

Letter from Uncle Billy dated Nov. 14, 1898 from Des Moines, Iowa.  
He was living at 1154 27th St near Drake University.

Dear Bro. Sister and Nephews.

I rec'd a letter from Henry today. He was telling me about being back to Mt. Ayr. He said none of the girls ever wrote to him, and he did not go down to Redding as he did not suppose they could see him. He said he felt so lonesome without any brothers there. I suppose you know John has sailed and he is to be pitied, but I would ten times rather be in his place, on the other side of the globe, than Henry's. I don't suppose Henry takes any paper and we cannot tell what good a letter would do him once in a while. It always seems like that pap did not care enough for his brothers.

But I do hope that I will die before I get so old as to think less of my brothers and sisters. I was telling Henry what a nice time I had last Xmas visiting him and Charley's school but now we are not only in different states, but there is one who walks upon foreign soil. Jon wrote to me and sent me his picture just before he went on the ship. He said he could not write to me again for 3 months and that will be in Feb. There is no telling where he will be by that time. And could there be such a thing as to have a brother buried on an enemy's land? I like everything here and I am not lonesome, but I cannot express how sad I am when I write to Jon.

I will come home a month from Thursday, Dec 17. It has snowed here several times, but the weather is very pleasant just now. Drake's football team is champion of Ia, Nebr, Mo, Kan, and Minn.

Have you named your boys yet? How are they getting along? It is late and I will have to get my lessons. Write to me when you get time, but above all write to Henry once in a while and John too. I would rather have you write to them than to me, for I will get to see you Xmas. I weigh 177.

I remain your brother and uncle.

Will.