

## Letter from Giles S. Thomas to his Family, July 23, 1876

Turkey Creek Fillmore Co. Neb.

July 23 1876

Dear and affectionate friends

After so long awhile I avail my self the present opportunity to pen you a few lines to let you know something about times in Nebraska. Times--(Finantially) are very close infact it seems there is no money in Neb. and I may say how we "apparently" get along with out or at best but very little is more than I can solve. Crops--Wheat dont look very promising at present infact it is to far gone for redemption although the rain we had the last week has helped the looks of it 50 per cent it is thin, short, and weedy. Barley--most of it looks splendid. Oats generally looks well but thin on the ground. Flax looks splendid where the weeds did not get the Start of it. Corn--looks promising for a good crop--has a splndndid color and generally a good stand. Potatoes--good, where the bugs did not hurt them. Garden truck of all kinds good--especially vines. Prarie grass very good for Grazeing. Timber is making a *{Begin deleted text}* fine *{End deleted text}* *{Begin inserted text}* good *{End inserted text}* growth--concequently looks fine.

Horses--have never seen look better since I have been in Neb. -- Cattle--in the herds are fat. Work cattle -- where they have not been worked to hard look well. Hogs -- (what few there is) is good. The crops on my place look very well except the wheat of which I only have out 21 As. and that rented I have 5 1/2 As. barley very good. Oats 4 1/2 As -- is good. Flax -- 17 As of which two thirds is nice. corn 11 As *{Begin deleted text}* of *{End deleted text}* is very good -- and very clean. Potatoes good plenty to use if we would dig them -- but as we have plenty of old ones -- we will *{Begin inserted text}* make *{End inserted text}* use of them and let the new ones grow larger. Have earley corn in tassel and in silk so we think will soon have roasting ears. Plenty of Peas (aint I glad) and other garden truck. I have, also 19 As of corn rented which looks very nice. I put out a large amt. of timber this Spring which looks real nice -- I put out 5 rows 8 ft. apart 30 rds long which will average 6 in apart west of the House. 4 rows *{Begin deleted text}* wes *{End deleted text}* *{Begin inserted text}* Sout *{End inserted text}* of the house 20 rds long--will average 2 ft. East of the house--6 rows *{Begin deleted text}* 30rds *{End deleted text}* 30 rds long 8 ft wide -- average 20 in. of which I have all in fine growing condition. I intend puting *{Begin inserted text}* out *{End inserted text}* in the Spring 6 As *{Begin deleted text}* on *{End deleted text}* of timber and all the way around the place on fire braks which will make one *{Begin inserted text}* row *{End inserted text}* 2 miles long besids the 6 As. Farmers are turning their attention to the putting *{Begin inserted text}* out *{End inserted text}* of timber and by the way I think it the best direction we can take to improve *{Begin deleted text}* the *{End deleted text}* and increase the value of our Farms and by the way -- for *{Begin deleted text}* ery *{End deleted text}* every Acre of *{Begin inserted text}* growing *{End inserted text}* timber we are allowed two dollars on each Acre, for paying taxes which I think is quite an item in that direction.

I have had about all I could mange this spring in the way of work I had all of my ground to plow and the amt. of timber I put out kept me very busy. I believe the most I done at one time I sowed 10 A. of flax in 1/2 day and by 5 Clock I dragged 17 As. my horses got prety tired but as they are of the best material they got over it prety well and then Will McClain and I put 4 horses to the corn planter and put in 19 A. in one day I was out by sun up or a little after. Has not been as much Breaking done this Season as usual agood many think they have about all they can handle. I did not get much broke as I would liketo have done but I done all I could and will stop for this season as it is to late to breake.

Sam the quarter of R.R. land *{Begin deleted text}* laying *{End deleted text}* Joining me on the Southe is being Broke out -- The man who bought it is living Elliotts house they will build on it this *{Begin deleted text}* Spring *{End deleted text}* *{Begin inserted text}* Fall *{End inserted text}* Elliotts will be back in Sept. David Robinson and Newton Combs was maried last Sabath to the Brown girles. We expect to go to Fairmont to See the Fourth of July. Military--will be in full Bloom contested games of Base ball Clubs will play--the Fairmont, Geneva, and ours -- (the Momece) will play contestent games, Sack running, and five Dollars will be offered to any one who can catch the Greased pig, with good speaking and music of all kinds is about the programe.

I dont know yet for certain whether I will go with a thrashing machene. I have been troubled with a pain in my side *{Begin deleted text}* with the *{End deleted text}* in connection with the pain in my hip so that I have some delicay in trying it. I dont know but what I could Stand it about as well as any thing else as the dust dont hurt me and as I would feed 1/2 half the time I would have but littl walking to do The man I was with last Fall wants me bad.

I immagin our cousins had a nice time visiting how I would with Sadie been among you but as our posessions are in Neb. we are or make our selves content where we are. Sadies Father left for his home in Iowa last monday He paid us a viset of three weeks he is well pleased with the looks of our country. Sadie has been laying on the loung while I have been writing trying to sleep a little and says I would not let her Says she would write some to but as she has not seen any of you she has a delicacy in writing. I tell her that would not make any diference to any at home, but as she is prety particular how she writes I guess she will not under take it this time Says if you will come and see her she will then write you long letters. Mother Sadie Says for you not to be in any hury about my bed. Sam, Matt handed me your letter at chuch to day. We have 45 little chickens 4 old hens and one Rooster we are some on the Raising of chickings if nothing else.

I see I must close. hoping to hear from *{Begin deleted text}* you *{End deleted text}* some of you soon

To all as ever yours

G. S. S. W. Thomas

Wheat cutting will be very late

Uriahs were at church to day they are well