

# **The Legacy of John Richard Shuff**

## **Vol. 1 - The Letters**

*Fourth Edition*

*Compiled by Dianna L. & Tom E. Snyder*

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#### **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES & OBITS OF JOHN RICHARD SHUFF**

- From The Christian Leader, February 25, 1896
- From Portrait and Biographical Record of Oklahomans, 1901, pages 222 & 223
- From Christian Worker, May 1977
- Death of Bro. J. R. Shuff
- Another Obituary (*Okarche Times*)

**From Jesse Lindsay to John & Angelina Shuff**

Ghent Carroll Cty., Ky August 22nd 1840

Dear Children

I have one time more commenced riteing a letter to you I received one from you some five weeks hince which I have not answered yet and now see one to Richard of the 2nd Inst in which you say you are all well and have fine crops and plenty of every thing but money and that is scarce well we are injoying helth except my wife she has bin in bad helth since last winter she is better now, and we have plenty of every thing but money and plenty of that for every body that is not in Debt., we should be very thankful to our Heavenly father for the many blessings confereed on us. for we have at this time the best goverment in the world and the plentifullest cuntry and yet pride and ambition is sutch that it Seemes that all has to be Sacrificed for the Sake of money nothing will do but a US Bank in the establishment of which Instution I have no Doubt but you will in part forge rgal chaines to bind yourselfs or at least your children. you may yet live to see your cuntry Drenched in human gore or carnily submiting to a monied aristocricy. well so be it I have used my best indeviours to prevent it but I am now pretty well Done with that business I wish to spend the ballence of my time to attend to the better part as did Mary of old for we want but little hear below and nor want that little long. the common order of the Day is with most of people to Spend there life in trying to make a fortune and often neglect there own Salvation and the instruction of there children in the one thing needful; this in part has bin the case with your unfortunate Father. I say unfortunate because I think that is the reason I now see some of my children the willing and anxious Slaves of Sectarianism; and the reason of my long oposition to religion was founded in this one thing I thought that Sectarianism was christianity and that having bin all that I ever heard tought I doubted the reality of it; but now that I know that all other Systems and rules except those laid down by Christ & his apostles are the invention of men and not the revealed will of our Hevenly father I see ?? ? Religion. all sistems would vanish and all be one if all the creeds invented by man was laid Down I know many profeser in my aquaintance that has bin sutch for 20 years that cannot cote one single verse in the bible now you know that sutch are entirely governed by what there caled and sent says. no more at this time on that subject. - we have fine crops in this cuntry except wheet that is now selling at 50 cents but will soon rise. we have \$4 per hundred offered for large pork meet the same for good beef on foot. - our relations are all well at present in this part of the cuntry the last letter from Susan and John Anthony was in July in which thay sayd they would be hear in Sept. but Susan then had the ague there has bin a good many Detha in this cuntry lately by flux.

I have thought I would be to see you this fall (but) the situation of my family is uncertain. I have had good helth since may in April I have taken a list of taxable property and cinces this year worth to me about \$250- I thought I might spend part of that visiting. Dont you think so Richard is well and says he will not rite at present he took the cencis in Gallatin and made his Return in five weeks I must come to a close God Bless you with helth and a Disposition read and believe his revealed word in preference to what any person may Say or think about it. your affectionate Father J. Lindsay

**From John Richard Shuff to Elizabeth Ann Artt**

Bethany Va May 14th 1860

Dear Sister Lizzie:

This is Monday after dinner. Your kind letter was gladly received on the evening of the 10th i.e. on Thursday. Carrie's came to hand upon the 5th. But being very busy I never answered it until Saturday night the (I suppose) ever to be remembered 12th of May 1860. If you had not a more favorable evening for CONCERTING than was here I cannot say that it was unnecessarily auspicious. Hope however that you had your concert - that you all succeeded far beyond your most sanguine ex[ectations before a large - intelligent and orderly "Ordinance". I must confess however that I utterly failed to hear any one of you, but I did not much expect to hear, from this great distance. No doubt but that you sang loudly enough. I am quite confident that I did not wish myself there less than '0'(zero) times nor oftener than (infinity). I DO LOVE GOOD MUSIC AND GOOD GIRLS. (That's So) No wonder therefore that I much desired and longed to be THERE. I suppose moreover that you all now feel much relieved? Yes I hope you WILL write a "NEXT" and give me quite a detailed account of the Concert - &c. And you have been to Antioch AND to the upper Schoolhouse? Sorry I was not there to go with you. But perhaps I could not have had so great a privilege had I been there? I remember, very distinctly, however, some good old times in days gone by I used very much to enjoy in your company to and from both the above named places. And I am inclined to flatter myself with the joyful hope that I soon shall be permitted to reap similar blessings, intensified by a long year's ABSENCE. But I perceive I am bankrupt for language to express my thoughts now, so I will quote you a piece of poetry which expresses very well my sentiments and feelings and may I say especially on your account - only that I have not perhaps been guilty of WANDERING, in the same way as the author.

"I long to return to the home of my childhood, To dwell with the friends that I loved when a boy, And often I wander alone in the wildwood, And dreamingly ponder on past years of joy. Each face that I loved in my memory dwelleth, AND TIME ACNNOT SHADOW THE JOYS THAT WERE THEN; A something within me my yearning sould telleth That soon I shall be with those dear ones again. Each kindly word spoken in accents so cheering, As hoping I sprang in the broad stream of life, Comes vividly back when in Sorrow & fearing I shrink from the world and its ne'er ceasing strife. I ask not for glory - my only ambition To know that I'm loved by the friends of my youth, To feel that they gladly accept the contrition The wanderer offers in sould-feeling truth. The oft-spoken proverb that absence is chilling To love of those dear ones we leave far away, Is surely but FALSE-HOOD, for through my soul thrilling, REMEMBRANCE DOTH MAKE MY LOVE DEARER TODAY. Recalling those forms as I saw them at PARTING, HOW LOVING AND HAPPY THE VISION DOTH SEEM, The pangs shall soon cease that are through my soul darting, Reality breaking the wanderer's dream." Yes I long to return to my old Morgan home, To meet with all friends who my coming await, And may the glad day auspiciously come When soon, very soon, I may reap such a fate. But I must come back and down to PROSE. I don't know however even yet whether I shall be able to get home this year or not. But I hope I shall. At any rate the day of Judgment (Examination) will soon be around when I shall have to answer for every "idle" hour and every lesson "good or bad". But by good degree of dilligence upon my own part and great grace and mercy upon th part of my teachers I hop to hear the plandit [?] (at lease) "pretty well done thou good and faithful student - Enter thou into the joys of they LABORS." But if it should be my fate to hear those awful words "Depart &c" I don't

think I would feel much like departing home but rather some other direction. Time however will reveal all this. Alas "cooked" are they? Sorry - Sorry - Hope they were not all cooked. I tell you I shared in a couple of CANS of nice peaches lately with the other Darnell house boys through the kind hospitality of Bro Frazier of Ky (one of the same) They were fine. Certainly all such blots are nothing. I hadn't seen it until you spoke of it. I think, however, that your fancy of my singing must have been far more enchanting than the reality. Mistaken was I? Very well be it "negligence" then I reckon it is very well for I havn't time to write frequently to more than one in a family. And I am sure I would much rather write to you than him. (ha, ha, ha &c.) But now as regards the Antioch S.S. I think, if it has not been reorganized that it is high time it was. I am very anxious for my part that it sould go on. Here they have S.S. the year round. You have too, a very good, new library. But alas little Eddie (Osborne) will not be with you. Above all however I want that S.S. to go on and prosper.

Yes Bro Samuel Brockman tells me that Julia is bound to be married and probably Dan too. Yes I was aware that Dan was erecting a "cage" some time ago. Dan is a good fellow. I like him, but I LOVE MOLLIE his "bird". I say "success to him" too. It is an event in the life of any Gentleman or Lady - which I think well worthy of many a sober thought much profound reasoning - the exercise of most candid and unimpassioned judgment and - if Christians - most ardent - sincere and importunate prayer. But enough now. I think - if I mistake not you sent me a "Johnie jump up" - "Heart's-ease" "Forget-me-not" or what every you would call it. Did you not? At any rate I will not forget you. You didn't tell me whether Sallie read her letter or not. I therefore suppose of course she did not. (Ha, ha, ha, he, he, he.) You say I would not say I know if only I knew how bad you are. Well I was only speaking relatively. Compared with myself no doubt you are VERY GOOD. I did not suppose however that you were perfect for I know well that none of us are. If we were we shoudl not then be fallen beings. I will not so deceive myself as to suppose that any - no not even any - angel Lady is perfect. I want none of them to deveive themselves by thinking I am for then should they be sadly deceived. Would I were much yes much better and purer than I am. No, - close acquaintance always reveals more or less flaws of character. And we should never expect anything else. But let us strive onward and upward forever and forevermore. May we more and more be freed from sin and its power and its consequences. The only true happiness is a conscience void of offense before God and man. May our affections and conversations be more and more absorbed by things not seen - things eternal. Oh I hear Wash playing a nice tune on the piano! Especially yourself. Hoping to hear from you soon again I beg leave to subscribe myself as ever your sincere friend & Brother. J.R.S. Miss Lizzie Artt Orleans Ills.

**From John W Shuff to John Richard Shuff**

December 24 1860 at Jacksonville

Dear Son

I have Just received yours of 18th & I also Saw yours of 16 [?sent] to Molly Armstrong Saturday evening both of which Speaks of your Critical Situation if Things do not quiet down by the time this comes to hand I think it would be better for you to come home. I mailed you an answer to yours of 29th of last month on Saturday last and one I had previously written you will See how we are to that time.

We have had another snow Friday - and a little more Saturday night and it si now Snowing hard. You dispose of your Carolina bill as you speak oft and if you come home bring your Missouri bill with you, or if you have not got enough without it to fetch you home write if Kentucky money will go there. I have some of that and will send it to you if not I know not what to do exchange is eight per ct - but if nothing else will do I will buy what will do you to get home on. but I hope ere this reaches you all will be peace. - if you Stay and Kentucky paper is good there sent me your Missouri bill in a letter & I will Send you Ky paper for it. yours as ever John Shuff

Jo was a little sick yesterday he is a little better this morning he has soar throat I presume he will be much better this evening we gave him medecine last night if operated will this morning So I think he will get along Write soon &c yours as ever John Shuff To Jno- R Shuff

**From John Richard Shuff to Elizabeth Ann Artt**

Bethany Va Jan 12th 1861

Dear Lizzie:

I have just enjoyed the privilege of reading your last kind letter of the 7th. Glad to hear that you are still enjoying good health. Glad to hear that Sallie has recovered for I suppose she has as you state that you are all enjoying usual health. You say that you do not feel like writing. I wonder if you are not getting lonely? Perhaps you are not very well? But whatever the matter I hope you are cheerful again. You say that you wish you might ever be able to speak words that would fall with tender power upon my heart. I am persuaded that you can only know the joy such an expression affords me when you consider the desire of your own heart that my language toward you might ever be of a similar character. Is this not true? But I saw a statement in a paper the other day saying that a True Friend did not have to be always addressed and treated just so-so in order to be kept in a good humor. That at least was the amount of it. I well know too that there is no little in it. I have always noticed that the truer the friends the less their disagreements. hence I conclude that when two Christian Hearts have become ONE, blended thus together by the power of LOVE, it is an utter impossibility for one half wantonly to offend the other or to act with any discord. Or if otherwise, just in proportion as one or the other half, or both, may fail to preserve and maintain and exercise that first and last and BLESSED BONE of UNION-LOVE. But, as YOU SAY WE ARE ALL LIABLE TO ERR" it is true that we are. These (errors) may also be divided into two grand classes - 1st Errors of the HEAD or (crimes) faults or offences or errors committed in ignorance and without such design or intention. 2nd Errors of the HEART or such as are perpetrated knowingly and with wicked intentions. And hard must be that heart that cannot "FORGIVE AND FORGET" such as might fall properly under the 1st class. But I know well by experience that I can easily do both of these. Otherwise how could I - poor erring creature that I am - ever hope to be in turn forgiven and my errors forgotten? And again wicked indeed must be that heart that can designedly offend a friend - much more a DEAR FRIEND, - STILL more a DEAREST FRIEND, - yet more, a friend dearly loved as his (or her) own soul - yea a friend of heart and sould SO DEAR as actually to be part and parcel of his own heart - life and sould - even ONE to all intents and purposes for time and in eternity! Would not such be the case Dear Lizzie? I know you say yes - Then our mutual duties are plain. I do feel that it were a moral impossibility for me ever to utter a harsh word to you - God forbid that I ever should? (Amen) - but having the

experience of others before me and knowing that I too am but one of the same erring race and indeed feeling my seakness I cannot say what unwarrentable and outrageous words and actions I might not say and do. Even the thought is revolting in the extreme! And so may it ever be. I dislike exceedingly to dwell upon such a theme as this but probably it is not wholly amiss as it was rather suggested to my mind by what you said above and also from another consideration, that it is always the part of wisdom to hope the BEST and prepare for the WORST. Also we ought to have as perfect an understanding of each other as possible and act not by blind impulse but with reason and judgement as much as we can command. It is nothing but LOVE that can hide a multitude of faults. That can certainly do it. Then what triumphant peace and happiness when there are comparatively few faults to be hidden! Tis a blessed thing to love (is it not?) and a glorious privilege for lovers to forgive and forget! Is it not so? I think it is. Bless your soul I know you are the best girl ever lived - everything you say seems (if possible) to make me love you more and more! You then think it is all right that I went to see Miss B - and are glad to have me 'enjoy' myself and have "BIG TIMES" in any honorable way? Glad you think so. I have not been over any more. I have lots to tell you but as it is already quite late I will quit for tonight and try and finish in time to start it our next mail. So now pleasant dreams and a BEST NIGHT to thee? (Tuesday Morning).

Well the night has passed - more has come - been to church - heard Prof. Pickett preach a lengthy discourse. Saw Miss Black for why she sat just on one side of the middle wall of partition and I upon the other!! But notwithstanding all that she never SPAKE UNTO me nor I to her! And you had, no doubt a fine time New Year's night. Wish I had been there behind the door for you perceive if I had been so situated I would soon have left there again. But now what do you suppose I was doing that night and where did I go? Well during the day there was held in BETHANY CHURCH what I called a grand DISUNION, meeting. At night I-I-I well it is rather too good a joke to tell and also rather too good a joke to keep. Well don't you think I started over to see \_\_\_\_\_ and was fortunate enough to arrive as far as the door - and IMPUDENT enough to knock some THREE or FOUR times but alas! so very UNFORTUNATE also as to fail to gain an admittance!! HA HA HA Then what think you I did? Why I just SNEAKED down the steps - SLIPPED out the gate and SHOT off towards the postoffice. But when I arrived opposite my room I meet the FELLOWS returning from the mail one of them with a (Morgan) Jacksonville Journal for me so I went up in his (Tom Halton's) room and read the news. Then came over and the boys seemed somewhat astounded at my so early return. Oh said I I have JUST been over in T.T.'s room reading the news. So they said no more. So I have not seen Miss B since to speak to her. Suppose however she was not at home. Hope she is not offended. Must find out soon. So NOW you know something of what I was doing. Wonder who all those "gallants" were. O, I guess Mr Owen doesn't care much for I guess he places considerably more (dis)stress upon another claim out there than he ever did upon this one. I received a letter from him also last night. He tells me (his present claim) Miss Joe McELroy has been making quite a visit out at Tathers and that he had also been out there and to Uncle Harvey's. Thinks he had a "BIG TIME" And Carrie seems to think you must stop writing to me so much, eh! I can say that it si NOT SO far as I am concerned. Unless you yourself wish it? Never mind Miss Carrie I'll \_\_\_\_\_ I will that! But why are you less afraid of her NOW than ever? Or were you ever afraid of her? Glad you have had some sleighrides. No doubt but Ira took the wedding very hard indeed. You don't seem to have received the book that I sent you at the time you wrote. I hope you have received it by this time however. I mailed it at same time I did the letter and you ought to have received it at the same time. Tell

"SISTER" SALLIE I am gist HOPPUN MAD and la! how I will FOUGHT her next "WATERMILLION" time oh but it will be a caution!! Now I guess she'll heed? No indeed your letter was not by any means without interest. And you seem not to know what you would think were I to stay here next vacation. I don't know either exactly but I expect you would think the time almost too long to be endured with any degree of enjoyment. But really the signs of the times do not look much like I will be permitted to remain here even the rest of this session. The Neotrophans had a grand exhibition last Friday night. Their Debate was the grandest burlesque I ever heard. Question - Aff "THAT THE CONFLUX OF THE ARGUMENT IN HUMAN REASON SUBTENDS THE ANALOGY OF THE CASE". Debatants Misses Tobbs and Harris. We expect to have our next Friday night. Nearly all the ladies were out.

I have learned a pretty tune sung to Burn's Highland Mary. Oh yes I must tell you what a high time we had here last Friday night. We elected our 4th speaker Mr Saltonstall and he got up a fine supper for all the Americans in our rooms. Had oysters-cakes-crackers-candies-peaches. Let me Tell you we had a big time. Had three tables all in a row! But I must close. Excuse this uninteresting scratch? Health and happiness be yours! And remember me as ever your devoted friend forever. John R. Shuff

**From Carrie Armstrong to John Richard Shuff**

May 14th 1861 Hutchison Bourbon Co Ky

J.R. Shuff Esq. Bethany Virginia

Dear cousin John Richard;

Yours of the 4th was received yesterday, and I hasten to reply, although you wished to receive an answer by this time. I went to Lexington yesterday and as we returned, stopped at the post office and got your letter. I was not much surprised to hear of your intention of returning home, for Georgetown college has been broken up for two or three weeks. I am ready and willing to go home any time that you will come by for me. I DO hope it will be convenient for you to come, for I have been anticipating so much pleasure in visiting our relations together and now to think that all of our pleasure and that of every body else is to be broken up by this horrible war that has been brought about by those wicked men. But if it goes on, of course it will all be for the best. Bro. Ricketts of Midway preaches at Bethlehem on the second Sunday of every month. I heard him once, and would have heard him last Sunday, but it rained so that no one could go to church. I do not think he is much of a preacher and his son, Ben Ricketts has the reputation of being a very bad boy; but I suppose he is not the one that you had reference to, for Bro. Ricketts has several other sons I believe. I will now answer your letter, then if I have room for anything else will write some more. It seems as if your letter did not obey your injunction to be quick for I did not receive it until last Monday which was day before yesterday. Certainly I was expecting you to come by for me as I had concluded to remain until July, but rather than lose your company I would start today and therefore will be ready to go whenever you come along, but if you should happen to not come I do not know what I shall do for company as I have no intention of remaining till fall as much as I want Cousin Rob to go home with me. I reckon he would not go now either as there is so much fuss going on. I think the first obstacle you mentioned, in the way of your union heart and hand can easily be removed, for SHE is already found. No sir! I cant begin to compare "THAT LETTER" to anything at all; but I DO say that it was a real "LOVE LETTER". Nothing said about you of any consequence I believe. Your name was

mentioned once or twice. You must be sure and come and take Mary Lizzie home with us for I do not think I am able to undertake it alone. You are remarkable JUST, all at once. I have nothing to say about boys of 18 only they do not seem to fancy my company, as they say I look too cold and dignified! Are you not astonished to think that your wild cousin should be mistaken so? I spent the day at Mr. Wheat's again yesterday, and spent a very pleasant day and Mr. Andy Smith Came home with us. He also called on "your cousin" on Sunday evening and also his cousin of 18 Milton Wheat. MR. Gist called on Miss Lou Wheat who has been here several days. Yes! a wonderful fortune to be sure! about \$80 I believe. Certainly I should be generous - charitable etc to my "Poor kin" No, I do not prefer to remain till fall, so you had better just come along with yourself. Cant you just bring a Satchel with you and send your trunk on home? I never once thought about bringing that great trunk all the way around here. Of course when I spoke of Miss Millie, I meant Mary C. That's right, come along and bring the book with you. I would like to know what you by the picture subject? heard about it did you? I cant possibly imagine what you mean? Ah! now I have it, you meant James Artt? I have got His picture, but I thought as you only said James, that you meant Jamie B-n. Well the hand of FRIENDSHIP has engraven the image of ONE on my heart so indellibly as NEVER to be erased away. No Carrie did not drop any little bottle in your trunk, neither did she see any one else do it. What kind of a bottle was it and what did it have in it? M.H. - and myself both find it very hard to settle our love on each other, but I guess there is a good reason for it for I think we have both settled our love on somebody else. Why must I not fall in love with anybody down here? J.R. I believe the folks are all foolish, down here. Nearly every place I go they accuse me for having you for a Sweetheart. They all marry cousins out here just the same as if they were not cousins. I always tell them that I think it is very wrong to think of such a thing. I hope that you will not get ready to leave before June and you must meet me at Cynthiana. When you get ready to start you must write and tell me precisely at what time to meet you there. Yes, there it is again, "SOMEBODY ELSE" I know SHE is already found. I hope to meet somebody else soon too. We. that is cousin Rebeca[?] and her sister Lou Wheat and myself are going to an auction today, at a country store about 4 miles from here. Mr. Hall and Mr. Wilson are selling the goods. I will mail this letter today and I think you will get it by the 20th. I am sorry your letter did not reach me sooner, but I expect it came to the office on Saturday and I did not get it till Monday. if I had got it Saturday I would have answered it on Sunday and sent it Monday. It is time to dress to go to the auction so I will close. be sure and let me know when you start for Cynthiana and I'll meet you there. If you go to Cynthiana you can inquire at the depot where Richard L-y lives as it is about 1 1/2 miles from town or if they cant tell you that, they can tell you where his father inlaw, Squire Williams lives which will do just as well. When did you hear from my little "sweetheart"? I haven't heard from him for a long time? Give my love to all of my dear friends out there, not forgetting my cousin John Richard. With love to yourself I remain as ever, Your cousin Carrie Armstrong May 14th 1861

**From Carrie Armstrong to John Richard Shuff**

June 1st 1861 Hutchison Bourbon Co Ky

J.R.Shuff Cynthiana Ky

Dear cousin J. R.

I received both your letters yesterday evening and read the last one, first. If I had have

been at HOME last week, I should have received your first letter just one week ago today, but I was over at Mrs. Wheat's, about six miles from here, consequently did not receive your letter when it came. I sent to the office by Mr. Ewing, (a boarder at Mr. Wheat's) nearly every day last week, but there was no letter till yesterday when Mr. Hall brought it to Henry's. I spent the last two weeks at Mrs. Wheat's with her daughter Lou, who I have taken a great fancy to. And on last Saturday we had a little fishing party and I told Mr. Hall to come by the post office, but he had been drilling, and his horse was tired, so he did not go round that way. If I had received your letter then, I would have met you on Tuesday but as it is, I cannot come before Monday on the evening train when I want you to meet me at the depot, I will probably have company that far. I hope these lines may find you all enjoying good health. My love to all of my cousins, aunt and uncle. Carrie L. Armstrong

**From Angelina Shuff to John Richard Shuff**  
Jacksonville Morgan Co. Ill. March 18th 1888

dear son as I am thinking of going to town to morrow I will write some more I quit before I was ready al come in I stopt writing and went to get an envelpe found that I had none got a paper that I had cut out of the papers to send you, I herd yesterday the number had reacht 188 accessions to the church still going on no great excitement but a crouded house all the time thy have got up oppistion meetings at nearly all the churches in town and union meetings but cant keep the people a way I for got to tell you who Ed was it was Ed Coucilson and you knew he and his Father are pardners in Merchent tailors business he is hanaks brther it is 23rd it rained monday and then turnd cold and frose hard snowd some so I havent got to town yet the read was to bad for the buggy I havent herd from the meeting this week but will put the peaces in that I cut out last week will close as I have a chance to send this in so no more at present as ever your effetionate Mother Angelina Shuff

**From John Artt Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**  
April the 3rd 1888 Raymond Kans Mr E A Shuff

Dear Brother I will try and let you know how I am getting a long but I dont feel like I could write eny thing as to that claim you was talking about father is going to take it as I did not like to put a home stead on it and I could not put a preemption on it as I did not have eny thing to build with or live on. I would like have been able to go back to Aaunt Mollie's this spring for I think that I could have suited them and get the \$20 a month and maby i can come back this fall if I dont go up to Nebraska for I expect to go up there if nothing hapens. I supose you have heard that Oaklyhoma is opened up and the people are nearly going crazy over it. George Broomfield come down with us and he is getting \$17.1/2 a month No that was Mr Gaylor that come over after me and it is the other one Eddie is working for and I guess he is good pay. we have had two good rains this spring all ready and things are just booming. You asked me a question well I guess that it has been so long that I have for got the question that I asked you was a bout bannons folks well what has become of her you have not said nothing a bout her since you held that quaiker meeting. well I have been tradeind and the last trade I made I got but little. well i know what will be come of me if I keep on well i guess that I will close for this time by

saying I wish you to be as successful as I have been so good by from your Brother write soon J.A.Shuff

**From John Richard Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Envelope: Mr E.A.Shuff Bedford, Taylor Co, Iowa

From J.R.Shuff Arthur Hodgeman Co Kan

Kan Dec 9th 1888 Arthur Hodgeman Co

Dear Allie: I have had but little time to write since the receipt of your card. We, of course, were glad to hear of your safe arrival at Bedford. Seems very strange that you should have been left a Taymond so often. What was the matter? Where did you find the boys? Tell us how they were doing? They have not yet sent us any more word and of course no money. How much did they raise for you? Did you know them? How di they look? Tell we all. We have still made out to get along. Killed our hog a week ago yesterday. Mamma assisted some. I repaired the correll wall. Made a doorway east of stable and stair way. Put a yoke on Daisy. Cane pile as south end of hay stack and all along west of fodder circling around at north end and nearly as high as hay stack. It looks lively. Tramped out some Cane seen with horses. Not done God a molases bbl of Chesney again. It is full of clean seed. Let Chesney drive Billie to Ness last Thursday. Have not finished your house yet but have made my window and door frames and set them in. Changed the south room as I had expected to do and started it all up ready for building. Used most of the old sod that I moved. Worked two days on it. Bro Smith says he can let me have willows. Also chips. Dallie Jimmie and Bennie and I went down to Kenneths and got one load of chips last week in Yoho's wagon. Tobe is still here. He hunted all around for you several days. Some one or more went into your old house and scattered all your letters, books and papers and nails, seeds etc all over the floor. I gathered up about all and brought them up home. How many window catches were left? I found 5 in the house and 5 more thown out at the west window! Was there not more? I expect it was Grant and Ira. They had a light there Chisney said. Left no coal oil! Angie has got well again. She rode Billie over to Bro Balcom's yesterday. They came home with us today from meeting. Bro Smith has the brush on his new stable. I hauled Mrs. Brumbaugh a load of came about two weeks ago. We have had the prettiest kind of weather ever since you left except one or two windy days. Today was beauriful and bright. John and Jane were quite late to meeting today. Says he will give us some pie melons! Sister Broomfield is still in Jetmore. Bro Balcom is now talking of going to Missouri or Arkansas. What does Bro K think of Mo? IS he going to go there or not? Girls had a letter from Minnie and Rosie. They were expecting you to turkey with them on Thanksgiving. Did you go? What about the church at B? Have they kept up regular meeting? Yes I know Bro Cassel. He is a good one. Glad they secured his assistance. What success? What of the Bricketes? Is "GRIP, GRIT AND GRISTLE" still there? Give our love and best respects to all friends. Suppose you saw my poetry in the Leader of Dec 4th. How was it liked? Did you see Miller at Larned? If so what did he say? What of our attachment and Humenover[?]? If you go to Maryville call on old Bro Schell and hunt up Johnie Smith at Watson (1st station west) He could be of great assistance to you in getting work. He is a blacksmith you know. Could also take you to Graham or Aunt Lydia's etc or the Junction. Write soon. Not heard any more from Ma or any body. Good bye. Affectionately as ever Your Father & Mother

**From John Richard Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Dec 25th 1888 Arthur Hodgeman Co. Kan Mr E.A.Shuff

Dear Son: This is, you will observe - Christmas night. I wonder how cold it has been where you are. Been quite a cold day here. However Bro. and Sister Smith went to Jetmore in his wagon. I worked about our feed correll until about noon. Am fixing to fence it on the north Hauled six posts from the quarry yesterday. (By the way I have forgotten exactly how many we left unmoved. Was it not 24? or was it 29? Chisney has hauled out about 13 including 3 or 4 plates! I think he has got 9 of your posts at least. Have not seen him yet about it.) It was too cold for the boys to herd today so Jimmie took the cattle to the pasture. But they did not remain very long. Came back to our Rice Corn stalk field. I went and tobe and I herded them quite a while over near the Linn house. Jimmie went to Jetmore yesterday with 5 1/2 lbs. of butter (.15 per lb.) Got two sacks of meal. Took 6 2/3 Ibs a week ago. At .15-1.00- Cows are failing now however considerably. Mamma and Bennie thrashed out nearly two buls of Rice Corn seed (dirt & all) yesterday. Not done yet. Have not got house up yet. Been trying to get more hay on 2nd claim south of Aichan's. Only got two loads home. Broke the head bar of sickle cant get a new one in Jetmore. Been too windy for haying most all the time lately. Cut part of load last Friday with the old sickle but couldn't bring any in on acc't of the wind. Dallie has been sick abed for over a week. Sets up a little now. Used some of Angie's medicine (109 & 27) for her. Went to see doctor once only so far. Affected somewhat like Angie yet also somewhat differently. Had some pain and some fever at times. Cut her down considerably. Angie washed for Mrs. Atkin last week. R.R. election last Saturday. Have not heard result. Dodge and Omaha routs. Harold and Riverside both pulling for it.

Mama, Zettie and I sleep in the cave. Had a letter from Johnie since you left but no money. Of course I have not made any shed yet. Nor have I been able to fix the stable either! It still answers however for the horses and claves. Correll is quite comfortable whenever wind is from the west or north. Got another letter the other day from Joe Malosh. He is still at Dirghton and of course wants that-V.

Guess I will write him and send all or a part soon especially if the boys send me enough. Dont know what taxes are though past due. Thought maybe \$2.00 would pay yours. Told Bro. Smith to inquire for me today but all were closed up. Mr Blain of Jetmore died last week very suddenly. Glad to hear such good news from Bedford. And so that "Gristle" has lost both "Grit" and "Grip"! Dwindled down and out to a Sunday School! His day of visitation may come slowly but it will surely come. Well you will, I guess, have lots to say in your next. All about everybody in general and quite a host in particular! Winning's, Bob's Davis - the prophet Elijah's all and severally. Bro. K's same. The man in the Wood? Cy's - That PETER - man? All the girls - Bro. Lumir 's - Webb footed ones. McKonklis Cobbs - Ira & Less & AC. Did you get those jobs? Hire conditionally that both agree. You might not find him a good man to work for. Lots of Catholics out there at S. Got your \$2.00 you sent. Have it yet. BE CAREFUL NOT TO FREEZE YOURSELF! Put on plenty of underwear etc. From Shanendoah to Clarinda and Red Oak is a good region to hunt for work and money I think. 25 YRS since our wedding last night!! Why have none of them written to me any more? Write as soon as you well can at length. Affectionately J.R. & L.

You could also call on Bro Prickell north 3 miles of New Market - on way to Clarinda. You might find Burevell out N.W. of Clarinda and call on him if convenient. Perhaps he could help you to a good lay!

Saturday 29th. As we have not got this mailed yet I will write a little more. Dallie is now able to set up considerably but still not up all the time. Taking no medicine Got one more load of hay on 27th. Fencing feed correll yesterday. Not quite done. House not quite up to square yet. Just over windows and doors. Going to work at it today. Looks some like snow now. Have not heard any more from boys yet. Nor your Grandma. Harvey is going directly to the office hope he will get some letters from somebody. Angie has just come in from milking. Write soon J. R. S.

