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Letter from W. Howard Baker to Mary M. Stephens, Orange City, Iowa, September 27, 1876

William Howard Baker

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ROBERT SCHELL, Esq.,
Pres. of Bank of the Metropolis, N. Y.
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PEIRCE & LEWIS,

ORANGE CITY, SIOUX CO., IOWA.

Sept 27 1876

My own little wife darling

We reached Orange City this morning about 10. We got into East Orange last night about 12, 20 and had to remain in a hotel until this morning when we came over to Orange City $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in a stage. Darling never saw such a country as this we are really, wife, out on the plains in a little town of 20 or more houses a town but 5 years of age, but a very nice town for a western town of its age. The settlers are Hollanders who have named their town after the Prince of Orange. There is a large Dutch windmill about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in front of Man's home. He has a very nice little house of — rooms, enough for them and four friends. He and his partner built it in great part themselves. ~~but~~ They are doing a good

business having cleared about \$3000. last
year. We want to try our hand at
chickens tomorrow. It is a splendid
season for summing but is now late
for chickens. There is not a tree,
excepted a planted one within
20 miles of here. and a fence is as
novel here as in the Rhine Valley,
we can see for many many miles
but upon the unsettled prairie. How
I wish my darling could see it. It
would be new to her and I know
she would enjoy it. The air is so good
and we all feel so well now, my
darling wife. Wife must not feel
at all anxious about me. I never
was better in my life than I am now
I think. Oh! how I should love to take
her on my knee now and kiss
and love her! Wouldn't wife give
me lots of kisses. Dear darling, I
do love you so so dearly. And wife
loves me just as much doesn't she?

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ORANGE CITY, SIOUX CO., IOWA.

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I would so like to stay here longer, if I did not feel that I must be at home. Just as soon as I can get my business done I shall start for home. How soon that will be I cannot tell, but as fast as I can do it. I wish she could see the plains here covered with a pretty purple astor and other plants of various kinds. It is very wild in one way. Dear little wife how I wish we could always travel together. It would be so very very sweet to me always to have her with me. Doesn't she know how dear and sweet wife is to me. Darling you are dearer to me than ever woman was before to man. I shall always suddenly love and prize you, and you will the same with me won't you, darling one. Oh I want to be every-thing to you and I must be. I will be

won't I, darling. I must go now wife
dear I expect this will be almost
a week on its road to darling.

Be very very happy wife. Always remember
how I love her and take the very best
care of her dear sweet self for my
sake. I send those sweet lips full of
my kisses. Go over and see mother
whenever she can, with the wife.

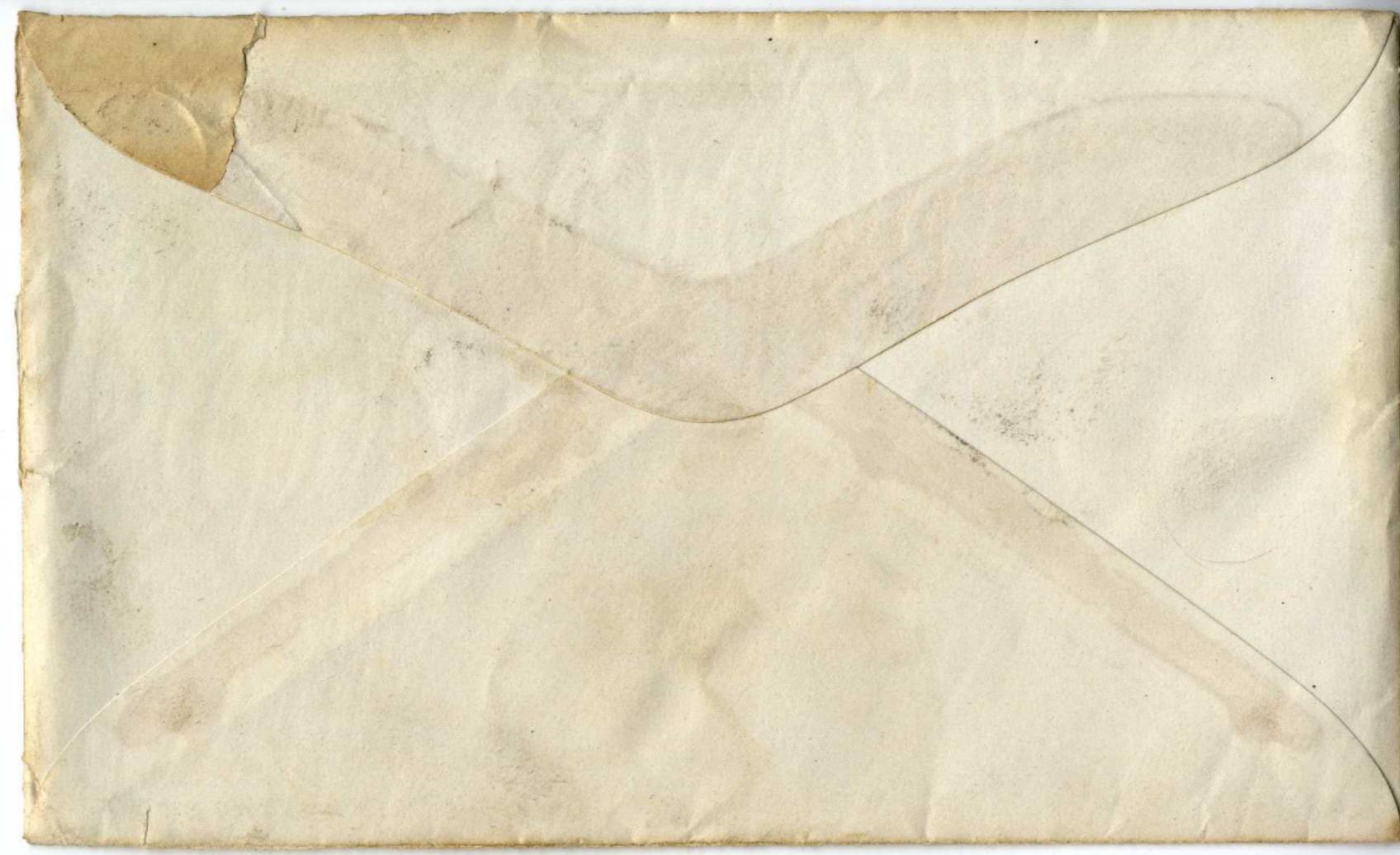
Love to all the folks.

Darling's one loving
Howard.

20
P.M. in case for
darling



Miss Mary M. Stephens
2320 Green St
Philadelphia
Penn.





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[Dried Wild flowers enclosed]

Miss Mary M. Stephens
2320 Green St
Philadelphia, Penn

Office of Peirce & Lewis,
Orange City, Sioux Co., Iowa

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whenever she can, won't she wifie.

Love to all her folks.

Darling's own loving

Howard