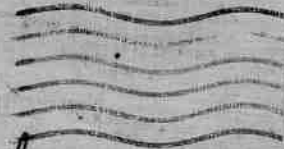


Grant's
death



Mr. J. N. Crosby,
Battle,

Ouba

Ota. Prov.

Billings, Mont.
Apr 14, 1919.

Dear Brothers,

I'm sure you will be looking for a letter from some of us long before this one arrives. Wes. has been planning on writing the details to you but said Sam. when he was home from the ranch that he had forgotten to take writing material with him as had not written yet. He took a supply with him this a.m. but I'll write anyway in case he should not get to it for I know he has lots to do now & is working hard & long hours to make up for time lost in getting his spring crop in. And if we both write the same thing it will be better than waiting longer

Six weeks ago yesterday Yes.
telegram reached me telling of papa's
condition. Joe had been planning a
trip out here anyway for me in
June or later so he went to Birmingham
home & got me a wired pass through
& telegraphed Melle to see if she was
coming too as we met in Chi. on
the following Wed. & arrived here
Fri. night afterward. Found
papa & mama both having the
"flu" or the Dr. called it grippe.
Mama was in bed all of the
time but papa was up part
of the time though was up stairs
all the time. Papa seemed to
get over the grippe as much
easier than mama did as
she seemed to get better for a
day or two & then from us came
at all as far as we could find
out her fever would come back
again & at times we felt as

uneasy about her as it hung on
 as long. Papa seemed to gain
 quite a bit after his fever left
 him for two or three days &
 we all felt as elated over it.

Then his pain got more severe
 & he seemed to lose as rapidly
 could not sleep nights very much
 & decided right fall as much. His
 cough was as severe that the
 Dr. was afraid to operate until it
 was better so tried ~~to~~ giving him
 hypodermics to make him sleep
 at night as we wanted to get
 him on the up hill grade if possi-
 ble before operating & it did seem
 to help his nerves a lot.

I'm sure Mrs. wrote you while
 Papa was in the hospital as told
 you all of that. Papa wanted as
 much to go to the hospital & could
 hardly wait until time to go. We
 could not get a room for him &
 the Dr. thought it advisable to take
 him in the ward rather than

wait longer as the hospital was
so crowded we could scarcely get
a ward bed for him. He was
operated on on Wed. & the Dr.
told P. & I this evening while we
were in the hospital that he was
better able than to come home
than he ever would be again.
Nelle went over Sat. a.m. &
stayed at the hospital with him
until we could get things
fixed up here to care for him.
We brought him home late
Sat. p.m. & had a trained nurse
promised for Tues. a.m. as we
thought skilled hands could
make him more comfortable
than we could. God only knows
what he suffered those last few
days. That every breath was a
groan & it seemed as hard to see
him suffer & know there was
no help or skill that could stop
his suffering. The Dr kept him

under the influence of the hypodermics a good share of the time to ease the suffering as much as possible. Even when out from under them he did not recognize us all the time. Though sometimes he called us by name & seemed to realize things for a little bit.

We are not just sure if he ever fully realized that he had had the operation or not. Sometimes he seemed to other times not. We tried to make him understand that Howard was coming but I do not believe he fully realized it. We seemed to get it mixed & asked when we expected peace.

The last two or three days he did not seem to suffer any scarcely as near as we could tell & ~~to~~ it seemed an awful effort ~~to~~ for him to make his voice heard & we had to ask him things over three or four times before he

took him to the undertaking parlors. Their way of arranging such things here seem as different from most places. The undertaking establishment is fitted up as lovely for funerals - a little chappel with pews & chairs & a little room to one side beautifully furnished for the family & their folks. We thought the strain of it would be as much less that way than bringing him back to the house as left the body there & had a little service there. Five p. m. before B. & Clarence left for South Wayne. It seemed to be mamma's wishes to bury him there ~~was~~ where all of their folks on both sides of the house were buried & we were as glad that we could carry out her wishes. We wished as much that your boys were here. It seems quite a shock to H. in away when he

we told him ~~later~~ that papa had gone & I felt so sorry for him. We had so hoped that papa would live until he came but in thinking it over we decided that perhaps it was better so. His coming was such a bracer for mama.

We tried to tell her so every one could & let her figure out things mostly for herself so as to not have it a shock to her. She had been sick so long & was so weak.

But she surely has stood it just wonderfully, which shows just how much real grit this mother of ours has. Her coming at this time has meant so much to her & we all appreciate your sending him.

Your letter came to-day & mama has spoken so many times to-day about it & appreciated it so much.

Oh yes I was going to say too that the wound from the

incision healed nicely & very rapidly. In fact so much so that it surprised the Dr. It was so hard to keep him quiet as he tended to get up.

Just 'we tried to tell you the ^{little} details as much as possible but if there's anything I haven't told that you would like to know about it I'd be pleased to answer any questions you cared to ask. We had a good nurse - a middle aged woman & I'm sure she done many little things for his comfort that we did not know how to do.

We buried him in the gray suit that he bought while in Helena. It always looked so nice on him.

Then we selected a dark gray casket as we all preferred it to black. He of course was very thin but otherways he looked fine & so much more natural than while he was sick.

B. got home from S. W. Sun. right at midnight. Uncle Anson had all arrangements made for things there. They had a service at the S. W. church & then buried him on the same lot with little Maria. Uncle Anson & Aunt Anna - Uncle Dillan - Mary - Anna & Will were all there. None of Aunt Abbie's could go but they sent flowers.

One nice thought that the preacher here left with us was that even though papa was dead he would still come back to us in many ways & in a different way than ever before. Said he had found it that way with his own father & he was sure we would all find it the same.

We tried to give him the very best care possible & do everything that could be done for his comfort. It seems awfully lonesome now here without him - especially up stairs. But it's such a comfort

to me to know that now he is not suffering.

Mamma & Howard are going for a few weeks down with Des. on the ranch. Mamma wants to oversee things for him & get him started in a little as that was papa's & her plan since O's death & mamma wants to carry it out.

Des. is going to get a housekeeper to do the work for them all.

Nelle & I both are anxious to carry mamma off home with us & both of our boys have sent her invitations but of course we all realize that with mamma she would be far more contented where she felt like she was really needed & she seems to feel it so strongly with Des & also with P. & H.

We all want (& I know you two do to) her to have all the comforts & pleasure possible & want her to be free to go & come as she chooses.

I guess H. wrote you about

12. ^{to you}
the letter that we wrote all signed
while O. was here. It has been
delayed in mailing but guess it
will soon be on it's way. Hope
there will be no misunderstanding
in any way about it as I can
assure you that none of us wanted
it to be so. We all realized as much
the chance for such in a written
letter & changed it over several times
trying to make it read the way
we all as much wanted it too.

For this was the feeling we all
wanted as much to make you
feel. We all appreciate as much
your sticking as closely to papa
& mamma & want now that papa
is gone to make things as
~~easy for you as possible.~~
We ~~do not~~ want you to stay there
^{just} to run the business as we
all know as well the things
you are deprived of by staying.
On the other hand if you wish
to stay & continue it as you are
now it will be alright with

all of us. We want to leave that to you.

Well this has gotten to be quite a lengthy letter & I have promised the kids a little outing this p.m. as they are home on their ^{Winter} vacation, so guess it's time I was bringing this to a close.

Melle expects to leave next week for Detroit. I am waiting for a pass as do not know how much longer I will be here. Will go with her as far as to have company as far as Ohio. if my pass comes in time.

Would be glad to hear from you whenever you have time to write

Love to all

Fannie.