say mother may have her choice in rooms. I think I shall take a chamber for the present, I should have written to Ophelia had I known where to have directed it, I was very much gratified with her letter it was so like herself. I could see her as far back as the time she and Irene used to tease me to make warm gingerbread and coffee. I hope she has recovered her health and [is] happily situated but I am some like Orra about Drs.\* We wondered where Aunt Samanthy was at the time she opened her eyes and saw her father so pale by her side. She did not know but it would be something new to us to hear of such a performance not at all. We have papers from the cities in the states, from France and England. Then we have missionaries in all most every part of the world that are writing and coming and going bringing all the

\*For the attitude of the Mormons to doctors and the medical profession generally, see Joseph R. Morrell, "Medicine of the Pioneer Period," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, XXIII (April, 1955), 127-44.

news and the fashions<sup>5</sup> but we adopt our own fashions pretty much. Here I must begin anew. We have company to spend the day. I spent a hour with her and commenced writing. She is a sister from Wales. I have [been] acquainted with her five years. We have some of the best people from the old countries. We have for neighbors five families from Boston and quite a number from New England one from Poland. He taught Thales to play the accodian, Francis brought from Francisco, paid thirty two dollars for it. It is a beautiful thing. We have pianos on each side of us. The Governors little daughters are learning to play the piano—teacher from England.

Mother I will now write a little to you. I enjoy better health than [I] ever did for many years before I left the east. I have not had any [trouble] in [my] face for two years. Thales is well but he has grown so fast he gets tired sooner than Francis, he does not have to work any more than he has a mind. He has a span of good mules that he will not take less than three hundred dollars for, he has now gone [on] a journey with them not far from three hundred miles to meet the bretheren that are coming in from the states to carry out provisions to them if they should need and help them draw their loads.<sup>6</sup> There is between eight and ten thousand coming into the valley this season, there are twenty waggons and eighty yoke of oxen besides horses and mules. I often wish you were here in the evening to see the lights in buildings. I think you would not be lonely, I hope you enjoy yourself better than you did when you wrote me last. You must not think you are a burden to Samanthy. I presume it is a pleasure to her to wait upon you. Judge by yourself would it not be a pleasure to you to wait upon your mother. I know it would, for that reason make yourself happy. I expect you will live to be as old as granny parce nin[e]tynine because you have horns on your toes and so had she. I want you should live untill you are baptized into this church and then I will be willing you should die, I should then expect to shake hands with you and my father for I or some of the family shall be baptized for him

<sup>5</sup>Though the early settlers were isolated geographically, this passage emphasizes the cosmopolitan quality of their society.

<sup>6</sup>E. K. Fuller was captain of the relief train. Thales, one of this company, was sent alone and unarmed from Green River back past Chimney Rock with letters to the Eli B. Kelsey company. He returned with the Beebe company. See Thales Haskell, "Autobiography," (for the years 1834-1909), MS, 10. Type-script copy in the possession of A. E. Smith, Salt Lake City, Utah. See also Philip A. M. Taylor, "The Mormon Crossing of the United States, 1840-70," *supra*, 332-36.

that he may [be] judged according to men in the flesh. I know you are a mormon and believe the gospel as it is laid down in the bible. It is no new gospel that the mormons preach. It is the same the Jesus and the apostles preached eighteen hundred years ago. There it is in my old bible father gave me. I have read it there and so I know it is there. Now mother if there is a mormon elder comes along do you rise up and be baptized for the remissions of your sins and have him lay his hands on your head that you may receive the gift of the Holy Ghost according to the pattern laid down in the new testament and the Lord will bless you forever Amen. Your daughter  
U B Hascall

Samanthy I must now fold my letter and send it along just as it is without finishing but I shall finish it and another with it and mail it the first day of November. The mail is to leave the first day of every month. I sent a paper to Waldo and Irene sent one to Uncle Jacob at the same time. Remember me to everybody Grandfather and mother Andrews. Kiss all your children for me. Tell Wilson I remember him with love and esteem. Tell James Paige to come here and be a mormon. Tell Mrs Holden, Edwin is just here with his wife and five children. We live on migration street.<sup>7</sup> I hail every company to find him. The last one told me he would be in in three days. Your affectionate sister

U B Hascal

I thought I had written in haste before but this drives me

## XXII

Addressee: None

Postmark: None

Great Salt Lake City, August 29th 1853

Dear Sister, You know not how much I want to see you in this valley and enjoy the society of the saints with me. It is truly the greatest happiness that can be enjoyed this side the veil. I desire to thank my Heavenly Father that I was born to live in this

