

A1.5 - Letter from John and Caroline (DeWitt) Graham of Pleasant Valley, Iowa to Rebecca DeWitt Jack, 13 January 1871. Transcribed 6 April 2014 by Alison Mitchell-Reid. Page one of four

Pleasant Valley Jan 13th ^1871

Dear Becca

Annie is home and all right so dismiss your fears and anxieties concerning her for she seems to be quite happy. I assure you we feel very thankful that she is back with us again. we are in our usual health & hope that you are all well. We did not think that she would get home quite as soon consequently we did not go to meet her but one of the neighbors was out at Plainfield and brought her straight home but do you believe I was so stupid that I did not know her until she got close up to me. Dear Becca, you came near giving me the blues writing as you did don't ^{^you think} you were a little too hard on me but it is generally the case the poor mother gets the blame of whatever is wrong; however the Lord has hear my prayer and brought her home safely. She got a slight cold but is now well. I wish you could look in on us and see how

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happy our dear children are since they have got their long absent sister back with them if you could seem them all chatting so merrily Annie sitting on Willie's lap with his arms around her and Charlie playing on the accordion and John smocking and out sewing you would think we were truly happy. Let us bless the Lord for all his mercies to us undeserving as we are. I am sorry dear sister that you have had so much trouble but one good thing, you have got a good kind husband and this is every-

thing a person can do anything for a kind husband when they sympathize with us in our trials it seems to lessen our troubles and makes us more able to bear them and yet above all is a fixed firm trust in God which never allows anything to tempt us above what we are able to bear but with the temptation makes a way of escape, he will not allow any to be confounded who put their trust in him. He will make them to dwell in perfect peace whose souls are stayed on him dear Becca can you not forget all past hard-

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ness and come up to see us next summer I am sure we feel thankful to you for your kindness to Annie in providing things for her comfort on the way and also for all your kindness at different times to us. And now Becca with regard to my dear old mother do kiss her and give her my love tell her that I think I hardly ever lie down or awake without thinking of her O! How I wish I could see her once more. Give my love to all my dear brothers and sisters & all enquiring friends. write soon no more from yours truly, Carrie Graham
[words following now in a different hand]
Dear Becca, Carrie has already told you that Annie is home she arrived at Plainfield with the 3 o'clock train and got home about 4 on Saturday P.M., well and pleased to see us all again we are all well and hope you are all well too. Dear sister, I feel truly gratefull to you and Andrew for all your care and kindnesses to our Dear girl while she was with you. May the giver of all good reward you and may his blessing rest on you and yours we should have written to you sooner

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in order to relieve your mind but we have had so much to say and talk about that there was nothing else could be done. Annie commenced going to school on Monday as she could not be separated from Elisebeth and almost every evening has been spent in riding round and visiting we have had a very fine winter so far until about a week ago the roads were dry and dusty like summer now we have a few inches of snow, scarcely enough for sleighing weather cold and wintry please write soon, and remember me to your Brothers and sisters and dear Mother. I would like to see you all again I must close this hurried letter as it is getting late and Annie wants to write also please write soon to your affectionate brother & Sister,

John Graham

1871
Pleasant Valley Jan 13th

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