**From John Artt & John Richard Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Arthur Kans Feb 20 1889 Mr E A Shuff

Dear Brother I will try and answer your letter that I received some time ago I was glad to here from you but you did not answer my questions that I told you before you went back there. well I guess that I will tell you that Eddie and I both come home got home the 7th of this month and we finished building the house and put the sod on the rooffe and it has been storming so that we could not do eny thing more at it we had the bigist snow that we have had this winter the snow fell a bout six inches on the level and it dont seem to melt off verry fast either we wanted to finish the house and plaster it before we go back and we want to go back by the first of march if we can Eddie has hired out for 8 months for \$140 to a man he was working for when you left there his name is Bill Mcfarland and I guess I will work for Mr Logan for \$18 a month till after corn is layed by and then I guess that I will go up to Nebraska if I can get off for I think that is a better place than Kansas and I think that I will get me some kind of a rig and drive through. well as the rest of the folks are going to write some I guess that I will close by saying that all the folks look naturel so good by write soon from your brother J A Shuff

I will add here a few lines. I met the boys at Jetmore. Eddie has killed about one dozen Jack rabbits. Killed them at our Correll after night. They bought Milda Bennie and Harvey shoes etc. Guess we will get our feed all out by spring. Cattle look well all except Bob. Calves not weaned yet. Must tie them up right away guess. Dallie is well again. All but her and Milda going to school. Have not seen Reeve(?) yet. I know he took the posts sure he does not ? it. He has been at work in the quarry. Dont know what he has done. Cattle damaged your sod house at corners. I sent Joe \$5.00 by reg. letter Got return Card. I remember the place you are at. I guess. At turn of road presume. Do you want church letter? Do you go to Bedford meeting? As Johnie is ready to go to A I must close. Write soon Affectionately J.R.S.

**From John Richard Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Arthur Hodgeman Co Kan Mar 29th 1889 E.A.Shuff:

Dear Son: I was at town yesterday. Went in with Bro Ghent. Saw Fuller. He says he has not got that Relinquishment. Says Brace offered it to him but he would not take it for fear if anything should happen he might have to bear the blame. Said he would send on for it at once and I could get the note ready and he would go with me to the bank and state together the conditions on which they were to be held and delivered to him or RETURNED TO ME. I think you were wrong in writing to Brace that you would not be willing to deposit our note along with the \$25.00 In that case he would have no assurance only your word that he would ever get either note or money. If we dont get papers on the

land both note and money will be made returnable to me and we will lose nothing but the land. I have been plowing it in front of your house. Two acres out of 5 now plowed, Have plowed second breaking on my preemption. Bro Smith has oats up. Ground is now in good shape for plowing. Johnie has traded off Billie and buggy and harness and some cash for two ponies. Have sent me no money. I have paid my inst. Look for your letter this evening. Getting close run again as cows are giving very little milk now. Jimie plowed yesterday. I will enclose note for your signature All well J.R.S, Fleming has moved back and wants that claim, We may miss it yet.

**From J. R. Shuff family to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Arthur Kan (April) 7 1889

dear brother

I will try an wright you a few lines to let you know how we are getting a long pony has got a colt two days old to day named it tanter have got five calves your two cows have both have come in. papa says that he will give it too you that is if you want it wich I think you do have put in about two acurs of cane an corn to gather have plowed five acurs be sides what we have got planted mama droped most of it while we were at school three more weeks of school I have got 25 head marks jimmie 3 milda 5 bert adrnes has got 5 herbert warner 2 olive 4 and the one that got gets a prize from the teacher dident say what it would be so i guess i will close for this time as jimmie and milda wants to rite some from ho Shuff to E A Shuff

I will write some now me Milda i guess harvey told almost all the niews all of us have gone to meeting but us four Jimmie and Harvey and me and zetta. we Got that munny all rite papa was afraid that he wouldent Though. it is raining now a little. yes and they sold there Rabbit ears it will come to a DoLLer and ten cents. well i guess i will close for this time i havent written much eather write soon to miss A A Shuff to Mr E A Shuff Apr 7th. I will enclose you a letter dated Mar 29 which I directed to "MO" instead of to Iowa and so it came back to me. So I will now try again. It contained a note for your signature and I am sorry I made such a big blunder. Fear I shall want it before I can get it now. Bro & Sister Balcom came home with us today. They have gone home. Our lesson today was letter to Philemon. We are all well. Had a letter from Eddie last Friday. Says Johnie traded his Ponies for a Poney mare and colt and a saddle. Thinks he is out some! Our Poney has a good horse colt. Nellie will have a colt later. Poney is very poor. Two weeks more of school yet. Have not gardened much yet. Ma has sent us another box. Not got it yet. I will enclose the returned letter entire. Got your money (\$24.00) on the 4th. Sent \$1.00 to F.F. for you. Sister Brumbaugh also sent for it. Also Sister Lyde Best. Your old Red has a heifer calf. Grass is coming on some. Some sprinkles of rain today. My article on Ordination I sent the Review is out in Apr 4 No. I ordered your F.F. to you at P. Did you get the others? Your old ground plows nicely. Broke 5 acres for Brace. Was pretty hard UNDER. Our hens are laying now. 3 Turkey eggs. Guess I will renew that \$20.00. Have you got your coupon yet? Johnie would like to be in Neb. Aunt Susan died on Mar 4th. No box yet from Carrie. Oklahoma is all the talk now with some. Write soon. As ever J.R. & L.

Monday Morning. Nice rain last night. Send it by Bennie J.R.S.

P.S. You can sign your name under mine. I will date it when we deposit it at the bank. If we could cash the note the Claim would cost us but one hundred dollars. Had we not better do it if I can sell stock enough? Fuller wanted to know if I couldn't cash it? I will

write to Brace again today. I sent you several Foundations but did not find my No. 1  
Write soon. Truly - J.R.S.

**From John Richard Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

LETTER WRITTEN ON KANSAS U.L. TICKET 1888 Apr 30th 1889 Dear Son: As I have no paper I will use this. I sent for some by Bennie last Saturday but Mrs Moho went and so I got none. I expect you have been uneasy about that \$5.00. We got it all right. I also got that note. Wanius had taken it out. I have finished setting out cuttings on Brace's Claim. It was a big job. Lots of rain of late. We got all out last Friday 26th. Straight 0 nails both ways. I think they will grow. Good rain night before last and yesterday. Terribly cold (some hail) yesterday. Cattle went with the wind clear to Mrs Rossis I planted six rows of corn next to the road and about two acres next the cotton wood on Brace's. Some corn up in orchard and also on your claims. Got 1 bushal of seed corn at Ness by Bro. Smith for .50 cts. Real pretty today. Nice growing weather. Too wet to plow today. I have been waiting for Bro. Ghent to come I expected to go to Jetmore with him today. He said he would go yesterday or today. I guess he did not go yesterday. It is now nearly ten Oclock however. If he does not come will have to borrow some grub of warners and go to town tomorrow Mrs. W (?) baby died yesterday and they aim to bury it tomorrow at town. It had (?) had meeting at our S.H. last Sunday. Meet there permanitly hereafter perhaps. Bro. Broomfields with Lizzie & Anna came home with us Also Rena. Lesson was Heb. 3rd Our new house has not leaked any yet. I have not written to Brace yet on acct of being out of paper. Have not seen Fuller lately. He had addressed Brace at Evansville instead of at New Albany. Said he would write again. One of his letters had been returned to him. We are all well. Zettie has had quite a cold & cough with some fever lately but is about well now. Mamma stayed at W's. Is just coming home on Nellie We have sold now about 22 inches of cream. About 15 cts per in. Get all our buckets full. Bought two new cans. Want 2 more. They cost .65 apiece. We have peas and lettuce growing. Beets, onions! Kansas Peas - watermelon - Radishes etc planted. All near Asparagus bed, Orchard ? that - North all rebroke. Funeral tomorrow at 10 at S.H. Bad news to tell you. Bob's calf been dead a week! Blackleg. Dan's calf gone too. died in stable! Bob's died about 1/2 way of Linn breaking up N.E. Grass is very fine now. Daniels has planted about 1/2 Scott planted with lestin Dill. I hope to get use of it. Wish had them tools here. Perhaps you better get away for His and if cant sell them right ship them here later? Sheet is full. Write soon. Yours etc. J.R.S.

**From Armilda A. Shuff to David E. & Harvey O. Shuff**

Arthur Hodgeman Co Kans May 19 1889

My Dear brother i will try to write a very little letter if i dont spell the words all write next time i will do better i heve been wating for some one else to write me are all well but mamma She has got the headach we have got fifty chickens and five turkeys It is avery nice day today is Sunday We have Six calves beauty and dazy has come in beauty day before and dazy today dally was working over to mrs aikin last week well i must clos for this time write soon your Sister A A Shuff to mr D E & H.O. Shuff

Will try an write a fiew lines as milda has been writing some I guess milda has told about all the news milda made a mistake in telling you about the calves seven in stead of six I was at meeting to day harvey had gon away so i will finish this i dont know much to tell ponys colts name is tip Dallie has gon to wash for roda today. We made some gerden last

Sturday evenine. well i will close for this time write soon from your sister A A Shuff to  
mr D E Shuff

**From Mollie Angelina Shuff to David Edwin Shuff**

Arthur, Hodgeman, Co. Kansas May 19,1889

Dear Brother:

I will now try to write you a few lines after so long a time. Sorry I have waited so long. Will try not to do it any more. I just got a letter from Johnie. He said you had quite a rain storm. So did we on the 8th it rained terrible hard for about one half hour then quit. Washed lots of the things out. It just riddled our lettuce bed. We go up to the school hous to meeting now. Dallie was over to Mr Aikins last week to help her sew. She is going to do her washing now. He paid her two dollars owes her three yet Jimmie is pronouncing words out to Bennie, Milda and Zetta. He gave Zetta Sorrow to spell and she spelled it S-i-r-u-l. She can read right in the second reader a long all the little chaps in the first reader of which Zetta was the youngest spelled down. and Zetta beat them. it tickled the teacher half to death as he was always rather parcial to her. I never missed a word the whole term and spelled them down the last day. Harvey got a little Microscope for a prize in the headmarks he got 30, Milda ten and the rest was below. O! yes we have got fifty chickens and five turkeys and thirteen duck egg. they never began laying till a day or two ago. The old turkey hen has layed about twenty five eggs. Annie Childs went back home last Tuesday. Lizzie is at home. Mrs Warners baby died about three weeks ago. It had the Pneumonia. Mrs yokos baby had it too but they got the Doctor right a way and they cured him. We milk ten cows now. Beauty has a fine big stere calf. she came in day before yesterday. Papa named them three calves. Buster, Bulger, and Bouncer the latter is B's and we call the others Etta Jennie and Minnie. O yes every body brags on ponys colt even to Mr Barcker, but it is not as pretty as prince is. It is going to make a big horse. call it Tip. Mr Balcom has one and calls it Topsey He is awful proud of it. Mr Minnings folks sold their place to Harve Smith and have moved down in Missouri right close to Burlington Junction. Rosa says she will soon change her name to Dave also. The one she goes with and Minnies man are brothers. I got a letter from Allie last Monday. He said he walked over to meeting and when meeting was out he went to a resturant and bought him some crackers and cheese for his dinner. Ain't they sociable back there? Johnnie has come out even after all has he not. They have come down to eleven cents for the cream now. Butter is five cents a lb. in Jetmore. I weighed 132 lb. one day I was at Jetmore getting to be pretty good size ain't I. I will have to close as my paper is full. hoping to hear from you soon. your loving Sister Angie.

**From J. R. & E. A. Shuff to David Edwin Shuff**

At Home May 19th 1889 D.E. Shuff;

Dear Son: We received your letter sometime ago but I have had very little chance to write. Have written to your Aunt Priscilla and Cousin Mary Ann Walker (Shuff used to be) Also to Ma and Allie and some to Johnie all since yours came to hand. You know I have to work every day and conduct meeting on Sundays. We now meet at our S.H. Have met there three Sundays. We are all well. Dallie came home this morning. Was at Aikin's all week. Had lots of rain of late. Ground was too wet to plow for several days. Hailed

some too. We have some over ten acres of corn in. Done planting cane for molasses. Some for feed growing on Allies old ground. I would have put corn there but had no seed at that time. It is getting weedy. Put cuttings on 5 acres of Brace's and all in corn. Rain washed pretty badly. I broke the 2nd 5 acres for Adams on our T.C. for use of our old breaking there. Will put short rows (7 acres) in Millet. Have the seed now. Paid \$1.50 for 2 1/2 bush. Planted no Rice Corn yet. All to do yet on both these claims except I rebroke the sod on this sometime ago. Got two new collars for Nannie & Pony the other day. Will soon work them some. Look pretty well now. P's colt is a good one. Call him Tip. Nellie is getting pretty heavy. Had to buy lots of feed (chop) for them. Hay ran out May 15th. Grass is better than ever I saw it here. Cows all getting fat. Two new calves. One today Daisy's - a heiffer. Beauty had a fine B calf last Friday. Call Hardys Buster! Nig's Bulger! And Beauty's Bouncer! Spottie will probably have a calf tomorrow. Pidy soon & Dow later. I reckon you heard we had the misfortune to lose Allie's Brown heiffer (Bob's) and also Dows. The two choice ones on the place! have not got that claim yet. Fear I never will. Fuller and Brace cant get around it seems on account of some misunderstanding. Besides Fuller addressed two letters to Evansville Ind instead of New Albany. I wrote lately to Brace making him a new offer viz \$100.00 cash about Sept 1st if I get the land. If not I charge him \$25.00 for work done. Not heard yet. Still let old one stand however if he prefers or if he has sent on papers already. Angie got letter from Allie the other day. Was well. Dry out there. Also a letter today from Johnie. Says he has now two more ponies and a borrowed buggy. Has 50 acres to plant over on account of heavy rains. Yes he had told us of Rosa's wedding. Glad to hear of Prince's welfare. Hope you will take good care of him and loan him to no one. Give him all the salt he wants. Mixed with wood ashes would be good. You must not fail to get me that money in good time. Better get it here soon after June 1st Falls due June 16th or 12th perhaps Send all you can well spare. I got \$25.00 more May 16th Runs to July 16th. Sent to Chicago for a Book. Hope to sell some to pay it if possible. Have 50 young chicks 5 turkeys - Ducks laying now. Planted considerable gardin North of Orchard. 3 rows of potatoes. Look well. Sell Cream to Ness City Creamery. Bro Smith hauls it. Apr 15 - May 1 .15 cts lb of butter. To May 15=.13 cts To June 1=.11 cts. Got lots of milk now. Write soon. All send love and best wishes. Your fond parents J.R. & E.A.

**From J. R. & E. A. Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Envelope; Mr Ervin A Shuff Platteville Iowa Taylor Co  
Arthur Hodgeman Co Kan Sept 1st 1889

Dear Son: This is Sunday morning about 9 o'clock. While the rest are getting ready to go to meeting I will try and write you a letter. This pen is a very poor one and I have no better. Mamma and I did the milking while Angie got breakfast. I milked Beauty - Nig - Hardy and Mott. She milked Tobe, Red, Spottie and Lillie. Harvey milked Bob. Bob and Roney and Pidy and the two yearling heiffer's of yours are looking awful nice now. Bob is awful gentle. Guess you better sell Mott to Goebel if you can get \$20.00 for her. What do you say? Our cattle also look well. Horses are rather poor. Our crop is nothing to brag on. Good rains lately. Rice Corn will be tollerably fair. Early cane on your old land has come out considerably. Will make some feed. Late sowing east of your house is going to be fair. Bro. Smith's cattle eat all ears off our corn on your land. Will cut the fodder this week. Will be pretty good yet. The cane is awful nice about 10 acres of it. Guess will make most of it into Molasses. Quite a good chance of fodder on the Brace place. Cut

some of it yesterday. Millet not much, cut most of it however. Will have enough to winter us I think about. Several neighbors are wanting me to make molasses for them. Horton has bought Bakers Mill for \$35.00 Have not set up the new mill yet. Not been after the pans either. Well I suppose you heard of my going to Oklahoma. Got back Aug 24 Started July 27. Like it very much. Went with Bro. Smith. We both took claims. His cost him \$90 + \$15. Mine cost \$15.00 He got the N.E. 1/4 of Sec 9 T 12 R 4. I got N.E. 1/4 of Sec 34 T 14 R 6 about 20 miles from his. His is about 8 miles from O. City and I 28. Mine is about 20 from Kingfisher in the direction of O. City. About same from Guthrie. 10 miles South of Sister Sanders, 8 miles N of Frisco a beautiful town on the N bottom of the beautiful North Canadian. 2 1/2 miles from town called Mathewson just starting up. Prospect of R.R. from K to O nearly to R now from the north! R.R. soon through Frisco from St Louis to San Francisco. I filed on the 17 of August. Have six months. Runs to middle of February. Have sold two yearling steers and three calves for \$35.00. Some are offering good cows now for \$15.00 per head!! Bro Smith and I will drive some down together. Probably move in November. What will you do with your claim? I hardly know what to do with mine. May be I will trade it off. Will if I can get about \$200.00 over indebtedness. Can raise big crops of everything down there. Good water by digging about 25 or 30 feet most anywhere. I got neither wood nor running water. Wish you had a claim there. Could I think get one yet. Strip eastern portion is splendid and will no doubt soon be open. Write soon with full particulars All well. Affectionatly J.R. & E.A.

**From J. R. Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

At Home Friday Oct 11th 1889

Dear Allie: Bro Smith came up last night to see your cattle. He thinks he could not give you more than your indebtedness for them. Will strain him to raise the mortgage. But he fears you will loose them altogether if you leave them here. Two per cent and the taxes will eat them up of course very fast besides the expense of some \$3.00 per head of keeping them here and the risks of loss by death. I guess you better let them slide. If you prefer it Bro Smith will give you all we can get out of them over and above your debts to him after paying off the mortgage. Again and still better if you can send a part of the \$55.00 + Inst between now and Oct 20 or 25 at least do so and it will save some of your cattle to apply as you may desire. I am going to take mine. Don't think they will die. Risk it any way. Can get corn below there for .10 per bush. If we can get there with some of your cattle you could if you wished no doubt apply them on a good Claim. I am now decidedly of the opinion you better not leave them here on expenses. Far better have none. So I hope you will reply without delay stating what you will do. It is the only show for lifting the mortgage. Lincoln cant buy a hen & chickens. Completely bussted long ago.

Star is finer than you ever saw her by odds. I offered her to Bacus for \$20.00 and he didn't take her. Cows bring from \$12 1/2 - \$15.00 a head. This is good old REP, rule!! Glorious old party truly. Now about \$7.00 per capita in circulation. Dont you think we had both better make deeds to our Claims here if we can get out even? It is going to take a pile of money to hold on sure and nothing coming in. Bro S wont charge me anything for shipment of our goods. The rest I will have to see after. So send me all you can spare and say what you prefer we shall do with it. Borrowed \$15.00 last night of Bro S to lift my Bank note. Had \$10.00 Will need to replace the \$15.00. Was it \$60.00 or \$65.00 +

.07 per cent inst you was owing Bro S? Answer in your next? Daniels would like to keep your cattle but I guess you better get rid of them at Bro Smith's offer. If you dont want to run any risk of their dying and if you NOW think as I do that you had better not leave them here then (1st) let Bro S have them for paying off his note and the mortgage or (2nd) if you prefer you pay a part of the mortgage and retain a part of the cattle as he & I may agree. Or (3rd) send all the money you can spare FOR OUR ANY USE and risk our getting more (not less) not of the cattle. Mamma thinks you better send some money if possible and save all the cattle you can but dont send just to help us Of course we are very sorry you are losing so much but keep up your courage and if ever we can we will help you out. We have lots of spilt milk it seems. Write real quick, Truly J.R.S.

**From J. R. Shuff to David Edwin Shuff**

Arthur, Hodgeman Co Kans. Oct 21st 1889

Dear Eddie:

We rec'd your letter nearly a week ago, We have had about a week of rain lately. Stopped our molasses manufacture. Hope to try again tomorrow to make a batch. Next day (Wednesday) Mamma Harvey & I expect to go to Ness City to trade. Sold two barrels of molasses there by sending specamen by Bro Smith. Get .30 per gal. One barrel holds about 56 galls The other 30. Sold one gall here today for .40 Another man in Ness will take 10 gals. Will have to take it all in goods except the 10 gals. Need it all however Want two wagon sheets and two sets of bows also. I put three more loads of dirt on our house today. Leaked like everything this rain. Needs two or three more. I have not been able yet to sell another hoof. Traded two heiffer calves to Pimber for a young cow She went back. Guess I cant now take cattle down there to sell. If I had known it sooner I would liked to have taken about 5 of Allie's and 7 or 8 of mine but now I expect Bro Smith will get all of Allie's, I would have taken Stan & Dow & Nig & Pearl & Rosie (Lillie's yr) & Nellie (2 yr GG gave us) and Pink (Pimber cow) And of Allie's Bob & Pidie & Calf & Scrub & Red's calf. Now what would they bring there? Where should I take them to? Would I be put to much expense with them? Who could & would cash notes? Bank? How much time should notes run?

As to Prince I dont know hardly what to say. I want to give you a horse after awhile but did not think of giving up Prince as I aimed to keep him for my own use. I think he ought to be worth about \$100.00 even now! If you will send me \$50.00 you can finish paying for him (what he is worth) later if you so choose and then I will expect to give you another one. Or if I conclude to give you him then, in that case, I will refund the \$50.00 I expect he is a fine little horse now. Does he still scare much? Guess you had not got my other letter when you wrote before. If you send us any money I hope you will send as quick as possible for out time is nearly up & Bro S will have to leave us. I cant go without money. May sell a colt. But hate to do it. Could get probably \$20.00 They are good colts too. Of course you can send \$50.00 more or less as you may choose. As to the kind of house I will build in 0 I do not know. That will depend on my pile. Guess it will be small. Possibly sod or dugout. Would like to build a box house 26 x 14 - 12 ft high to plate. Would divide it into one room 14 x 14 & 2 rooms 12 x 7 with 2 rooms above. Afterwards shed whole length 10 or 12 feet wide. Could do the work myself. Guess you boys better go down at least by early spring. Allie talks of working for his Uncle Bryant next year. Perhaps can turn some cattle for your claims. Now write immediately what you can do to help us out? All are well and gone to bed. So good night. Your Father J.R.S.

P.S. Went to Ness yesterday. Got afternoon today. Brought cow home from Pimber's Sold 80 gals for \$15 + \$7.25=22.25 Took goods. Pretty today. Mr & Mrs Milknish are now here. Going to 0 with us. We now think of starting next Tuesday week. Tell Johnie if he can get .20 for corn he better sell it all. If he could send Allie \$15.00 for his buggy & harness I could lift that mortgage I believe. I failed to get this mailed. J.R.S.

**From Aunt Mollie Oneal to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Leon Iowa Nov 25th 89

Dear Allie,

Your letter was rec in due season and I will now Saturday morning write you a few lines before we go to Town, in regard to your coming, if you understood me from writing that Mr Oneal paid \$20.00 the year round for a hand, you were, surely mistaken for he has never done that, the way times are now he cant pay \$20.00 none of the time, and I've then again the washing and mending and have nothing to do with (?) and am not able half the time to do my own so and will not promise you that. we have a real good hand now. best we have ever had here, he seems to suit in all respects. and is anxious to stay. so if you have a good place there and want to stay, perhaps you can do so well there as here. As you have the run of things. but still if you want to try here, come on but dont come with the understanding of getting \$20.00 for I am satisfied hands cant get that now. and as to washing I wouldnt promise to do that, at any price. the way my health is. your Uncle Billie is still very poorly. they were out here all this week. most he is able to be around but cant do anything. he dont look up though he could stand it much longer, but we cant tell. the weather has been fine this Fall most of farmers are done gathering corn. we had a good crop this year. it is getting to be rather a serious time for weather. we havent had any rains ? any good for so long lots of people are getting out. we have plenty yet, but will have a time when we have to begin pumping for all the stock we have.

I will not write any more this time as I am in a hurry write soon again so we may know if you come and when. also write if you have heard from your Fathers folks. did they move and so on. No more now write soon as ever I remain your Aunt Mollie Oneal

**From J. R. Shuff to David Edwin Shuff**

Frisco I.T. Dec 24. 1889

Dear Eddie:

Just been to the P.O. and rec'd your registered letter Glad to get it. Got your Kingfisher letter last week. Johnie had written some in it. Was post marked Dec 8th. I guess if you have not already sent that money to 0 City you had better send it here for I dont know when I could get there. It is fully 25 miles distant. Kingfisher is about 20. I can get a draft cashed here by the merchants as well as anywhere I have bought some hay for \$12.00 on 30 days time hoping to get it through you boys. About 4 tons. Our horses are looking pretty bad now If I dont feed them they will die or not be good for anything soon. Have weaned the colts. Will soon have a load of bones. Got roof on our house yesterday but not done yet. Expected to have got windows and doors today but cannot. Letter from Allie. He thinks perhaps he can spare us \$5.00. I guess Johnie better quit trading. Angie and Bennie came to town today with me Also a Mr Davidson. I have to go to 0 after my lumber & some other things I shipped yet but dont know when. Will now have to pay 20

cts bu for corn in Nation Was lately .15 Done gathering now. .35 cts here for ear corn 40 cts here for shelled corn. Cant stand it you see. Lillie had a calf 21st Dec. It is a bull. Butter and eggs are .25 cts here. Yes I will expect to build a stone house later Cannot now. Sod is all right. Water, health, soil and all excellent here on the up lands. Just dismiss all fears. Some localities water & all is bad. We are well located in every respect. If you were here now I believe you could file on the Claim joining ours on East. viz. NW1/4 of 35 T 14 R 6. It is a tip top claim. Lays well I will know more soon. Save all you can and be sure and come down soon viz when I let you know when you can get a Claim. Children saw 7 deer here one day. Another started several since. We got wood for nothing. I am more and more pleased with this country. Awful glad we came. Think we can do well after this year. Now is the rub. You boys will make money by helping us all you can just now. Letter from Bro Broomfield says our box from Carrie has got there at last. My tax up there is also to pay. Hope Johnie will be able to help some soon. Will soon have several fresh cows. I will write you about once per week. You do the same if no more than a card. I must close.  
With love etc J.R.Shuff

**From J.R. & Angelina Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**  
Frisco Oklahoma I.T. Jan 18810

Dear Brother.

I will write you a few lines as I may have a chance to send it off tomorrow. We are all well but Harvey. He has a sore throat. We have got the frame of our Stable up. dug it out in the bank a little & set poles up & going to cover it with hay. I planted a good many Coffee nut seed in the yard. so we will have some shade trees in our yard some day. Papa set one Cotton wood out. South of the house. Harveys throat is better this morning. Papa is digging in the well. he has got it about five feet deep. Jimmie brought the cattle up a while ago Dallie & Mamma are out milking. They milk Lily Dan Beauty & Pink. Lily gives about Three gallons of milk a day. the others only give about Two quarts. They are going to drive them out on the School section East about a Mile & a half to where there is some grass. We did have them South on Mr Trpps but they got to bothering him & he drove them home last Night. There was a big family came in last week. They are about Three quarters of a Mile South of us. They said they were going back to Kiowa next week after corn. cound get it for 12 & 13 cts a bu. We have got our house covered with jip. They say it is as good as cement. We have Two kinds can plaster with either kind but I would rather have the white. the other is red. We bought three Tons & a half of hay of Mr Christy for \$12.00. have not got it all hauled yet. Papa says some of the folks around Oklahoma City have got some nice orchards set out. We have been looking for Mr Smith up but he has not come yet. He kept our Machine to mow some grass with & then he was to bring it home and get Scrub. Mr. Smith sold Three cows this side of Kingfisher for \$70.00. he has sold Two more down where he is for \$45.00. Do you have this tall red grass in Rice co. that is the kind they had in the co's we came through. just like that was in Hodgeman. So I suppose that will make a country after a while. I would like to live in the Southern part of Barbor co. but the Northern part is the roughest country I ever saw. There is a creamery, Mill & a Sugar Factory at Medicine Lodge. It is an awful pretty Town. will close now. write soon. from your Sister. Angie Shuff  
I will add a few lines on this page. I went to O city last Monday Got back on Wed or New Year's day. I got all except the Sorgham mill, pans, Antelope plow & harrow. One more

load therefore. Can see Bro Smith's house from near here. They moved into it last Saturday. I got to O on Tuesday. Took a load of bones down i.e. lower bed full. Got \$2.30 Had 600 lbs. Paid .30 for corn 1.00 for sack of flour & .25 for meal. Inquired at the office but got no letter from you. I gave them my address at Frisco. Bennie or Jimmie will ride Pony to the office to day and mail our letters and get what there is for us. My well is now 7 feet deep. Nannie came near dying while I was gone. I must close. Write often We are about to the last ditch. Write, whether you can send us anything or not. Affectionately J.R. Shuff

**From J. R. & Angelina Shuff to J.A. & D.E. Shuff**  
Frisco Canadian Co. Oklahoma Dec 21

Johnie & Eddie. Dear Brothers.

As we never hear from you any more I will write you a few lines once more, It is a mystery to me why you never write any more. I hope I have not said or done any thing by which you are offended. If I have I am very sorry. We are all well & the Indians have not scalped us either. I suppose you have heard about the Indian scare. There was nothing of it whatever. We are having splendid weather now. I came over to the Spelling, school last night with out any thing around me. We have Spelling Schools at our house every Saturday night. I am staying at Mr Castles. It will be five weeks next Tuesday since I went over there. I may stay all winter. Well today is Mothers birth day She is 51 years old. What are you going to do Christmas. are you coming home? I heard that Hattie Day was going to be married Christmas. Dallie & Flora Tuniten are going to run a foot race Xmas I guess. we are plastering our house now. putting a red coat on first & then intind putting on the white. I picked 80 lbs of cotton for Mr Castle last week. (It was not all week) Bails are all the rage down here how is it there. It is not quite so dull here this winter as it was last. We are getting acquainted quite extensively now & we have just a splindid Neighborhood. Laura wants to know if you would like a girl 51 years old. Bud has not blossomed yet. I spelled the whole housefull down last night even to my pa. There are going to commence on the School house tuesday. or that is the talk. & I guess that will end it. Jimmie has been staying over to a Mr Hunters but he came home last night Hunter is a Bachelor too. Two weeks ago Del Hankins killed two Deer just a little ways from there house. It takes two men to hold Demitt's claim down. Don't know which will get it. Harvey has killed several prairie Chickens. Well I will have to close as I don't know of any thing more to say. I do not stay at home & I don't know what is going on. So hoping to hear from you soon. I remain as ever your Sister Angie Shuff.

Jan 2.91.

Will add a few lines as this has not yet mailed. All well. Weather cool today. Windy yesterday i.e New Year. Wrote you I would go if you sent me the money. I am now uncertain. Do not yet know whether will get that job of boarding hands(on Cars) or not. Have sent in our application. Will probably know soon, If we get it I cannot go to Kansas. So if you send the money and I should not go you will know why. And I will return your money. Hope to get the job as it will pay big. If we get it will hire Ann Day and leave girls at home and rest. Last probably 6 months or a year if we succeeded. If we get it we want Johnie or Eddie either to run the place here, Could be able to pay him well. Write soon. J.R.S.

**From Armilda & Laura Euzetta Shuff to E. Allison Shuff**

Frisco OK. I.T. Canaanadian Co 1891

Dear Brother

I now seat my self to write a few lines to let you know you have a sister Milda. We are going to school now we had four months our thachers name is Nellie Pickard, Yesterday was my birthday Just twelve years old. Mamma and Pappa have gone down town Pear(?) going to trade Gablor with her papapa put in twelve acres of wheat going to sow ten or more bushels of oats he has not sold his flax yet waiting for people to want it. Papa killed the hog tody have not finished fixing her yet she got to eating up all the chickens Angie got a letter from Miss Carrie Alen she sent a to pictures for her and Dallie as a valentine Miss Della Ratcliff came home with Angie from school to the spelling we had here but we closed it in when Papa came home from Kansas he brought Mamma Zetta and I anew dress apiece Scotch Diagonal Angie has mad mine and making Zetties today Mr and Mrs Smith were up here not long ago and staid Sunday with Mr Talbert his Nephew and with us Monday and alnight with or all day Tuesday with us They had a Tornado down there and tore Mr Macmullen house and every thing he had and they lived with Mr. S. til he could build up again. This from your sister Milda Shuff

Dear Brother I will seat my Self to write you a letter I hope you have not forgotten me I am going to school now. Pearl and I is pertinere Through the arithmic and the others are away back in the multiplication tabl and we are away down in mislanous examples there are a few girls five leaves behind us But we are the head ones Pearlie Scott and I the other ones are Annie Robert lalla Bennett Hannah Scott Maudie Head Lalla Cloud. There are in Division yet We are will get through the Book the others want the others have Been in the multiplication table for 3 months and I expect will remain there for the next 3 weeks there will tray have Been there and Pearlie and are pertinet through Well I will stop Zetta Shuff remember me well I will write a little more as I did not tell all I had to tell I will scribe a little more the wind is blowing hard too Day. Angie and Milda is washing the Dinner table up we have got new Seats in our Schoolhouse there is 55 schoolers on roll But only averages about 45 you was talking about coming home are you I wish you would I though I would write to get you to remember that you had a sister Zetta I have almost forgotten you you have Been away so long wen you coming home this faul hugh Nell if you went I will close.