<sup>7</sup>Probably refers to East Third South.

age of this world, and be where I can associate with the chosen people of the most High God and Jesus Christ his Son, and hear the truth flow from the mouths of his servants the prophets, The first thursday in every month we have a fast, If I can not go to meeting I fast, and pray, at home, I write this, that you may know what I am doing on so many days out of three hundred and Sixty five, Our temple is commenced.<sup>8</sup> The corner stone was laid the sixth of last april, the birth day of the church, I was there, It was a time of great rejoicing among the saints I assure you, We have a very handsome and commodious tabernacle, where we hold our meetings, twentyfive hundred can be seated, It is filled to overflowing every sabbath, the alleys are full and the doors surrounded as far as they can hear anything. I thought before I commenced my letter I would not write mormonism so called, but I am as full of it as a person filled with electricity, if I touch anything or anything touches me it will fly out, and if you do not relish it, you must excuse your animated sister, for surely I can feel to say as it says in the Bible, it is my meat and my drink, I know your good honest heart would open a place for the Holy Spirit if you could rend the thick bandage of tradition and prejudice that is so interwoven around you. My patriarchal blessing says I am the lawful heir of Joseph the son of Jacob that was sold into Egypt and surely you must be the same, if you do not remember the blessings that were pronounced upon him I want you should take your bible and read carefully and see if it is not worth living for.

I will now try to write something about our family, The cities south of us for three hundred miles have been some annoyed by the indians, they sent to this city for an hundred and fifty men to assist them in bringing them into subjection, Thales was one of the number, he has been gone about five weeks, he is all engaged in military business,<sup>9</sup> it does not give me any uneasiness at all, I think he will be called where he can do the most good, and that is what I wish him to do, I expect him home every day. Tranquility is restored and the men are returning to the city. Francis and Thales bought an hay lot that produces abundantly fifteen miles from the city, while Thales has been gone Francis and his hired men have been cutting and hauling the hay, there will be seventy tons at

<sup>8</sup>See B. H. Roberts, *A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (6 vols., Salt Lake City, 1930), IV, 15-19.

<sup>9</sup>For the chief events of the Indian Wars of 1853, see *ibid.*, 46-51.

least, they have an house on it where they stay and cook for themselves except their bread, that I bake for them, our family is from twelve to fifteen for this four months past, and will be for the present, cooking, and washing dishes is the order of the day. Irene has a woman to wash and iron and sew for her the rest of the time, I do my own, the chil[dren] are plump and healthy, Hascall enough in them so that I can see it shine out occasionally, our little one year old Johnny Hascall, is a beautiful child, every one says what a handsome child, Elijah, three years old, has red hair, very white [skin] with black eyes, He [is] as keen as you please, Looks more like his mother than any of the others, after all I have said of him, Francis Ashbel, four years and half old, is more like Thales than anybody else. Francelle talks a great deal about Samanthy and her cousins, and great grandmother, wishes she could see them, she still resembles Ophelia. Irene says she never combs her hair but she thinks of Ophelia, Irene is rather languid this summer,<sup>10</sup> the weather has been excessively warm this season. I think she will brighten up now it is growing cooler. She enjoys as good health as she ever did, she spends a good deal of time in teaching her children, a pleasant task I assure you. Her little indian girl learns to read and sew and knit, wash dishes, sweep, and take care of the baby and wait upon her. As for myself people tell me I do not grow old at all, brother Wallace says I look the same [as] I did when he first saw me, but I think I have improved for I have not had a red blotch on my face for three years. I do not take any tea nor coffee, I have learned to drink butter milk, it makes me feel first rate, it is not such as you have, I save the last quart from each cow every milking and churn it every day or every other day, the butter is very nice and the butter milk is delicious, now I think you smile, but it is a fact, I have learned to love it.

Irene has just gone to visit Emeline, she has married a fine man, He is a perfect gentleman and has a good education, has

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<sup>10</sup>In April of 1853 Francis took a second wife, Sarah Matilda Colborn. It is interesting to note the absence of any mention of polygamy in these letters. Plural marriage as such is simply ignored. In letter 16, Irene says that Emmeline lives in Br. Whitney's home, but she does not say that it is as his wife. In letter 19, Ursulia mentions, that Sister Aikins lives with B. [Smith] and Fanny. In letter 22, she says: "Sister Nancy Smith as she calls herself and Ben live together," and then "Fanny is married." Was Fanny married to Ben also? If not, why was she living with him? Too, in letter 22 when comment is made regarding Emmeline's second marriage, there is no mention of the fact that it is to a man already married.

