Franklin Johnson co. Ind. Jan. 11.
1862

Dear Friend,

it is with the greatest of pleasure that I now take my pen in hand to answer your kind letter which I recieved in due time; and my dear Friend you cant Imagine how glad I was to hear from you and so we all was; although I have a great mind to give you a good scolding for not writing sooner. What in this world got into you, to go off without bidding us good bye we looked and looked all the morning for you to come around and lo and behold you had to play that judgement on us and not come at all. Now was'nt you smart? Well I suppose I will have to forgive you for it but I dont like to much.

it up Home with him thinking it was for his wife I ~~too~~ suffose and they broke it open and read it. Now wasnt that too bad. and after awhile here he come toteing the letter along looking as if he was half ashamed of himself. he knocked at the door and on handed the letter to Ma saying. here's a letter for your darter from Mrs Lee. I took it out of the office and my wife thought it was for her ~~cant~~ untill she had read it. Now wasn't that ~~absolute~~ a likely story as if his wifes name was Davis now. Grandma sends her best respects to you all, and says she would like to see you all especially the boys but I would rather see Jimmie. I do want him so bad. bless his black eyes

We have had a greatdeal of sickness in our family. this fall William has been sick all fall, and he is not well yet, and Ma has had another spell of Erysipelas this fall like she had last ~~winter~~ summer We have had a beautiful fall and winter hardly any cold weather as yet, though it has rained for the last nights, which

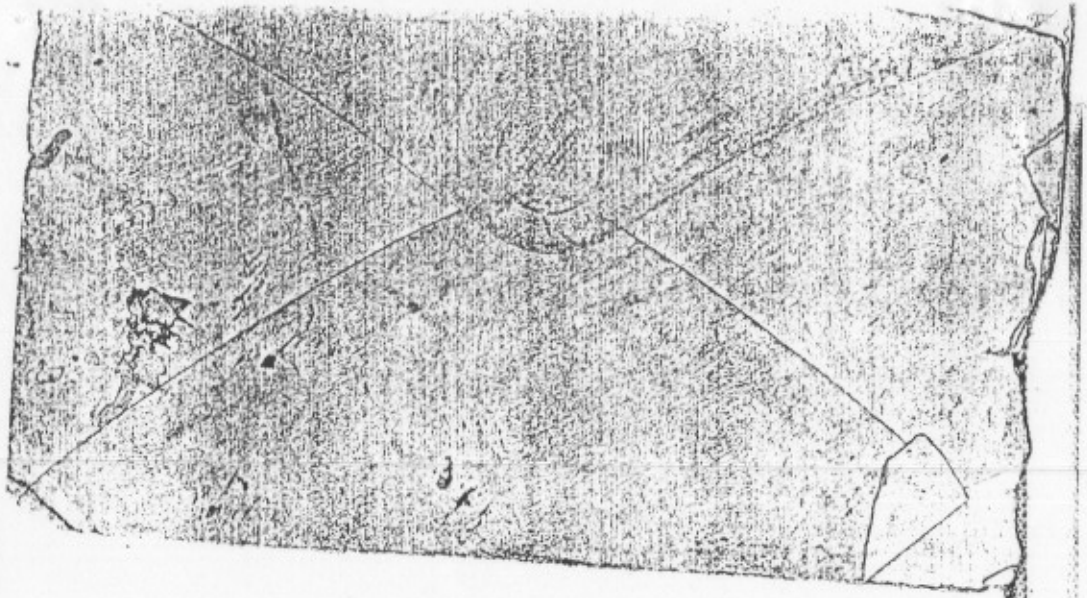
but you know Folks have to do a great many things in this world that they dont like to do.
We are all in reasonable health at this with the eception of colds. I believe the whole family has got a cold and cough excep my self. but you know I am all ways well I you could hear them all begin cough at once you would think they all had the whooping cough for certain
Well you wanted to know how that flower was getting that I swalloed last spring well dont I haint heard a single thing from it since I swallowed it I guess it didnt do any good. I expect I will have to have to swallow another one before it ~~does~~ takes any effect.
I guess the one you swallowed done some good didnt it? Ma sends her kindest regards to you and says she would like to see you and the boy very much. she wants you to come up and see us as soon you can. Aunt Cynthia says she the boys name is very pretty but says she thinks it would sound a great deal prettier if you would call it Cyntha Philander
By the way you say you wonder whether Thomas Hagermin is going to College here this winter or not I am very sorry that I can not inform you on that very Important subject but I expect the brave fellow has gone to war. or if he haint he ought to go) Now I am going to tell you something real funny so you must prepare to laugh; you Jo Bennet that lives here, well dont you think ~~that~~ that he got my letter out of the office) that you sent me) and took

