

This a letter from Carrie King to her cousin, Ruth Hedges Osborn. I have transcribed it as best I could. There was little or no punctuation so I added that. [...] is for when I could not read the word(s).

South Gilboa, Oct. 27, 1889

My Dear Ruth,

It is with pleasure I now begin this letter to you but don't know when I shall finish it as it takes me a good while to write even a note. I was glad to hear from you. Your letter done one lots of good. I thought about you all so much while I was living abed. Am afraid the boy isn't going to let me write much for he is fighting his hand around getting ready to git-up. Minnie? has taken him so will write on, will try & tell you about myself & baby. Four weeks ago, Wednesday, I was taken sick, about 11 o'clock sent Lon out had not felt well all day. O.C.? went after the Dr. Mrs Brensler? came right down across got here about ½ eleven. Mary & Lon about 12 the Dr. ½ an hour before baby came. Was sick about four hours. Baby was born six minutes of three P.M. daytime. His name is Emmett Vincent King. We call him Vincent after his Grandfather King. He hasn't much hair but a nice shaped round head, large full dark blue eyes, "wifes" nose Papa says (Lon you remember always calls me wife or wifie) & Grandma Stevens mouth, a [...] quite tall a plump face. Weighed 8 ¾ lb [...] day after he was born. Weighed him yesterday but could not [...] good. He weighs 10 lb 9 oz. We expect to get up to Mary Tuesday if it is pleasant then we'll weigh him good. H & M & Polhemus were here yesterday we had a nice time. About myself, I don't know how to write well. When baby was a week old I had a pull back and fainting fits. Lon went after Mary in the afternoon. Susie was with me alone, she had to just work to keep me from fainting. How we did with [...] come. They sent for the Dr. he came Thur [...] brought me out all night. Had to lay abed for days longer than I expected. Ruth, I have a priceless husband. He is more than good to me. I pray always to be a good wife to him. What a blessing it is isn't it, dear cousin, to have a good kind loving husband. He is a champion baby tender who takes all the care of Vincent nights. Must tell you about my nipples. Ruth, they were awful, they are just raw. It was like taking my life every time baby nursed & the blood would run out of his little mouth. The Dr. said it was not fit for his stomach it was so bloody. Lon? got a breast pump & that did not hurt near as much as baby did but when they first begin to draw, just blood would come. They are not quite well yet but I have begun to nurse him again but don't have enough for him. When for once feeding him was off and if I waited longer would not have any but I am in hopes it will come now. I nursed him until Thursday a week & a day from when he came. There wasn't anything for him to get hold of, he would get so mad, poor baby. We didn't blame him, he had to make the nipple. I do not think I am a good milker anyway but after suffering all I have to have him nurse, it will be too bad if I cannot have enough. You would laugh to see me take the milk down a glass full at once without hardly stopping. Dear Mary, I do not know what we should have done without her. She is just the dearest little sister in the world. We think everything of her & Herbert was good to let her come. Chrissi? also was very kind as was everybody. We had a good girl Ella Wallace sister, Susie Kenyon, but she could not do the work & take proper care of baby & me. My nipples made so much more work. We keep things on them all the time to heal them. Susie had to go home. She was here five weeks & a half there before baby came. I went over my time [...] week & baby showed it too. I did get so tired of waiting for baby to come as I know Susie time was so limited as she had engaged to work for Mr. Judd to go the 1st of Nov. & she had been to Mr. Blishs since Dec 1st - had not been home since June & come right here from Mrs. B. & she felt as if she must be home a little while.

She wanted to stay with us until I got well. We have Minnie? Clark now last week & she will stay tomorrow & wash for me & then we shall try to get along alone. I have been out to the barn twice but I am not as strong as I wish I was but think I am gaining now. Good girls are awful hard to find or any kind as there are more places to work than girls to fill them & they get 3.25 3.50 & \$4.00 per week but they have to work awful hard - milk 10 & 12 cows & sometimes more every night & morning, wash from 20 to 25 milk cans after they have been to N.Y. with milk in. They hold 40gls & are very heavy. Well [...] I do not know as you can read this. Vincent is asleep. He is a dear little fellow & grows fast & is getting white. I know his Aunt Ruth will love him. I often think of dear little Elisha but I suppose he isn't little Elisha now. I cannot realize it, when I got your pictures Elisha seemed so large to me, for I think of him a little. Should think you did need rest & a change. What made you do it alone? I laughed when I read (like a grace), it sounded so like you. Do not think Mary wrote you I went calling the day before baby came. It was a lovely day & I was so tired staying in the house after dinner, I said to Susie, lets go riding. She was ready so we asked Lon for the team. He was willing but did not want to harness so Susie wheeled the carriage out & I harnessed. We called on Katie B? used to be Clark and Vi cousin Ed Frazee's wife. She expects middle of Nov. she is in her 43rd year, isn't it to bad, has had seven children. Got home, unharnessed. Next day baby came to town. Well my paper is most full & I am tired. Kiss Elisha for Aunt Carrie, Vincent, Papa & Mamma. Send lots of love to Elisha, Papa & Mamma. Write soon to Carrie.

My notes:

Lon is what Carrie called her husband, Emmet Alonzo King.

Mary is her sister-in-law, Mary Stevens (married to Carrie's brother, Herbert Leroy Stevens).

O.C. is Carrie's brother, Osborn C. Stevens

H is Carrie's brother, Herbert, & M is Mary, his wife

Polhemus is Carrie's brother also.

Elisha is Ruth's son.