

4. Charles and May to “all the folks at home”, May 4, 1883

Dear all the folks at home  
we arived up here all safe  
and sound it took us three  
days to come up here  
5 we had a break down on the  
way. ~~we lade~~ the wheels got  
on fire and birnt the wheel  
of. and then we had to stop  
a half a day on the road.  
10 and when we got there our  
horses was glad to git out of  
the car. you was telling that  
you was driving tom three  
days. ~~that~~ and wasent broke  
15 I drove my colts a week  
on the drag and drove them  
to the city one day and that  
is ten miles and thay have both

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got sore sholders  
20 and thay hant broke.  
we put in ten acers  
of oats. and I am going  
to poot in ten acers of corn  
yet. if I can we are all  
25 done sowing small grain here  
and good many is planting  
corn already, the wheat is  
from three to four inches high  
here and looks well.  
30 I was going too buy me some  
stock here as I told you  
but I don't think that  
I will buy anny atall for  
they are to high here. in  
35 the spring. thay pay from  
15 to 18 dollars for yearlings  
here you was telling of  
Sophes pigs in the letter  
I wished you woud save me  
40 two of them and send

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them out here when  
they are two months old.  
save me a bore and a sow  
and pick me nice ones  
45 and send them by express  
and I will pay for them  
when they come here.  
and pay you when I come  
out there they got nothing  
50 but fullbloted ~~roekers~~-rookers  
here.

(different handwriting – May continues letter, SML)

When you go down depot you  
go down where the car stood and  
see if Charleye side boarde is there yet  
55 and take them home.  
Charley is most through with  
his letter so I will fill out the  
rest and tell you about our  
shanty we have got it perticie-  
60 tioned of with cotton cloth for  
bedrooms and the other part  
goes for parlor sitting room and

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kitchen and buttery all together.  
but still after all we are quite comfortable.  
65 Sunday afternoon we went down  
to the creek and picked out a  
building spot and picked out  
some clams and brought them  
home and fried them just for a  
70 taste.  
But I think it is real nice  
here it is more settled than I  
thought it was close neighbors  
and real nice buildings all  
75 around as far as you can see  
and a nice quiet little town  
our folks can go down town and back  
in a half an hour and we live a half

80 a mile from town the other day they  
went down to Blue Earth that is

(along the top of pages 4 and 1, SML)

ten miles from  
here and got  
back so earley  
with all there  
85 money still in  
the pocket book  
and not all  
pooled out on a  
pool table there  
90 isent a slook  
for twenty miles  
around.  
We got Georgia's  
letter last night  
95 I thought you  
was not a going  
to night a tall  
but we are real  
glad to hear  
100 that William  
is getting such  
good wages if  
he will only make  
good use of it.  
105 We have got a  
nice big garden  
made have you  
got yours all  
done. but I  
110 have'ent any  
chickens setting  
yet I suppose  
mother has little  
goslings turkeys  
115 and chickens  
by this time  
and a nice  
flower bed for  
them to play in  
120 I guess I must close  
for my space is getting

small now write soon  
from  
Charles & May.

(vertically, along side of page 1, SML)

125 Tell Fritz to come quick with his gun  
they is five cranes going over the house  
there is such a lot of ducks and prarie chickens here.