Danville [Wisconsin] March the 26, 1881

My Dear Neice Vinia

I have been wanting to hear from you all, this long time but dont know as I shall unless I write it seems to be the only thing that stimulates me to do it is that I may hear from my friends for I must acknowledge that I am a very poor corrispondant. Now Vinia how do you all get along how do you all do is your Mother better I hope she is and your father is he well and the rest of the family, as for us here we are moving along about as usual your Uncle is complaining of not feeling very well has a bad cold I am feeling about as well as usual although not very strong I have had quite a serious attact of Erysipelas this winter

(Please note: The text following this point is not legible and appears to be a continuation of the letter.)

Sunday

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taken in my toe with chills and fever it seemed like the putrid kind that [they] used to have East I had a very bad foot there was a while that it looked if it would mortify but it is all right now. There has been great deal of sickness about here this winter, great many deaths among our near neighbours and old settlers some that were here when we moved here among them was William [Bramend], wife, Mother she had been out of health some time but dropeed away very suddingly the roads were all blocked with snow at the time so none of the friends could get here only those here closest by, could get no wood to Wills wife nor the other friends be teligrath or any other way untill several days after death neither could they bury her untill the fourth day after her death on account of the snow it took a good many men to shovel roads in orders to get here they live two miles from here the burying ground is not far from here and then they

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had to shovel roads from here to Columbus to get the coffin they had to go crosst the fields and every other way in order to get there it was a terable time snow three feet on the level and such huge snow banks we never had such a snow before here and it seems now as if it never would go off it moves so slow here it is most offer send such a body of snow. There was sevel days the trains did not move could get no mail from any quarter it seemed lonesome enough it was still worse in Minn. where Mate [Mate Flinn] is snow four feet on the level there was a month at a time the trains could not move they got the mail once or twice in that time by going over the snow with a hand sled some forty miles, they dont generally have verry much snow there not as much as we do here. People were not looking for such a time a not not as well prepared for it as they might have been the merchanto got out of supplies so
people had to do without many things they wanted although there was no suffering in that place, but great suffering in some others for food and fuel many have died for want of food and fue they could get to nobody and no one to them and out of every thing and of course they have to perish. They were well at Mates we got a letter this week the first we had have for sometime, Lebbie [Pease] was being afflicted with gobs comforters aside from that well John [Brainerd] and family are well as usual and also Williams Johns wife has a young daughter. There has been more sickness and deaths this winter than before since we lived here Diphtheria measles and scarlet fever, some have lost all their children there is one family not far from here of seven children four of the oldest have died lately the oldest 22, 20 18, 16 more sick when one of them died they could not get to Columbus

(Marginalia)
for coffin with team had to bring it on foot. Every body will be so glad to see warm weather again. have you had such a winter with you. I had a letter from Hetta Williams recently saying Henry had got home aint it to bad he cant behave himself I am sorry for them. [Henry was a hard drinker]

Vinia are you still in school do you expect to teach this summer. How is Willie get along with school does he like it. Jewit I suppose is going to school. Your Uncle is making a fire for me to get dinner so I must go and get it. Do you hear from your Uncles folks often. Be a good girl write often.

Loveingly Aunt Molly B
Mutch love to all