Rush River Pierce County, Wisconsin, June 11th 1857
Mr. James Connor,

I have taken the liberty, Dear Sir, after a long time, I have taken the liberty to write to you, to let you know how we are getting along and inform you that we are all well at present. We have had the usual winter fare, a very late spring, and a brisk tornado, but we have just finished planting and we are now ready to go into the garden. We have planted five acres of corn and two acres of squash. We are all doing well and the crops are coming along nicely. We have been very busy this spring, and we have just planted the first of crop. We have had a hard time since you left here, but I am glad to hear that you are doing well. We have been working very hard, and we have had very hard plowing to do this spring and we had to harrow it. So often to get it in good order, we harrowed our ground three times once before we sowed the grain and twice after.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Postscript]

Yours ever, Old Letter 1908.
I received a letter from Levi Hodgey on the eighth of this month which gives us great satisfaction to hear that you are all well. He also writes that your grain market is down and nothing doing of consequence in the grain market. The market has come down since the Southern produce has been shipped up here. Pork is worth from 15 to 17 dollars per barrel, wheat 1.25 per bushel, Corn from 60 to 65 cents per bushel, oats 65 cents per bushel. Sack potatoes 60 cents per bushel. Flour 65 to 67.5 cents per barrel. Corn meal two dollars per 100 pounds. Sack includes butter from 20 to 25 cents per lb. Pork retail at 10 and 12 cents per lb. We shall continue have as good a harvest as ever we can eat every thing before we get in the state of Virgina, we shall have an abundance of wild fruit here this summer such as plum, gravel, berries, strawberries, black berries, raspberries, you know any quantity from barrels to wagon loads. And the game is plenty. Deer come in to the river in sight of the house, the bear is coming in here this spring right plentiful. There has been some six or eight been seen in our neighborhood and they have killed a couple of years ago Phillips killed two fer this morning before they run in the river. Opposite our field elk was plenty last winter we have plenty of fish this spring. I made a little trap in the river opposite the house and caught lots of fish, Trout and suckers, chubs, etc.
I also read a letter from William W. Anderson on the 13th of May stating that his mother was quite uneasy about me. Tell her she need not be alarmed about me if anything happens. Should anything happen, she would hire it immediately every month. I stay here the better I like the country and if I can work through and get my land paid for money would hardly tempt me to sell it. There is a great many emigrants coming here this spring and a general rush for land. The land office is shut at this time on account of the railroad and will continue so till the railroad lands is settled. Land is raising in value very fast and all near to the settlements is taken. I forgot to mention any thing about cattle and horses. The prices I am about as they were when you was here. The health is good we don't hear of any. Fred. scarcely being sick there has been but one death that we have heard of in the neighborhood since we come here and that case was said to be tolerabiy. I want you to write to me as soon as you get this and give me a full detail of every thing from a need to an anchor. The price of things generally and who got the place & left the tents and so on deaths and marriages & tell all the rest I will write by turns if it is slow you all live close together and when one hears from me you all can hear, it is the way I have wrote of this.
I must confess that I am too negligent about writing. But that is no reason why you should be so. I want you all to write every opportunity. When you write direct to River Falls, Pierce County, Wisconsin, as we haven't got any Post office on Rush River yet. When you write I want to hear how many is coming to our country next fall. If none of you moves here I want a lot of you to come and take a hunt. There will be plenty of deer and bear and bring a good gun, a horse. Don't bring pigeons or you will be no game. We have only seen one party of Indians since we came here and that was a war party of the Shaws. They had run out on a scout after the Chippewas. The two parties met near Holmans Station about 5 miles north of us, and there took a battle. Several on both sides we saw then returning home to Minnesota after the Battle, 50 or 60 in number. I am getting near the bottom of my paper and will have to come to a close by. Requesting you to write to me soon. We send our best respects all.

Still remain yours with Respect.

To
James & Angenora Comer

William & Rachit Hodges