

1857, Mar 22

Eau Claire March 22nd/57.

Dear Brother & Sister.

We arrived at this place about two weeks since, but have been so busy have not found time to write until now, Mr Hastings land is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from here, he intends to work at Carpentery this summer wages are good, can get from two & $\frac{1}{2}$ to 300 dollars a day, our prospects were never so good as at the present time,

This village is new, nearly all the houses that are here were built last year, it is expected there will be 200 ~~houses~~ houses built this year, it is situated on the Chippewa river about 50 miles from its mouth, & at the mouth of the Eau Claire, it is the head of Steamboat navigation except in high water, then they go 12 miles farther at the Chippewa falls, there is every prospect of a large place, the land here is excellent, & farming is the best

business one can have, & will be good a
man's life, ^{time} or more, on account of the extensive
Finneries on the Chippewa & its tributaries, Wheat
is 200 dollars a bushel, Corn 125, Oats 100,
Potatoes 125, butter 30cts a lb, Pork 16, Cheese 20,
thus you see it costs something to live.

We are enjoying good health, I have one
boarder, board & tenements are scarce, board
is 4½ dollars a week, there is plenty of wild
game here such as Deer Elk; Prairie hen &c
now & then a bear or wolf is found, fish in
the rivers in great abundance, I am in hopes
that we shall not have the ague this summer
it is considered very healthy, we are about
160 miles from Oxford, had a hard time in
getting here, the roads were bad, & it was
very cold weather, but have bettered ourselves
at least ~~two~~ hundred dollars by coming,
we like beyond our expectations, it seems
more like Mass. than it did at Oxford,
here we see pine Elm Tamarack & other
trees there it was nothing but Oak, Spruce

is writing to his brother, says he will try
to write next time, we have written some
five or six letters & have a number of others
to write to, but must write short, just let
them know where we are, Let us hear from
you soon, direct to Eau Claire, Eau Claire Co,
Wisconsin. Our love to you all.

May the blessing of God ever rest on you
L A Hastings