abundance of books and newspapers for her to read and she is quite happy, her sister Lucy send him Barre Gazette, we had quite a social time over it, why do you not send us some papers, they would seem like an old friend. Catherine was here last evening, her family, and father Woodburys are well, sister Nancy Smith as she calls herself and Ben live together. They have plenty to make them comfortable, Fanny is married, she is a very genteel pretty girl. Brother Ponds family are well, Loenza died with a consumption brought on by a sudden cold. She was taken with a hoarseness that lasted six weeks. She tried every thing she could think of but nothing would help it, she then had a severe cough that caused her to suffer very much and at last wore her out. She has left three little girls, they have a good father, Sister Brimhall is well, has a kind husband. People often say to me "you do not get picked up yet." I tell them I do not get picked up so easy as some do. How is mother, is she still living, if she is read this letter to her, tell her to be contented and happy, tell her she will hear the gospel preached after she has left her friends here, and we shall some of us be baptized for her and then if she will accept it, she can live forever with the righteous, but if there is an elder comes along (that comes with good authority from the church of latter [day] saints) to be baptized for the remission of her sins. If she can not get [out] of her bed, tell her it will not hurt her it will do her good, now mother I want you should believe this, be assured it is the truth, do I not know this is the true church and there is none other on this wide earth, most assuredly I do, from what I have seen and heard and experienced since I have been in it, this is the gospel the Savior and his apostles preached, and Paul said whoever preached any other gospel let them be accursed, then why not believe what the scriptures say, we believe the bible just as it reads.

While I am writing the children come running up stairs, grandmother Thales has come, I leave and go down to see him with his long beard and dusty garb, hardly looks like himself. Mother I have got home, but I am going [at] six oclock in the morning on another campaine of twenty days in the eastern part of the Territory,<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup>The military action to which this passage refers was probably the following: Jim Bridger had been accused of furnishing the Indians with ammunition for use against the whites. Confirmation of the feeling that Bridger was hostile to the Mormons is expressed in a letter to F. W. Richards, written by I. C. Haight in August of 1853, in which he says: "We met a large posse going out to arrest Bridger and some of his gang, that resisted the authorities of Utah. They have

I want my clothes ready tonight, The indians are trying to steal the animals from the emigrants, all right, they are ready and he is gone, and now I will finish my letter, I must say something of James Paige. I am glad he has never married. I hope that peculiar vein of Paige blood will run out. Do you not. Yes, you say. Is every body alive and well, especially your own family, dear Waldo with his hard breathing, I think of him often with a motherly sensation, it always distressed me to see him, are any of them married, and you a grandmother, tell Ellen she may have my pitcher and Phebe the coffee pot, look at them and think how Aunt Ursulia loves them, how are all the Hascalls, I should like they should make me a visit, write to me and send me some papers. Mrs Amos R and Fanny, give my best love to them and Mrs Dexter Mrs Jim Day Hascall and Eliza Carey and all that take pains to enquire, and Mr Orcutt and wife, tell Hascall, Thales has the scratch awl he sent to Green. Isaac Price and wife were here four weeks since on their way to the gold mines, she said to get rich, but she never will with that man, his health was very poor. Hundreds and hundreds have passed here on there way to the mines, but few will live to get there from the news we hear, cattle dying on the way enough to make a fence each side of the way for fifty miles, people dying with the cholera, I look at them with pity as they pass. I wish you to tell Mrs Almoda Clark, of Erving, or send word to her, that her mother, Mrs Buss, is well, made us a visit this week, tell Mr Orcutt and wife, I remember them with love and gratitude for former kindness. T[ell] Wilson I can see him stick out his lips and turn up his nose at the mormons but never mind, he can do no hurt by his looks and I love him as well as ever. Your affectionate sister

Ursulia B Hascall

I do not care much about Whittemore only for Elizas sake, but I never shall cease to love her like my own kindred. Why she always seemed so near to me I cannot tell. Write as soon as you receive this or we shall not get it until spring. Write us of Mr Hardings family. Tell Mother Andrews and family I should think George Boyce would sail out here some day, I intend to write to Erastus

stirred up the Indians to commit depredations upon our people, and some of our people have been killed; . . ." The above events led to the purchase by the Saints of Fort Bridger in 1853 for \$8,000. See Andrew Love Neff, *History of Utah 1847 to 1869*, Leland H. Creer, ed. (Salt Lake City, 1940), 233.

Bridgeman, he always seemed very near to me. The children have been trotting around since I have been writing. Some mistakes I have corrected and left the rest. I think you can read it if you have good spectacles.