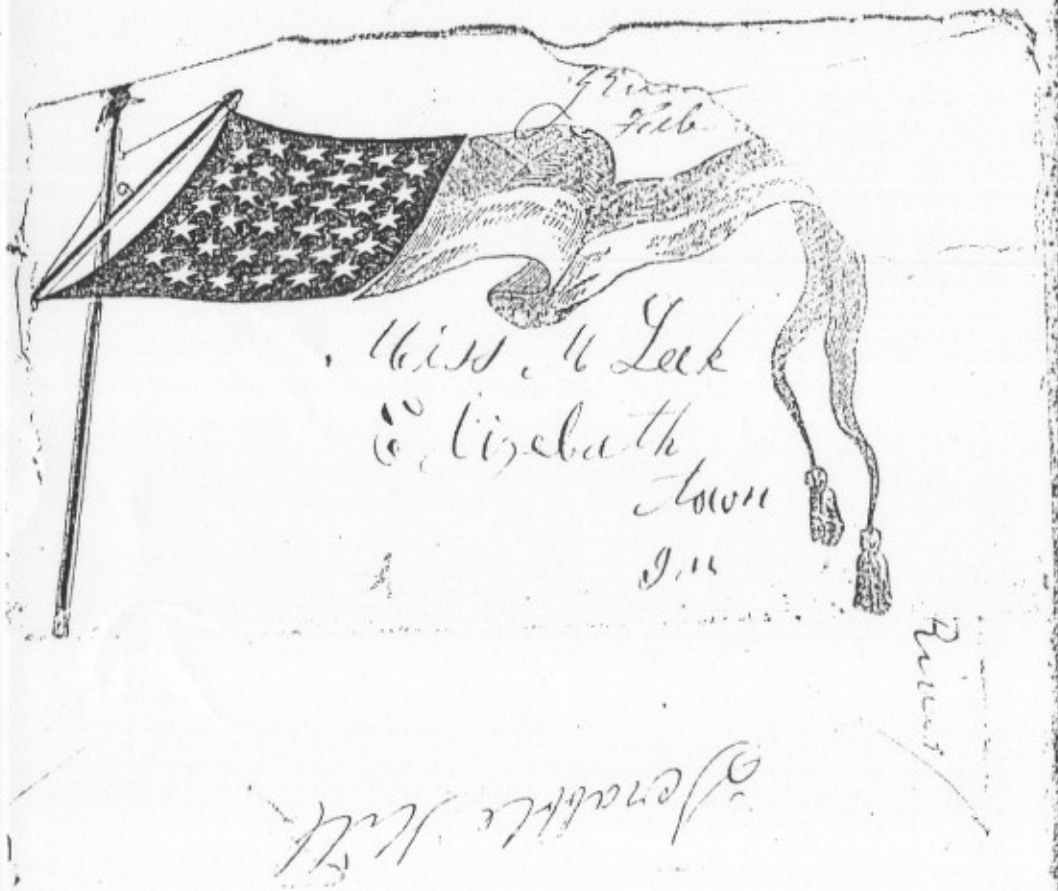
has rendered the streets quite sloppy, well I beleive I nothing of Importance to write you. so I will wind this thing up ~~thing~~ that is if I can think of any thing to wind it up with, it is getting dark so I must get my specks or I will runn ashore,

Franklin is a City, did you know it, ? oh yes I must tell you of a little circumstance which took place last Friday not far from this City; a young Laday shot her self with a rifle. the cause of her so doing. as I understand them was this: She was engaged to be married to her cousin and her parents saw fit to object and the fellow to mend the matter came ~~off~~ off to town and got drunk and she to cap the climax took her own life. was it they, smart, folks?

Mrs Crowel sends her love to

Mr W W Leek
Elizabethtown
Bartholomew C
Ind





you and wants you to come up and show
your fine boy; I tell what Mrs Cowell
is fine woman certain, we could ent
hardly get along up in this end of
town if it wasnt for her and Mrs
West; well this is rather a cold day
some little snow on the ground
and as it is rather slick I will
just slide to a close by asking
you to write soon. yours with much
Respect Mollie F Davis' or as you
say Fannie Tom H. you know the rest
"Now I am going to tell you what Mrs West
says; she ~~says~~ says you her compliments and
tell you she wants to see you and ~~your~~ your
ugly boy. for she says [she knows its
ugly if it looks like its dad. but I
dont believe her do you; well I know
you cant read this scribling so I will
stop it and I expect you are tired trying
to find out what I mean by all this gab
please excuse this badly written letter
and I will try and do better next time.
yours in haste Mollie F Davis