

Dear Brother, & Sister!
Cullen, and Semira!

----I am sorry, & ashamed that it should seem almost like writing to strangers, now, where I am getting so near the end of my journey, that my writing must soon cease forever.--I do hope you will believe me, when I say that it has not been from lack of brotherly feeling, that I have been so remiss in writing to you, but from what has been the Bane of all my past life, a habit of procrastination, putting off until tomorrow, the duty of today. It has been 21 years since we met. The thought uppermost in my mind then was, that we would correspond regularly, & that would make some amends for absence. I did not forget you, often thought of you, fully intended to write soon, but shame to say needed some such shock as hearing of the death of Dear Bro. Rush, to spear me into action----Brothers Hugh and Elias, both informed me of Rush's Death. It shocked me greatly. He was so much-- younger than I. It seemed as if it should have been me to go. And as if I could have been much better spared, but so it is, "The Lord seeth not as man seeth". "What He doeth we know not now, but we shall know hereafter." There are only ^{eight} four of us now, I am the eldest lacking only a few days of being 79 years old--(24th June next) Naturally a very short time will reduce the number to ^{four} two,--Won't it be a good plan dear Brother, & Sister to keep each other posted in regard to probabilities. Elias made the proposition that we write to each other as often (at least) as once in three months, I answered that I would try, and do so, and oftener if circumstances seemed to require it, so you may expect to hear from me as long as my life lasts, once in 3 months at least, unless utterly unable to do so,-----There are some things may conspire to hinder my writing as promptly as I could wish. Your poor old Sister-in-law, Abby is, in some respects as helpless as a child, & (though innocently) causes more trouble. It would be a long story to tell how it all came about, But the short of it is, that what little property I had has taken to itself wings, and so far as earthly possessions are concerned, I have nothing, but am wholly dependent upon my Children, This would be a very sufficient dependence and is, so far as their ability extends. They are all married, & have families of their own. We are living with Fanny, & her husband near Medicine Lodge Kansas, at present & where they can the rest of the children send us things we need,-----

Charles, you remember, our oldest Boy, & Henry next, both live in Missouri--Lucy and Easton both in Ills, William, & Sarah both in the Indian Territory--I hope, & trust, dear Brother, &--Sister, that you are wisely preparing for the "Better life Beyond". This world would indeed be a dark one for poor me, were it not for the glad bright "Hope" that is better than anything this world can give.--please write soon.

Your affectionate Bro. & Sister
E. D. & A. Skinner

Across top of last page was written:

Our Address is "Medicine Lodge"
Barber Co Kansas.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the letter written by E.D. and A. Skinner to Will Skinner in 1893.

Patricia M. Bauer 2/19/47
May B. Stuber 3/19/47