**From Armilda Lizzie & Elizabeth to E. Allison Shuff**

(The next three letters were sent together.)

Feb 27 1891 Frisco OK I.T.

Dear Father[?]

As all the rest are witeing i will write to. today is avery nice day but yesterday wasent. this picture that is in here is the picture of our house loks almost exactly like it Dallie drowet it She is always doing that kind of work. She is Drowing a deer now from another one. this house is taken from the South but it faces the east. The boys are going to school that is Harvey and Bennie are. Zettie and I aint going this winter the house is a mile and a half from us. We all have bad colds here I am just getting over my cold dallie has one Dallie was sick the 25 & 24 but is well now. how did you enjoy your Self last Saturday there were lots of people came up and sead for you to sing asong but you wouldnt do it. will close for this time write soon from your sister A.A.Shuff

Feb 27 1891 Frisco Oklahoma

Dear Brother. I will endeavor to write you a few lines. We received your letter the 14 which found us all well. There was a Barbecue at Frisco that day. Mama & I and the boys went, and saw the biggest croud of people I have seen for six years, Got your pictures alright. They are as natural as they can be, Mamma sit them upon the Bureaw that night. For it was the night of our spelling and literary. So that you could see what you thought of it. Every body takes a big interest in the spelling. The house is full every time. I was in a dialogue last sat, The title of it was before and after the Ball, There is another literary in the school house 2 1/2 miles south of us. And Angie is Secretary She is still staying at Mrs Castles yet. Will Castle and Laura Huff Angie and Burt Huff go in a croud by them selves. School has commenced in our district now have about 35 schollars. The Boys and myself is all that is going from here. Have to walk 2 miles & a quarter. Jimmie had to stop though to plow. He has about 3 acres plowed. The horses are doing better now, Almost every body is plowing now. Who are you working for. you said you had chainged employer. But did not say who. We got a letter from Papa last saterday and one from Eddie also Papa was at Rolling green. South of Great bend. He has been gone six week dont know when he will be home. He thinks he will get around to Jetmore before he comes home. I will close here and Mamma will write some, Paper is scarce your sister Dallie

My dear neglected boy

I will now try to write you a few lines though I have written so little dont think I have thought little you are never entirely out of my thought I greatly wish you and the other boys were here on a claim apiece we were all considerably disappoointed this winter when you and Johnie concluded to not come home yet perhaps it is better there may be some opening so that when you do come you can stay I hope so Dont take any risks on pattent rights however couldnt make anything down here with anything of that kind Papa saw Ardary the man that has the TC west of our place in H she says the people out there are doing well he and Winn got Daniah out and down dont know whether justly or not presume was not much out of the way as he was much too grasping as to the windows being broken out of your house dont know that he could be held accountable for them unless you could prove that he did it or let his cattle do it probably it was herders did it the old linn house was served the same way before we came away a big expense all around the whole thing not as bad however as many others some consolation Dallie has drawn our soddy or a picture of it and sends it to you quite large south view do you still hear from Minnie B where is her address write as soon as you can affet E.A.S.

**From Mollie Angelina Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Frisco Oklahoma I.T. March 23, 1891

Dear Brother Your letter was received and read with pleasure and much laughter. You must have been overjoyed about something or else had a fit. Alden Castle brought me the letter. I had washed all day and thought I was awful tired but when I got that I forgot all about being tired and walked home to bring it over with the rest of the mail (just a mile) I read it out loud and I thought Dallie would hurt herself laughing. Well more about that after while. It is RAINING, and we needed it quite badly too. Will have grass now in a week or so if it don't turn cold It is beginning to show green now in places I hope it will hurry and come as feed is so high. And the horses are not in very good order. We have

about Six more acres of old ground to break. Wheat is looking Splendid and will grow now It has been raining all day I am staying at Mr Castles now. I was there just Fifteen weeks, Well as to how Dallie came to have a Beau was this, The first time she went over to Mathewson was in the latter part of July she went with Papa and they didn't any body know that he had another grown girl and when she went in Mr. Charlie Hunter asked who that pretty girl was with the Curly hair and come in with Mr Shuff. of course when he found out he began the task, but he never got to go with her until on Christmas night. Yes he belongs to the Church of Christ No he does not smoke, but as to chewing and drinking I am obliged to Say that he indulges in both. But chews nothing stronger than victuals and drinks nothing stronger than Tea or Coffee. Well it seems that you rather suspect me of being guilty of having a Beau but you need not think that I am going to give myself away seeing you did not tell me on yourself. There is young folks at Mr Days But they are all girls and we don't associate with them. Well as to your scheme I think IT IS A GRAND ONE INDEED. Yes we would like very much to know your plan for bringing it about Those girls are all here yet and would like to see you more than ever since we got your picture I think it is as natural as life but was rather dissapointed to hear that one did not belong to me. Well your scheme is not much stranger than the one Laura Huff and I have planed out. We was going to have a double wedding on the 1 day of January 1900 and then we were going to the Pacific Ocean on our wedding tour that is providing we can our fellows in that time we did talk some of exchanging Brothers but since I got the last letter from Eddie I dont hardly know which one to give her unless it is you. Papa gave Johnie to her, but I guess she is to late. you did not say any thing about your girl so mabe there is a chance for you. She is pretty and good and the biggest mischief that ever lived. I don't believe that any body can get ahead of her. Well I will let you rest on that awhile and give you something more substantial. Papa has not got home yet the last card we got he was in Jetmore at Mrs Brumbaas. Was talking of going to Stafford from there. He paid the tax which amounted to \$13.88. He went away Two months ago the 19 of this month. We have one fresh cow. Pink, the cow that we traded our calves for in Kansas she gives about two gallons of milk per day she is herferd stock not very large but gives splendid milk and they dont have any thing but hay to eat either. Cattle all look very well and Star steps as far as ever. Well we are still having Spelling schools at our house are going to close up with an exhibition one week from next saturday night. Last Saturday night we spelled down twice and I beat both times and then we had speaking and one dialogue and two debates. the first was by the ladies. the subject was Resolved that the Book is more useful than the dish rag, the leading disputants were Miss Della Ratcliff on the affirmative and Miss Angie Shuff on the Nega. but I got beat and the men Debated on Resolved that there is more pleasure living with a clean, cross woman than with a dirty good natured woman. the affirmative won. they have a Literary at the Hope Center school house Two miles south of us every Wednesday night will go if it is a pretty night I was Secretary for the first five weeks over there am Treasurer and query box reader now and I named the school house too. Dallie Bennie and Milda go to school. though they are not very regular attendants. Harvey started but he has got such sore toes he had to stop his toe nails on both of his big toes have grown in and they are pretty bad too. Naith Williams, Grandma's hired man was here. He came with the intentions of getting him a home. He stayed one Sunday with us then went to Ell Reno monday morning and we have not heard of him since. don't know whether he went back or not. Zetta is quite a favorite at the spelling school. She will do any thing you want her to an get it off just splendid. they have her in a Tabloe ever once in a while and she just beats all of them speaking and more than that she is the prettiest girl in Oklahoma. Well I suppose I will have to close as

my mental optics are about abfusticated. I hope you will write soon. If you have no paper maybe you can scratch my writing off and write back on this. Next time I will try to write more, but hope you will excuse this short letter and tell we what your girls name is. so good by. Angie Shuff

**From John Richard Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Apr 9-91 Riverdale Summer Co Kan Mr E.A.Shuff

Dear Son:

I am still you perceive in Kan. Am now holding a meeting at what is called the Austin S.H. about 5 or 6 miles S.W. of Riverdale and about 10 N.W. of Wellington. Commenced here last Monday evening. This is Thursday A.M. I got your letter at Mayfield the first station on the Santa Fe R.R. running west from Winfield to Harpnite. Had a meeting there of ten days. All were pleased with my work but had no additions. They were so well pleased that they want me to return this fall and hold them a meeting of about a months duration. They gave me \$15.00 this time with which I paid my interest and have about \$5.00 left. Have sent home \$15.00 in all. Paid my interest and taxes. Don't expect very much at this place. Bros Moffet and Crinshaw (the old man WT father of AC) was out twice to hear me at Union from Milam. Only about 5 or 6 miles. Bro M has been to Bedford Perhaps you saw and heard him preach there. I like him very much. He wants me to go and hold a meeting at Hazzleton in Burborn Co. Dont know yet whether I will go or not. I am anxious to get home. Have not heard from home since I left Hodgeman Co!! Guess they have been looking for me home. Bro Popplervill is to have a debate near here soon with a Baptist by the name of Durham. I may stay to that. Dont know certain. Would be good chance to extend my acquaintance with brethren.

I stayed from Monday till Saturday in H. Co. Stopped in Jetmore with sister Brumbaugh and was out to see Sister Lytle But Stayed principally with Bro. Ghint. One night on Bro Smith's old place with the Flemming. He went with me over your pasture. Chisney is still there. Saw him. Burnt whole country from ridge east of GG's to Adams or Dodge road. Started at the Lewis place. Sister B did not want the land. As Daniels had seeded to wheat I let him have it on same terms this year but no longer. He will probably leave. If so Warner will look after it and GG after him etc. I have no faith at all in Daniels nor has any body else scarcely. As to your suggestion about collecting the average I don't think I could have done that if I had tried. Believe I could have collected damages but did not think it would pay under the circumstances to run a law suit. The wheat was not showing much but it was thought it would do quite well. Snow when I was there on the ground. On that acct I stayed longer than I otherwise would have done. It was bad getting around. Was cold and windy. I waited for the snow to go. I left on 6 oclock extra Sat evening for Raymond where I arrived about 10 P.M. Stayed several days yet up to Thursday P.M. Johnie is now I suppose working for Geo Brown and Eddie for Martin until harvest - will then go to work for \_\_\_\_\_? over the river. Cant call his name now. Is related to Martin. Says he hears the Chicasaw is to open in June. Thinks he will go down and secure a piece. Perhaps you could do so too. What do you think about it? Have you heard from home? If they raise wheat in H. Co I don't know but what you could go there and do quite well running the two places. Could break out more and raise from 1 to 2000 bushels and keep and raise stock What do you think? My house was alright but yours was not. Windows out badly. I will go up directly to see Bro Robbins near Riverdale and mail this there. If I go home I will drop you a card. Hope you are getting along well at Sister Mc's.

I hope they will rise above their petty troubles and return to their duty. It is too bad to thus go back upon both the living and the dead. Affectionately, J. R. Shuff

**From Elizabeth Ann Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Frisco Ok April 10 '91 Ervin A Shuff

Dear Son

I will write you a few lines this Sunday evening have just been writing to Papa dont know when he will be at home probably not for a month yet we are getting along fairly well now wheat looks fine have 7 acres 6 acres of flax put in last week want to get our corn in the last of this week will only have 5 or 6 acres sounds small dont it that will be all the old ground we have will put in all the Rice Corn Maize Keffer Corn and cane on sod that we can hope to get in 20 acres Jamie does the plowing have 3 young calves Hardys died Star and Spotty are to come in yet well this is Saturday 11th this letter not gone yet dont know whether will get to send it today or not had a fine shower last night didnt get our corn planted this week failed to get a planter yesterday too wet this morning received your letter with draft all right many thanks for your thoughtfulness dont cramp your self so much we hope to be able to repay you soon dont say no. There is strong talk of more of this country coming into market soon you boys had better be here to get some of it grass is getting good now particularly where it has been burnt over all well doing all well we can must close with love E.A. Shuff

**From John Richard Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

June 28th 1891 Frisco Ok: Mr E.A.Shuff

Dear Son:

Your letter written Tuesday 23rd last was rcd late yesterday (Sat) 27th This is Sunday P.M. I wish you had written at greater length about your dismissal - the causes etc. Also how you came to strain your arm and especially some of the particulars concerning that building. You ought by all means to have told me the amount of annual interest and tax - (city and county) likely to come against it You did not even state the rate of interest! Also how do you know the principal in whole or in part can be renewed? I guess the incumbrances on our lands are about as great but I presume the interest is less. I wrote lately to Geo Chent to know about our wheat prospect but am now sorry to act before I hear for I expect the crop is good as rain has been abundant. Eddie says he will go up there about the 20th But of course whatever there is there for us is ours and reserved as such. At best (1/7) it will not be much. If I understand you the lands will go for the property in B and incumbrance against incumbrances. You should have stated whether he would be prompt to keep up interest as we will still be collateral I suppose. Our names not his will still be on the note and coupons. His however I suppose will stand in the same light. Hope it will be safe however. Is there much assurance of being able to rent it annually? If so can the rent be readily collected and that without expense? Is the building in a badly damaged condition about the roof or foundation or walks? How much insurance and of what cost? If you can keep it rented at 30 or more dollars per month I suppose it will pay us more than the land, even after deducting considerable expenses. Of course the land has paid us nothing in the past but probably would hereafter, particularly if some of us could seed it ourselves. \$2500.-\$1000. leaves \$1500.00 or \$750.00 apiece. I

dont think we can pay off the mortgage when due but I hope we could pay probably one half of it by next May. Certainly not more than that and not that much unless it could be got mostly out of the property itself. As to stock I could not spare more than \$100.00 worth. Don't think the boys would or could do much. If you could sell it to advantage between now and then (sooner the better) perhaps that would be the safest and best. Better try FIRST. Hope your arm will soon get well. Mamma is still on the R.R. Look for her home this week. My wheat in stack. Flax ripening. Weather very dry and hot. We are awful anxious to have you come home but know of but little you could do here. Eddie and Johnie are getting \$2.00 per day on more stacking. You could do well up there now. I will get another piece and write you some more.

That big mortgage I fear much. Inquire as to the value of the building of some one who knows. Is it worth \$2500? Will it sell for that amount? Heat is good as far as it goes. Too little I think.

Our PATENTS are at Larned. At lease mine is. I have net sent for it. How much money have you now left. Eddie saw a man lately from Lane Co. Says wheat there would go from 20-30 bus. per acre.

Are you sure you can rent it? Idle it would be a drag. Wish you could sell it at once. If you were not in such a big hurry I would know soon what we have in Hodg and also know better what it would promise for the future. But do what you think best and as soon as you well can we want you to come home and make us a long visit and rest up and look at this country. J.R.S.

**From John Richard Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Frisco Ok June 29th 1891

Dear Son:

Your letter of 23rd is to hand and I hasten to reply. Will say that I will not stand in your way if you desire to make the trade. I would prefer if you could have assurance of renewal of loan in case we could not meet it when due. In whole or at least in part. I had concluded not to sell at all but will give you my full consent to do in the matter as you may deem best. Hoping this will answer the purpose and be satisfactory I remain yours affectionately. J.R.Shuff

**From David Edwin Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Oct 29th/91 Raymond, Kans Mr. E.A.Shuff

Dear Brother.

As it has already Been so long since I have Heard from you I just Thought I would go to my Girls letter box and get out a sheet of paper there of and pencil you a few lines. I am all alone again This fall. Johnie and I have Rented Wallace Reeds Ranch for next year and keep his cattle this winter. Johnie has not got over yet. blame it all. get me one cook if he dont hurry up. We are eight miles south west of Raymond. an the Big marsh. lots of game Here now. you ought to Come back to Kans. you Could do just as well if NOT better here than you Can there. Wallace Reed wants to let his Cattle out on the shares To some reliable person Next year. has about 350 head all told he would like to have them Taken west to. if you was out here we might make Some arrangement with him. Cant you come anyhow And settle down near Raymond, We need you in the church There. We

have had a Slit up there somewhat Like that one at Bedford only it was over the Sunday School and missionary question And our side the Bible is victorious so far. dont know how long it will Be so. as Martin is the Ring leader and he says He is going to get some State Evangelist to come And organize another Church there. if we can Just get the Cause established at Raymond once it will be all right. So you come and add one more to our number we Need a few more faithful members to get along well. What are you doing with yourself now any how. Still the same Bozz or do you go to see some pretty Girl. what has become of Zetta K. I have got To be about such a fellow As you use to be. have not Been to see a girl this Summer hardly. to my paper end I guess. Johnie And I have out 80 Acres of wheat this year. well I must Close for this time. write to me as soon as you get This. as ever your Bro D.E.Shuff

**From J. H. Daniels to John Richard Shuff**

Pawnee Rock, Kas, 12/25 1891

Mr J R Shuff

Dear Sir -

The wheat Is Thrashed at Last It was Thrashed about three weeks ago and the hole amount was 208 bushels by machine measure I sold all of it It broat \$107.80 and the will Bee \$15.40 It was badly dammiag and lots of it waisted If there had not bin any waisted by stock and had not growed so there would bin over another hundard bushels I sold it to the best advantage I could What am I to do with the money for your share Please state if I am to send it to you or pay it on your taxes If I am to pay it on taxes give me numbers of the quarters This leaves us all well and Dulcie as fatt as a little pigg Times are some what lively here now a happie Christmas and New Year to all Hoping every thing will bee satisfactory to you

Yours Truly J H Daniels

**From John Richard Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Frisco 0k Jan 7th 1892 Mr Ervin A Shuff:

Dear Son:

I am expecting to go to Frisco today and so I will drop you a few lines to let you know we got your letter some time ago and that we are all well now though Bennie has been unwell lately. Had sore throat and one sore eye Zettie has also been having sore eyes. Six of them (all but Dallie) have been going to school Angie went home with the Ratcliff girls last night. Have about 50 students. Quite an interesting Literary also. Turned quite cold here yesterday. Is still cold. I have beard from Geo Ghent and also from Daniels. I wrote to the latter about the same time he wrote to me. If I can find the letters I will enclose them to you. It seems impossible for us to ever get anything out of that land. Daniels reports just about half as much as I had expected! I dont know whose stock got away with it yet. I will try and find out. However I dont suppose we can help ourselves. I wrote Daniels the amount we were expecting and that NO EXPENSE was ours to bear. Told him to send it to me by Bank Draft. If he sends it here I thought I would get GEO to pay your tax and mine. I wrote to Geo. also about same time inquiring about amt of our tax etc. Do you want me to do that or send it to you? Warner has put in mine you see

again and Flemming yours. Hope it will be better cared for this time. Yours is 1/4 mine to be 1/5. all send love - Truly J .R.Shuff

**From E. A. & J. R. Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Frisco OK Mar 31, 92 Mr E.A.Shuff

Dear Son;

We recd your long letter yesterday evening or at least I did. I did not get home however until about 3 P.M. today. Has been terribly windy this evening. Rained and hailed some a while ago. The wind has now subsided considerably. It seems very odd that it should be so very muddy there. Some mud here but not much.

Had two big snows this winter. Was a big fire last Saturday near us Burned up about 400 bush of corn for Mr Armstrong and a good deal of hay for others. Jimmie and I assisted in fighting it out. Mamma and I went down that evening to Pleasant Valley on John's Creek and did not get home until Tuesday about noon. I went out to Okarche but of course found nothing there. You need not bother to send them for it will be lots of trouble for you and it is 14 miles to Okarche. I have set out a dozen currents as many grapes and some of Pie Plant set out 100+ apple trees and some peach and cherrie trees. Our oats is growing nicely. Wheat looks well. Plowed some for corn but our team is about to fail us. Old Charley is very thin. Tip is also quite poor. Nellie is good. Got a letter yesterday also from George Ghent He says the prospect for crops is better up there than it ever was known. Been considerable snow and rain there. George wants to buy those rock we hauled out onto Longendykes I think we will be able to get something out of our land up there yet.! I am going to make Geo. Ghent our agent with power of Atty to see after our interests up there. You spoke about wanting our pictures. Of course you can have them just as soon as we get them. We would be more than glad to send them now (and indeed) long ago if we had them. But it may be quite a while before we can get them as we are so far from town. We have now got it into our heads that you better come home and see us now and not be away off there so far from us any longer. We feel like we cannot stand it to have you stay there until fall even. We want you to make arrangements to come just as soon as possible. You wrote for me to come out and get that team of yours etc. I thought then I could not but I have now concluded I had better do it and if I go I shall expect you to come back with me sure. Mamma and all the children as well as myself are so anxious to see you. So just as soon as I can you may look for me. Tell Bro Cole so he can arrange to let you off. I don't know whether you engaged to work for him or not. You did not say. You can get all you can do here now. The country west of us is about to open for settlement. Great many coming in.

Bro Smith is now in good spirits over his Hodgman Co land too and also John cMulin. Hope you will not grieve over yours either the boys and I are going to help you pay it out. Angie is up there now with Johnie and Eddie. Got a letter from her yesterday. They are well and have a good lay there having leased Bro Reeds ranch. I hope they will be able to make some money this year. Jimmie, Harvey, and Bennie and Milda and Zettie have grown so you will hardly know them It seems so long since we saw you but I do hope it wont be much longer. MAMMA SAYS YOU MUST BE SURE AND COME. She found a nice piece of poetry in the paper and she sends it to you. "Let not your heart be troubled."

I go up to Bro Smith's neighborhood next Lord's day to preach. Had a letter also yesterday from Grandma. She is still alive and well. I cannot say in this just when I will

start I may write you again. If you wish to do so I would like to have you write immediately as to whether you will come and anything else you may wish to say but be sure and make all arrangements to come. We were rejoiced to hear of your improved health. Several relinquishments sold here lately for about \$1000.00 each. Some for less. We are all well and all want to see you once more at home sweet home. God bless you and grant you may soon arrive once more "safe at home". Most affectionately E.A. & J.R.S.

(P.S. Better address us at MATHEWSON as we can get it from school)

**From E. A. & J. R. Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Mathewson July 6th 1892 Mr E. A. Shuff

Dear Son:

At last I am seated with the view of scribbling you a few lines. Cannot think of anything very interesting to you either yet it will I presume be a matter of some interest to you to know that we are all still alive and all in good health All are at least except myself I am still unable to do anything scarcely. Still hobble around some by the aid of two canes. Much better however. My eyes are not well either yet I can now read considerably. Hope this will find you well.

Dallie went yesterday to assist a neighbor lady for a week or two viz Mrs Montgomery. They have a young daughter. Commenced cutting our grain on the 4th P.M. Finished 10 A.M of the 5th. Could not get a machine sooner. Wheat stood rather long. Children all went to the Celebration at Yukon. Were well pleased. H took Dallie in the cart. The rest except Mamma and I went in our wagon. Dallie had on her new white dress, with new hat beads etc. She looked well. Drove Tip and Nellie ie Jimmie did. They had a large Arbor in the edge of town. Five different speakers. It is 4 miles S.E. of Frisco.

Cut our grain with a self binder .75 per acre (18 acres as we had mowed 4 acres of oats) .11 per lb for twine. Boys shocked it up Tuesday and Wed morning. Ready to stack tomorrow. Wheat somewhat dry now and good many chintz bugs reported in places. Threshing has commenced. I am sorry we have not been able to get those pictures to send you yet. Will, however, first chance. Missing all my regular appointments for the last two months has set us back considerably. our old sow has 9 pigs. They are slick 6 nice. Came on Sunday a week before the 4th. We have 7 shotes 3 of them sows. Corn still looks well. Bro Keiffer said he was coming but I cant hear from him any more. I wonder why? We now have two teams such as they are. Toppie is a fine riding horse and also works like a top! Tip is also splendid. He and Top make a tip top team. Have three fine calves Two of the masculine persuasion. The ants get away with lots of our cream! We did aim to send you some money this time but we cannot. All send love Hoping to hear from you soon again we remain your affectionate Parents J.R & E.A.

How much money will you need soon.

**From John Richard Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

At Home Aug 2nd 1892 Mr E.A.Shuff

Dear Son:

As the little girls have been writing you some I will enclose some too. My eyes are not well yet nor are my legs either. I still use two canes. However I can walk without them

when I try. Have not done anything for near three months. I have spoke 4 times lately but could not stand upon my feet. Hence I sat in my chair! Mamma went with me last week to John's Creek We went on Sat and went out to Okarche Monday AM and came home P.M. The Methodists are holding forth here now at our S.H. Dallie is now away from home at a Mr Hall's She will not probably stay very long. Get's \$2.00 per week. About 9 miles away on the Canadian. Weather very dry here now and for some time past. Need rain badly. Too dry to plow stubble. Corn is badly damaged ie late corn- We have not threshed yet. Have tried to sell a cow but have not succeeded yet. Cant get my price offer Pearl for \$30.00 Offered 25.00 without calf. Not making much Impossible to send you any. This we deeply regret. Hope you are still able to get along. Did the boys aid you any? Hope they did. Bro Keiffer wrote that he would come after he went and that you would may be come too. Hence we have been looking for you both and are still. We are anxious to see you. Hope to see you or else hear from you soon. Affe'y J.R. Shuff

**From Mollie Angelina Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Aug 28, 1892 Raymond Kansas

Dear Brother

I now seat myself to answer your letter which came to hand a short time ago. We are all well. Wind is blowing quite hard today, had some rain this morning. It has been cloudy all week. Wallase Reed begun his hay making last Monday, has six hands at work. They board here He put the boys in as overseers. John said they were going to tax him Three Dollars a day for themselves and Prince, don't know what the board bill will be. The boys haven't their threshing done. Will thresh the latter part of the week likely. Wheat crop is very good but it is only 45 cts a bu. now. We have never heard how it was out west. I don't believe you can with justice compare this country with Hodgeman can you? If you drive through from Iowa here and out west and then to Okla. you can't possibly think then that we made a bad move. Of course we haven't much yet but can raise our own flour and that is a good deal besides most every thing else will grow there. Hodgeman is not like it was when you left there is only just a few families living there now. I can realize that it was hard on you to let your cattle go, but they have never been worth any more since. Wallase Read has a great herd and he says if he can only come out even on them he will be glad. Lon Collins another ranch man said if any body wanted to make any thing they ought to stay out of the cattle business and if THEY can't make money on them there is no one that can. Now I don't want you to think I am finding fault or trying to discourage you either one for that is not the case, but am saying this simply to show you that our move to Ok is not so bad after all. Of course we have all had trials and hardships to pass through. We like yourself have felt many times like giving up and saying tis no use, but we are still numbered among the living and hope to gain the land where sorrow and trouble never come and parting will be no more. Of course you are coming by here are you not? And stay a while at least with us. Nothing would afford us greater pleasure than being with you once more.

Now this is written in all kindness and I trust you will deem it as such. So hoping to hear from you soon again I remain as ever your Loving Sister Angie Shuff

**From John Richard Shuff to Ervin Allison Shuff**

Envelope: Mr Ervin A Shuff Bedford, Taylor Co Iowa

Mathewson Ok Oct 2nd 1892

Dear Son:

This is Sunday & I have had to stay at home today. Mamma has gone to visit Willie Castle who is sick. Well Jeff came & went. Next came Mollie & Minnie. They too have gone & Dallie went home with Mollie. Got safely through as we got a card yesterday. Dallie will stay all winter. Hope the change will be good for her health. Next day after they left Bro G Meek & Phillip came fr Eden prairie Left next day. Well pleased here with country. Johnie & Co will expect to reach Okarche & here Oct 11th. Be married 9th P.M.! So you may get your pig trough ready!! Keeps me quite busy running back & fore to R.R.!

Not seen Bro R yet. Angie & Eddie will come later after Johnie's return. Recd your last \$1.00 No I have spent your rent money & have not paid G B or F F yet. I had expected to have got it long ago but am disappointed as usual. Threshed last Friday week. Had 188 1/2 bush of fine wheat & 167 bush of fine oats. All now in grainery except what oats we have used. Had fed out lots of our oats in the sheaf. Feed is bound to be high & we will run out early. I would be glad if you could get here soon so as to lease the S.W. 1/4 of School Sec 3C T14 R6 just 1 mile east Has a little broke out & lots of good stock water on it. Fear some one else will soon get it. The EXCURSION RATES would do you no good as you would not wish to return & could not SAFELY sell your ticket! Better inquire. I have not yet found any cheap horses. Had little chance.

Milda has sore eyes now. I am still improving very dry now indeed. Cant plow any. I have an appointment near Dover to hold meeting of days commencing Sat before 3rd Lords day this month. Dont know how long Johnie will stay. But few have sowed wheat yet. Our field I see looks nice & green. Was drilled in. Flemming may be all right but Bro Smith dont think so. If it is now as dry up there as here they cant do any thing. Must close. As ever J.R.S.

P.S. Paper is scarce.

**From Charles J. Hunter to Lizzie Luella Shuff**

Mathewson OT Oct 15th 92

Miss Dallie Shuff

Dear friend

as I intend to go to the office this evening I will try and scratch over this paper and if you can guess what I am trying to write all well and good. if not Just send this to the dead letter office for it will be cold before you get it back here. well we had a good rain night before last the corn field would mire a saddle blanket yesterday. I have been hauling fodder this forenoon and worked till I am nearvoius(?) and my paper seems to have holes in it and my pen catches in them or something else is rong and I never claimed to be science with quill and then I am some what in a hurry to boot. Mr Beck came by last night from Donus after the Dr. he said Pearl was very low with the feaver. George Hess was here last evening and he said Jones was there begging for money to build the church house and said they were going to build it Just a cross the road from the head school house on Mr Mans place well I helped Bro Head plow out his sweet potatoes last monday and the girls all helped to and we had a big time well I will expect a letter to be at the

office for me how about it? I wrote you one last sunday did you get it and could you read it. I have not seen any of your folks this week dont know whether your Brother came or not well I must close and go to work it is trying hard to rain today.  
dont get so taken with Iowa that you forget to write as you promised  
ever your sincere friend CJHunter at Mathewson OT  
bad writing xqq & lies forgive remember the writer as long as you live.

**From Charles J. Hunter to Lizzie Luella Shuff**

Mathewson Nov 15th 1892

Miss Dallie Shuff

Dear friend yours of nov 9th came to hand nov 12th I suppose you were some what riled up by the reading of the letter. now Dallie I did not incinuate that I did not believe you you do not seem to understand me. I always aim to keep my affairs planed some time a head if I rented I must make up my mind soon and if I batch here I want my plans laid ahead. And if other wise I want my plans still different I have to lay out what work I can do. And I cant do a great deal and do house work to and do my Self Justice I dont mean to incist now but explain what kind of a box I am in. I never disbelieved you when you told me any thing. nor do I want to spoil your pleasures there I want you to enjoy your visit there regardless of all promises. we are having nice weather now. we had enough snow last tuesday night to cover the ground but it was all gone by wednesday noon. it was quite chilly tuesday I was down to your folks house yester- day a week your pa's face was swelled up pretty badly your ma took pains to tell me all about you but I did not tell her that I had heard the news. well lets give the biscuit a rest this time.

the literary is in full blast at the Head school house and we will reorganise here friday night I was up to sunday school sunday even and had quite a time. mr northcot wanted to know what experianse we had that we were gods children and I told him none. and his eyes got as large as hens eggs he would not argue much I rather incisted on living by faith every body droped their chin and began to listen. Dallie what if I Should make preperations for you to say yes and you would say no. or I expected you to say no and you would Say yes. well I must close.

Dallie dont think for a minute that I dont believe what you tell me. You have never given me any Satisfaction on the subiect that is why I am uneasy. this leaves me well and I hope it will find you the same. dont forget to write ever your sincere friend CJH

**From Charles J. Hunter to Lizzie Luella Shuff**

1-9-1893 Mathewson OK

Miss Dallie Shuff

Dear friend

yours of the 4th came to hand the 6th. and found me well. and I hope this will find you the same the folks were telling me that Angie was not coming home this winter Brother Head preached at the Head School house yesterday morning and evening. bob Sikes - Oscar Hodge - Jo and Marian Stevens and Roe Jones came home with me for dinner and we Just hit the ground on high places. there are lots of land buyers here now if Mr Artt wants a claim he had better come at once. George Pierce has offered his for Sail and some one will take it soon he wants \$1500 for it I am taking the primitive Christian did

you say that sleigh had bells on it? seems to me that we put the bells on the horses. or oxen it sounds odd to talk about Sleighing there and us plowing here we are having the nicest kind of weather here. you still dont understand about our coresponding your Ma was telling me all about your affairs your visits and your sickness and so on I thought by that she was not aware that I new any thing more than what she told me. but I did not tell her any thing about it. they have no literary at the school house. some one tried to burn it down friday night but got scared out before they got it done Mr Gidian was asking me what had got the matter with me and you that I did not go there any more he said some of the neighbors told him that we were going to be married some time ago and he did not see any signs of it I told him you had left the country. Lee Hodge and Della is living with his folks. I have been trying to get one of my sisters to come and keep house for me this summer I dont know whether I can make it or not if I dont I guess I will try the widow are you coming down when your uncle comes? or when do you think you will come do you keep well and do you enjoy your self there as well as you did here? well I must close and go to roost so good night from your best friend CJH write soon

**From Ervin A. Shuff to Mollie Angelina Shuff**

Mathewson Oklahoma Jan 13th 93

Dear sister A as James has asked,  
If I now wish to add a mite,  
I'll try my hand thus at the task,  
A few words here with his to write.