Mother says she will leave room for me to write to Grandmother. I want if she still lives and can know what is said to her you should tell this to her. If you do not tell just exactly what I say [or] read it right to her, her sins shall fall on your head. Tell her Irene says If there is any Mormon that has authority to baptize if she will be baptized for the remission of sins while she yet lives if she has to be carried on a bed no matter if she will only obey the gospel thus far be baptized and confirmed a member of the church of latter day saints before she dies which is all she can do in that place, I will pass through all other ordinances for her (and save Grandfather for her in the resurrection) I expect it look[s] strange perhaps folly to you to hear us talk of preparing and passing through various ordinance[s] before we can enter a fulness of Glory. In the presence of the father and the son all will have their just reward, but believe it, yes, be assured of, Mormonism will reign over everything else and the followers of it will have power and dominion over every thing else. None other will enter Celestial but their glory will [be] Terrestrial and Celestial as differs the Moon and stars from the Sun. I must preach to you. Everything else seems of so little consequence. What is 70 or 80 years compared with eternity. If we prepare for eternity and make a resurrection to celestial glory sure[ly] the rest is small beside of that still it is our duties to make our selves as proficient as possible in every good and true principle. What we learn here we shall know to commence with in the resurrection. I do believe you have good honest truth about you to be saved with a fulness of glory, if you let this worlds goods alone. You can not carry them with you, but you can your mind. I think I will not write so much religion to you, it will do no good and you will never wish me to write again (perhaps that is why you do not write) but I feel such an interest in you because I know just what you are and you are my only relations on Mothers side. I know no other way only to burn without reading them which I know you will not be so cruel to your only niece. What I say to one I say to all who hear it and



I wish it was proclaimed on the Housetops. Love to all. I remember every one but have no room. Mr Pomeroy sends respects to all

Irene

If Ophelia is married, love compliments and respects to her husband. Tell her to write all about herself. We feel very anxious to know about our ancestors. If you can get the genealogy as far as you can get it please send it. We wish very much to have it.

### XXIII

Addressee: None

Postmark: None

Great Salt Lake City Aug 31st 1853

Cousin Ophelia, A long time has passed since we have received any communication from you or any of our friend[s] in Mass. We do not think you have ceased to think of but presume you have so many other cares and associations and cares that your time is more profitably spent, or you write and we do not receive them; we are very anxious to hear concerning the health and prosperity and general circumstances of our relatives and friends; we have written several letters since we have received one from any of you; we have come to the conclusion you do not receive ours. You mentioned in one of yours that you had sent a package by Mrs Patrick. She arrived last season. She brought things for Father Woodbury's family and Catherine but said she never received any for us. The mail goes regular now, once every month. I think we will be more likely to receive them. I hope you will remember us and write often.

My family cares have greatly increased the passed few years. I have three little bright eyed boys aged 5, 3, and 1 years, fine healthy children named Francis Ashbel, Elijah and John(ny) Hascall. Francelle my only daughter is teasing me to let her write to Cousin Ophelia. I asked her what she would write, she says ("O I'll write I am quite a large girl 7 years of age and I study Geography Arithmetic and read in the third reader. I am learning to write well enough I will write to you.") She said this as fast

as she could speak then said "Wont that be sufficient Mother." She is the best reader in school of her age. She is very proud to know she has Uncles Aunts and Cousins in the states. She thinks it a great honor. She cried the other day to send you her likeness "she is very proud" I have an Indian girl about 10 years of age. She is very kind to the children very quiet modest and diffident. She speaks English very well. We have had her nearly two years. She take[s] almost the entire care of the babe. I will send you a lock of his hair. We think it so pretty.

The Indians steal children from one another and sell them. The Governor says buy them treat them kindly and educate them.

Mother and Thales live with me. Mother is writing. I expect she will write all the news. Perhaps she has not [written] to you about the mineral springs and hot springs.<sup>12</sup> The former are for bathing and as warm as one can comfortably bear, the latter so hot I can hardly keep my hand in to count twenty. They come out at the base of the Mountains. Some of the mountains are continually covered with snow. The climate is about like Mass. with less storm. I will tell you about our temple. The corner stones were laid the 6th of Apr. surround[ed] by 6 or 8 thousand people. The block on which it is to be built contains 10 acres is to be enclosed by a wall (partly done) 25 feet high. The temple will have 6 towers 3 fronting East and 3 west. It will far exceed that of Nauvoo.

