

that were at work on that piece he spoke
of Lewis they said if he had come out
there they would have given him a
job of splitting and paid him good
wages too they took a number of axmen
to clear off and they could do all the
sawing and underbunking and let him
split the wood I tried to get him to stay
until the next week but he said he could
make better wages down there may be he
would have been more contented if we had
been settled the day he came I had been
tearing down the bedssteads I thought we
would get moved the next day but we did not
get moved until the morn'g after he left -
O I suppose any one from there could be sure sick
here but we have got used to being here and
are contented here I hope it will be so I can
come down for a visit some time I would like
to see you all so well I wish it could be so you
could come and make us a visit I was glad to
see Lewis seems as if he has grown old fast - I
suppose he thought the same of me too
well my paper is full I must close now
until when you can find time
love to all

A L F

P J Johnson

2010.022.597

DONNER LAKE

Colby Dec 9th
1891

Dear sister

you must think me
awful negligent or lazy and to tell the fact -
I guess I am both I have said so many
times I was going to write to you then neg-
lected to do so I had Clay address an envelope
quite a while ago was going to write right away
I am always so glad to receive a letter but
when it comes to writing one it seems like quite
a task am such a slow writer we are all as
well as usual I have a good deal of trouble
with my head and ears since the cold weather
set in I do not go out much yesterday was a nice
day I went to see a neighbor in the afternoon
and this morning I ~~can~~ run in to see one of my
neighbors close by now may be I will stay at-
home for a month the Sunday school are
to have a tree Christmas eve may be I
will go and may be not - it keeps me pretty

do the work Hattie does most of the washing
on Saturday but she goes to school and has
so many lessons that she has to study
most every evening she is trying to make
some lace for a lady so I let her work
on that mornings until school time I
kept taking in knitting to do for other
folk, until about two weeks ago I told
Hattie we must quit and knit for our-
selves Hattie's birthday was the 14th of
last month she was 15- Clay gave her
a nice ring ring and Jamie gave her
a wool cap to wear to school

Clay has been working in the lumber
all the fall and winter so far but he
says the job is most finished Jamie
is in the printing office thinks he will
work there all winter the wages are small
but as soon as he can set all the type
his wages will be raised he said he
set all but one column last week

you were wishing you had a house of your own
I wish you had too my little house is not
pretty but it serves paying rent-I did not
have a great deal to do with but I was

determined to try for some sort of a home
my house is 1 1/2 by 2 1/4 one story ship lap
in ~~front~~ inside and out with building
paper between then we papered with
a thick gray express paper we are comfort-
able so far we have two bed rooms 8 by 10
the rest is all one room my lot and house
has cost me 1 1/4 so far I hope we can
clap board and build a chimney and a
double floor some time the carpenter
told me I could finish it all good for
about \$50 if I could I will try to have it ^{ready} finished
in a year or two if not we will live in
it just as we are now I am getting old
and my health is poor a good share of the
time I hope to have a home so as not to
be moving around you spoke of Lewis
not staying here awhile I think he was so
home sick he could not stay he did not
look at only one piece of chopping he said
he did not like so much underbrush out-
to save the morning he left Clay tried
to get him to look at another piece but
he would not-a few days after that-
Jamie was talking with the men

From Jane Dec 8 - 1891
telling of her house

Mrs Agnes L. Fowler
Brookstown
Calumet Co, Wis