But must confess just what to say,  
Or how to say so to amuse,  
Is hard to think now that I may,  
Not the measure somewhere confuse.

But if you fail to catch the strain  
Or with the sense to soon acquaint  
Just hold your wrath with due refrain  
And up to me bring your complaint.

Now as I am quite short for news,  
I will just bring this to a close,  
And not offer to raise new views,  
Upon that which none else knows.

And as you can t with Bert be Huff,  
For he has sealed it now you know.  
I'll leave the S and call you Shuff,  
And if none else just leave it so.

So now I think I've wrote enough,  
Upon this strain and at this time,  
Just remember 'Tis E. A. Shuff  
Has turned in here to write this rhyme.

**From Charles J. Hunter to Lizzie Luella Shuff**

Mathewson OT Jan 24th 93

Miss Dallis Shuff

Dear friend

yours of the 19th came to hand the 21st and received with great pleasure well I have so much to tell you I dont know where to begin I am going to Edmond tomorrow if the weather is fit I have been down to brother Heads this evening and brought a yearling calf. there will be a wedding there the 8th of Feb. Mary and Jo Booth and they are makeing preperations for a grand time he owed me some since last spring and he wanted some money and had a calf fore sale and I took it and paid him the difference I have not got to see your brother since the day I met him on his way home I suppose they think I am a great one to not go there any more. O yes I got a letter from my best kansas girl the other day I had not heard from her for nearly too years I sent her the last letter but she pretended as though she had not received it. She wanted to know why I did not write and so on I aint going to tell you what I told her, both of the Stanton girls are married I understand all about those sleigh bells but I was trying to get you to think you had made a mistake. you say you laugh at the sleighs when they get in front of the horses. who laughs at you when you go out with all your fellows at once to take a ride well Brother Head will preach at this school house next sunday at half past three at the Head school house in the morning and night they have hired a preacher over there to preach twice a month his name is Brown our literary is Just fine we are having the best kind of a time. well I thought I had enough to tell you to fill a fools cap but I have run a shore now so I will have to close I always get in too big a hurry and write so fast that I spread my letters all over the paper well I suppose you are about out of stamps I was short of money when I sent those other stamps and so I did not send many you must excuse me for not sending sooner for my money was very Short. and then I was not keeping any account of the stamps that you used. how is your health up there do you feel any better than you did here this leaves me well and I hope it will find you the same you dont know how bad I want to see you good bye your true friend CJH

**From Ervin Allison Shuff to Unknown**

(Jan 27th 1893)

I will now write from Mathewson  
A few words here with State to thee.  
This twenty seventh day near done,  
Of first month Eighteen ninty three.

Well Zetta wished to know if I  
Would write some in with her letter,  
I'll take my pen up now and try  
To do that which I had better.

For I have failed a single line,  
To you to write you are aware,  
But hope the thoughts that now are thine  
Look at the cause since I left there.

For you I knew had got the word,  
That I got through, all safe and sound,  
But had ill luck you also heard,  
Of seeing horse go down to ground.

Of course 'tis sad for one to loose  
And see one's hopes thus to descend,  
But when it happens may we choose  
Life's work, how better to attend.

Our aim should be to do our best  
All things sought for, from what is right  
Experience then gives the test,  
Oft past mistakes to bring to sight.

And so if I you now may see  
How not have tried to drive across  
From ten A.M. Hence from Guthrie  
I might have not met with the loss.

The trip in full I do not care,  
No more to make, conditions all,  
For traveling through Winters snare  
When money matters are so small.

But now I'm through 'tis best I trust,  
Though horse I lost, and cold endured.  
I now can rest for which I must  
Have broke, had I have not secured.

Now Zetta has the news all wrote,  
Of happening events I'll say  
So I'll not try in this to note  
More than kind of weather today.

"Tis quite wintery from yesterady,  
With frost and ice quite thick this morn,  
But later on by the way,  
It came from South in foggy form.

And when I through have wrote this verse,  
I think I shall have wrote enough,  
And when these lines you do rehearse  
Remember 'tis from E. A. Shuff.

**From Ervin Allison Shuff to Mollie Angelina Shuff**

Miss M. A. 5. April 6th 93

Dear Sister,

Your note to me, has come to hand,  
And I have read it, yes quite through,  
Now then if I can get command,  
Of word just right, I'll answer you.

The thought that is just now astir  
Comes from my fling, to you of Bert,  
Although to me, it don't occur,  
That you have in, the least been hurt.

But it appears you feel aroused  
More that I seem, to think him last  
And hint you might become espoused  
To Harry R. ? be fast.

O yes 'tis true that weddings here  
For past few months have been quite rife,  
You turn then round and make appear  
That FEW up there join thus for life.

And then you think it might so be,  
If you were here though 'twould be such,  
A bad thing that for you to see,  
Me dance in the hog trough so much.

As to paper, it is no waste,  
When ever you can do so best  
Just write again, yes do make haste!  
And then my mind will surely rest.

And if perchance it be your will,  
To give me then another puff,  
Just remember that you may still  
Write it thither to E. A. Shuff.

**From Nell ? to Mollie Angelina Shuff**

Raymond. Aug. 11th 1893

Dear Angie:

I have not forgotten you if I haven't written. I received your letter just after I came home from St John. I was there a little over two weeks. Came home the day after the 4th. Mary met me in Hutch. I went up to the Bend two weeks ago today and came home last Wednesday. I suppose you heard about the high water here. It looked rather odd when we got up the next morning after the rise and found ourselves situated on a small island. A

good deal of Clyde's corn is ruined, still he thinks he will have more than he had last year, but their garden was ruined entirely. I brought my croquet set home with me when I came from the Bend and we have hardly done anything else the last two days but play. we fixed a ground right northeast of the house at the end of the trees, where those plumbushes used to be.

I am making lace for a suit of underclothes. I will send you a pattern of it some day. It has kept threatening rain this morning until it is too late to go to meeting and now I don't think it will rain. Mrs. Reed and folks started on their trip last Thursday. I dare say they are sick of it now. I am so nervous I can hardly keep on the line. I don't write enough to keep in practice. While I was up at Franks I put up 6 qts of peaches, two glasses of peach jelly, 18 qts of crabapples and one qt of crabapple butter, you had better come live with us this winter, then besides that there is 22 qts of stuff that I put up last year, left besides jelly.

I thought perhaps you would like to hear that Miss Wedge has caught Mr. Williams. He saw Frank in the Bend not long ago and he came up and shook hands with him and was as pleased to see him as if he had been an old chum. Gall is cheap now a days. Nellie Robison said that when Kate left college she hadn't a friend left, not one, every one just despised her. She goes around now telling that she was the best in her classes and Nellie said she was the very poorest. Mrs. Smith said herself that she could not possible give Kate a grade in two of her studies. It is a good thing she can brag on herself. What do you do with yourself now days? And how are you feeling? be sure and tell me all about yourself for I am interested as anyone. What kind of a thing is that breathing tube? and do you think it is any good?

Flossie's folks have gone down to see her, all but Elbert and Herbert. Every letter I get from her she brags on her husband. She says there isn't a better man than he. The rest of the folks are asleep. How are crops down with you? We had a watermelon to eat up at Franks. Lizzie is real well, feels better than she has for a long time she says. I guess it did her good to be sick. I will close now perhaps I will think of something more to write before I send it off. Angie we all wanted to do something for you and so the church contributed \$2 to be given to you. We want you to use it to get little things that you think would taste good to you. When one feels bad they always hanker after some little thing. Frank has sold the stove and I will get that for you as soon as I can.

I must close for this time. I will not be so long answering you next time. Give my best regards to your father and mother. With love I remain your true friend. Nell.

### **From Jessie ? to John Richard Shuff**

Jacksonville

Dear Uncle

I write to tell you that grandma was buried yesterday died Wenesday 18. Was concious until the last Funeral was preached hy S. B. Moore and we saved you some flowers from off her grave all here but you and uncle Joe. Your niece Jessie (Angelina Lindsay Shuff, John Richard's mother, died 18 Oct 1893)

**From Laura Euzetta Shuff to John Artt Shuff**

Dec 18 (1893)

Dear Brother and sister.

I will try and write you a letter. we are all well at present the boys have gone to School. Milda and I did not go it was to cold to face the wind Allie is making him a Speech for the litteary he is on the Debate. how are you all getting along now and why dont you write. how is the baby getting along. would like very much to see it two weeks till crismas they are fixing to make a christmas tree Down here we went Down to see Mrs Dallie Hunter Sunday fore last She has got an aiful neat house. Papa has gone to Elreno to Day

We have killed to hogs and the big hogs have killed 3. Just run after them bite them till they Died. Well I cant think of any thing else to say So I guess I will close write soon from Aunt Zetta write quick.

**From A.A. Werner to David Edwin Shuff**

Wichita, Kan., 1/4, 1894. Mr Edwin Shuff, Gt. Bend, Kan.

Dear friend;

As I have just been informed that your sister is dangerously ill, I take this opportunity of expressing my deepest sympathy and wishes for her speedy recovery. Hoping I may have the pleasure of hearing only the most favorable news, I remain, as ever, Your friend, A.A. Werner W.C. College

**From Mollie Angelina Shuff to David Edwin Shuff**

Great Bend, Kans. Sept.21

Dear Brother,

Will pen you a few lines in haste. All well & Nell & I have moved up to the College. I have been going two weeks. started in on Tuesday after I came altho I was nearly sick. am all right now. Frank met us at Ellinwood last Sunday or the vicinity rather & it rained hard again. then we had quite a shower last night. I just received a Short letter from Father. will send it to you. I don't know what to do. I like the school real well. Prof. Stryker teaches the Arith. We made Prof. let us have our rooms for \$1.50 per month instead of \$2. They are real cozy. Mrs Ewing is our Ma. The green students that come here have to take the jokes. One fellow asked where the laundry was & some of the boys sent him down to the stand pipe over two miles away. then of course they had their fun. But I will have to close as its almost class time. Write soon & tell me what day you are coming up. Angie.

**From Mollie Angelina Shuff to David Edwin Shuff**

Great Bend Kans. Nov 21. 1894

Dear Brother,

Will now open you a few lines. We found out this morning that the Gorrilla's will not

have their entertainment for probably two or three weeks. I will let you know when it does come off. You can come then just as well can't you?

Well my trip to Raymond did not do me much good in the long run. I have been sick ever since. We got back, kept going all the time till last Saturday. I could not speak above a whisper that day and had a very high fever. I have not been to school since. Am better now, but have such a cough yet.

I never heard from home till yesterday. Father went to Yukon to send me some money Saturday, but Jeff had rec'd a telegram that Billy Artt was dying and He and Ann had started for Leon the day before and as the money is in Jeff's name he can not send me any until he comes back.

Aunt M did not come with Belle but is coming with Jeff this week.

Wallace and Elsie came up last evening. Mrs Reed sent us a nice roll of butter and chicken all ready to cook.

When we started from down there they gave us a chicken some pop corn, butter and some cabbage. We did not get home until after eight O'clock.

Bro. Ardery's son came in the beginning of the term. I have not met yet.

Well I must close. hoping to hear from you soon. Angie.

**From Mollie Angelina Shuff to David Edwin Shuff**

Great Bend Kans. Dec 5, 1894

Dear Brother,

I will pen you a few lines tonight as I have just finished my lessons. Nell is playing on the organ. Well I did not start to school yesterday, but am going tomorrow. I grew rather poor during my sickness, but from the appetite I have now it won't take long to regain it. Well the Gorrilla's are going to give their entertainment one week from Saturday night. (the 15) Everybody seems to think it will be good. If it is not stormy want you to be sure and come. Bring your harp with you. Nell has learned that chord.

We have learned several new songs. And are looking forward to the time with great expectation.

Since I have been absent they have had another examination in grammar and Nell got 100%. And when she came home she asked me the questions and I answered all correctly. So had I been going I would have got 100% too.

I have not heard from Laura yet. suppose she will make me wait till Christmas any way, before I can find out who is going to get married.

Well Ed had you heard that Anna as well as Aunt Laura is a Widow as Billy (Jeff's brother) died about two weeks ago. Jeff and Ann both went back got there just a short time before his death. They were expecting Aunt Mollie when they returned. I do not know whether she came or not.

Well I must close. Hoping to hear from you and see you soon. I remain as ever your loving Sister Angie.

**From Aunt Mollie Oneal to David Edwin Shuff**

Leon Iowa March 22 95 Mr D E Shuff

Dear Nephew,

your letter received, I will try this morning to answer. would have answered soon but

have been out in the country most of this month. havent written many letters. I lost Trace of you after you wrote me before, when you left Mo. you didnt tell me where to direct some said you was in Kan & some said in Okla, so I didnt know for sure. knew you couldnt well be in both places. I havent heard from your folks for sometime, wrote them a good while ago but havent recived an answer. speaking of going down there I dont know yet when I will go. I have no set time. Ann Artt is still here. she dont say anything about going back. dont think she will hardly go this Summer. I wouldnt wait on her though if I was going. yes I heard of Angie being sick was sorry indeed after her working so hard to prepare herself for her own support but that is the way Life goes. full of trials & disappointments. you spoke of having the Gripe. I to had a very severe spell in Jan. I can feel the effects some yet. although most of the time I feel very well. I feel it in walking more than any other time. I am all alone now stay at night alone, havent had any steady one with me all winter Lannie Read staid with me at night, but she went to Cal. the first of this month, so that spoiled that. I came very near going with her but concluded it to long a trip without having company all the time. I wouldnt have staid with her after getting out there, & would have wanted to come Home a differant route. I would like awfully well to go sometime & still have hopes that someone may go from here. I can go with there are several that want to go. We are having nice weather now, but are still dry. the outlook is not very favorable just now for a good crop. grass burnt so last season it will take lots of rain to bring it up & it ought to come soon. we have had several little snows that wet the top of the ground some. I dont know when we have had a good rain it has been over a year. well it is almost dinner. I will have to bring this to a close. I am cooking cabbage come in & have a slice give my regards to the folks accept a share yourself & be sure to write soon again to your Aunt Mollie

**From Laura Euzetta Shuff to Angie Shuff & Mollie Oneal**

Dec the 18 (1895)

Dear Sister and a Aunt. as Dallie has Just written I thought I would put in a few lines. I have Just returned from my new school. I like it awful well. I brought a dialogue book home with me. I have a part in three dialogues for the Exhibition. we had spelling bee and an Arithmetic match Monday night at this place is going to be another one next week. there is spelling schools Literary's all around us. a person could go every night of the week if he wanted to. I have gone several times. I went home Saturday. been home Just twice in one month. I came back again Sunday evening. Sarah Lear[?] came with me. they gave her a suprise party the next night on her birthday. I suppose you remember her dont you Aunt Mollie. well I cant think of anything more to write so good bye. write soon. Dallie said we are going to have some mush and milk for Supper and for you to come over. **Zetta Shuff**

**IN MEMORIUM - LAURA EUZETTA (ZETTA) SHUFF**  
**2 Nov. 1882 - 4 Jan. 1896 (age 13)**

**From friends to the Shuff family**

Denver Col. Jan 12 1896

Dear Bro and Sister Shuff & family,

A letter from Oklahoma a few days ago conveyed to us the sad news of our dear little favorite's death, and we write to offer to you our deepest sympathy in your affliction.

It is a difficult thing to offer words of comfort to those whose hearts are aching with the sense of loss of one whose dear presence was light and life to the home.

The most that we can do is to assure you that your grief has touched us deeply for we had learned to love your dear Zetta for her own sweet sake as well as for the fact that she was a dear good friend of the children of our household. We unite in tendering you our heart felt sympathy, and pray the Father to give you the peace and comfort which can alone heal our suffering hearts in this world of losses and sorrow, and to so order our lives here that we may some glad day be restored to the loved and lost ones whom we soon must follow. With Sincere Regards,

Tho. A. Catlett, W.B. Roberts, Kate C. Roberts, Mary E. Russell, Arnie R. Roberts,  
Hollis Roberts

**From Mollie Angelina Shuff to John Artt Shuff**

Leon Iowa Jan 16 1896

Dear Brothers and Sister

I expect you think I am a long time answering your letter. Did not feel like writing while Zetta was sick. Dear little Sister she has gone to the better land while in her youth and purity. Ah! she will be sadly missed. I little thought when I went to Elreno the 12 of Nov that it be the last time that I would ever see her. She wrote me a letter the 18 of Dec and seemed to be enjoying herself so well. said she liked her school awful well but there would only be two more weeks they were going to have an exhibition at the close and She was going to take part in three dialogues. But when the time rolled around Our dear one was bidding adieu to all that belongs to this earth. But we know if we live a faithful Christian life we will meet our treasure in Heaven. Where sorrow is not known.

We are having some stormy weather now. Snowed a little this evening. Have had no snow to amount to any thing this winter. not very much cold weather. We went out to the old farm last Friday came back Saturday. It looked more familiar to me than I had anticipated. Mr Frost owns it now. Anna Artt is going to keep the poor farm another year. they have 18 occupants. Aunt got a letter from Jeff's today. they want to sell. Ann was visiting in town this week. think she has offered her place for less than she paid. Well Minnie hasn't come yet. said she thought she would start next Monday. Of course we'll have something to employ us then by amusing the baby.

I finished setting my necktie quilt together last week. Have 144 pieced blocks in it with no two the same color, going to quilt it some time next month. Am knitting a tidy for my self and working a rug for Aunt Ann sorry those mittens were to small. Missed my guess that time. think her dresses are very pretty. Wouldn't I like to see with them on. You must not count to much on my coming for it depends you know. Edd I hope you won't wait till you get to the post office to write.

Tell Lulu I am very much obliged for that song.

I must close. Hoping to hear from you soon. Your loving Sister **Angie**

What number shoes does Jewel wear.

**IN MEMORIUM - MOLLIE ANGELINA (ANGIE) SHUFF**  
**9 Jul 1872 - 17 Apr. 1896 (age 24)**

**From J.R. & E.A. Shuff to Kansas Children**

At Home April 18, 1896

Dear Children,

I now write you to convey to you the sad news for which I presume you have been expecting and dreading to hear. Our dear - dear daughter - your sweet sister Angie is on earth no more. She has gone over the cold waters of the Jordan. She passed gently away yesterday P.M. at 10 min before 2. She never rallied from her trip. Had she not come just when she did she never could have reached home. In her flighty spells she was talking of getting off to Oklahoma. On Thursday morning she had such a sinking spell we thought she would never revive. But she did and called us all up one by one reached her arms around our necks and bid us all goodbye, saying "Weep not for me" "Meet me in heaven" "I will wait for you there" "I have tried to live a Christian and hope to die a Christian" "I will meet my darling sister Zettie. We will wait for you there" To Milda she said "Weep only as one sister for another"

Then requested me to read some for her and have prayer. She called for the reading of last two chapters of Revelation. I omitted a portion of the 21 and also read selections from 2 Cor. 4 & 5. - 1 Thes 4 and a few verses from 1 Jn 3rd chapter. It was truly a glorious occasion. She spoke with so much assurance and perfect calmness and resignation. Was worth a whole lifetime. I regret you were not all present as we know you do.

Mrs. Foster and Sister Tannehill were present. Am so glad they were present as disinterested witnesses of all that occurred. Our sources and evidences of consolation and comfort are simply full and complete. Not a single cloud or shadow gathers over her memory so far as her future is concerned. Hence we have all possible grounds for rejoicing rather than for weeping. Her gentle manners, her pleasant smiles and most lovely and winning ways together with her looks and words of fond and filial affection must ever linger with us. No words of mourning or complaint ever fell from her lips not even under all her long protracted and sore affliction. Always ready to suffer and deny herself many comforts lest she should be too burdensome to her friends or associates. Lovely girl truly. O! How we shall ever miss this!

After the words of prayer and we all had arisen she said "God bless you all". Just before she died she had great pain and called "Mother Mother" and turning again from her right side on her back said "Now put me to sleep"

Everybody was lavish of kindness. If tomorrow Sunday 19 is a pretty day (as it now promises, rained last night) there will be a large concourse. Will tell you later. Brethren Clored & Head will talk. Bro King, near Charlies, will make her coffin. He and Jimmie went last night for lumber and trimmings to Yukon. She was afflicted (we now know) with spinal affliction or La Grippe etc.

Must close for this time. All rest well at present. Write soon. Aunt Mollie got home all right. With mingled feelings of sorrow and joy we remain most affectionately your father and mother J.R. & E.A.

**From Mary E. Russell to J.R. Shuff Family**  
1430 So Tremont - Denver, Col. May 15 1896

Dear Bro & Sister Shuff and Family.

Only a few short months ago we were deeply grieved at the news of dear little Zettie's death. And now, through a recent letter from Oklahoma, comes the sad intelligence that your family circle has again suffered the loss of a loved one. I cannot write at length but I wish you to believe me when I say that in this your double bereavement you have our heartfelt sympathy. I am authorized by the family to say that they heartily concur in whatever sentiments I may express, and we wish you to believe that although we are so far from our Oklahoma friends, we have not forgotten them, nor ceased to feel their sorrows and losses as deeply as when in their midst.

May the comfort and peace of a loving Father and his richest blessings both here and hereafter be the lot of all of you, is the wish of your Sister in Christ, Mary E. Russell

**From Minnie Trask Coleman to Elizabeth A. Shuff**  
Nebraska City, Neb. Feb 27, 97 Mrs Lizzie Shuff Mathewson OT

My dear Mrs Shuff:-

I received the box and thank you kindly for the same. I extend to you my sympathy in the loss of your last sister. I was so sorry to learn that you did not reach Leon until after her death. I was sorry too, that I could not be there to attend the funeral. I would have liked to have seen you and Mr O'Neal on a little matter of business. It is much more satisfactory to have a personal ? . I have filed a small claim against the estate of your sister Mollie B. O'Neal which I conciensciously feel to be just and right and I am sure you will feel so, too when I explain it to you. I was with her at the time of Bryant's death did all in my power to help them. Washed, ironed, cooked and helped in every way I could after his death. (which occured August 15th) Mollie did not like to be left alone and asked me to give up my school, which I had engaged for the year and stay with her! Telling me she would pay me as much SOME DAY for it as I would make out of the school. I did so, as she was then in very poor health and I could not refuse.

During the winter she decided to go to Ill. and as her health was poor she did not like to go alone and took me with her as a companion. After our return to Leon I waited upon her when she was sick, washed and ironed for her and did every thing I could until she decided to make a visit to Neb. and told me I must look out for myself while she was away. All this time she had given me neither money or clothing and I was almost with out either. It was to late for a school so I came to Neb. City, obtained a position in an office and began to build up again among strangers. Mollie kept telling me that SOME DAY she would pay me for my years work, when she felt that I needed it more.

Last spring she sent for me to come and stay with her as she was again in very poor health. I went and staid six weeks I would have staid longer but for my marriage. She told me then that when I went to housekeeping she would pay me for my trouble.

I feel sure that she expected to make it all right with me but wheather she was offended because I left her last summer or wheather she simply neglect the matter, I do not know. My claim for the entire time is only \$422.00 and I KNOW my loss of that one years work and my traveling expenses last summer and my time while there are worth that much at least.

Believe me, Mrs Shuff, I do not wish to have any hard feeling and if I did not feel that the claim is altogether right I would never present it. Most Sincerely yours Minnie Trask Coleman

**From Armilda A. Shuff to David Edwin Shuff**

Mathewson, Oklahoma May 10th 1897 Mr D.E. Shuff.

Dear brother. We received your letter on the 7th. It is raining again this morning. We have been having lots of rain the last three weeks: some of the neighbors say there was as much water fell, a week ago last Saturday, as usually falls in a year; then the next Tuesday, there was about as much more fell, and last Saturday night we had another big rain. This has been decidedly the wettest season we have had since we have been here. Wheat is looking grand. If every thing is favorable from now on, there is wheat around here that will make twenty-five bu. per acre. Allie says what Papa has on this place is as good as the best.

There was a great deal of corn washed up by these flooding rains, ours included. Some few are just filling up the vacancies, but most of them are planting their whole fields entirely over. The boys finished planting thirty acres of cotton on Monday, then on Saturday came that big rain and covered it so deep that it will probably never get through; not much of it at least. Allie thinks he will put the ground on which it was planted, in broom-corn. he and Harvey have both been breaking sod the past week, Harvey on the north side of our place, and Allie over on his School land. He says his wheat over there is looking fine. They are undecided as to what to do to get it harvested, binder, but do not like the idea of going in debt for one: they have so much to cut though, that there will be some debt any way it can be managed, so they hardly know what to do. You were inquiring about storms. There has been no storms in this part of the country, other than the floods caused by the late rains. Every bridge on the draws and creeks were washed away. There is a man by the name of Sweet, living on John's Creek, who had his granary, pig pen, and pigs all washed away. he thinks his loss amounts to about one hundred dollars. Within the night he heard a man passing his house and calling for help; he was in a house which was being washed away by the water. We have never heard who he was, nor what became of him. A man by the name of Long, whose claim lays right south of the North Canadian R., had to move out on account of being overflowed. The report from Guthrie is, one hundred drowned and about \$200,000 worth of property destroyed.

Those relatives of Charlie's at, and near Winfield are only distant relatives. There is one family by the name of Scott another by the name of Or and acquaintances Oldham and Alexander. These are relatives of their nearest neighbors. Do you think you will put out another crop in Rice? or have you an idea to locate at Winfield or Burden?

Harvey and I are both anxious to go to some good school this winter. One of our neighbor boys, Jesse Taylor, proposed that he & Harvey go to Emporia this Fall. It looks to me like they could do it, as they both have some wheat, that promises fair to bring them considerable pocket change. I don't know what they will decide to do. Harvey talked about going up there to attend school next winter, at Raymond, but I believe it would be better to go to Emporia if he can. I don't know what will become of me. I don't think I will go here any more, and if I cannot go to some good school, I am going to see if I cannot get some school to teach, and go the next year - if nothing prevents. My teacher last winter told me if she were in my place she would do that and the teacher the winter before, said he was sure I could get a certificate. I would much rather go to school,

however. But I must close, as it is getting dinner time. Hoping to hear from you sooner than before, I remain as ever Your sister Milda

**From Armilda A. Shuff to David Edwin Shuff**

Union City, Okla Feb. 4th, 1900. Mr. D.E. Shuff,

Dear Brother: This is a lonesome day, as Sundays nearly always are for me when I am away from home, and have no opportunity to go to church; but I have been trying to beguile some of the hours, by writing letters. My school will be out in two weeks, and I will be free again. I have been home only three days since the latter part of Oct. That was Christmas. The folks were just completing the little house. It makes quite a snug little house, and is strong and solid, what there is of it. But we have not given up the idea of a new house, though we may use that for an ell.

Harvey is in Edmond, going to school he started in, the first of January. Miss Long and I have partly made arrangements to go, the last three months. It would be a good chance, for we could go together, and it wouldn't cost us much, and we could get almost any course we might want.

We have had a most remarkable winter here, so far. It has been so warm that, if it should turn cold now, I am afraid we would have no fruit this season.

I have gotten along nicely in my school this winter - so much more nicely than I did last winter. I went up to ElReno yesterday, to attend a teachers' meeting. Yes, of course I saw "my little school teacher." why not?

Allie is still at home. He is farming the school land yet, and is working hard to get square with the world again. And I think he will do so, unless she makes another brake.

How did you come out with your calves? I have decided to invest in a few, this spring. If I conclude to go to school this spring, I will start the first of April. That will leave me just six weeks at home, and I think it would look mean and selfish for me to go up there and leave Mamma at home all the time, but I am going to do all I can to get her to go, within those six weeks. But more about this later. I must close for this time. Write soon to Your sister, Milda

**From David Edwin Shuff to J.R. Shuff Family**

Sylvia Kan Oct 9th 1900

Loved ones at home.

Your letter was rec'vd the other day after a long delay had come to the conclusion you were very buisey in wheat sowing and in the din had forgot it had been more than two mo since I had written you. hence the card. I am to start building my house next week will have to go in debt to do it but the best I can do. The final termination of a successful and harmonious courtship will take place on thanks giving. have always expected to go home on that occasion, but unless I can make a certain turn in business i.e. sell 150 steers for a man for which I am to rec. 50 ct per head, but have lost faith in doing so. You will all rec invitation cards on the thanks giving Wedding, and I will be disappointed if some of you at least do not come up. A little debt should not worry you now since you have 1/2 sec of land all your own and paid for, and I am satisfied Father you could get enough for preaching to pay your way. The brethren up here read your articles in the P.C. with interest I see the piece that was sent up to the P.C. from Mathewson. Bro P did not help

them out any on their side did he? Is Bro. Tomelson going to hold their meetings? As I am going to town will have to close. hope you will write soon more next time in remembrance D.E. Shuff

**From Benjamin Franklin Shuff to J.R. Shuff Family**

Sylvia Kans Oct 10th 1900

Dear Parents and Loved ones at home as we told you that we had some news to tell you, and as Ed is writing I will add a few lines this leaves us all well, and hope it will find you all the same the weather is getting quite cool had a frost last night. Bro. Crenshaw is holding a meeting at Plevna. but now to the point that is ? ? . I suppose you will not be surprised I tell you that I am to be married on November 1st at four Ocl an to Miss Mollie Helmers. can you not come up then and stay until Ed takes a wild notion to Jump the broom stick which will not be very long. I got through sowing yesterday. But I must close for this time. would be glad if as many of you would come up as can. tell Allie and Harvey to hurry up with that money. write soon with Love to all B.F. Shuff

**From Armilda A. Shuff to David Edwin Shuff**

Okarche, Okla. Oct 20, '00 Mr. D.E. Shuff

Dear Brother: I have just a few minutes to spare, this morning and will write a few lines to you. Your letter contained no surprise for me, as I had been expecting to hear that news for quite a while. I should like to be there on the occasion mentioned, but could not get off for more than 3 or 4 days, then and think it would be better to postpone my visit till after my school is out and I will be independent.

I went home two weeks ago, and saw the card you and Bennie wrote then saw Harvey at the Teachers' meeting last Sat and he told me all. Of course it was the occasion of Solemn thoughts, and yet I "rejoice with them that do rejoice." and my desire and prayer is that it may ever be an occasion of rejoicing to each of you. Be but as kind and true a husband as you have always been a brother, and I am sure no woman could desire any more.

I am getting along real well in my school have been home only once. Papa came after me that time; and Allie brought me back but someone spent the evening with us Sat. just the same. H.B. talked of coming down last Xmas and didn't; and the last letter I got he said he didn't know whether he could this winter. If he don't that will settle it so far as he is concerned. Time's up! write soon Milda Box 54

**From Albert Werner to David Edwin Shuff**

Manhattan, Kans., Nov. 25, 1900

My dear friend Edd,

Your very welcome letter reached me some time ago. Thru the rush of work here I neglected answering sooner. Have often thought of you in the meantime.

Let me again wish you and your prospective companion all the joys that an all-wise and indulgent Creator gives to such as assume the responsibilities of the married state. I have always known you as a young man who never shirked a responsibility: therefore I am assured that your new relation will be a marked success.

Your characteristic self control, a self control which includes the dominion of the mind over every physical propensity is one of the strongest recommendations of your marital fitness. Add to this your Christian character, which by the way is marked enough to command more than a passing notice, and the combination is one which I am sure will weather the roughest gale which you will be called upon to face.

As I write, I cannot help thinking of the discussions we had while husking corn. Those which bore on the subject which must now absorb your attention, I am sure were to our improvement.

Am glad to learn you are building your own home. I never see a covered wagon but that I am reminded of the unfortunate condition of those who have no permanent abode. Like an old friend. I must caution you against moving into your newly constructed to the health thereby. While I am now unable to explain why this should be so, there are some ominous facts which prove it.

I received your invitation the other day for which accept my sincere thanks. After carefully considering all things, I have decided not to come. Now I am confident that you will not regard this as a lack of appreciation of your kind invitation. If I come home on Christmas, I may be glad to accept an invitation to see you. Would be highly pleased to have you visit us at our home in Alden.

Your poem, I will not presume to criticize. Hardly think it would be a compliment to say it is better than I could do.

Wishing you much happiness, I remain your friend, Albert Werner C/o K.S.A.C.

**From Armilda Shuff to James & Elda Shuff**

Edmond, Okla. Oct. 10. '01

Dear Jimmie and Elda,

Sad indeed the news that came to us yesterday of the death of little Volna. It was a sudden shock to me for I had hoped since getting your last letter, that he was going to be spared to you.

I know what a sore trial it is to you to have to give him up and May God, who has promised to temper the winds for the shorn lamb, comfort your hearts, and cause you to know that earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot heal.