My believe in mormonism is confirmed every day if possible. Suffice it to say It is true I know it is true I ever have known since I received the holy Ghost by laying on of hands. How can it be untrue when it embraces all truth. Every true principle on earth or in heaven is mormonism. We believe everything which is eternal truth. It makes no difference whether it is some of Methodist baptist Millerites Unerversalist or what every true principle we claim so how can it be *delusion* or wrong. Thales was baptised his last birthday. He had too much Hascall about him to be very pious but he knew Mormonism was true and if he wished to be saved in with the greatest glory possible for man to receive this was the first step into Mormonism. I expect place any one of you alone with no one to know anything about it you would believe and obey it. Love compliments and respects to all.

Irene

<sup>12</sup>See *Utah Historical Quarterly*, XXV (April, 1957), 251, note 17.

Love to Grandmother. Tell her she would be proud of her three grandsons if she could see them.

I wrote this to put inside Mothers but we thought perhaps we had better put them in separate wrappers and you would get one if not both. Good bye for a while. Write immediately or we shall not get before winter. Mr Pomeroy sends love.

Irene

#### XXIV

Addressee: None

Postmark: None

Great Salt Lake City Aug 29 /54

Dear Aunt, We received a letter from Waldo directed to Thales a few weeks since. As he was absent on a mission three hundred and fifty miles south I opened and answered it. We now have an opportunity of sending direct to Massachusetts and perhaps to your own door. Br. Elijah K. Fuller, Ellen Calista Woodward's husband is going to visit the Woodward girls Sisters and if he can without too much trouble he will visit you. He is a worthy man and I presum[e] will be received with much pleasure by all who have friends in this place.

We are all well contented and happy surrounded by healthy smiling faces. I have five children all fine and healthy. The youngest a babe of three months, we call it Irene Ophelia. My little Indian girl died of consumption caused by the whooping Cough. She was a very kind affectionate child. When she was sick and wished to get up if I went to assist her she would say "don't you lift me mother I am afraid it will hurt you" It shows what they might be if they were [cut out of letter] white people they learn easy [cut out of letter] ings there are quite a number of them in the city living with families. They are bought generally.

Waldo wrote about Ophelia's babe but did not write its age. I wish O. would write me all about him. I will send a little lock of her namesake's hair & Francelles likeness to Grandmother. I wish O. would send her baby's likeness and her own and husbands the expense is not much there, Francelles cost \$3.50. Mother sends

you a piece of her black dress the other is mine. Francelle says send one of mine the blue lawn is hers. Mother says "tell Aunt Samantha to write and not wait for time to write it just so particular. Take a sheet of paper and write on it whatever comes into your mind. She says I can read it if you shut your eyes while you write. We want to hear all the news, Ophelia wrote once since she was married but it was very short with a promise mother would write all the news but it has never come (but though short it was very acceptable) I wish you would all write and write often. It is but a little trouble if you will only commence. I think Ellen and Phebe Loraine can write and George also. Tell Waldo we are very much obliged to him. If you ever see Albert remember Thales love to him. Tell him to write to him and we send our love also love to all Elvira and Sophia &c &c.

[Signature cut out, but memorandum says "from Irene"]

Mr Pomeroy and Mother send love. I am at Emelines and I have forgotten the piece of lawn. Mother says Francelle isn't half as pretty as common. She is quite thin for her. She goes to school and plays hard but the likeness is very correct.

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The following letter received by Thales Haskell, postmaster at Manassa, Colorado, from E. D. Andrews, postmaster at North New Salem, Massachusetts, does not belong to the series. It does, however, reveal conditions at North New Salem sixty years after Irene, Thales, and their mother Ursulia left that community.

Addressee: T. H. Haskell  
Manassa, Colorado

Postmarked: North New Salem, Mass  
Aug 31 1904

Dear Friend,

I recd. your letter of June 15th O.K. Augustus Haskell died about six years ago & I send you notice of his oldest son's death . . .

Your old house is in first class repair painted and blinded. . . . The Old Store is painted yellow and owned by Bill Dexter, Old Dexters son. Our school house has been remodeled twice since you was here. . . . Albert is failing slowly he comes down after mail every day. If [he] stayed home a week I don't think he would be able to come, I have P. O. here at house. (I have been P.M. here 32 years). . . .

We have mail at 9 & 1 each day from Millington to Orange and from Orange to your Uncle Wilsons Brick House. . . . about 60 families in my P.O. limits. Do you remember you and your sister and my going blue-berrying over across the meadow east of my house. That has grown up to timber & been cut off & blueberries are as thick as ever this season. I have never been berrying there since till this season & I thought of you and Irene.

Yours with respect

E. D. Andrews