

my uncle, and took a chair
and set down. my Aunt
came in also and took a seat
near by me. I spoke of the
weather being very nice, and
asked them if the weather was
always like this my aunt
said I cant tell for I was
not raised in this city and
we have not lived here
very long. well I said I dont
suppose you was born here
then. Oh yes I was born
in Kentucky, indeed, I said
my mother was also born in
Kentucky. she said my husband
was raised in Ohio, indeed,
my father also was from
Ohio. I said perhaps you
knew my mother's father's
name was Bybee. I said
my grandfathers name was
Byham Bybee, of course she

was so surprised she could
neither raise up or speak
but just sat looking at me
but my uncle arose and
came off over and said my
god Rhoda this man is your
nephew. he is your sisters
son. then he said what was
your fathers name, I told
him Levi Harmon & dear
he said I know who you
are now well I think they
were the most of surprising
people that I ever saw.
they asked me questions from
then untill night. After dinner
I went down and got my grips
and brought them up abed.
we talked and talked untill
we were all give out out out.
There is no doubt but they as well
as me are just as glad as can be
and I can say the pleasure of

meeting with Relatives is a
great Pleasure, indeed

Jan 13. 1899
To day is bright and clear
after Breakfast my cousin
came over to his mothers
and I was introduced to
him and had a good talk
about noon I went down
to the depot to get my big
Telescope but I found it had
not come, so I had them
Telegraph for it. The last
I knew of it was at Iowa
City I went to the P.O. and
got some mail. Spent the
rest of the day talking with
my uncle and Aunt

Jan 14. 1899.

To day I spent in talking
with my uncle and I found
out he knew my father before

either of them was married
and I gleaned considerable
information about my fathers
people and I found out lots
of things that no one else could
tell me I went again to the
depot and still they have not
found my Telescope. I had the
Baggage man to telegraph
again and I told him my name
was on my telescope so now
I believe they will find it

Jan 15 1898

To day I was spent almost
talking and asking questions
and my Aunt has not
quit asking me about my
mother and her family
the weather is still lovely
and fine I like this part of
the country much better
than I did the northern

part - my uncle has a nice little house, and my cousin has a fine home and a very large Orchard just joining the City limits

Jan 16. 1899.

To day I went and visited my Cousin and in the evening we went to meeting and heard a Methodist - Evangelist - speaker but I did not think he said any thing, but it suited the people no matter how thin and flimsy the Doctrine it is good Enough, after coming back from meeting I went and staid all night at my Cousins he treated me very nice we talked some on Religion, one and he is not agreeing in our Ideas

Jan 17 1899.

After Breakfast I went down to my Aunt again and spent the day. had a good long talk with my uncle and Aunt on the gospel in the afternoon I prepared to leave but not finding my Telescope, I remained all night with my Aunt again and got the address of some of my Cousins that live in Wapello Co. Iowa so in the morning I am going to start out again to see some more of my Relatives

Jan. 18. 1899.

This morning I bid my uncle and Aunt good bye and started out again, when I arrived at the Depot I found they had got back of my Telescope and I

ordered it shipped to Eldon Iowa where I was going to see my cousins. Purchasing a ticket for Eldon I boarded the train at 11 o'clock, and rolled away. After a pleasant ride we arrived at Des Moines City where we laid over waiting for the train on the Branch of the Rock Island to take me to Eldon about 7 o'clock P.M. I took the train again and after a ride of $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours we arrived at Eldon again at 11 o'clock. I went to the Hotel Eldon and took a room for the night - being tired I at once went to bed, to sleep and dream of my relatives whom I had never saw, and to think how they would receive me. On going to bed the Porter told me he knew my Cousins so I went to sleep.

Jan 19, 1899.