You cannot now understand why that little life should not have been entrusted to your care, but an all wise Providence has made it otherwise and we know that He doeth all things well.

But I will not try to speak words of comfort for I know that words can never heal the wounded heart. But I want you to know you have my deepest sympathy in your sorrow. You must take care of yourselves. Let us hear from you soon. As ever Your loving sister,  
Milda

**From J.R. & E.A. Shuff to Ed & Frances Shuff**

Mathewson Ok Ty Nov 11, 1901

Dear Edwin & Frances:

I am all alone here today. Mamma went up to Dallies (Charley's) aims to be back this P.M. Daisy is at school and Allie started this morning before daylight with a load of wheat to Cashion expecting to return with a load of fence posts. They cost us .08 apiece.

They are well seasoned Oak. Green ones at Edmond now worth .07 I went up North across the Cimeron a few days ago. Red Elm on Campbell Creek worth .06 Black Walnut & Post Oak (green) .08 Saw some dry oak posts for .05 beyond the river but they were cullings too small. So I stayed over night with Bro J.T. Hartley, got his name for the P.C. Came by way of the town and bought about 300. Got around to Dallies for dinner etc. Charley was to go with Allie and bring a load as far as his place. Our wheat is all up and looking very nice. Finished drilling late in October. Oats is also green. It is volunteer oats.

Had a letter from Harvey & Milda lately They were well and prospering. Think the school better than ever.

We are aiming to fence on the West and North sides of the orchard Thence North to N.E. corner of this place. Thence 1 mile West - Thence 1/2 mile South and then East to the S.W. corner of our pasture fence which I suppose you know includes the grass on Mamma's place. Have the lines staked now. Probably will put on but two wires. It will save us lots of feed. Plenty of good straw, oats and grass and wheat. Clouding up now considerably. Been real windy today. Now about 5 P.M. Looks quite rainy in the West. Well the great debate has come and gone. The Mormon Mr Parsons did I think as well as anyone could for Mormonism. He gained more public favor with his style than did Bro Collins yet the latter beat him badly in the argument. They discussed the respective merits of the two churches and also the Book of Mormon in a third proposition.

Thundering West & North and raining too. Also North east.

I expect Mom is on the read and will get caught in it. She is driving Nettie. She is the best buggy nag we ever had. Travels well and never scares. Perhaps Allie will not get farther than Charley's tonight!

I just sent by him my reply to Bro Bush which I hope you will see later. Bro Collins held a meeting here before the debate with slim attendance and no additions of course. (Raining now) Think he about killed himself here with his treatment of me and the rest of us. (Big drops of rain peppering on the roof while the sun is shining in the West.) Bro Glover did not get here until after the Mormon meeting Did not preach for us any. Went up North beyond Cimeron with Bro Hundrake to fill an appointment there for Bro Collins. May return sometime possibly. We gave him \$5.00, or rather \$4.00 and a package of ? ore.

Why did you ask if Bro Glover had been here to hold us a meeting? Dont know how you learned anything about his coming! (Rain ceased) We have 9 hogs fattening. Had then but Charley wants one.

Have our new well in the pasture finished up nicely. Pulley and two well buckets. Curbed up all right. Allie bought a tank (wooden) Cost \$11.00 As to our contemplated visit up there since we have had to expend so much for fencing, cave well and house etc we are getting very dubious as to our being able to go. Still we have not quite given it up yet. Now, 6 oclock and mom has not got here in sight! Nor Daisy either: Must now stop and go and do up my chores. More anon.

Nov 13 - 11 A.M. Mamma got to Uncle Davis Stephens (West Fry place) and after staying there awhile returned to Charleys and stayed all night. Did not get home until about 11 A.M. yesterday. Daisy went to her Uncle Jim's. So I had a lonely night of it. We had a splendid rain. Allie & Charley got to C's about noon. Allie started again to C's with another load of wheat aims to get home tonight. Got 57 for wheat Monday. They bought 80 posts a piece. Could have brought 100 apiece Chas went home soon after dinner. Allie probably got there by dark. I suppose you have heard that Chas has bought the 80 of land adjoining him on the East. They are building a nice new S.H. there. Stands on the corner

of C. Hess's land fronting the East. Charley pays \$1200 for his land. He has it in wheat. Looks well. He has about 60 acres rented on the Old man Reanson farm. We were sorry to hear of you and Bennie having so much misfortune. Where is Bennie now living? Where did he get land for wheat? Is Bro Blazer still there? Do you look for Jimmie & Elda down there. If so when? Love to your two (one) selves and to Bennie & Mollie, John & Ollie and all the friends and brethren. We close here hoping to hear from you soon (if not sooner) Affectionately your Father & Mother. P.S. on back of sheet no 3. P.S. Allie did not get home last night. Stayed at C's. Charley went with him again. Got here both about 10 A.M. today with 206 posts! Dinner over and Charley will mail this letter for us. Rained nice rain here last night. Today is bright and nice. I cut 200 dogwood stays yesterday P.M. Daisy did not go to school either yesterday or today. J.R.S.

**From A.A. Werner to David Edwin Shuff**

Santa Barbara, Calif. 5/8, '02. Mr. Edd Shuff.

My dear friend,

Your very welcome letter was forwarded to me a few days ago. Was glad indeed to hear from my friend of youthful times again and assure you it has given me much real pleasure to know that our old friendship is still a thing of vital activity.

Must congratulate you and Mrs. Shuff upon your new responsibility, which being a girl, will, I believe develop into a woman whose life and character will be such as to cause her to be highly respected as well as admired and whose influence will always tend to inspire to noble activity all who come within her influence.

Am glad to know you find married life with its cares and responsibilities a very agreeable burden. This simply proves that your companion's disposition is not contradictory, but harmonious with your own.

Had fully intended to accept your kind invitations to come to see you, but something seemed in the way whenever I was about to start. Hope to see you before very long. May stay some time in this state if I can obtain a foothold. The climate and vegetation are attractive, but the people do not suit me as a rule. A great many drink and nearly all smoke. The effect of these practices on a people you well know. Am working at present in a shell novelty works. Have a view all day over the ocean and see many steamers and sailors upon the briny bosom thereof. Let me assure you Edd that the ocean is a very great work in the eyes of a Kansan. Its broad expanse of blue surface and the ceaseless roar of the breakers upon the shore are impressive.

Have come across a sacred vocal solo which is simply grand. It is entitled "Calvary" and composed by Rodney. It is impossible to understand it unless the accompaniment is played. Have you an organ or piano and does Mrs. Shuff play music of about the difficulty of the popular sheet music? If so, I think she could handle the accompaniment while you sang the solo. If you will let me know of your willingness to undertake the learning of this wonderful composition, I will make an effort to get a copy to you.

Have you not occasionally noticed how much one sometimes misses by not making the effort necessary to understand something beyond one's present knowledge and experience? Have found gems more precious than any of the material sort in music and literature by a little pains taking study.

Success to the firm of Shuff & Draper!

Am very glad to know you were pleased with the shells. Were any broken?

Should be much pleased to hear from you. My best regards to all the folk.  
Yours as ever, A.A. Werner

**From Harvey O. Shuff to David Edwin Shuff**

Edmond, Okla. Dec. 6, 1902. Mr. D.E. Shuff

Dear Brother,

I was out home three days Thanksgiving and after found your letter here when I returned. Papa brought me in. I found all well at home, and everything doing very well except late wheat. Allie was not done sowing yet at Thanksgiving. Some of the thrashing had not yet been done. The folks aught to make some money out of hogs this year: they have 25 shorts and 12 fattening hogs.

Well I am batching now with George Snyder. Board was raised to three dollars a week and I thought I could afford to pay that. This way my expenses will be about ten dollars a month: while boarding would cost me about fifteen dollars a month, however I think I will room only till spring.

Some of my studies are working me awful hard. I don't know how I will come out. I have just one more study than I aught to carry, still if I should tell you how much I weigh you might not think I am working very hard: at any rate I weigh 190 lbs, but since I am batching now I expect to lose some of that.

Yes I was a little surprised to hear of George's wheat doing so well on that soilless ground, however you remember I admitted that strange things happen in Kansas.

Bless Geneva's sweet little heart, I would like to see her.

You ask about Miss Ella and Miss Adah. I heard from Miss Adah for a while, but our correspondence came to rather an abrupt termination, and shortly after Miss Ella and I agreed to quit. I was going with a girl here at the time, and we quit. How's that for experience? I don't aim to cause you to think that I am down in the mouth: for I am not. I have become used to such experiences.

I suppose you know that New Years day is the eventful day with Milda. Just to think that I have yet to take another round in Piggies trough. I am getting to know just about how that peculiar step is taken, if there is any thing about it that I don't understand, I have a pardner that aught to as he has had any amount of experience.

I just finished writing my oration last night. I have about 1400 words. It is yet to be corrected, when Prof Gibbs gets through with it, there may be nothing left of it. If a person can write so he (Prof) won't pick it to pieces, he is a good writer. We have an entertainment next Tuesday night. "Miss Parkers Pickininies," then our exhibition on the night of the 18th. Then comes a two weeks vacation.

But I must close and write a little to the folks at home. Give my love to Frances and Geneva. As ever.

**From A.A. Werner to David Edwin Shuff**

College Park, Calif., 12/27, 1903

Dear friend Edd,

Your welcome letter reached me several months ago. Am very sorry to have so neglected my correspondence the past summer.

Worked with my Uncle's folks until late in the fall. Enjoyed the summer very much as you may well know when I inform you that in that family I have two of the most charming young lady cousins that ever mortal man gazed upon. Wish you could have met them for I am sure you would agree that as usual our judgment in such matters would nearly coincide. Of course you will not misunderstand me. I am well aware that there is one and one only who is everything to you, but you know we are not averse to having our friends approve our tastes and judgment.

Have been attending school here for the past two months but expect to go to work as the indoor life does not agree with me.

While here in school we had some work in classic literature, and some of the poetic works struck me as being exceedingly fine. Remember well your inclination to poetry so will note a few selections which I am sure will interest you:

Milton - Sonnets; Dryden - The Character of a good parson; Gray - The Elegy; Goldsmith - The Deserted Village; Burns - Cotter's Saturday night - Tom O'Shanter; Keats - Eve of St. Agnes; Tennyson - The Passing of Arthur; Lowell - Vision of Sis Launfal.

It is well to have copies of above with notes. They are all of extraordinary merit and am sure you will be delighted with a study of them, for they must be studied to be understood.

You have surely learned "Calvary" by this time. Let me know for I have in mind another which will take you back to days when you were less favorably situated in regard to the conditions which produce contentment and happiness.

Have just heard the noted evangelist B. Fay Mills preach a sermon on "The Religion of Jesus". I confess I do not remember when I heard its equal. He speaks here during this week and am sure you would appreciate this remarkable preacher.

Mailed you a couple of days ago two dozen views mounted in paper albums. If they do not promptly reach you, let me know. They were made by your uncle so you may not expect too much. Should any defects develop in the pictures, let me know which ones and they will be replaced. Spots frequently appear some time after the print is finished and are caused by minerals in the water used in toning & washing. Will enclose one index to each album which you will doubtless find it convenient to stick on the inside of the back of each album. You can readily distinguish which index belongs to its respective album. Shall be pleased to make an effort to secure any views in which you may be interested. Any suggestion as to changes which would improve any of the pictures will be gladly received.

Write soon. My best respects to your folks.

Your friend, A.A. Werner Co/University Ave & Myrtle St.

### **From J.R. & E.A. Shuff to Ed & Frances Shuff**

Mathewson Ok. Ty. Jan 8th 1904. Edwin & Frances:

Dear Children: I am now seated on a chair, in our East room, facing toward you, trying to write you a few lines. It is now 11 A.M. I got badly crippled on the evening of Dec 19th Was in the stable trying to milk. Had milked Gem and went in the next stall to milk Old Lady. Had given them some feed in the trough. Another cow (White Tail) got in there with her and in trying to get her out - standing near Lady's heels she backed suddenly against me and knocked me down nearly backwards and then stepped on my knee bruising it up badly. I hollered as loud as I could for help. But being shut up in the barn and Harvey & Mamma in the house it was sometime before I got them to hear me. The

cows ran out and I managed to get up and hobble to the S.W. door of the barn. Then Harvey came and close after him Mamma. They pulled the old buggy around and I sat on the edge of the bed while they hauled me to the house and I got on the bed where I have been now nearly all the time since. Be three long weeks tomorrow evening. Harvey had just got home the day before. Allie had gone after him. He had just been up to Mathewson, came back and put out his horse and went to the house not more than ten minutes before. The principal pain it has caused me has been just like a severe leg ache. Harvey got his horse again and went again right back to Mathewson for Dr Colman. He soon came, pronounced it a bad bruise, bound it up in some Glycerine and gave me some powders to help me rest. It had swollen considerably. The Dr returned next P.M. Has not been back since but has sent me some linament twice. Broke some ligaments and I dont know but fractured the cap of my knee. I don't know when I shall be able to walk on it again if ever. Can bend the knee but as yet dont dare to rest much weight on it. Cannot lift it about much. It is easy hurt. It has put a stop to our meetings. Charley & Dallie (and Ella of course) were here day before yesterday. They went home via Piedmont going South first 1/2 mile. That road is opened through now. Only one bridge on the Campbell creek is not completed. The South Methodists have a church house there now. Had their first meeting in it last night. Of course it si still unfinished. Three elevators about completed and a fourth one commenced. The Mulvey Bros of Yukon have one Hardware building up. They will put up two more building worth in all some \$6000.00 Otto Wray our Mathewson merchant has gone there and is now in business. The paper is called The Piedmont Press. Must send you some. The track is now nearly to Richland City from Guthrie. Soon be through you see. Allie has his hands full now of work. Have two hogs to butcher for ourselves besides one for John & Milda. Six left then to sell. Allie has delivered near 200 bu of wheat to Piedmont. He took in the first two loads. Will get .60+ not known yet just how much more.

I am now lying on the bed while I write. Mom is in the kitchen at work. Mom and Allie & Harvey & Charley & Dallie all went to dine with Milda & John on Christmas day. No Mom did not go for she had to stay with me. We had intended to go. C & Dallie went up on Thursday P.M. Harvey went down there and did Charlie's chores and came on early Friday A.M. Harvey stayed there all night and he and Milda came out Sat P.M. with Mr Stevens who was in town. Harvey took her back Wednesday. She did Mom's washing on Monday A.M. & she and Harvey went via Piedmont to Charlie's in the evening returning next day. Quite a round in all you see. (Did you hear that?) Sneezed only three times! Probably Mom heard it any way for the middle door is standing open!

Sorry you are so hard up financially. We have all we can carry too. A crop failure would also set hard with us. I fear you will not make much above your expenses this year on chickens, yet you may. Be glad if you do. Wish we were in a shape to help you some but cannot just now. It may be that crops will not fail. Tell better later! I am to get a club for the O.R. when I get around. Do you and a number of others up there want it? If so write me soon. It will be \$1.00 each. See paper for terms. I cannot send immediately. Get me all names you can? I do not know whether you are taking it now or not. If you are you know Bro. Sommer is going to begin in April the publication of his lessons on the entire Bible. I presume they will be interesting and valuable. So get all the names up there you can and I want them all on my club as I am under obligation to Bro Sommer for sending it to me free of charge. The money can be sent directly to Indianapolis. But let me hear first. Study well his club offers & to whom? Those who are delinquent for 30 days or more must first settle up to date remember. As soon as I send in a few names to start the

club others can then send in at any time requesting to have their names enrolled upon my club list. Enough

Wheat is green but has not made much pasture so far. We had 24 head of cattle dehorned about one month ago. Kiss the babies for us. Hope you are all well. Hope you will quit playing Poker[?] and Ding Dong[?] etc. Sounds bad to me any how. Where & how do you draw the dead line? I close. Love to all. Write soon again. Good bye As ever Affectionately Your Father and Mother.

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Shuff**

Mathewson 2-8-1904 Mrs. D. E. Shuff

My dear wife. I will begin a letter to you this 9 O'clock A.M. altho may have to quit anytime and finish later. Father is very low thought he was dyeing last night at three A.M., but he rallied and is some better this morning, but unless there is a change for the better soon he can not last long. While he has accomplished his life course, yet it is hard to give him up. he has been in the cause of Christ for fifty years, and it can not be said that he ever shrank from duty. truly a Godly example before his family and if any of us fail to follow that good example it will be to our shame, and his disapproval. his misfortune in getting crippled has brought on this crisis. that is the sad part of his untimely death. while that is not the direct cause of his death yet it brought it on. The neighbors have been good to come in. Your letter was rec'vd in good time. Saturday night I note you had not rec'vd my letters yet. expect you are looking on every mail for the word we are dreading to send, but why should we wish to detain him when he has accomplished his work and is "bid to come up higher" yet who can fill his chair in our old home. He had made arrangements for Bro Lawson to hold a meeting in the new town 4 mi east of here the last of this month and wants us all to see that the meeting goes on. he had great hopes of doing some good there.

As to work up there I think you and Geo can see after it till I get back. however I think Pide aught to be put up nights. I sent you an order on Hinshaw. perhaps if you have not taken it to him you better try to get along some other way till I come back. go on credit at the store for what you need and retain the order for the trio chicks. to bad I sold the wheat but would like to see him now before we draw on him. but if you have gone ahead as directed alright. but I must stop as Chas is waiting to go to the office. bye, bye Edwin

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Shuff**

Mathewson Okla 2-10-04 Mrs. D. E. Shuff

My dear wife. this is 4.30 A M I am now setting by the bedside wetting fathers lips with a sponge once in a while as we can no longer administer medicine. Strange that a man with such a strong vitality could not live thru a spell of sickness the Dr. was here last evening and said the case was beyond all human aid. we all sat up till after midnight and mother will not leave him. altho she is nearly dead for sleep. he can not talk any more. he called for Allie yesterday and with great difficulty told him to see that mother was taken care of and also told him to look to his own salvation. later in the evening he called for me, but when I came (being asleep at the time) he did not talk undoubtedly knew me, but could not talk. think he is conscious yet. pulse is fair and body all except his hands are warm and will ans when spoken too, but ah such a horrible gurgling sound when breathing. and

so week so week! prior to yesterday he talked once in a while, and retained consciousness at all times so far as we could tell. is now sinking and surely the end is not far off. I gave your love to him as you directed night before last and he excepted it by an expression of gratitude with tears coming to his eyes but they were tears of joy. I was so glad you sent it in words because appreciation or love never falls so short as when it seeks no way of expressing its self. The Drs have all agreed that his misfortune in getting crippled was the cause of his sickness, and therefore the remote cause of his death. don't think there is any water round his heart Dr. from ElReno pronounced it Lagreippe. will tell all about when I come home which will not be many days at most tell Geo I meant to ? my oats straw. it is not very good but stock will eat it then I have some on the 18 acre field (wheat) don't want the horses to get the millet. keep calf up all time I hope there will be no more oil meetings till I get back. I will stay no longer than is necessary. But I must stop will state in this the condition just before, mailing it Yours ever & only Edwin

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon Shuff**

Mathewson Okla 2-10-1904 Mrs. D. E. Shuff

My dear wife I will drop you a few lines this morning to break to you the news which we are sad to state and perhaps you have been expecting to hear Father passed peaceably away at 11:15 A M tell Olive & others John will write her soon. will try to get Bro Lawson to conduct funeral services. We will be home first of the week No more at present

Yours ever D. E. Shuff

**From Alice Frances Shuff to David Edwin Shuff**

Plevna, Kans. Feb. 11-1904 Mr. Edwin Shuff. Mathewson, Okla.

Me Dearest One. - Rec'd your letter today, bearing the sad news of Fathers death. How sad to part with one so dear, but we need not weep as those who have no hope.

We must consider what he has accomplished for the cause of Christ in his lifes work: and if we could all say as much, when we are called. It made my heart ache and tears would fill my eyes when I read your letter. I thot' perhaps he would pull thro' as it proved to not be water collecting around his heart.

I regret that we did not get to visit them in the old home, before it was broken. Can't you boys bring Mother home with you? I would so love to have her come. I know it must be hard for her to give him up, as they seemed so devoted to one another.

I loved them both so much and can see the good example they have been before their children, and we must strive to do likewise, for our little ones.

Give Mother and the rest of the family my love. Let her share this letter with you, my dearest.

We are all well as usual here, and it has been a nice day only cool.

It seems you have been gone so long, and how I do miss you, no tongue can tell.

Write me when to meet you at the train and where.

All are in bed, and must close for this time. Yours only and ever. Lovingly. Frances K. Shuff.

**From Armilda Ann Shuff Jackson to Mr. & Mrs. David Edwin Shuff**

ElReno, Okla. March 22nd '06 Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Shuff,

Dear brother and sister: You, no doubt, opened this letter wondering who in the world could have written to you from ElReno Oklahoma, and casting about in your minds to see if you could think of any of your friend of "auld-lang-sine" who lived in such a place. Turning to the signature you see the name Jackson, and, remembering that you had a sister once who married a man by that name, you decide that it must be from her. And so it is. It has been so long since I received your letter that I can not pretend to answer it. I shall have to start a new correspondence.

It is raining today and gives promise of continuing for a part of the night. It is a great benefit to the country. I was out home last week. The folk were all pretty well. Allie had been sick the Sunday before but about well again. Dallie's children were just recovering from whooping-cough.

There! did you hear all that racket? Well it was only me after Johnie! I stopped at the close of the preceding sentence to stir up the fire. All uninvited he took up the pen and went on with my writing. He did not do it just as I would have done it but hope you will understand.

John is not at home today. Harvey came down and together they went out to Calumet to a teachers' meeting. John was going to read a paper. You see he has not entirely quit the teachers field yet. In fact he fully expects to teach school next winter. He doesn't expect to keep his position in the office longer than to the first of August. The position has been a good thing for us financially. We have made (other page(s) missing)

**From Armilda Ann Shuff Jackson to David Edwin Shuff and family**

ElReno, Okla. Aug. 24th '06

Dear brothers & sisters:

For almost a week I have been trying to write to you, but have not been able to do so until now when I feel as though I must not postpone it any longer. But O brothers what a hard task indeed it is to write of the sufferings and death of one dearer than all other earthly things to us. And yet that is the task before me now.

We thank you, Edwin, for the words of interest and sympathy sent in your letter; and we feel and know that they were but an expression of the feelings in the hearts of every one of you. We thank you, too, for the prayer you uttered that we might be spared the sorrow of yielding to the arms of Death our precious baby boy. But for some reason not given us to know, that prayer was not answered. At half-past one o'clock, Monday morning August 20th his spirit went away. At 6 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day we laid his little body to rest near our father's in the Mathewson Cemetery.

His sufferings, though great and prolonged, are ended forever. Faith teaches us to know that all is well with him now. But Oh! what a void there is in our home none but those who have experienced it can know. And my heart could pray God that they may never know: but that can never be. Then rather let us pray for strength to bear, and power to say "Thy will be done." I send this letter to you Edwin, but I ask you each to send it on until you have all read it for I cannot write another.

With love to all of you I close, Write soon to Your sister Milda.

**From Armilda Ann Shuff Jackson to David Edwin Shuff and family**

Vinita Okla, June 8th '09

Dear Bro & family,

On coming home from school the day you left here, I found your note book on my stand. I feel sure you left it unintentionally, so I send it to you. Hope you got home all right and found everything and everybody so. This is an exceedingly warm day. All well here.

Write us a letter - Milda

6/9 '09 Received your card this PM. That song is:

"You're as Welcome as the Flowers in May" Author of words and music is Dan. J. Sullivan. Publishers & owners of copy right Jos. W Stern & Co, 34 E 21st St. N.Y. I paid 15c for my copy. In haste - Milda You needn't mind about returning postage. M.

**From Alice Frances Kinnamon Shuff to Mrs. A.E. Harper**

Plevna, Kan. Apr. 3-1914 Mrs. A. E. Harper St. Marys, W. Va.

Dear Sister Harper: - As the children, of those who have and are devoting their time and lives to the spread of the Gospel of Christ, we realize that oft times the wife of these faithful ones are called upon to make great sacrifices and spend many lonely hours apart from the husband, for which little or no thought on the part of the brethren in general is given, as many never realize what it means to be a preachers wife.

But realizing the extent of this sacrifice and with hearts filled with brotherly love, we send this little missive. Not as a reward for the great work you are doing, for we realize that God alone can do this, but to show as far as possible our appreciation for the work you are doing in interest of Our Lord and Master.

We all have a warm place in our hearts for Bro. Harper and many are the prayers that have gone up in behalf of him and family.

We also realize the sacrifice your beloved husband is making, when separated from his loved ones for months at a time, in helping to further the Cause of Christ.

We were indeed glad to hear through Bro. Gorrell that your eldest child has lately obeyed the Gospel, which is evidence of a duty well performed in the home.

This letter is written unknown to Bro. Harper, and as a token of further appreciation each congregation, Sylvia and Plevna is enclosing \$5.00 for you to use as you see fit.

So in hopes of cheering a loving, faithful, sacrificing heart, we send this little missive.

And may Gods blessings ever attend you and your husband and family and give you strength to continue to be instruments of good in the cause of our blessed Redeemer.

Written by request of the Churches of Christ at Sylvia and Plevna.

Written by Mrs. Frances Shuff aided by D. E. Shuff, Wm Crenshaw, Anna Crenshaw.

**From Armilda Ann Shuff Jackson to David Edwin Shuff and family**

Vinita Okla. Aug. 2nd '14

Dear Bro. & family:

I received your letter quite a while ago and assure you we appreciate your feeling of interest and sympathy.

Our little Arthur has improved steadily for the last twenty days. His general health is now good and he is beginning to laugh and play with us again. We have fought a desperate

battle. For about fifteen days we had little or no hope of victory and even after that we feared our victory would be only a compromise. But now we have fond hopes that our boy will, in time, be wholly restored. Oh how many times I have thought recently, that I can now realize as I never did before how Mary and Martha felt when Lazarus was presented to them alive from the dead. And yet they never had the long and agonizing experience of waiting to know whether the restoration was going to be only partial or complete. I suppose you knew that for about three weeks Arthur seemed completely paralyzed in both of his left limbs, and for thirty-six days he was entirely without sight. But now he uses his leg almost as well as ever and is improving in the use of his arm - and best of all he sees! Not very well yet, to be sure, but we think he is gaining a little all the time. John took us for a little drive last Sunday afternoon the first time either the baby or I had been off the place since the 24th of May.

How are you and yours by now? You seem to have had a long siege of sickness in the spring. I didn't know anything about it until the fare part of May when Mama told me of it. Then Jimmie wrote me more a little later.

Let me hear from you soon. I shall expect you to let the other "boys" hear the report I am sending you. As ever Milda.

**From Armilda Ann Shuff Jackson to David Edwin & Alice Frances Shuff**

Vinita, Okla. Nov. 13th '14

Dear Edwin and Frances:

Your letters did me so much good, I feel ashamed that I have not answered sooner. I thought when I had read your letters, that they were the next best to a visit with you. I was sure of your sympathy with us in our sorrow and yet you, Frances, expressed a truth when you said that, after all you could not realize our feelings. Only experience can teach the heart that lesson. When one is compelled to sit day after day, and night after night, and watch the awful struggle go on; when death, with all its bitterness, is not the thing most dreaded; then one comes to know what it means. And I sincerely hope you may never know. John and I sometimes talk about it and agree that it all seems to have been one horrible nightmare, and the child we have with us to day, did not and could not have endured what we saw him endure. I am sending you his picture which was made about two weeks ago. It was taken here at home out of doors, and I think the light was too strong. For some reason the picture isn't pain; but if you can draw on your imagination sufficiently to give his eyes a deep blue, and his cheeks a healthy glow, you will have a fair idea of what he looks like.

No, Frances, I haven't any picture of Leila and Golda. I have one of Leila in her go cart but no other. I should like to have one of the others if you have one of the others if you have one to spare.

I am sure you enjoy your sleeping porch and your piano. Do you devote much time to music, or have you stepped aside for "the girls?" I don't get to do much practicing just now.

We have white Orpington chickens. They are looking pretty now, with their new coats on. I am making about 12 lbs of butter each week. get 30 cents for what I sell. I shall make butter thru the winter, but, if things go well with us, I want to get a separator next summer and sell cream.

Fruit is also scarce with us. I canned about 150 qts all told - mostly apples and tomatoes. Quite a number of our neighbors went to Mo. or Ark. and bought apples at 25 cent a

bushel. It is only one day's drive each way. John would like to go but this "free life of the farmer" keeps him too close.

John has been logging for about two weeks. He is going to build a barn. The sawyer tells him he is getting some of the prettiest lumber he has ever made. - all oak mostly red oak. Of course you have heard of the little maid at Harvey's. I should like to run over to see them a few days but can't, I guess.

Lillian is attending school at Tulsa this winter. She is making her home with an uncle of hers, who is in business there.

It is getting late and I must go to sleep. Write again soon. As ever, Milda

### **From Frances Shuff to Elizabeth Shuff**

Plevna, Kansas, March 3/1918 Mrs. E.A. Shuff Piedmont, Oklahoma

Dear Mother: -

A few lines tonight. All well as usual. We have been enjoying one of the finest rains - the slow soaking kind from the east. It rained all night and a greater part of the day. It registers over an inch. Had a hard rain about a week ago. About a half inch here.

Edwin went to Church this morning in little "Betsy". Also Waldo & Geneva. Geneva and her chum, Clara Chambers, went to Stafford Friday night to visit some old school mates that are attending High School there. They came in on the morning train to Plevna and stopped at Sister Hindsley's until Church time. I did not try to go as I had quite a headache and I feared the car would slip and slide; but they said it didn't at all.

I haven't been feeling very well all winter. Have felt so tired and worn out. Dr. said I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown, Caused by the prolonged strain and anxiety during Waldo's illness and during such a busy season. I commenced taking adjustments two or three weeks ago. Am slowly gaining, I believe. Think I shall stay with it until I get built up, if it takes all summer. We have such busy times ahead of us and I want to help keep the wheel rolling.

You ought to see Waldo now. He weighs 130 lbs and is still gaining. He is as tall as I. Dr. calls him Fatty Arbuckle. He has been in school since the first of the year. We are gradually breaking him in to manual labor. While convalescing he learned to help me with a number of things. Among them was corn bread. And say - he can make almost anyone hustle to beat him!

Edwin just returned from taking Geneva in to town. She had to board last week as Mrs. Tison was away on a visit, but Mr. Tison was at home. She boarded with an old school mate of mine. Cost us five dollars from Sunday night until Friday night. My, but I would hate to have to board her all the time.

Had another letter from Milda a short time ago. The four boys here each sent her a five dollar bill for her birthday. Perhaps it will help out some. I expect they are like the rest of us - there's no joke about the financial end of it. We certainly know something about such extra expenses and what they mean. Edwin's and my trip to Kansas City cost us \$400.00, but we feel it was money well spent and have never regretted it once. Then there was Harold's hospital bill of \$75.00 when we had his tonsils and adenoids removed. Geneva's pneumonia bill was \$40.00 with the M.D. She was taken bad Jan 23 - the same day that Edwin's back went down on him while scooping corn from the car. She was still coughing hard May 1 and we turned her over to Dr. Green, the Chiropractor, and it was no time until her cough was gone, and she gained rapidly from then on, and it was rather a precarious age for her then, too. Then the M.D.'s said they couldn't do a thing for

Edwin's back and he hobbled around here for about six weeks. Then we learned of the Chiro and his work and they certainly helped him. Then Harold had locked bowels and Dr. Green straightened him out.

We think Waldo will need a few more adjustments. And up to date, I think, our Chiro bills all told will amount to \$400.00. Dr. Green staid five whole nights with Waldo. At times we didn't know whether he would be able to save him or not. But we don't think medicine would ever have reached his case. We spent \$3,000 with an M.D. on him on the start. The sixth dorsal, I believe it was, was terribly out of line - due to an accident in Blackman last Dec.

And of course there are all the other incidentals in rearing a family that calls for a Dr. And you can see by the above enumerations we think lots of the Chiro's work. Mr brother had just gotten his sheep skin as a Dr. of Chiropractic's a short time before he went to war. I wish a good Chiro could have gotten a hold of Milda. But I do hope she will stay in Arizona until she is thoroughly recuperated. I fear she will loose all she has gained if she returns too soon.

Have commenced shipping out eggs. Only sent out 200 as yet, and have other orders yet to fill. sold all our cockerels by the first of the year and could have sold a good many more. Had to return about \$30.00 even after I quit advertising them. Have ten hens I could spare yet. Shipped 19 hens to Iowa a short time ago.

Well, I think I had better bring my spiel to a close and retire. Wishing you the best of health I close With lots of love, Frances.

