

Muskegon, Oct. 12, 1857
From Charles

My dear Mother,

I received your first letter from New Jersey a week ago last friday (sic) evening. To (sic) late to answer that mail but fully intended to write a week ago tonight, but there are times when I find it imposible (sic) to shake off the cares and perplexities of my daily business sufficiently to get my ideas into a doable shape.

I was glad to hear of your safe arrival for, to tell the truth, I have borrowed some considerable trouble about you although I am not much in the way of indulging in such foolish fancies knowing that troubles come thick and fast enough without anticipating them.

I suppose , at this time, you are in Sharon (sic) although if you carried out your original plan, you are in Bennington but I know that it is imposible (sic) for you to make as short visits as you intend when I saw you last, and I honestly think you should.

To go a thousand miles at a considerable expense and make nothing more than a flying visit seems to me would be very unsatisfactory both to you and them and I should think you had better spend about as much time with them as you have on former visits.

And now, I have t he very great pleasure of informing you that Jenny has a little daughter born last friday (sic) evening about 10 o'clock and is at this time in as comfortable condition as we could reasonably expect and I see nothing in the way of her getting about immediately. She was very sick but rallied in about two hours after the baby was born and allthough (sic) she suffered very severely from after pains, is doing finely,

The baby we call Amy Caroline after her sister that died when about two years old and our Caroline she would like to call her baby Carry, but I told her we would call it Amy but did not tell her the reason. I recalled hearing you say that you did not want any of your Grand children called after Caroline the last time I saw you,

I should prefer Carry to Amy myself, but for the reason above given, shall call her Amy. The baby weighed seven and half pounds dreface (?) just one pound less than Millie weighed and has a fine head of hair precisely the color of mine and eyes of a bluish gray.

We don't hear anything yet from Mr. Ryerson but probably shall in about a week. He was to write immediately on his arrival at Paris, and as he has probably been in that famous city over two weeks, we can reasonably expect to hear from him soon. If he could only have foreseen what an unprecedented panic on the eve of when he left, he would probably postponed his visit until some future time.

Business of all kinds is at almost a standstill and where the bottom is, is more than the wisest can tell. The Mills about this place are shutting down and there is every prospect of our doing almost nothing from this time until spring. Morris looks as if he have had a fit of sickness from nothing but anxiety of mind and blames Ryerson severely for leaving when he did. We have obtained the services of a Mr. W. Cantine from Grand Rapids to file. Wylie place and a tip top man he promises to be. He is now in Chicago after goods and I have faith to believe that his selections will (be) tastefully and judicially made. We are doing but very little in the store and have discharged two of the boys.

Remember me to all my kindred,

Affectionately,

Charles