I arose early and had Breakfast and made the toilet and then I started out after being directed where to find Mrs J. R. Goder after going as directed I went to the house and rapped at the door, and was answered by a lady with gray hair but with all very young looking and not over 40 years of age. I asked if that was where Mr John Goder lived. yes sir said the lady I asked permission to come in and have a talk with them which was granted. I went in and was seated in an easy chair in the Parlor. I told her I was looking for some relatives who lived in Eldon by the name of Goder. she said that was her husbands name but he was not at home. I then

Told her the People I was looking for was named Hoffstatter. She said that her name was that before she was married she asked who I was and I told her in few words who my mother was and that our mothers were sisters. She said then we are cousins I said yes. we are own cousins she took me around the neck and kissed me and cried and seemed to be very much affected and pleased also to see me she told me at once to take of my overcoat and to just make my self to home. She said her husband was an Engineer and he was out on the sand just now but he would be back. well I think she was just as pleased to see me as a person could be to see a relative of whom

they had never heard. well I do not do nothing but ask each other questions about our folks. After dinner I went up to the Hotel Eldon and got my two small grips and brought them down. and in the evening we sat and done nothing but talk of our folks. also she introduced me to two of her oldest-sons the oldest is named Edger E. Goddard the next Augustus Goddard which is the second. also she has two girls married as well as the oldest-son. she also has 2 small children one girl and one little boy named Freddie and the little girls name is Selah. also the oldest-married daughter is named Mary Francis, and the other Vera Stella. in all my cousin has six children living and two dead. Making in all Eight children.

Jan 20 1899.

To day I sit in the house all day Mr Yoder came home in the after noon also he was very glad to see me and he is a nice old man. The weather is still very nice. Eldon is a rail Road Town of about 2,000 Population located on the Des Moines River about 100 miles from De Moines City - where two Rail Roads cross. also there are coal mines 8 1/2 miles from here. I have not had very much time as we have kept each other busy answering questions

Jan. 21. 1899.

To day is fine and clear and we have spent the time about as we did yesterday all of the folks

seems very much pleased to see me, and they have all ready been asking me about our gospel. but before I came here, I made up my mind not to mention anything about it - unless they asked me about it as I came here to visit them as a relative and not to find any fault - with what they believed for they can be honest and sincere. also I believe they are mostly members of the Baptist church, but if they are I believe my folks are honest and good people and I like them very much

Jan 22. 1899.

To day Mr Yoder and my self took the Buggie and drove to Ottumwa a distance of about 12 miles and Mrs Yoder

went on the train we all went to see one of my cousins who lives in Ottumwa her name is Mrs Jones. We had a nice ride through the country from Eldon to Ottumwa my cousin getting there ahead of us. so when we came Mr Guder introduced me to the folks as one of their Cousins they said how could he be one of our cousins and of course then followed an explanation and all was surprised and all seemed glad to see me so here I am having a good time with my folks and enjoying myself splendid my cousin has a fine family three oldest are girls and the two youngest are boys. the eldest daughter is named Edna and the second

one Claude and the 3rd one Laura. the next aboy named Erwin and the last a boy also named Harold this is all to day.

Jan 23, 1899.

To day is Sunday and I went to church with cousin Edna. (to the Baptist church of course) the minister seemed a very nice little man but of course he teaches according to the best light that he has. after meeting we returned home and had dinner and spent the after noon in talking about every thing so thus passed another with my folks. Edna teaches school and of course that takes all of her time Claude works in the Central Telephone Office

and they are both very bright young ladies.

Jan 24. 1899.

It is storming to day very hard and aft about 10 clock we started for Eldon in the Buggie and we had a cold ruff ride after bidding the folks good Bye with the promise I would return and have an other visit with them. when we reached home we were both very cold and it kept on storming all day when we got to Mr Godefs we found his oldest daughter Fannie had come to visit so it seems like I will get to see all of my folks that lives around here very closed at least - but that is what I came for.

Jan 25 1899.

To day I went to the depot to meet cousin Sady Jones as we are going to visit their father and also another brother who lives at Floris. I went to Mrs P. C. and got 3 or 4 letters from home. this afternoon we have had a nice time talking about all of our people. and also we made preparations for going away to morrow to visit some of the folks.

Jan 26. 1899.

This morning at 5 o'clock we arose and had Breok fast and got ready to go to the train. after Boarding the train we rode away in a freight train there was a cold wind blowing from the north west after we had rode about 7 miles on