**From Armilda Shuff Jackson to Ed & Frances Shuff**

Boerne, Texas Dec. 24th '18 Mr. & Mrs. D.E. Shuff, Plevna, Kans.

Dear Brother & Sister & Family:

John and I were in Piedmont ready to take the train south when we received your most interesting letter. Mama had gone over with us and Charlie's were there too, so I had Ella read your letter aloud and all got to hear it.

I hope you have still escaped the "flu". We have so far as we know.

Of course you have heard before this of our being here at Boerne. B. is a small mountain town about 30 miles N.W. of San Antonio. It was recommended to us as a vary desirable place for me as it is high, dry, and warm. Well we find it is about 1400 ft high but it has proved itself anything else but dry since we have been here. We arrived the 4 inst. and of the 20 days we have been here not more than six or seven have been all sunshine. Last week it rained from Monday evening to Friday with hardly a "slackup". Then Fri. and Sat. were bright, but Sun. it began again and gave us another 12 hrs. and is cloudy still. I feel like we might close our eyes and imagine ourselves back in Old Craig. However, I surmise we could find it much colder there than here, tho we had about an inch of ice on a tub of water this morning.

This is a right pretty place. The town itself is level, but there are mountains all around. There are quite a number of wealthy families of San Antonio who have fine summer homes up here. It is so much cooler here in the summer time. There is an auto road leading from here to the city that is just like a city street, and maybe you think the cars don't speed! As we came up on the train, the autos passed us just as if we were riding in Farmer Jones' lumber wagon!

We have two furnished rooms and are doing light housekeeping or I better say John is. We live in what is called Oak Park Addition. The trees are nearly all live oaks, and carry

their leaves all winter. Some of them have a considerable growth of Spanish moss on them.

I am getting so trembly I guess I'll lay this by till tomorrow.

Merry Christmas!

Maybe I'll get this finished in time to send to town today. We were just 22 hrs. running from El Reno to San Antonio leaving E. at midnight Monday and Lansing in S. about 10 P.M. Tuesday. We were in S. until about 5 o'clock Wed. afternoon.

John was like a pendulum with its weight off. He tried to take in the whole city in a day. San Antonio is, I suppose, one of the most interesting cities in the south to one who takes an interest in the early history of the country. I didn't get around much, tho I did go thru the Alamo and visited the ancient cathedral San Fernando.

My trip was pretty hard on me. I caught cold and for two weeks felt pretty much down and out. I coughed hard and long, especially at night, and ran 5 degrees of fever nearly every day. But I am glad to be able to say that I am doing much better now, and my hopes are brightening up again. I will close for this time. Write again when you can get to it.

Love to all. Milda

### **From Armilda Shuff Jackson to Ed & Frances Shuff**

Alamogordo, N.M. Thur. 3 P.M. (think this was written Mar 13, 1919)

Dear Edwin & Frances:

I received your much traveled letter a few days ago. It was a little old, but not the least bit stale.

I hope, Edwin, you have gotten rid of your "Job's pets" by now. They are certainly not pleasant companions. Really I don't see how you could be "boiling over" so when, as you say, the thermometer stood at 16-

Yes, we have chilly weather both here and at ElPaso; but that is about as strong a word as one should use to describe it. It gets much colder here than it did at Florence last winter, tho I hear it has been colder there this winter. The climate here is probably as healthful as any that can be found, but it certainly is not as lovely as the Arizona winter. The wind blows here most of the time - sometimes quite disagreeably, and we have a good deal of cloudy weather tho a very little precipitation - about 9 in annually I think.

I hope you have all succeeded in escaping the "flu". They tell me it struck this place in the fall and among 2500 inhabitants here were 1000 cases at one time. It soon finished its work here, it seems, and moved on. There have been no cases here recently.

Frances, I hope if there were any in the clergyman's audience that cared to invest in infants they didn't miss his bargain offer. They certainly went cheap enough.

Everyone here seems to be ready to take up arms to defend the reputation of this place as a health resort. Even the turkeys, when they gobble, seem to say "Alamogordo," and then go on strutting as if they had spoken the only word worth while.

Perhaps this sketch will give you the least little bit of an idea of ElPaso. You are looking west. On the right is Mt. Franklin, the end of a chain of Mts to the north. On the left, Mts of Mexico. The Rio Grand flows between and the two principle railroad lines, one from the north and east, one from the south and east become one at the union station and "pass thru." John climbed to the two points indicated by the stars. He was ravished with the view. It took him six hours to go and come with about a 15 minute rest at the top. He told me he saw a large cone shaped Mt some 35 or 40 miles to the north, half covered with snow. We are 86 miles north of ElPaso, and old "White Mt" is still 35 or 40 miles north!

I have indicated where the Church of Christ has a nice brick-and-cement edifice. Ft Bliss is to the north about 2 or 3 miles.

There is a congregation here too but I do not attend services. I do not even go to the table for my meals. Dr. wants me to lie as quiet as possible till we get my fever broken which we have not done yet. Come again soon. As ever Milda

**From Armilda Shuff Jackson to Ed & Frances Shuff**

Alamogordo, N.M. Dec. 9th '19.

Dear Edwin and Frances.

I have just been counting up and find that I owe every one of my regular correspondents a letter; so I called at one for my pencil and tablet and began to clear my desk. I have just written to Mama.

We moved the first of the month. The house we were in was sold. I am well pleased with the change. We had a 6 room furnished house which was costing us \$30 a month, now we have light housekeeping rooms with an old gentleman and his wife, and it costs only \$10. They are members of the Church and we find them very congenial. They have a two acre tract at the edge of town. They have most of the place in orchard and garden, keep a cow, chickens and rabbits. Arthur does much better here than he did in town.

Lillian came down and spent her Thanksgiving with us. The people she boards with gave her a turkey and she and her papa made quite a spread. We had a friend in for dinner and had a very pleasant day.

No, Frances, I do not sit up very much - just a little while after each meal. I still have fever and high pulse and to be up increases both.

The samples you sent me were pretty. It seems a long, long time since I had any use for pretty clothes.

Since John came and has been attending church services we have had quite a number of the members call on us. A Mr and Mrs Garrett called one Sunday. They seemed to know all the Shuffs back there and every one else that I ever knew there. She also remembers meeting Father at Ames Okla. She says she has better health here than she ever had any where else. Her brother and his family are here also.

Edwin, I cannot see how anyone, interested or otherwise, could possibly misunderstand your motive in buying Mama's farm. It seems you gave her all, or even more than she was expecting to realize out of it, and since you were able to turn it profitably it proved a good deal for both of you. I doubt whether the man you sold to would ever have paid her what he paid you. I surmise he has had his eye on the place for some time expecting to get it at a sacrifice price - which he might have done if you had not stepped in between. I assure you I give you credit for a kindly deed.

Well, Xmas will soon be here again. May it be a merry one for you all, and may the New Year be glad. With love all round Milda

**From Armilda Shuff Jackson to Harvey O. Shuff**

Alamogordo, N.M. March 22, '20

Dear Brother Harvey

I guess it is high time I was answering your letter received some time since. This is March, and March is March the world over, it seems, even in this climate. We have been

having strong winds which always means lots of dust here where the ground is so dry and bare.

I have wondered many times what you have done about your work for another year. Surely Stroud should be ready to give you that \$2000 considering what other towns are doing. I know of no desirable opening out here. This place is said to have excellent schools, and pays its supt. \$2500, but retains the man they have. Are you still planning to go to school this summer?

I can't think I have done any good the last month or six weeks. The unsettled condition of our affairs I think has worked against me some. You may have seen more encouragement in my last letter than I had any right to give. My lungs I am sure have improved some, but my stomach is doing me very poor service. There is very few things I can eat but milk and eggs and I have lost flesh until I don't think I will weigh more than 110 if that. About June 1st last, Dr. gave my blood a test for hemoglobin, and found it 85%. He gave me a course of iron and raised it to 90. Last week he tested it again and found it barely 70%. I shall take another course of iron.

I don't want to cause any unnecessary anxiety among those who are interested in me, but I believe you would want me to send you faithful reports of my progress whatever it is.

We have arranged to spend the summer here. John is to take charge of a small orchard (1 1/2 A) on the shares. We hope to make expenses, but can hardly hope for more.

I hope you will not wait as long as I have about answering. I have not heard from Kansas since Thanksgiving, and haven't heard from home for quite a while. Love to all Milda

### **From Armilda Shuff Jackson to Ed & Frances Shuff**

(On letter head "Nutwood / Jackson & Jackson / Percherons :- Shorthorns / White Orpingtons" Vinita, Okla., June 22 1920

Dear Edwin and Frances:

You will observe by my heading that we are back on the farm. We left Alamo' Monday night and got to Vinita Wednesday night. We had to wait about five hours at Oklahoma City. Mama, Charlie and Dallie, and Harvey and family spent the time with us there, which I enjoyed very greatly. Mama is looking better than I had dared hope. Dallie tipped the scales at 200 so you can guess she is looking pretty well. It made me feel quite insignificant when I balanced them at 107.

A storm broke soon after we arrived in Vinita, and we had a drenching rain and wind storm, and we have had only a few hours of sunshine all told since. It is drizzling today. I have spent more time within doors since I have been home than I had in 16 months before,

Frances, I am certainly sorry you are having so much trouble. I knew your spine was bothering you, but I had never heard about your fall. It would appear your "chiro" man did not understand your case.

People here are about done cutting wheat. Oats is a little later. We saw harvesting going on from the other side of Amarillo Texas. By the way the country near Amarillo and for several hours' run each way is a wonderful country to look upon. It seems the only limit to where one can see is the natural limitations of the eye. I thot surely, if the lenses of our eyes were only strong enough, we could see from the Gulf Coast to the Bad Lands.

Thank you, Edwin, for your offer to take me to the old stamping ground out in Hodgeman. I know I should enjoy such a trip tho I cannot hope to make it soon. I hope

you and John do well with your land venture. I am not sure whether your land is in Kans. or Okla.

Lillian didn't come back with us. She is attending summer normal at Las Vegas N.M. and expects to teach out there again. She fell in love with N. Mexico.

As for me, I am thin and haven't much strength, but I feel pretty well most of the time. If my stomach would just function as it should I think I might do better. I subsist almost wholly on toast, milk, and raw eggs.

Write again soon. Your letters always do me good. I always enjoy the pictures. The last one you sent was fine.

With love enough to go all round - I am Your sister Milda.

**From Armilda Ann Shuff Jackson to David Edwin Shuff and family**

Vinita, Okla. 9-29-22

Dear Bro Edwin & Family,

I had a letter from Dallie yesterday which brot some unpleasant news - no not news either, for I have known for a long time that it was coming some time. She says you were down to Mama's recently, so I suppose you understand the situation there.

Ed, wont you write and tell me more. Dallie says the farm is going to be sold. Do you know what plans, if any, Mama and Allie have? Is there no turn that can be made to prevent their having to leave the place? I dread the consequences of a complete break up. I will not write more now. A long time ago I received a long letter from Frances which I have shamefully neglected to answer. I must and will write a full letter later. But hope you will write me now on the subject in hand. As ever Milda.

**From Armilda Ann Shuff Jackson to Alice Frances Shuff**

Vinita, Okla. Oct. 31 '22

Dear Frances:

It was kind of you to write me another good letter, even tho I had not answered your previous one.

There are so many things which I feel just must be done if our home is to be continued on a respectable plane, that my strength, tho not my time, is completely spent before I get around to all of them. So other things which I should like to do have to go undone.

I, too, put up some fruit tho it's rather a small "sum" compared with yours. We canned about 50 gal. of fruit and vegetables.

I don't do much sewing except mending. I don't need many clothes and what few I do need I buy ready made. I made some pillow slips and sheets last spring. Hope to recover several comforts by the time we need them.

I have been unusually poorly for about ten days. My heart bothers me and I have attacks of weakness until I can hardly get about the house alone.

I never did get that literature you ordered sent to me. Or if I did it came before I got your letter and I didn't give it any attention. We get so much literature of that character that I fear I have become almost immune to their claims, so far as my own case is concerned.

Dallie spent a week with me the first of this month. I certainly was glad to be with her again, the time was not half long enough. No, I had not heard of your trip west. How does

Geneva like teaching? I wish I could attend your meeting - I suppose I better wish we could have a good meeting here.

We and one other family have been meeting as regularly as circumstances would permit for more than a year. We had our service at our own home last Sunday because I was not able to go to the school house.

I will have to close now. Will write a page to Edwin in the morning to enclose with this. Write as often as you can. Love to all. Milda

**From Armilda Ann Shuff Jackson to David Edwin Shuff**

Oct. 1922

Dear Bro. Edwin:

Just a few days after I got your letter, Dallie came over and made me a six days' visit. She, of course, told me all about conditions with Mama & Allie. I have been dreading the time when everything would have to go, tho I have known for years it would come if Allie had control. But Dallie seems to think Mama is ready to be resigned and if she is, the change cannot come too soon to suit me! It is out of all reason for Allie to try to keep up a separate establishment, when he can't actually make a living for two.

I hope you make good with your hogs. You are handling them in the proper way, I believe.

John is gathering his corn and will feed it out to hogs in lots, for lack of sufficient fences.

We have had a dry fall. A very good rain fell last night, which will be fine on wheat.

Here's hoping you will be successful in your fight. We are all in the same boat it seems.

As ever **Milda**

**IN MEMORIUM - ARMILDA (MILDA) SHUFF JACKSON  
12 FEB 1880 - 10 NOV 1922 (age 42)**

**From John Jackson to Ed & Frances Shuff**

Vinita Okla 12/7/1922 Mr. D.E. Shuff

My Dear Brother: I received both your letters and am thankful for your interest in my future.

Armilda Shuff had the strongest and sincerest religious beliefs of any woman it has been my fortune to know. And her daily life was an example of her religion.

Her passing was the heaviest possible loss Arthur and I could sustain in this world. But for her it was richest gain, for she has entered in to that rest of which there is no end, and in which there is nothing but joy.

There may be other women as purely good and sinless as she was, but I dont know of ever having met one. For 20 years she set before me the inspiring example of perfect Christian living, in thought, word and deed. I thank God I was permitted to know and live with her. John Jackson

**From Minnie Boston Myers to Ed & Frances Shuff**

York Nebraska April 29 - 1940

Dear Cousins:-

Received your letter a year ago last Christmas and have wanted to answer before but my eyes gave out many months ago and so I have to wait on others to write for me these days. Lawrence's wife is here this afternoon and is writing this. I am quite well except that I can't see. Eva and I have been here in York the past winter but have spent the other two winters with Marie in Illinois. They bought a farm three years ago, seven miles from Jackson, but a fine new modern house on it and we enjoy being there so much. They live just one mile north of the Artt home where our mothers lived. My father bought the Artt place in 1866 and the place looks just like it did when we left there, 1873. The Shuff home is about 1 1/2 miles from Marie's - north. Antioch Church and cemetery is about 2 miles north east - all the Artts and Shuffs are buried in that cemetery. Its a beautiful place, well taken care of but of course the church stands vacant. As far as I can learn the Shuffs are all gone and so are the Artts. Marie and Tommy always go and decorate all the graves and looks after things like keeping them nicely rounded etc. They have had excellent crops back there and raise more garden than any family could consume so bring canned goods to Nebraska when they come. They drove out last Oct for the first time in 4 years.

I have five grand daughters now but no grandsons. Lawrence is like Geneva - has three girls and he still lives out on the farm. Glens are still N.W. of town. His girls are both in school 1 & 4th grades. Lawrences girls are 8 - 5 and 9 months. The boys haven't had much crop of any kind since 1932 but are still planting and it looks a little more promising this year. Have had some nice gentle rains this past week and things are greening up but its been a late spring.

One of your Aunts died while we were at Marie's, Oliver's wife. some one of the younger generation are probably still there but I don't know any of them. Yes Geneva does have a school of her own now. How old are they? I didn't know Dallie and John were dead till I got your letter. Was glad to hear from you and hope you will write again. What is Ed doing these days. Love, Cousin Minnie (Boston Myers) Do you know where the Artt family bible is and could you copy for me the record of our family from it. I'd like so much to have it. Aunt Lizzie got it when Mother died.

**From Olive Logan Shuff to Alice Frances Shuff**

Olney Ill. Dec. 15 - 1940

Dear Frances -

I was very glad to receive your letter some few weeks ago, though it does seem only like days for the time goes by so fast, before we realize it another year has rolled around and another xmas.

You see I have changed my address again, but I see by your envelope that you did not know that I had been away. I went to Jewel's in June and Dorothy and Oren came Nov. 21st to take me home with them again, so I am here again but we do not have the same address, as they rent a house now instead of rooms which we find much more satisfactory in most ways. their address is Olney Ill. Box 430. Orens business has been real good, Dorothy is busy, as she keeps up the book work, typing mailing out statements etc., besides watching after F. W. as he is running around climbing on chairs and getting into

most everything, he is strong and healthy. You too seem to be quite busy. You no doubt find the work interesting as well as profitable.

Along last summer I had a little accident which caused an abrasion on the same side on which I had been operated, but which had all healed over. Well this small place did not heal but seemed to be getting worse. We spoke to a Dr. about it, at Bonne Terre [MO-dls] he referred us to several Drs. in St. Louis also Dr. Barnards free skin and cancer hospital in St. L. so we talked it over between us and decided to go to this free place for advice, Jewel's taking me there, after they looked at it they said it should be taken out, that it would be but a small operation they giving me a local, well it seems they made rather a severe case of it, or it has been so to me for they cut the rib bone into taking out a piece. I had to go back again in two weeks, there I was supposed to go again in a month but did not get to go till Dec. 6th Dorothy taking me this time. Now I am supposed to go Jan. 6th, I was operated on Oct. 11th. I have been rather wishing my Dr. in Calif. could see it. This hospital here is very busy, as its name may imply. I rather fear I may have to have some more surgery I surely hope I do not.

We have been having so much cloudy weather for the last 3 weeks with quite a bit of rain.

I was told to ask you, where do you get stamp books for canceled stamps. I am glad you feel able to work at this business. I have been rug making. Wishing all a Merry xmas and a Prosperous New Year. Volumes of love Olive

### **From Olive Logan Shuff to Alice Frances Shuff**

Vienna Ill. June 25 - 41

Dear Frances -

I was very glad and quite surprised too to get an air mail letter from you. I was at Dorothy's when I received it. she brought me here June 7th and I have been rather busy since coming as Jewel's are quite busy, they have recently moved here on Herman's father's old place, where he and most of the other children were born, so they will have a great deal to do if they do one half of what is needed done. It is a good place for hogs and other stock, has lots of timber and trees and water for them to drink, but one of their troubles is the drinking water their well is almost dry, they cleaned it out this morning and will have water hauled and put in it. it seems strange to us from Kans. doesn't it? where water was the most plentiful of anything we had.

You have surely made wonderful strides in your swimming. Your picture looks natural. You sure did well in all your tests. I don't see how you did it. guess it goes to show just what a will to do, and a determination to succeed can accomplish. I know it would have been an impossibility for me, but I am glad for you that you have succeeded and it is nice you enjoy it.

I remember I used to have a charm string, but my buttons are scattered here, there and yonder. Jewel is not all unpacked yet and when she is I will see if I can find some buttons that might help you out, you surely have a bunch of them.

How is your real estate coming are you still working at it?

Jewel has been putting up dew berries they grow wild also black berries. Dorothy and Family are visiting in Hale Mo. I suppose by this time they spoke about going on thru KS. I would have gone with them had I known for sure that they would go on. Jewel got 500 chicks 4 weeks ago. It is hot and dry here. I must close hope you receive your envelope OK Lots of love Olive

**From Dorothy Shuff Gilbert to Alice Frances & David Edwin Shuff**

Box 430 Olney, Ill. Dec. 14, 1941

Dear Aunt Frances & Uncle Ed;

I've been a long time answering your good letter. I didn't realize how much one appreciates all the friends, neighbors, letters & cards, at a time like that. We had a card waiting for us when we got back to Hale, so rushed on home & I went on down to Jewel's.

We waited until Saturday to bring her up here to the hospital. They took the Xray on Monday & on Tuesday told us there was nothing to do for her but make her as comfortable as possible. On Wednesday we brought her home. We didn't tell her what the Xray picture told, but she probably realized to some extent. She seemed glad to come home, tho'. We had to give her medicine to ease the pain, gradually increasing the strength. Jewel came with us & stayed until after the services. Gilbert got here on Wednesday nite before she died on Sunday. We had to have the Dr. give her a hypo that evening. When Gilbert got here she was afraid it was just a dream. She visited with him the next day pretty good but by that evening she hardly knew any of us. Friday morning she roused for a few minutes to ask for a drink. I gave her a glass of orange juice & she said it was good. That was the last nourishment we could get her to take. She didn't know us after that. Dr. said she was in a coma. It's a terrible thing to go thru and very hard to write about it or even think about. I have to keep it as far away as possible.

Hope this finds you feeling a lot better. You had a bad ending to your trip, also.

Oren has gained some, been taking Osteopathic treatments, relieved him a lot and gained about twenty pounds. He should go more often, but has been so busy, he can't seem to take time off.

We had quite a snow storm last Friday, started out raining & ended by snowing a wet snow that stayed where it hit. Has been real cold, too. Takes lots of coal as we have four big rooms to heat.

We decorated our Xmas tree last week. Want Jewel's to come if the weather is nice.

Pauline is working in the Farm Bureau office in Vienna.

Lyle will probably be up for draft. He was eighteen last May. I got a card from Opal, she seems to like Calif. fine. I'm rather glad I don't live any nearer the coast than I do.

What do you hear from Uncle Harvey? Cleo said in her letter that he was very poorly.

Uncle Ed, if you ever have a few minutes spare time, I would appreciate very much, some family history. As far back as you can go. Something I can't find out now unless you'll help me out.

Write us whenever you can. Sending the Seasons Best Wishes Oren, Dorothy & Family

**From Flora S. Newman to Frances Shuff**

12 - 17 - (1941)

My dear Mrs. Shuff:

Yes I believe I have your husband's folks all figured out. I believe his grandfather and my grandfather were brothers. The two Shuff brothers and their mother, Hanna Shuff came to Ill in the 30ies. My grandfather, Anthony settled at Island Grove, which is a small town 12 miles from Jacksonville, and your grandfather John Shuff settled at Jacksonville.

My fathers name was Theophilus A Shuff and he was called T.A. or Toff Shuff.

I dont remember your father-in-law but I believe I knew his brothers and sisters. Did you ever hear that he had a brother Joe, a sister Ella, in fact there were eleven children born to Uncle John and Aunt Angelina, but of course I didn't know them all, as it is too far back. Was your father-in-law one of them?

As there were only two brothers of the original family I feel sure your husband must be a grandson of Old Uncle John and Aunt Angelina.

I always heard they were wonderful people, just as my grandfather and grandmother were.

My father died in 1929 and our home was very close to the old original cabin in Island Grove that my grandfather built

I was educated in Jacksonville and have lived in Springfield since I was married.

[Page cur off - In different ink & hand - "Sincerely, Flora S. Newman"]

**From Dorothy Shuff Timmons to David Edwin & Alice Frances Shuff**

[6-22-54] Box 148 Dale, Ill.

Dear A. Frances & U. Ed:

Just a few lines to bring you up to date on our family. I was married on May 15th to John Timmons. We are now living in a Pure Oil Camp near McLeansboro Ill. We had a lovely wedding at my home, a nice wedding trip and then the big move. It was a job, but it's all done now & we're settled down to making a new home.

I see where Iowa is having flood trouble. Is Leila near any of it? Hope this finds you both well. Let us hear from you some time. Opal said Irvin & wife were visiting them. I saw Lynn K. in St. Louis not long ago.

Love, John & Dorothy

P. S. Johnny was working around Great Bend for about six weeks but has been sent to Beeville, Texas now. I was in hopes he'd be there long enough to get to see you folks.

**From Arthur Richard Jackson to Alice Frances Shuff**

EASTERN STATE HOSPITAL VINITA, OKLAHOMA May 29, 1966

Dear Aunt Frances,

Will write you a letter to let you know I am getting along very well and hope you are well too.

We are having some nice weather here in Oklahoma.

I watch the T.V every day.

Am getting better meals to eat every day.

Will listen to baseball games over the T.V.

I do not get very much mail anymore.

I hear from Aunt Aimee Allen ever so often and she sends me a dollar when she writes to me.

The boys play dominoes cards and checkers every day.

Have written to my guardian for some clothes and money but have not heard from him.

Once in a while the gray men comes and visits us and we play bingo.

How are all the folks in Kansas?

I am not having no more seizures and I feel very well and I eat better too.

I watch Championship wrestling every Saturday evening

We are receiving new patients almost every day.  
Please write me a letter and let me know how you are getting along.  
Will close. Hoping to hear from you soon. Love. Your nephew. Arthur R. Jackson

**From Marvin C. Shuff to Geneva Shuff Meredith**

Hutchinson, Ks. Tues Eve Sept 7,1976

Dear Geneva:

Sorry I am so long in answering your letter. Am afraid I don't have much information to give you. The Salt Marsh you mentioned is north of Stafford & east & north of Hudson a few miles. That is where my folks met while our Dad was working in that area. Yes I remember the meetings were called "Protracted" when I was a kid. As for the big blizzard near Jetmore, I have heard your Dad mention the year 1886. I think Uncle Jim, Uncle Harvey & our Dad were all born in Okla.

No preachers in our group, but of course our Dad often led the singing, gave lessons & was an elder.

I had a copy of an old newspaper article about Grandpa Shuff, but have been unable to find it. I called Roberta & asked her to either send me another or to send one to you. Hope either way you will get one. It should answer quite a few of your questions. I am afraid that is all I have to offer.

A week ago last Sunday I stopped in to see your Mother. She seems very well & says they are real good to her. While I was there Ethel & Ann came in and we had a nice visit. I am doing ok since my surgery, but not up to par as yet. I went back to work about 17 days after surgery. Ruby is about as usual. Hope you are doing ok. Love, Marvin

**From Joy & Cleo Shuff to Geneva Shuff Meredith**

Sept. 13, 1976 Oildale CA 93308 Glade St. 1021

Dear Cousin Geneva,

Hope you are OK.

Cleo & I are on the go some but both of us have back trouble since our flu trouble last April. Our Great grand twins have been here quite a lot, Cleo was taking care of them, Sure some kids. Their mother has them down at Costa Mesa where she lives now. Works at a Mays big store selling Wigs and hats.

We enjoyed the time with the cousins at Opal & Leslie's this year. Sorry you could not be with us. Jimmie & Ruth and a couple across the street from us, have motor cycles and camping trailers to pull, trailers make out for a tent on top 5' x 7' x 6'6". They went a few miles into Canada. Their mileage on trip was 4308. Gone almost 3 weeks. Had a real nice time. Coming back through Sacramento, unknown to them, a Sacramento Bee paper photographer took their picture on the go. Jimmie seeing picture later thought he was going 60 or better per hr, its a real cute outfit.

Geneva I don't know a lot about your questions but will try some. The Dugout was north and west of Jetmore Kan. The Salt marsh is almost strait north of Zenith Kan. In fact I believe west side of Marsh was where they worked for a Church member and family, I can't remember the name now for sure. Grandpa Shuff & Uncle John was the two caught in blizzard south of Ness City. Where Uncle John got his face frozen and started his face cancers. My Dad was about five at the time. So storm was about 1878 or 1879. [1885] As

for a Leaders and Elders in the Church. All the Shuff Bros, were except Harvey & Ally for short. Ben, Jim, Edwin were all Elders and leaders, Song leaders most any part of Church work, Harvey was a good teacher. I don't know much about the cousins as Church leaders I was Elder at North Sac. from 1953 till 1970 had a good part in getting North Sacramento congregation going, starting in 1942.

Jim Shuff born Dec. 18-1874 in Graham Mo. Died in Baldwin Park Dec. 26-1960. Our Jimmie has been a good song leader for years. Hope this helps you out a little. Sorry haven't let you know sooner but hope it helps some. Must close. With our Love Joy & Cleo Shuff

Lawrence Hunter was an Elder in Church at Grand Junction Colo. don't know how long.

## **The courtship of David Edwin Shuff and Alice Frances Kinnamon**

### **From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

Stafford Kan April 12 - 99 Miss Frances Kinnamon

Dear Miss Frances,

I have concluded this evening to follow out my inclinations to the Lady who holds such a high position in my estimation. So with borrowed stationery I make this attempt. The time has dragged slowly since I last had the pleasure of being in your company. Have tried to arrange to come Sunday sixteenth, but J.W. Reed being gone from home will be unable to come before Sunday 23rd, with your consent will be pleased to come at that time. Suppose your school will be out soon then I shall feel that I will not be diverting your mind from your studies. Hope you had pleasant day at Geo's last of school. And will have one of a like nature at your own. Then I suppose Miss Case will bid farewell to the young fellows with their chosen company. If I thought you had a young Lady friend in Stafford I would be tempted to put a return mark on this, your well wisher Edwin Shuff.

### **From Alice Frances Kinnamon to David Edwin Shuff**

Sylvia, Kans. Apr. 16, 1899

Mr. Edwin Shuff Stafford, Kans.

Kind Friend. -

Received your letter this morning, through the "kindness" of Bro. Drapers.

My! but I have some battles to fight. Recca came home with me today.

I am sorry to say, I am not attending school at present. Had to quit three or four wks. ago, on the acct. of my head and eyes.

I went to Hutchinson wk. ago last Fri. evening, and had my eyes examined. The oculist said I had strained them in studying. And the consequences are, I have to wear glasses all the time now.

I did not get to attend Geo's last day of school.

Our home school will be out the 25th. I think they are intending to have a big dinner.

"If you are not to cross at me, " you may have the full privilege of coming over the 23rd.

Yours Kindly, Frances Kinnamon

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

Raymond Kan May 3rd 1899 Miss Frances Kinnamon

Esteemed friend,

You will notice by the heading of this letter my place of residence has been changed. And with no great hindering cause will change it again about sat. night 6th or Sunday morning down just south of M. A. Draper's. mean while will try to think the time is really going by. Was very sorry to learn that you were not well for sometime after the last day of school.

Hope this may find all well who so were so fortunate as to be there.

With this I will close, and tell the rest I know and more too when the far distant sat night comes.

Your well wisher Edwin Shuff

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

Stafford Kans May - 7 - 99. Miss Frances Kinnamon

Esteemed friend.

This evening finds me here at Bro Reeds arrived about one half hour ago. They were all gone to Church so I just took possession. And thought perhaps twould make you feel no worse at least if I should write you a letter. I will be anxious to hear how you are convollesing. And will wait impaciently the time when I may call to see you. If no one had been endangered by my coming in this morning but myself would have went in, but as it is, will extend my sympathy through the medium of the pen.

My buggy ride today was a long lonesome one.

Went to Reno to Church, and home with Wily Clothier for dinner and resumed my journey about four oclock p.m. though how different this drive from the one two weeks ago, and tried to console myself with the hope that I might enjoy a duplicate of the one two wks ago, some time soon. But when I think of one being shut up to themselves and suffering with disease, I think they are deserveing of all sympathy, but keep up good Spirits Miss Frances everything seems to point to a speedy recovery.

With these few lines I will close and hope to hear from you soon,

As ever your well wisher Edwin Shuff.

**From Alice Frances Kinnamon to David Edwin Shuff**

Sylvia, Kans. Fri. May 12 \_ 99.

Mr. Edwin Shuff. Stafford, Kans.

\_\_\_\_\_ . I will leave this a blank, and you may fill in, whatever you please. Ha!

A little bird told me, that once upon a time, you received a letter from a certain lady friend, and she did not address you as you liked. So, fearing I might do ditto, I will leave it a blank. You needn't tell her about it though, for fear she might think it strange. Has that lady started to "Nickerson College" yet?

Well as I have nothing to do this morning, and am so lonesome, will try and busy myself awhile, in writing some. I don't think there is any danger now, in sending a letter.

Was glad to receive your letter. The day didn't seem near so long.

Just one wk ago this morning I broke out with the "scarlet fever." Such a long wk as it has been, and how lonesome I get. Have seen no one only the Dr.

It does seem so strange, for there is someone here half the time. And it is hard telling how long we will be caged up here. Cora was in bed yesterday, and starts out ditto today. It seems curious to think how treacherous, I must be. Everybody seems to be afraid of me and runs. Even the washerwoman, said she would love to peep in, and see me, but was afraid to.

I believe I shall start for Manila soon, as I believe I could make the insurgents run.

"Miss Case went to Hutchinson last Mon. evening, to canvass. " She came here on Fri . evening to stay awhile, but dared to risk it.

How merrily the birds are singing, this lovely morning. Think I shall pretty soon start out on my bike.

They are making fence at present. I received a letter from my "Dear Uncle," the other morning stating the death of his mother.

