

We have heard of you some times in roundabout ways through the Gilman and Morris' but not one line from yourself to tell us of your welfare and now it is so long since you must have arrived at Belvidere that I fear we will have to have to wait for the Spring sun to melt the snow on the prairie before we have letters from you. As to I think very ill for three weeks past he has had what has seemed to be a very bad cold which did not yield until this last week when he gave up all stimulants, the consequence of that has been a complete prostration of strength which I believe is not unusual in such cases the doctor is afraid to use stimulants again to raise him for he thinks the coats of his stomach are in such a state of irritation that he fears bringing on inflammation.

Wednesday Jan 28 1837
I began this dearest Sister yesterday week and now it is my painful task to tell you of our father's death, which took place yesterday morning at ten o'clock he had been better since I began this until Saturday he seemed stronger and took more nourishment and I hoped would recover entirely, but on Saturday about twelve o'clock a dreadful weakness came on and increased so that by the afternoon he could scarcely speak intelligibly, he evidently was alarmed himself and murmured "I am a very sick man write to Anne, where will George come, where's Will?" in the evening the doctor came and he ^{had} ~~was~~ revived by that time so much that he spoke clearly and much stronger and the doctor did not think there was

any cause for immediate alarm though he seemed to fear it
was the wearing out of the constitution and not any disease that
could be contended with, on Sunday morning he was much
the same but by the afternoon he appeared better and in the
evening still better his voice clear and strong and I felt quite
encouraged at half past ten he sent me out of his room
and wanted Spencer & Elizabeth for he was under the influence
of medicine just before I left him he said "have you written
to Anne". About twelve a violent spell of coughing came
on with a great raising of phlegm and extreme coldness
and weakness, we put hot water to his water to his feet and
warm flannels about him and he seemed to get warm and
we hoped better, but the dreadful cough continued and the
weakness increased so that the phlegm would rise in his throat
and settle there, but he had not strength to raise it, this
was awful he had violent spells of coughing and made ineffectual
efforts to speak but could not so that we could understand
him all we could distinguish was "Anne, Lydia, George, and
Miss Emma, at about 1 o'clock on Monday ^{afternoon} nature seemed
to make no more effort the coughing ceased and all conscious-
ness left him, and he lay breathing easily the rest of the
day and all night until ten o'clock yesterday when he expired
with just one gasp without any struggle or suffering. Charles and
I the only of his children with him, Anne had gone up to
Yorkshire a few days before not dreaming of any danger, and
George to whom I had written to come home last week, because
he wished it not that I was myself alarmed, did not reach
here till several hours after his death. He had spoken of you
often during his sickness and said he missed you very much
and the names of his absent children were the last words we
heard, there seemed to be an intense anxiety to send messages
to you and his brow would work as if with great mental

effort. On Sunday I read the bible to him all day I proposed
it and he seemed to enjoy it much and early Monday morning
too he continued to say with difficulty "Julia read" and whilst
he lost consciousness I read to him and it seemed to soothe him
and calm him. Elizabeth has been a treasure to me in this
trying time Pa was very fond of her and I don't know what
we would have done without her she and Spencer desire to
be kindly remembered to all of you. Give my love to the dear
girls I cannot write any more now but will as soon as I feel
better able and tell you what arrangements we will make
as yet of course nothing has been done

Ever your attached sister
Julia Hoffman

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*be used
only*

MS. A. 9. 2. 34. I