

Stamford Sept. 8th, 1886

Dear Ruth,

A long time ago I wrote to you. Have never received an answer. I trust you have not forgotten your friends that live "up to the mountains". Well we have a little girl born the 17th of August just four years to a day since we were married. she weighed 9 lb, has dark hair & eyes. Mama is here now. She has had a severe cold for over two weeks. It is not exactly like a cold. It is something that went all around out to So. Gilboa. It begins with severe pain in limbs & then head & sore throat & chest & pain in back. Enough to take one's breath. It is very dry & hot but looks like rain now. Hope it will for we need it very much. We have a good chance to sell our place but have not decided to yet. Will not sell if we can not better ourselves. Our land here is splendid land but if we can get a little larger farm, we may. He has looked at one he likes quite well. It has good buildings on & is nearer So. Gilboa. We expect to all go look at it soon. Lon is milking now. Baby is asleep. Momma reading. Carrie resting well. I must tell you that we own the baby though she is not our own. Her mamma died & left six children & her father wanted us to take her. We did not think we would at first but we have. Lon named her Gracie Rachel or Gracie R. Rachel was her mother's name. Sunday I was taken with that kind of cold I have wrote you about. I can just tell you it took hold of me Saturday. Mother had the Dr. & Sunday I was sicker than I have been before since we were married. So you see we were pretty bad off & helpless. Mrs. Reel came up & helped us. Willie? was here. He helped some. Now I feel very much better but not well. I had severe pain all through me & my throat felt as if it was swelled full & raw. Lon went after Katie Benjamin to come & help us but her folks were gone away & did not expect to come back for a day or so, so she could not come & we have made out & get along but, dear, the house looks all turned wrong side out. But if nothing more happens tomorrow I think I can get around considerable. Mamma has helped lots but she is sick. Hope we will all feel better next time I write but if I donot get a answer to this I donot know as I can write again. Lon has his crop nearly all gathered. He has a nice field of corn. His potatos look good. His buckwheat is all cut & bound, his oats all in the barn. He has a new farm wagon. It is ship made & a good one. Has a brake. On Friday morning Lone thinks he will go to Stamford today so will finish this for him to mail. We are feeling some better but it is very hard work to get around now. Mamma has not arose yet. Gracie was sick in the night. I hope she will not have this cold [...] it would go hard with the little thing. It is hard enough for big ones to bear. I know that it is going to be another hot hotter hottest day again. for rain to cool the air & revive the grass & things. Gardens feel it most. I have written you a long letter & if you can read it I hope to get an answer soon. We all send love to all. Carrie E. King

My notes:

I do not know what happened to Carrie & Lon's adopted daughter, Gracie. She is not mentioned in the later letters nor is she listed in the censuses.

It sounds like they all had the flu or strep throat, and if Gracie was sick, she might not have lived.