I'll have to bring my letter to a close for want of space \_ something to say, and language to say it.

Your true friend. Frances.

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

Stafford Kan. May 15 - 99 Miss Frances Kinnamon

Dear Miss Frances,

Your most welcome letter came to hand this morning. I will not fill out the blank, for fear I would be running a greater risk than your self, but will let the beautiful little flower fill out the space with its language. ha! The writer did not dislike the heading of the letter in question written by a certain Lady friend, as bad as your letter implies, for to be addressed as kind friend is indeed lovely, but perhaps the seeming dislike was based on a sentence farther on in the letter. Something like this "If you are not to cross with me you may have the full privilege of coming over April 23" have I the right Lady in view? But believe you said "I must not tell her" Glad to know you will soon be able to ride a bike. Extend my sympathy to all who are so unfortunate as to have to go through with the same ordeal as you have.

Bro Reeds will begin building tomorrow, "Yours truly" will be among the Carpenters, but not one of them.

My new driving animal is just restless as can be to take the best Lady I know of riding either in the buggy or on horse back. So if She does not go to "Nickerson College" may have her choice or both. What more could I offer?

Poor Oliver, "Can't he go either? If I should take a notion to go to Hutchinson, about Wednesday, will come past. If school isn't too busy shall aim to go. Don't care so much to go since the "scarlet fever" forbids me making any arrangements (or helping) that would add to the enjoyment of attending the Jubilee. But I will have to bring this to a close as it's getting late.

Your sincere friend Edwin

Compliments

There is a girl I know quite well,

Who is tall and graceful too,

Her name is - well I shan't tell,

If it's all the same to you.

D.E.S.

**From Alice Frances Kinnamon to David Edwin Shuff**

"At Home." May 21. \_ 99.

Mr. Edwin Shuff. Stafford, Kans.

"Kind Friend",

As I have nothing to entertain myself with now, after reading and playing, will try and scribble a few lines this lovely morning.

How I would love to "boom" around awhile. But the Dr. forbid any of we youngsters of going, for a long month, yet to come.

They have all had a siege of it now. I got up to give the rest room, and to wait upon them. Were five of them down at once, for nearly a whole wk. We were all a kind of an "honory" set. It just kept me running from one side of the house to the other, then up-stairs and then down and etc. Were all quite bad.

Dr. was here six times. We all ate at the table last evening, the first, for a wk or over.

I was out riding on my "wheel" awhile last evening, but didnt go off the place.

O yes, my Uncle's children also have the fever now. They were down here the day before I was taken, and suppose I had fever then. Thats the only place I can go to now.

Bro. Marion is our footman and also my Uncles.

Well I don't know many of the "local happenings" to tell.

1. O yes - the wind is blowing. 2. And - and I finished that piece of prose. 3. And - O yes, I received a picture the other day. Marion brought me a letter.

'Tis striking twelve o'clock. And it is rumored, that another "ordinance" will have to be passed. I presume you remember the old one?

Well I must hush my non - sensical nonsense and bring this to a close.

Ever your friend. Frances

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

Stafford Kan, May 27 - 99

Miss Frances Kinnamon Sylvia Kan.

Dear Frances.

Yours of the 21st was gladly rec'vd May 23. Glad to know you are all getting well of the fever. There are a few cases around here. And quite a number of children have the "scarlet rash."

Well I will start for Raymond this afternoon. Will go via St John to visit my cousins. Was disappointed at the Dr discision. Am waiting impaciently the time I may call to see the girl that is so much to me. But if trespass the Dr rules and my Sister in Law was to find it out She would not allow me to come on the place. So have concluded to curb my anxiety and wait some time in the future to appease the same.

Ah! what is the new "ordinance" that will have to be passed? Yes I remember the old one, perhaps the latter is a similar one.

Bro Reeds new house looks quite well. If I get some thing in this letter that I would not want here please excuase the same. As the children are having a jublee and two or three reading news papers aloud doesnt afford the best oppportunity for writing.

Am in the dark as to what "piece of "prose" you had just finished!

Yes and the wind blew here too, night before last. Scared the little folks till some of them cried.

Tell Oliver I said he should bring his Sister with him some time when he comes north. There is to be a select Party in the Neighborhood some time in the near future, and they two have a standing invitation to attend. But must stop here or I will not get to where my cousins are. So wishing you health and enjoyment.  
I remain yours truly Edwin.

**From Alice Frances Kinnamon to David Edwin Shuff**

Sylvia, Kans. June 4th - 99

Mr Edwin Shuff. Raymond, Kans.

Dear Friend.

After enjoying the pleasure of a three mile spin, will now turn my attention to four or five letters, that are awaiting an answer.

My Uncle's were over and spent the day. Oliver and I were up there last Sunday.

Well, we fumigated last Mon. and have been cleaning house ever since, and will fumigate again this wk. And then we think there will be no danger.

We will have meeting next Sunday, as it is Bro Ungle's day. They have been to town several times. Nobody seems to run from us, so I guess we are not considered "dangerous ." And so the "case" is before you. I will let you use your own judgement, as to when you come over. Come whenever you do not feel afraid.

I don't believe your sister-in-law need worry for I do not think there will be any danger. Clara was over awhile the other day. Oliver is going north on a "chase" next Sat. and Sunday.

What a long six wks. it will be. I can hardly wait until Sunday comes, to get out, among my friends, once more.

We had several rains here last wk. There were two cyclones within about five miles from here, one night. One was in north of Sylvia. It tore the house to pieces, and killed a little boy.

The other was north of Plevna, on Papas other place. It came in south of the house, but did not destroy anything there, but uprooted several large apple trees across the road.

Well as it is getting quite late will have to close.

Please let me know as to your conclusions, and will direct my arrangements accordingly.

Excuse my lead pencil, please. Ever Your Friend, Frances

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

Raymond June 8th 99

Miss Frances Kinnamon Sylvia Kan.

Dear Frances.

Your "Kind" letter was rec'vd this morning. Glad to know you are all enjoying good health once more. You must be getting along nicely with your wheel, soon be an expert will you not? Yes I am satisfied in my mind there is no danger now. But as it is doubtful wheather I can get you this letter in time for you to look for me next Sunday will say that with no exceeding great hindering cause will be present Sat. evening 17th. Will be pleased to hear from you again if tis convenient. The Cyclone from north of Sylvia did some damage near Alden blew down several barns the papers say there were two persons killed near Huntsville and one near Stafford and the one you named.

It will no doubt be a grand treat to you, to get out and enjoy yourself once more after being caged up so long. Six wks is long enough but it looked for awhile as if it might be longer.

Well it is raining again to night, and frog's almost make one's ears hum.

Hope to see Oliver when he gets up in this country. We are not afraid of him. You better bid him good bye though before he leaves, as it has been so long since he has been up here he is apt to stay some time when he does come. this isnt intended for a hint to my Relatives up here either. I have thought of so many ways that we might enjoy our selves when I am honored with your company once more soon, although there never is anything lacking on this line, or Think how nice it would be to spend Sat evening or Mon morning in such sports as fishing, boating, or playing croquet . And as pardners, to gain the championship over all includeing Bro Draper & wife? And many other past times that might be mentioned here. But with this I will close and await the long look for opportunity and hope that many happy moments will be yours next Sunday when you get with your friends.

I remain as ever Your well wisher Edwin.

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

Raymond Kan June 21 - 99

Miss Frances Kinnamon Sylvia Kan

Dear Frances,

I arrived safely home Mon and have been very busy ever since. My friend Mr Werner has returned from Manhatton College and was up to see me while I was gone. The thoughts of my pleasent trip south are upermost in my mind, and am sorry to say it will be impossible for me to get down again before about Sat July 8th harvest is earlier than we expected. How I would love to spend every Sunday with the girl of my choice.

I have been thinking some on your "prose" and if you will not misunderstand me, will state the lessons I gained from it in my next ie. in compliments, not criticism. And if you will not consider it flattery will compose a verse in each of my letters concerning my Ideal Girl, this letter will contain the second verse, have sent the first verse you remember perhaps.

The meeting here was lacking in attendance about as bad as Plevna. John thinks he and your Pa ought to object, but we boys and girls have to be excused some times.

But with this will close and wait your ans.

Yours as ever Edwin

Her hair is light, her face is fair,  
And mark the pureness of her mind.  
Her manners, looks, are just the kind  
That ruin my heart I do declare;

**From Alice Frances Kinnamon to David Edwin Shuff**

Sylvia Kans. June 29th - 99

Mr. Edwin Shuff Raymond, Kans.

Dear Friend

Your letter of June 21st, received, and centents noted; And this exceedingly warm afternoon, I endeavor to reply.

The harvesters are in Oliver's wheat at present, but they expect to leave here this evening. At least I hope they do, for it is not very pleasant for one alone, to cook for them. They were here two days last wk and also two this week.

It was to bad, the different congs. were lacking in attendance so much, that Sun you speak of. Perhaps you had better mind your big brother hereafter.

We had quite a crowd last Sun. morning. I went to Plevna in the evening, and I saw lots of my friends and one was just out from Hutchinson.

As to that prose, I don't see where you could learn a lesson from it. "However, I think I shall have to frame it, and place it in the most conspicuous .. in the house."

And as to those verses. I think you have chosen rather a poor theme, to make so much out of it.

I won't allow boys to talk to me that way, but perhaps that girl you so often speak of won't object. "At any rate, I don't think that lady, away over south would, at all."

Ben and Clara were up last Sun. O yes, have you seen anything of two green plums travelling around, in that vicinity? I anticipate, the lost will be found, soon.

I see some tempting red ones over east, and think I shall go and take a peep at them. With this, will close, by saying Au Revoir

Your friend Frances

**From Alice Frances Kinnamon to David Edwin Shuff**

Sylvia, Kans. Jan 20 \_ 1900

Mr. Edwin Shuff. Raymond, Kans.

Dear Edwin.

True to my promise, I endeavor to write you a few lines, if I can hold out, by resting along.

Well, the measles have caught me, I guess. At any rate, I discovered this morning, I was like a speckled turkey egg. Last Wed. morning I got up with a sore throat, and it is still sore. Mamma finally got me to bed yesterday. And to-day she is there too.

So you see both of the cooks are down; maybe I will be able to roll out in a day or two.

Am now dieting on tea and soup.

You must excuse this lead pencil; I tried four pens, and none would work. And besides I can't write good lying down. I can hardly stand to be penned up.

Will look for your letter, which will break the monotony. Will try and finish up this time and will then close.

Seems like a long time since I last saw you.

Wishing you a pleasant trip I will close.

Yours, Frances

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

Raymond Kan Jan 20 - 1900

Miss Frances Kinnamon Sylvia Kan.

Dear Frances

I seat myself this lovely afternoon to pen you a few lines. Have been putting in the day writing, just came in from a walk with Jewel and am now ready to continue my scribbling. Well my class at Zenar has gained some in numbers, and in interest, but had to give up my class at Huntsville. Stayed over night with Harry Hill friday night and started for here about Sunrise Sat morning, arrived at 11 a.m. found all well. My old singing

teacher gave an entertainment concert last night, went down and was pressed into service in his class. the Raymond band gave some very fine music as also did the Listen family, in duets and quartets. and one Mr Christie sang some comic solos. It seemed like getting among old time friends, indeed it was a pleasant evening, and all it lacked of being complete was the absence of one who can make me happy or miserable at will. did I say absent? not true in full; for though absent in person dear Frances you are always present in mind. Wish you could have heard the concert with me last night.

Suppose Geo started for Nickerson before this, unless measles have prevented his plans from coming to pass.

If I had not kept myself so busy would have been completely lost today, feel very lonesome as it is.

Think this is the first Sunday we were not together since last July.

But will close and tell the rest when I return. Will take this to the office and if I get a letter with some requests to ans will write some more at the office. As ever your devoted Edwin.

P.S. just read your letter containing the news that you had the measles which did not surprize me a great deal only you have come down sooner than I expected. Sorry I am not there to cheer you a little if tis in my power. I know it is hard to be penned up but my dear now is the time to be careful. A little care now, may prevent suffering in yrs to come. Be patient, I will be there friday noon. Sorry it was such a task to you, to write me, Take care of your eyes. Your Edwin.

**From Alice Frances Kinnamon to David Edwin Shuff**

Sylvia, Kans. Feb. 13th 1900.

Mr. Edwin Shuff. Stafford, Kans.

Dear Edwin.

At your request I will answer your welcome letter, rec'd this afternoon. Marion was at town and brought our mail out.

He says, Frances I got a letter from Ed. And he has run for Washington Has skipped clear out from the small pox.

Now you see I was scared, for my blue-eyed boy to run off that way. But I was handed a letter which gave the state of affairs. I had concluded that was the way of it. I did hate so to send you the telegram, but thought it best all the way around, which proved to be quite true, on the acct. of sickness here.

The Dr. has been out to see Theo. three times. Papa will go down tomorrow and get more medicine. He has the Cattarrahl Pneumonia. But is now considerable better. Fever was 105. We sit up with him of nights. Last night we had two patients on hand. I was sitting up with Theo. when Mamma took such pains that I had to call on Papa to take charge of Theo, while I would try to relieve Mamma.

I worked with her for over an hr. and finally she dropped off in a doze, about twelve. I staid right with her until between two and three, when she began to get some easier.

Has been in bed all day. I sent her up stairs to night out of the noise. Theo is quite delirious, and she can hardly stand it.

The Dr. vaccinnated us yesterday. Quite a scare in the whole neighborhood. In fact we didn't know the girl was sick until Fri. morning, and she died early Sat. morning. I then went to town, Miss Minnie and I and sent you the telegram and saw Dr. Bauer.

O yes, was there anything extra added to the telegram? Mr. Kirk was so full of his mischief, and said he put a lot more to it, and something extra to the agent there.

The conductor said he would find you out and tell you about the message. We had quite a talk with him, as the train switched around so long.

Jesse brought our clothes home Fri. morning and also Recca's.

When we heard about the smallpox it scared us, but the Dr. told me, for us not to be alarmed. But to be on the safe side, I took all the clothes and fumigated them and sprinkled carbolic acid around.

But we dont hardly think it was the small pox, but of course the Dr. ought to know best. At least, I hope 'tis false. He said it hadn't reached the contagious stage, only a short time before she died. Was buried late Sat. evening. Only think, her father and brother, with the aid of Bob Turner had to do it.

A Mrs. Deets from up north was buried Sun. evening.

All of Mrs. Inland's folks have been quarantined, for they were there while Bertha was sick.

And then Sun. Mr. Rose brought out a quarantine against Bro. Drapers. For them not to leave the place nor admit anyone for ten days. But they came out yesterday and raised the quarantine. They had understood that they had been to Inland while she was sick. Said they were coming to quarantine us, but they didn't put in their appearance.

We have all contracted bad colds; I suppose from the change in the weather. I am quite hoarse this evening.

Well, I hope you enjoyed your visit.

Papa rec'd a letter from Uncle Dan with an offer on the Austin place. Papa has written you some in regard to it.

Well, it seems as usual, a long time since you left. This must be your last trip out to Zenar. You can get rested up now, and won't have to take those long, cold drives.

Miss Minnie was down to see me a while Sun. and also was here on Sat.

Well, I expect you will begin to think, I will never bring my letter to a close. You see I have made up for that little no account letter I sent you while at Raymond.

You must please excuse all mistakes and blunder, for I have to see after my patient once in a while, and Cora has been going over a whole "rig-a-ma-role," and bothered me so.

Said she was going to write some too.

Well I must close, or you will need those "specks" you spoke of, out at Zenar.

Wishing you success with your singing, I remain as ever

Your true clumsy, awkward [written backwards] Frances.

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

At the postoffice Stafford Kan

Feb 13th Miss Frances Kinnamon

Dear Frances.

Was greatly disappointed this morlling to get your Telegram as well as surprized at its content, to bad! Hope you have not all been exposed. People here this morning from Zenar say if I go back to that community they will be afraid of me, so have concluded all things considered I would go out to Bro Reeds and paint his house the first of the week.

Sister R is in town. I showed her the telegram. I think it will turn out to be measels after all. Please write me here at Stafford. will be through here Wed. evening On my way to Zenar. shall be very anxious about you all. with this I will close.

Except my Love pure and true yours ever Edwin Shuff

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

At home Mar 8th 1900 Miss Frances Kinnamon

Dear Frances

Will try to pen you a few lines to send back with Ralph have been quite poorly since the night I was at your place have eaten two parts of meals since slept very little. Had the Dr out to see me yesterday and that breaks my record as tis the first time in my life to call a Dr. in. seems very obstinate. Abscess in one Tonsil and dropsy of the euvula, if thats the proper name, better this evening. but how I dread the night Hope to be out soon however. dont give your self any extra worry concerning me

Yours Truly Edwin

**From Alice Frances Kinnamon to David Edwin Shuff**

"At Home." 3\_ 9\_ 1900 Fri.

Mr. Edwin Shuff. Sylvia, Kans.

Dear Edwin.

This lovely morning, will write you a few lines, and send them over by Cora.

Rec'd your welcome letter last night, through Ralph. Was sorry to hear you are having such a time with your throat. Hope it is still better this morning. When it gets where a person can't eat or sleep, it is a hard go.

Now my dear, you must take good care of your throat. Which Dr. did you have?

I expect you think it strange, I havn't been up to see you. But really, I've had my hands so full, 'twas impossible for me to get away. Would have come up last night with Ralph; But we butchered yesterday, and had to make sausage last night. Will run over awhile to day, if I have the time, but kindly doubt it, as I have the lard to render, bread to bake, and ironing to do, if the clothes come home.

Perhaps, if Ralph will go with me, we may come over this evening awhile then, if I can't get away to day. However, will try my best towards it.

Mamma is still gaining. Little Theo plays around all the time.

Well, as 'tis time for Cora to go, must close: Hoping you are feeling better,

I remain Au revoir your love Frances [written backwards]

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

At home May 10 - 1900

Miss Frances Kinnamon Sylvia Kan

My dearest

Your loving letter came to hand today noon.

Of course as I will get to see you any how will excuse you, dear! I will try to get this to you some way this evening. Perhaps will send it to the school house, hav'nt much time to write so will make this short, come and tell Geo to come a while to night if he can handy with this will close trusting to see you here to night And wish you and Miss Minnie a pleasent visit I remain your devoted Edwin.

**From Alice Frances Kinnamon to David Edwin Shuff**

"At Home." Sat. May 26 - 1900

Mr. Edwin Shuff. 1001 Grove St., Drapertonville, Kans.

Dear Edwin.

Will write you a few lines, and send over by Ralph.

Clara and Ben came up today, intending to attend the Co. Commencement exercises at Plevna to night. I did not know of it before. They want me to go, and of course you know, I wouldn't go, without you? Would be pleased to go providing you can.

I guess I am none the worse off for the "ducking," I rec'd last night.

Rec'd a letter from Florence today. She is so pleased that I am coming. Rufo will be home in two wks. she says.

So I presume, I shall leave Thurs. night. Will have to go to Sylvia, for the train will not stop at Plevna.

Please let me know your decision for to night by Ralph.

Ever Yours. Frances.

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

Sylvia Kan June 3-1900 Miss Frances Kinnamon

Dearest Frances,

I am at home this evening and as might well be expected, am quite lonesome, as none of your folks went up to town yesterday did not hear how you got through. hope you found all well at Mr Hazens. give my respects to them. I came home from Sylvia in a few min fri night got here just a little while before the rain.

We had a good meeting today. have a new pupil in my class. there was a visitor present too and cant guess who. I expect after seeing me there alone, thought it "to good to be true."

Geo and I expect to go to hear the little Woods preacher. I suppose you have seen some of the city by this time. You must not get lost and run over by the street cars. O yes I recd a letter yesterday from Sister containg two pictures one of her self and one of my bro in law. She thought I would not know him because he had grown a long beard. tryed to leave the impression that he was her fellow and asked me how I would like him for a brother in law. Ans her letter today and told her he was my bro in law now wheather liked him or not. I have expressed my thought in poetry so will not write much this time as news of int. is not very plentiful will look for a letter from you at your earliest convenience. Your devoted Edwin.

(his chosen)

(1) Ah me! the girl I love so well.

Where has she gone, will some one tell?

I'm lost with out her pleasent smile,

And very lonely all the while.

She's gone to Lawrence so they say,

There with her kin, a while to stay.

(2) So I will here contended be,

Until my love returns to me.

And then I shall behold her face,

Her gentle form once more embrace.

A fairer face has not been found,  
Than hers, to whom my heart is bound.

(3) Then true to her, shall be my life,  
That she may be my loving wife.  
When through this life, yes side by side,  
With Frances dear, to be my bride,  
Who could but be a happy man,  
All judge who will, all judge who can.

(4) I love thee well, O Frances dear,  
The thought of thee, is ever near,  
So when thou hast thy visit done,  
Return to me, O dearest one.  
As dear as life, thou art to me  
And so to thee, I hope to be.  
Edwin

**From Alice Frances Kinnamon to David Edwin Shuff**

Lawrence, Kans. June 5-1900

Mr. Edwin Shuff. Sylvia, Kans.

My Dearest Edwin.

O, I was so glad to receive your welcome letter this morning, 9 A.M. Only wish I could receive one every day. I never was so glad to get a letter. Could hardly wait for the far, distant, Tues. to get here.

Well my dear, it seems about six wks. since last I saw you. And I am going to ans. your letter immediately.

How I would love to see my "sweet heart."

I reached Lawrence at eight o'clock in the morning. I didn't sleep but very little on the way. Just off and on from Hutch. to Strong City. It began to get light before we reached Emporia; So I saw the surrounding country, the rest of the way up here. We only stopped at Hutchinson, Newton, Florence, Strong City, Emporia, and Topeka. It rained all the way from Hutch. to Strong City.

Am glad you got home before the rain. How is Black Beauty? Is she really crippled, the way you thought. I trust not.

I saw a horse pass here Sun. evening, that reminded me so much of Beauty. O, I haven't picked out that name yet, have I? Don't believe I could chose one as nice as "Bumpkin." Perhaps I can have one studied up by the next time, I write.

Yes, I have seen considerable of the city already. Will give you a few items. Am keeping a diary while here, and you may read it, when I reutrn.

Florence got tickets Fri. morning and we went to the Opera House, in the evening, to attend the commencement exercises, of the graduates of the High School. There were thirty seven. A part of the programme had been rendered the evening before. The music by the orchestra was fine.

Sat. morning, Florence and I went up town to do some shopping, and visited the Spooner library while there.

Sun. morning, I went with Florence to the Cong. Church. A very old man talked. I could not understand scarcely anything he said, as he is so feeble, and we sat about the middle of the room. They have a large pipe organ.

Sun. evening the Baccalaureate sermon was preached in Fraser Hall, one of the University Blg's. My Uncle, Florence, and I walked over. It is over a mi. up there; and up hill all the way. Several tiers of steps, right up the side of hills. I never was so tired in all my life. I just thought while there, I never could stand to walk home. But I finally managed to get here. O my, if I wasn't stiff the next day.

But I am broken in now, and can stand it pretty well, a great deal better than I anticipated. I have walked to the University Blg's three times now. They are away in the south part of town, on a large hill, and can see for miles. From there Lawrence looks like a large forest of trees. Can scarcely see any of the houses, for the trees.

Last night Uncle, Florence, and I went to the Fraser Hall again, to a lecture. We went early, so as to visit some of the blg's. They are magnificent structures. All but the Fraser Hall was locked. So we went clear through it, and on the very top of the building. Just only think, away up on the very roof of it. Could see for mis. and mis. Couldn't see Lawrence at all, for the trees. We saw Blue Mount, several miles away. Also Haskel, the Indian School.

On the way home we stopped in the Art Bl'g. The pictures did look so lovely, by gas light. And we went to the dedication of the Fowler Machine Shops, one of the University Bl'g, this morning. And visited the State library, as we went down.

We are not going out to night, but shall rest. Altho there will be another lecture in Fraser Hall. Tomorrow is Commencement Day, which will finish it all. We intend to go.

Florence and I are going to take a nap this afternoon. We tried to yesterday. But we laughed all the time, and then some ladies called, so we didn't get to sleep any at all. I have had two afternoon naps since I came up here.

How I longed to have your company last Sun. (As for that matter, I do, all the time.) I felt rather lonesome.

Rufo's girl, Nina Nichols, came over and took us out buggy riding. We went in the country, N.W. of town.

I was turned around all day Fri. but arose Sat. morn, straightened out. O! do tell who was your visitor last Sun? It undoubtedly wasn't Mrs. White. Altho' that was her speech you quoted.

Was it the little girl staying with Sister Farrands, that was your new pupil? What is our lesson for next Sun. please. As I want to study it.

How are the folks making it at home; Sincerely hope Papa's neck is improving; As I am greatly worried about him.

Was glad to receive your poetry. You may write what ever you chose, as I do love to read your poetry. Am so glad you think so kindly of me. You are always upper most in my thoughts. It would kill me, to have to part with you, and long for the time to be your loving wife. I shall always be true to you.

The cherry man has come, and Florence is calling me to come down, and help her eat some.

Well, have just had a delicious treat of cherries, also a swing in the hammock; But Florence pushed me out, so I left her.

She has now come up, and is trying to take a nap. Perhaps she will be asleep, by the time I get ready so she won't bother me.

I have been enjoying strawberries nearly every meal since here. They raise so many around here, also cherries. Almost all kind of fruits.

Rufo hasn't arrived yet. Don't know just when, either. There has a couple of steamers arrived in San Francisco, but both have been quarantined for a short time, to see if any lurking diseases are aboard. And they have not heard from him.

I have contracted a slight cold since here, and Florence has also. But it is getting better. Am enjoying myself immensely. Only long for you to be present. You musn't work too hard, while I am gone.

I am seated upstairs at the south window. This ink and pen are so poor, can scarcely write at all. Expect you will need to borrow some glasses to read all this scribing.

It is thundering at present. Must close for this time. Do write me soon, or I'll get so lonesome.

Forever Yours, Frances.

P.S. Well, Well I declare my watch says it is half past five, so I guess my nap is up for this afternoon.

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

Sylvia Kan June 10th 1900 Miss Frances Kinnamon

My dearest Frances.

Your loveing, and most welcome letter came to hand friday noon and as I was going to Sterling early after dinner, did not have time to ans untill now. Went over to sell my big horse but failed to do so. Mr Broomfield came out from Ottawa the other day went with me to Sterling. he is a nice young man of 22 yrs age, will help your Pappa this week, and Oliver through harvest. We staid over night with brother Iratons, and miss Leo was anxious to have music, her mother warned her to be carful, but she over done, and was in bed the next day then I was almost sorry we had stopped over night there.

Well Bro Crenshaw preached at Plevna this morning. Bro Lee's and Williamsons were out. Mr Frank James was the visitor last Sunday. Your lesson for today should hav been the last half of the 13 ch of Acts will be the same for the next Sunday. But before I go farthur must pause here to compliment you for your promptness in ans my letter. And its loveing tenor made my heart full with joy O how I miss you dear, but dont get homesick your stay will be short, although it seems to me a long time.

When you become my wife I will have but one regret. O how I wish my financial circumstances would permit me to furnish you as good a home as you will leave. I know you love me well, or you would never concent to do such a thing. But my dear, you are the object of my effecttions and the pride of my hope in future happiness. To say I love you, is putting it very mildly.

Glad you are enjoying yourself it will be a time long to be remembered by you no doubt. Your mother is here with us today for dinner. her and Recca are haveing a pleasent visit. Your Papa and Cora went home with Bro Swards today exspecting to convey Bro C on his way to his farm. Beauty was crippled as I thought, but I cured her in a few days. yes the little girl at Ferrands was my new puple. they were none of them out today. Your Father is much better now. Folks are getting along nicely. Harvest comeing on fast. hope you will not have to come away before your visits are out.

Bro Draper went over to Ptoland yesterday. he was feeling bad when he left. O yes Geo went to Nickerson last Thus and brought Miss Minnie home with him. they went to Mr Dukes today. She is going home tomorrow. Mr Broomfield, Recca, Miss Minnie and myself had a game of Crocanole last night. And my side got beatten too. guess twas because my mind was far away. Tis getting real dry rained some last night. And the wind

blew very hard. Expect if it stays dry I will go up to Bro Sniffins and hunt for the last cow, as I could not break sod

Well I have told about all I can think of that would be of inst to you Will go over on the place and strole around perhaps then twill be chore time. Perhaps go to Town and mail this letter Sorry you will have to wait till Tue again before you get it.

Your mother wants to go home so I will go hitch pretty to the buggy and take her.

Your devoted Edwin

**From Alice Frances Kinnamon to David Edwin Shuff**

Lawrence, Kans. June 12 - 1900

Mr. Edwin Shuff. Sylvia, Kans.

Dearest Edwin.

Just rec'd your 'longed" for letter. I looked for one Sun. Mon. and thought I would surely get one this morning. But none came, and I was so badly disappointed.

The train was late, and the carrier brought it with the afternoon's mail, so I understand.

I got to thinking over, what could have happened, that I received none. A thought came to me Sun. night that almost scared me.

I rec'd your letter last Tues. morning, ans. it in the afternoon, and sent Daniel down town to mail it for me. I thought perhaps he didn't put it in the right place. And you had rec'd no letter from me at all, just only think, wouldn't that have been awful? What would you have thought of me anyway?

But Aunt Frank told me next morning that he had mailed letters before, and not to be alarmed for perhaps you didn't get my letter for several days, and you were busy.

Florence said you had forsaken me. I was so glad to get your letter. If I hadn't soon, would have gotten homesick, and come home right away. I was so afraid my letter had been misplaced; that I sat down and write you one this morning, but hadn't mailed it yet.

Am so homesick to see you. But as Miss Minnie says in her letter, I rec'd the other day, it would be the "last time." She said she wished she could have went to the train with me, and wonder if I would have to send you a dispatch this time. Expected you would want one before my visit was out. But you had one consolation, 'twould be the "last time."

I hope so, for it does seem the longest time, six mo., since last I saw you. I get a little homesick at times, when I think I am so far, in distance, from you. But your letters cheer me up. Am having a lovely time. Only wish you were here to go with me.

Florence and I went up to Snow Hall a university bl'g, this morning. Went through the museum, and saw animals, birds, rocks, and everything imaginable. We are going through it again some day.

We walked out S.W. of Lawrence in the country, yesterday, to an old landmark of Lawrence. It is so old, is expected to topple over most any time. It is an old mill, will tell you all about it when I come home.

We went down to S. Park last Fri. evening to Band Concert. Had a fine time.

Uncle Dan is night watch at a mill, for a few nights.

Rec'd a letter from Mamma also today. Says I may make calculations to come home the last of next wk. Shall let you know next week when I start.

Am glad they are getting along so nicely at home. Perhaps they will get use to it, you know.

Dear Edwin, there is one thing I would like to ask of you, and that is this: To not worry another bit on my acct. because you are not a rich man; I'm not marrying for riches, but for love. Did I say you were not rich? that is a mistake, for you are rich in your love, and

that is what I ask for. I would never marry a man that did not love me, even if he was a millionaire. Love is greater than riches. No home can be happy without it. I am marrying a man of my choice, and a good one at that. No better could be found.

You are, as my friend in Hutchinson told me, old enough to know how to take care of me, and when I think of you being older, I love you more and more for it, for you know a little green girl like me, needs watching. And so I place all confidence in you.

I did something this morning, that you would have shaken your finger at me, if you were present. I know Mamma would have scolded me. Florence and I had planned to go to Snow Hall, and it had to rain, but we took our umbrellas and went anyway. Florence is use to going out even if it does rain, but I wasn't, and I see I have taken a little more cold. I had on rubbers, but my feet got wet anyway, and my skirts were all drabbled. But I enjoyed the museum, and would have more, if I had gotten your letter this morning. Well as 'tis getting late, will have to close for this time. Anticipating a reply before Tues. will say Au revoir. Forever Yours, Frances.

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

Sylvia Kan June 13 - 1900 Miss Frances Kinnamon

Dear Frances.

Your letter came to me about five minutes ago through the kindness of Bro Draper. And Oh! was'nt I glad to get it. Am going to ans tonight and try to get it mailed tomorrow, so you will not have to wait so long this time. We had a good rain night before last and one last night also, have been plowing today. I am very sorry, but dearest I will be compeled to go and harvest the first of next week I think. am exspecting word any time, however write me when you intend to start, and if I must go before you come, will have your letter sent to me at Raymond. dont let this spoil your visit any dear, the thought of some sweet day will cheer me through the long harvest.

