Dear Father and Mother: Johnstown March 18th

Your letter of the 8th inst. came in last night and cheered me on my way. I am glad that you thought my letter interesting. And I will try to make them all as readable as possible though I have a very poor chance to do so. Part of the little we are now at a little place called Johnstown in Bates county. It was once quite a flourishing little place of about 200 houses, inhabitable but present by deserted. Before we came here some few families have now moving back again. The country about here is much like Kansas as in 1855 and Johnson. I think there is no doubt but that you will find plenty of land that will suit you along the Haynebas and Saint George rail road that I believe runs through the northern part of Shelby county. If I recollect right there is a fine country all along the line of that road, but rather barren of timber. This section is much better timbered and the land is equally as good, in my estimate I cannot speak with any certainty