Dearest I will try not to worry as you say, and when you speak of me being older than you, and that you put all confidence in me, on account of that I wanted to kiss the lips that uttered it, but still my darling, there was something else you said that gave me pain, "green girl" never! I do not want to be looked upon as being your Superior, or as a little girl would her father, but as a companion, one who loved his wife for her merit, and truely dear, you posses those qualities which I so much admire. Your loveing eyes though not strong, yet so full of tender expression, that makes my life brighter and happier. And even temper, good looks, and hands that are useful, and above all a heart that is stout and loveing. Sorry you have taken cold. I fear it is an indication that your system is to over taxed to withstand any sudden change.

Be very carful dear. Always of your health, and I will do the same All our real happiness in the future depends on good health with out it there is no real enjoyment. only a kind of an existance, and a miserable one at that. Oh priceless jewel, is good health. I am very sorry you was disappointed in my promtness, but you see it could not be helped, trust it will not be so any more.

Geo and Mr Broomfield were up a little while tonight. it does seem a long time since I last saw you, and think, untill after harvest before I shall see, and embrace my love, I dream about you nearly every night (but not that you are 16 ft tall) you walk in my every thought, through the day as well as in my dreams. But I must stop as tis getting quite late, and know I must work tomorrow. hope to hear again soon and better still to see you soon. As ever your devoted Edwin.

**From Alice Frances Kinnamon to David Edwin Shuff**

Lawrence, Kans. June 15 - 1900

Mr. Edwin Shuff. Sylvia, Kans.

Dearest Edwin.

Have just returned from a long walk across the river and in East Lawrence: And will now ans your most welcome letter rec'd this morning, as I had more time for writing, than you do.

I was so glad to receive your letter, and by my writing immediately, you will get it before migrating north.

Florence and I walked out across the river yesterday, and up quite aways in North Lawrence. We also went across today, and stood and watched the fishermen. The water looks so angry flowing over the dam just east of the bridge. There is a large mill there, run by water.

Florence and I are going to the Band Concert tonight, in Central Park. Yesterday morning Madaline Miller came after us in her buggy and drove us out to Haskel Institute. We drove around among the Blg's, but did not get out. They have some very nice large buildings.

Next wk. is commencement, and we will attend a part of it, especially all day Wed. You should have been here and seen our fine horse, fastest trotter in town. It was just so comical. Florence and I had a big laugh after we got home. Every step it would take its head would bob up and down; couldn't hardly get it to trot at all.

I told Florence all about Beauty, and she just fell in love with her.

Last Wed. evening Madaline came over and spent the evening. I was just getting ready to pose for a picture, when she came. Had one taken by myself, standing in the front yard. It is not very good of my face, for I had my hat on, standing under some trees, and it was after sundown, therefore my face is rather dark. Expect you will take it for a darkey. Over half the town here is composed of darkies. It should have been taken a little sooner, but Aunt had a caller and had to postpone it a little while.

Then we three girls had our pictures taken together. Aunt is going to try mine again.

The neighbors south have a gasoline engine at work, drilling the well deeper. My! the awfulest noise it does make.

We are expecting Rufo in almost any day. Rec'd word he sailed on the 15th of May, on the Grant.

Am glad the folks are getting along alright at home. How are Bro Drapers?

It will seem so strange and very lonesome to come home, and not find you there. But shall try to stand it, and write you letters while you are away working.

But my dear you musn't work to hard. I will try to be a good little girl, and not say things that worry you, if only in fun.

Well, well guess I will just have to close, for Florence came in just as I commenced this sheet, and is reading out loud one min. singing the next, showing me my fellows picture in the paper, and then slap me, if I don't stop and listen to her. She is wanting to finish this letter for me, but can't trust it in her care a moment.

Anticipating an early reply, I close remaining

Forever Yours, Frances.

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

Raymond Kan June 24, 1900 Miss Frances Kinnamon

My dearest.

As the pen they have here is poor, and I failed to bring mine with me, you will please excuse my pencil. And will endeavor to write you the news. Arrived here Thur 4 P.M. and began harvesting next day. Johns wheat is very good, but not nearly so heavy as what we were cutting down there. We are runing with six men. All are here for dinner, and but three of us besides the family for breakfast and supper. Have'nt met but few of my old acquaintances as yet. will go to the office to mail this letter late this evening, perhaps will get to see some of them then. But my greatest desire is to see one Miss Kinnamon. And to know of her well fare who holds the key to my fondest ambitions. Yes I am satisfied to be in her company only. Well! Well! who is this little Lady I hear in the house in feble cries that calls the attention of all, dark blue eyes, and dark hair. Guess. No meeting to go to here now. seems rather queer, when I think of the good meetings held here at R and led the singing when the house was crowed with eager listeners to both preaching and singing, and think of the many who obeyed the commands of God, and were burried with Christ and rose to live a new life. How we did rejoice to see so many then taking that stand, But the question now comes to me, where have they all gone? Some we are glad to say have gone on, and are trying to live as they should while others have gone back to the weak and beggerly eliments of the world. how sad. Shall this ever be said of us? God forbid. though all others should forsake us, let us resolve in our hearts that we will keep house for the Lord. Was greatly in hopes we would get through harvesting here before the fourth of July and may yet, but hardly think so. The band boys have a nice stand at Raymond now, want to go and hear them while I am here, think they are going to Sterling the 4th. Sterling is to have three bands, and a Sham battle. If you would like to get an idea of a real battle there is a chance. I saw one when I was thirteen yrs old in Willisca Iowa. And it looked so real that I wanted to go home. I put old Rowdy on the borg the first day and had some trouble with him, so put him on the header next and he proved to be one of the best. worked like he had always been worked there. cut about thirty acres yesterday. I am so lonesome today dont know how will manage to stay till harvest is over. have been here now about two weeks seemingly, but will look for a long letter soon which will break the spell, for a short time any way.

Hope you are all well. Tell me how Bro Draper stands the harvest, And when they cut our wheat. How was meeting today? Any visitors? Who were apt think it "to good to be true." Who took my class?

But now I will stop here for fear you will have trouble to read all of this scribbling.

Except my love pure and true Edwin

Now Frances dear, while I am here

Your pen do freely use.

And tell to me, just how you be

Along with all the news.

For, if you dont, you see I wont

Just know the reason why.

The time would be, so long to me,

It seems I'd almost die.

It might be so, I'd homeward go.

To see you then some night.

And that would be, to hard on me,  
If you should fail to write.  
So now if you Should write me two,  
Before you get you one,  
On Sunday then I'd take my pen  
And write you all I've done.

**From Alice Frances Kinnamon to David Edwin Shuff**

"At Home" June 26 - 1900

Mr. Edwin Shuff. Raymond, Kans

Dearest Edwin.

Rec'd your letter a couple of hrs ago and will ans. it at once.

Was so glad as usual to hear from you and that you reached your destination safely,  
because old Rowdy might to have run away from you, or rather with you.

I went to town last Sat. evening after supper for the mail, but no letter was awaiting me.  
Reca was up yesterday and still there was none, but Mamma brought me one this  
morning.

My! but it is warm today. I feel sorry for the men working out in the hot sun. Only wish  
you were out here on the yard, resting under one of the shade trees!

I am writing this and baking bread and am about roasted.

Well, the harvesters finally left here, if it was Sat. morning. I thought they never would  
get through. After my resting two wks. I noticed the work a little more. (Please excuse  
my mistakes, I can scarcely write at all.)

Was about sick for a day and a half, but am as well and hearty as ever, now.

Of course, as usual they had several break downs while here. Only cut forty acres: they  
left a few acres of Oliver's its being to green.

They are now cutting up at Oliver's. Mamma saw him in town this morning. Broke a rod.

I think they, Axtell's, are at Bro Drapers now, they were to come last night or this  
morning.

As soon as I get this letter written I am going up to help Reca, cook for my harvesters  
too. Will also go tomorrow.

Mamma and I went over to the graveyard yesterday evening, to fix our graves a little.

Well, we had a good meeting last Sun. Bro. Ungle's and Ireton were there and we did not  
have any of the classes. There were quite a number out. A family with three children have  
moved in south of Plevna two and a half mi, by the name of McVey. They are members,  
and were out. Came from Ind. but understood there was a Christian Church in Plevna, but  
none of the Church of Christ. They did not bring letters, for they wouldn't put them in  
with the Christian Church. I think they will attend right along. Jim Gagnebine and his  
family, bro. to sister Williamson and Bro Ungle's niece, were also there. Perhaps, if we  
keep on we will have a crowd of us after all.

Try and influence your Bro John to come down this way to locate, also your Bro. Ben.

Is your bro. from the eastern part of the state, out here harvesting? Is your bro Ben there  
with you? If he is, invite he and his girl to come down this way on a visit. There is going  
to be a big picnic in Uncle Dan's grove the Fourth. They might come then, that is, if you  
will be here by then. It would be so nice to play tennis, croquet and etc. also to eat ice-  
cream.

In general, I am no hand at guessing, but I will guess it was Miss Shuffs feeble voice you  
heard.

Well, I must tell you of my calls last Sun. Just before church, I ran over to see Blanche and her dishwasher.

In the afternoon I went up to Olivers to see my new nephew. And on the way home, stopped to see "Ma White" and ten lb. dishwasher.

So you see, I put in the day calling on the young America's.

I was quite lonesome Sun. without your company, but will try and wait patiently until you can come. Could never find no other company to equal it.

Do you think you will be through by the Fourth?

Bro Draper, I think is standing harvest alright, havn't heard anything to the contrary.

You musn't over do yourself my dear.

O yes, Geo. said tell you there was a stray black calf in your pasture. I told him I would claim it, until you came.

And I drove around to see our cedar trees, also saw the kaffir corn as I came home from Olivers.

Was very glad to receive your poetry, wouldn't object to receive some every time.

I will try and write again about Fri. if I have a chance to mail it. Will send you a letter, we rec'd for you today.

Anticipating a reply at your earliest convenience, will close for this time, and start for Recas.

Forever Your Frances Au revoir

P.S. This old pen is so poor, think I shall have another one, before attempting to write again.

### **From Alice Frances Kinnamon to David Edwin Shuff**

Sylvia Kans June 29 - 1900

Mr. Edwin Shuff. Raymond, Kans.

My Dearest Edwin.

As you requested me to write again, will do so, with the greatest of pleasure.

It is very warm and windy here today, and also presume it is there.

They finished cutting your wheat yesterday noon. I helped Recca Tues. afternoon and Wed. So you see, I got to help cook for my harvesters. I got Willie to mail my letter Wed. noon, had no chance to send it Tues. and was beginning to think Wed. I would have to take a trip to town and mail it.

Some of the men were asking me, if I had any interest in the wheat, if so, it was pretty fine wheat. Oliver is cutting at Uncle Sam's.

Geo. is up cultivating for Oliver this wk. I rec'd a letter from Miss Minnie last Sat. Don't know just when Geo. will go after her, perhaps next Wed, or he may just have her come on the train, as he is so busy, hasn't the time to go after her. Presume you will be here when she comes, so we can all have a good time.

The time is dragging slowly by: and perhaps next wk. will finally get here, and somebody whom I would love to see so well, with it.

Do you know how soon you will get through: before or after the Fourth?

Guess I will go over to the picnic awhile the Fourth, to pass the time away. Only wish you will be present, to go along.

I have been ironing all morning, and shall go to town this evening, to mail this letter.

Have sewed all the carpet rags, I have on hand. Have about fifteen lbs.

Clara and Ben came up yesterday noon, but went back in the evening. She wants us to come down; I told her we would, when you came back, as the plums are getting ripe, but

then you know "green" ones are alright. She told me to come down during plum time, bring some cans with me, stay two or three days, and put me up some for this winter. Wonder what she thinks I would want with plums this winter? but I guess that would be easy to guess why. Think I shall go anyway, and see.

Papa finished cutting his oats today. Ralph has a sick headache and is lying around. I havn't rec'd my pictures from Aunt Frank yet, and havn't written in my diary book, the items of the last two or three days there.

Expect I will nearly talk you to death, when you come home. You will want to run clear out of hearing distance.

I took a music lesson last Wed. for the first since I came home.

I called on the washerwoman last evening, and had quite a friendly chat.

Rec'd quite a lengthy letter from Leo yesterday. They are all usually well. She says Clyde Hugh is very ill. Had a surgical operation performed the sixth of this mo. and has been in the hospital ever since. Expect Sister Hugh is nearly crazy.

She said Bro. McFarland went to Louisiana early in the spring to raise rice. But had sold his interests there and returned to Hutchinson already.

Hurrah! for "Rowdy". Perhaps he will be alright now, as he has found out he has to work. How is the beautiful "Black Beauty" standing the times?

And you, my dear, musn't work too hard this sultry weather.

Are any of your folks coming up from Oklahoma this summer?

O yes, I rec'd another letter from Mary Percy in the Strip. Mamma got it a few days after I left here, and as she didn't deem it very important, did not send it to me, and also forgot to mention it. I happened to run across it yesterday. And the most questions again to ans; but will be in no hurry about it. She only waited a couple of wks. after I answered her other numerous questions.

How is the little young Miss \_\_\_\_\_ Shuff?

Is Jewel still Uncle Ed's girl?

By the way, have you run across "scoop-shovel" yet? Ha! Ha!

You must be very careful, or your "lip" will tell on you again. But then I don't think I will worry anything about it.

Well, here I have managed to fill eight pages, you will have to borrow some glasses to read all this.

Have tried to make it a little like a newspaper. Havn't rec'd a response to that "newspaper item" yet, either. But I don't care. Hear she has applied for "Principalship" in Plevna schools.

Must close for this time, write a few words to Miss Minnie, practice my lesson, and then go to the city.

Shall look for a letter soon, and also my "sweetheart" From Your Loving Frances

**From David Edwin Shuff to Alice Frances Kinnamon**

Raymond, Kan. July 1th 1900

Miss Frances Kinnamon Sylvia Kan.

Dearest Frances.

Your letter came to me in the harvest field early fri morning through the kindness of one of the hands, who lives in town. the day didn't seem half so long. How nice it is to get a letter from somebody who is interested in you. No one before seemed to think I could do to much. Your cautioning me not to over do sounded strange to me, yet comes like soothing balm to one used to hardships. I never knew a man could love a Lady so well as

I do you, my dearest. And I know of no reason why my love for you should ever diminish. So long as we prove faithful to each other, which I trust we ever shall, I will gladly amend all faults of mine that would tend to hinder your love for me if it is in my power to do so. Will keep no information back that would be to your interest to know, only want to pass for what I am worth and no more, be that ever so little.

Well we put in the week over here with a loss of about three hrs. One horse got sick at 11 o'clock one day, and fri evening it rained about two hrs before quitting time, one of the men got a little to warm Tue and was not very well again until yesterday, but still worked on. as for myself I have stood it fine. The wheat has been very heavy the most of the time, and very soft wading round in it. tue night I was broken out with heat almost equal to measles, from wading waist deep in the wheat, but that is nothing uncommon for a stacker. Bro Ben nor Jim neither one are here. We have four days yet so you see I will have to miss the picnic. would like so well to be there. You must go and enjoy the day. I will have to harvest again this yr. Have harvested on the fourth for several yrs. Your guess was right. this is one of the bountiful yrs all round. The neighborhood here is blest with a goodly number of dishwashers and harvest hands. I guess it will be Tue again before you get this letter. did think I could get a letter off last night, but we were cutting 3 mi from home and when supper was over, and work done it was ten O'clock. Think I shall be home some time fri 6th. My thoughts will be at the picnic if I am not. Hope you will enjoy the day enough for me too. O yes I must tell you of a joke that took place yesterday. we were cutting for Grant Adams one of the hands, and his mother and another woman brought dinner to us. And it so happened that they forgot to bring bread. We were camped close to a house so they went in and got bread there on condition of some kind unknown to us. If they hadn't felt so bad about it we would have joked them for going in after a hand out. As it was we never let on that we knew what the trouble was. Think I shall go over east this evening one mi to see Albert Werner, then go down to mail this letter late this evening. walked down and back last Sunday. will do the same this evening.

Old Rowdy is the best horse on the header. I run the header yesterday until John played out on the stack about 4 p.m. he not being used to the work could not stand the wading. Well I am writing in the kitchen and the cook has commenced dinner so will have to stop. If I get a letter at the office may write more, with this I am your devoted Edwin

### **Newspaper clipping "Kinnamon-Shuff" wedding**

A most pleasant and enjoyable event was the marriage of Miss Frances Kinnamon and Mr. D.E. Shuff at the home of the bride's parents two and a half miles east of Sylvia, Thursday evening, Nov. 29, 1900. This Thanksgiving was one which will long be remembered by those who were present. About eighty guests had assembled at five o'clock p.m. when Mrs. W.H. Cully began playing the wedding march. The bridal party, led by Miss Minnie Bemis, bridesmaid, and Geo. F. Kinnamon, groomsman, marched from an upper room to the parlor, where a beautiful evergreen arch, visible from three rooms, had been arranged. Under this the party formed in a semicircle, while Br. M.A. Draper pronounced the words which the contracting parties in marriage, after which Bro. J.E. Sniffen asked that the richest blessings of our Heavenly Father might be bestowed upon them throughout life's entire journey. After congratulations by their many friends, Mrs Cully again played while the party marched to the dining room followed by the guests, where an elegant and sumptuous supper was served. The remainder of the evening was spent in visiting and proved a very pleasant one indeed. The infare was given at the home of Bro. M.A. Draper Friday, Nov. 30. A more pleasant day would hardly have been

possible and all enjoyed themselves with music, visiting, dinner, croquet, croconole, etc. until the shades of evening warned them that the happy day was drawing to a close. The bride is well known in and around Sylvia, and is one of whom it may be said "She needs but to be known to be loved." The groom is a young man known for his rare musical talent and his honest and upright dealings with all. Both are faithful members of the Church of Christ at Plevna. They will visit among their many friends for a few weeks, when the new house on his farm two and a half miles west of Plevna, will be ready for occupancy, where they will be at home to their friends. Many useful and beautiful presents were received.

May joy and happiness ever attend this happy couple is our earnest and sincere wish. A Guest (Lack of space forbids our printing the list of presents. - Ed)

### ***Biographical Sketches and Obits of John Richard Shuff***

#### **From The Christian Leader, February 25, 1896**

##### **JOHN RICHARD SHUFF**

The subject of this sketch was born September 18, 1837, in Morgan County, Ill., and is the eldest son of John and Angelina Shuff, both deceased. In 1834 his parents migrated from Kentucky to Illinois, and purchased a farm five and one-half miles east of Jacksonville, where they raised a family of seven sons and four daughters, all of whom, except two brothers, are still living. He obeyed the gospel in 1854 under the labors of Wm. A. Mallory. Attended school at Berean College in Jacksonville in 1856-58. Of this school Jonathan Atkinson was first president. He was succeeded by Walter S. Russell. In 1857 he delivered his first discourse in the town of Virginia, Cass Co., Ill. In 1858 he went to Bethany College, Virginia, where he continued until the breaking out of the war in 1861; taught several terms of school and discoursed occasionally. December 24, 1863, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Ann Artt. There have been born to them twelve children - eight sons and four daughters. Their eldest daughter, Eva Ethelind, died in 1873, aged seven years. Ten days later Jesse Richard - twin boy - also passed away at the age of two years and two months. Also an infant son lies with them in Nodaway County, Mo. Their baby daughter, Laura Euzetta, left them January 4, 1896. Removed from Illinois to Nodaway County, Mo., in 1868, where he remained as a farmer-preacher for about ten years. Becoming financially involved, sold his farm and rented, first in Holt County, then in Nodaway, next in Montgomery and Taylor Counties, Ia. In 1885 moved to Western Kansas, Hodgeman County - went West to "grow up with the Country." But the country failed to grow, hence in 1889 came to Oklahoma Territory. Here he still works on his "claim" and preaches what he can. Has always been uncompromising with all perverts of the gospel. His children are all in the "one body." They much regret that the opportunities for their children receiving and education have been so limited. He has kept no account of names or number of those either baptized or married by him. They run, however, into the hundreds. His name has appeared occasionally in the A. C. (and O) Review, the Leader, Primitive Christian and Firm Foundation.

## **From Portrait and Biographical Record of Oklahomans, 1901, pages 222 & 223**

JOHN R. SHUFF. Sixty-three years ago the birth of John R. Shuff, of Canadian county, occurred in Morgan county, Ill., the date being September 18, 1837. He grew to maturity upon the homestead owned by his parents John and Angelina (Lindsay) Shuff, who early inculcated in their son the upright principles of conduct which always have animated him in all of life's vicissitudes. He is sincerely esteemed and looked up to by every one who knows him, and his earnest desire to aid and uplift his fellow-men has been a great influence for good wherever he has dwelt.

After completing his public-school course, it was the privilege of our subject to attend a college at Jacksonville, Ill., for three years, after which he pursued higher studies in Bethany College, in Virginia. He was there at the time the Civil war broke out, and as his health was poor, he could not respond to Lincoln's call for troops, though he had supported him by his ballot, and was in thorough sympathy with the Federals. Therefore he returned to his native state, and engaged in teaching school in Sangamon and Morgan counties for several terms.

On the 24th of December, 1863, Mr. Shuff married Elizabeth Ann Artt, whom he had known for a number of years. She was born near Georgetown, Ky., and went to Morgan county, Ill., when she was young. In 1868 the young couple went to Nodaway county, Mo., where they purchased a farm, but within a few years a financial loss was sustained which necessitated the sale of the property. Then for a period Mr. Shuff cultivated a rented farm in Holt and Nodaway counties, and finally bought a farm in Montgomery county, Iowa. After residing there but a year, he went to Taylor county, same state, and subsequently the family dwelt in western Kansas for a few years.

The large expenses incident to the rearing of several children, added to the reverses which he had suffered frequently by the failure of crops and the uncertain markets, at length decided Mr. Shuff in the question of removal to Oklahoma whenever it should be opened to settlement, as it seemed a veritable "promised land" to those who were acquainted with its resources. August 17, 1889, he came to Canadian county, and filed a claim to his present property, and in December he moved his family here. They were sheltered in a sod house for several years, but later better accommodations came as the result of indefatigable labor. The farm is situated on section 34, township 14, range 6, Mathewson being the postoffice. Mrs. Shuff inherited some money from a relative and invested a portion of it in a quarter-section of land adjoining the property belonging to our subject.

Ervin A., their eldest son, is unmarried and assists his father in the work of the farm. Eva E., who died when seven years of age, rests in the cemetery near the old family home in Nodaway county. John Artt, who married and has two children, is a farmer of Rice county, Kans. D. Edwin is engaged in farming in Reno county, Kans., and James W. is similarly occupied in Coffey county, Kans. Lizzie L. is the wife of Charles J. Hunter, of this county. Her twin, Jesse R., died when in his third year. Mollie A. died when twenty-four years old, and with the youngest member of the family, Laura Euzetta, who died when in her thirteenth year, was buried in the Mathewson cemetery. Harvey O. is a student in the normal school at Edmond, Okla., and Benjamin F. resides in Reno county, Kans., while Armilda Ann is living with her parents and is engaged in teaching.

John R. Shuff, when he was in his seventeenth year, became identified with The Church of Christ in Illinois, his parents having previously become members also. He early was called upon to occupy pulpits, and for a great many years has preached the gospel.

Politically, he was a Republican until 1884, when he espoused the cause of the Union Labor party and at one time was its nominee for the position of probate judge of Hodgeman county, Kans., though he was not elected, and had not expected to win.

**From Christian Worker, May 1977**

**PREACHERS OF YESTERDAY;  
EARLY AREA PREACHER "POTENT FORCE"  
by Loyd L. Smith**

The subject of this sketch was born in 1837, about the time of Harding, Brents, Garfield and McGarvey. Thus he belongs to a period much earlier than most of the preachers who have worked in this area. We are happy to have this information volunteered by Sister Geneva Meredith, Elkhart, Kansas, a granddaughter of Brother Shuff. In his early years the Millennial Harbinger was a potent force among the brethren and he sometimes made reports to it, as well as to the Christian Leader, the Primitive Christian, the Octagraphic Review, and in later years to the Firm Foundation. During his lifetime the Missionary Society and Instrumental Music questions arose and were largely settled --- by division. Most of his work was in Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Oklahoma. In some of these areas of the "society forces" were very strong. If he was ever tempted to submit to them there is no indication of it.

JOHN RICHARD SHUFF was born September 18, 1837 at Jacksonville, Illinois, not a great distance Southwest of Springfield. His father was John W. Shuff, a native of Scott county, Kentucky. Scott county joins Bourbon county, home of Barton W. Stone, on the West. Under the influence of such men, they became members of The Lord's Body in very early times. Brother J. R. Shuff often related how Stone, Benjamin Franklin, and other gospel preachers often visited in his father's home. His mother was Angelina Lindsay, a native of Carrol county Virginia whose parents moved to Illinois. His father was a farmer, and evidently a rather prosperous one. He was a faithful Christian and brought his large family up in "the nurture and admonition of The Lord." In 1834 he moved from Kentucky to Morgan county, Illinois where he bought a farm five and a half miles East of Jacksonville.

At the age of seventeen Brother Shuff obeyed the gospel under the preaching of Wm. A. Mallory in 1856. He attended the schools available to him, and then attended Berea College, Jacksonville, Illinois, for two years, beginning in 1856. We do not know the level of the work done here, but following this he enrolled in Bethany College, founded by Alexander Campbell in 1841, in West Virginia in 1858. He continued his studies here until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. Due to poor health he was not drafted into the Army and so saw no service in this war. But his sympathies were with the Union and he voted for Lincoln. In 1857 he had preached his first sermons at Virginia, Cass county, just North of his home county. He continued to preach as opportunities were available. His stay at Bethany came at a very interesting time, for the famous fire had destroyed much of the college property the year before he went there. When the fire came, many thought it would be the end of the College, but classes were missed only one day. Though Campbell was getting old, he and Professor Pendleton were soon on the road raising funds with which to rebuild, and "Old Main", the result of that labor, still stands on Bethany campus. (It is a pity that The Faith held by these builders does not remain.) On December 24, 1863 he was married to Elizabeth Ann Artt, with whom he had been acquainted for a number of years. She was a native of Kentucky, but with her parents had

moved to Morgan county when she was quite young. Eight sons and five daughters were born to them. Several of their children died in infancy and childhood, thus they knew first hand the sorrows of the average family. After his return from Bethany he farmed, taught school, preached, led singing, taught singing schools, and wrote poetry. In 1868 he moved from Illinois to Nodaway county, Missouri (in the Northwest corner of the state) where he again farmed, preached, and carried on as before. Here he lived for about ten years when financial difficulties forced him to sell his farm, and for a time he rented land and moved several times, the last move in this area being to Taylor county Iowa. In 1885 he moved to Hodgeman county, Kansas, just North of Dodge City, where he planned to "grow up with the country." But due to drought and similar problems, the country didn't grow much. Their first year in Kansas was the year of the famous blizzard of '85. On the first of January of this year, the Wichita Eagle Beavon carried a story on the ninety first anniversary of that blizzard. It tells that the summer of '85 had been so dry no crops were made. The blizzard started the afternoon of Dec. 31, 1884, the following day the wind had turned to the North, and by the next morning it was twenty below at Dodge City. With the poor homes the people had they were ill prepared for such a storm. There was very little timber in the country, so fuel was scarce, and it is estimated that as many as three hundred people perished, along with thousands of animals. Sister Meredith sent an article about this that her mother had written, and which she sold to a number of papers and magazines. Brother Shuff and one of his sons were away from home when the blizzard came, but kindly neighbors looked after his family that was left at home. For some years he had heard fabulous tales of the wealth of the Oklahoma Territory and often thought if it was ever opened to white settlement, he would go there. The Unassigned Lands were opened in 1889 and he "made the run", getting a claim near Mathewson, now Piedmont, in Canadian county. Like most other settlers, they lived in a sod house the first few years, but finally through eternal hard work, frugal living, and good management they were able to build a better house. Sister Shuff inherited some money and they bought a quarter section adjoining their claim. This was a good farming area, and was "home" for the rest of their lives. Like most preachers of his time, he never did "local work", but preached in gospel meetings and in such public places as were available. Most of the congregations were small and very few owned a meeting house. Often the people of a church that had managed to build a house, would let others use it. There was no such thing as a "salary" for the preacher. The people were very poor for money was vary scarce, but they did freely extend the hospitality of their homes, and would share such things as the farm produced with the preacher and his family. When the preacher was away in meeting work, brethren and neighbors would usually take care of an emergancy that might arise in his family. (Pioneer people were good - thoughtful...) Preachers of his time had to fight for every inch of ground they gained from the forces of religious error, and so debates were quite common. The family has a record of one debate that he had with a Presbyterian, and thinks there were other debates. A legible, handwritten tract of 238 pages is in possession of Sister Meredith. It is a reply to a "Tract on Good Friday" by B Arkins, and so far as she knows, was never published. She is saving it for Ralph Hunter, great grandson of Brother Shuff, who is now preaching the gospel in Australia, but expected home soon. In his life time the controversy over the Missionary Society and Instrumental music was in progress, and the "digressives" managed to get control of most of the property the brethren had. Faithful brethren were thus often forced to do the best they could. Of course preachers took all kinds of stand on these issues, but there is no indication Brother Shuff ever "wobbled on the line", in fact the contrary seems to be the

case, for in the February 25, 1896 issue of the Christian Leader is found the following statement about him: "He has always been uncompromising with all perverts of the gospel."

All his children and their mates were faithful and active Christians. I have a record that shows four of his sons served as elders in The Church; four, including three of the elders, were song leaders, others, along with their wives are spoken of as "excellent Bible teachers." Numbers of them were involved in the establishment of the Church in Kansas and California. Two of his grandsons were gospel preachers, two were elders, three were song leaders, and others were good Bible teachers, and this pattern continues down to the grandchildren of the present. It is to be regretted that we do not know more details of his work, for he lived and worked in a very important time and led many souls to The Lord. His family says more about him than we could possibly write, for it reminds me of a thing Jehovah said about Abraham: "For I have known him, to the end that he may command his children and his household after him, that they may keep the way of Jehovah, to do righteousness and justice..." Genesis 18:19.

Like most great and good men, Brother Shuff had a faithful companion that walked by his side through all the years, providing the strength that comes only from such a source. She is described as one who was "always calm and with a soft speaking voice."

In 1904 he developed "blood poisoning" from an accident on the farm, and did not recover. His companion continued until 1923. Their bodies sleep in the good Oklahoma soil in the Mathewson cemetery at Piedmont. We enjoy helping preserve the memory of such people. May The Lord bless their kind!

#### **Death of Bro. J. R. Shuff (source unknown)**

John Richard Shuff eldest son of John and Angelina Shuff was born in Morgan Co., Ills. Sept. 18, 1837. He was married to Elizabeth Ann Artt Dec. 24, 1863. He united with the church of Christ when sixteen years of age and began preaching at the age of twenty. He lived and labored in the cause of the Master for fifty years and passed to his reward at 11:15 o'clock Feb. 10, 1904, aged 66 years, 4 months and 23 days. He leaves a wife, two daughters, and six sons to mourn their loss, but they are comforted in the christian's hope. Many of our readers will be surprised and pained to learn that Bro. Shuff, so long and favorably known both as a preacher and a writer, is dead. While in one sense it is a comfort to know that the conflicts of life are over, the loss of one true man is felt in this age of the world, for there are already too few. The writer was called to be present at funeral services, and spoke to a very large assembly who gathered as a last tribute of respect. I tried to impress all with the fact that the Christian shared the honor of the life that now is, and of such two things can be said that can be said of no other: (1) A Christian is the only one the world cannot afford to loose. (2) A Christian is the only one who can afford to loose this world. The Christian is the light in this world, but his treasures are in heaven. His "lease" on all things earthly expires at death. He brought nothing into this world, and when he departs he takes nothing out. In death the "millionaire" is as poor and helpless as his lowest servant, and leaves the enjoyment of all he possessed; but the Christian goes to the enjoyment of his wealth, for his labors are ended, and he is ready to enter into the inheritance of saints. Truly, "blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

For a number of years, Bro. Shuff has lived near Matthewson, Okla., where he was living at the time of his death. It is needless to speak of the trials and provoking circumstances under which he labored to establish the church through this section. All is beyond the aid

of mortals now, and the judge of all will do right. May the memory of his zeal be strength to his family, and his fidelity fruitful unto many generations. W. F. Parmiter

**Another Obituary (*Okarche Times*)**

We were indeed sorry to hear of the death of our beloved Bro. J. R. Shuff of Mathewson, O. T. Thus it is that one more faithful one has been called from his labors here on earth, to that rest that remains for the people of God. About two years ago while we were in a meeting near Langdon, Kan., he in company with one of his sons made us a pleasant visit, and gave us a splendid talk which we shall long remember. But we shall never meet him again on earth, but we hope to meet him in heaven above, where all is love.