

Toledo, Ohio March 27th 1879

Dear Grandma

I have been intending to write for several weeks past but have waited so that I might have more news to tell you, and the first I must tell you of an event which I suppose you are all looking for, Yesterday afternoon (Monday, March 26th) about 3, P.M.; Lucy presented James with a fine son, weighing eight and one half (8½) pounds, you may be sure that Father, James feels very proud of it and in proportion his Uncles Robert & Lom are equally so, and as for his Grandma, (Mother) I will not try to say but let her speak for her self which she will do shortly, and probably give more particulars, Lucy's folks are equally pleased and altogether it is quite a joyous time; The little fellow will favor Lucy most, he has large blue eyes, and a fine head of black hair, of which mother will send you a sample when she writes, the doctor says that he will have a forehead like his father; Mother says that he will have hands like mine, at any rate they are quite large; so far he has seemed perfectly satisfied with his new surroundings and has behaved himself real well; but he is able to cry for all nevertheless as I heard him this morning before I left home, there is no doubt but that he will be a wonderful baby as he is the first of a new-

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generation both of the Wales' and our families, and this leads me to remember that I must congratulate you, dear Great Grandma, on the new little you now take for he is the first of the fourth generation now living and as I remember this I thank God, whose kind hand has led us all thus far and pray that he will also, watch over, guide protect & save this new member of the family to whom he has given life; his name has already been decided on and is Leroy Leroy Williams, after his Grandpa Wales & Father James William, he will probably be called Roy for short; we shall probably have more to tell of him at some future time; I believe Lucy had rather a difficult time, but she was feeling pretty well in the evening, and ~~she was well during the night and both her she & the baby~~ were doing well when I left home at 7 o'clock this morning.

Mother, Mrs Wales, her step mother to Lucy & one of the neighbours were present at the time and Mother will stay and take care of them until Lucy is able to get about; Robert & I will take our meals at Jim's and sleep at home during this time, for further particulars I must leave for Mother. And now Grandma I have another event to chronicle which so far as I know, you have not heard of direct that is, that since Wednesday, March, 7th you have had another Grand daughter, for at that time John Duja was married to a young lady named Eva Weaver, the whole of Uncle Roberts Family were present and have been here ever since, of this I will say more further on.

The Wedding was not a surprise and yet I had no idea that it would be so soon until John told Mother sometime in January last that it would be sometime in March. Eva, the bride, is a very nice young woman, her age I don't know but she is near John's age I guess, she is not very large but is good looking, and a quiet disposition, very kind and affectionate. I think, and has good common sense and a good share of perseverance and carefulness about her and further than that they both love each other very much, her folks are very respectable, have some property, are living in Ironville, they are very pleased with the match I believe, and have helped them considerable in picking out with firmness, last Christmas they gave Eva a very nice bedstead, bed and all the necessary earthenware for a bed room and have given them other things beside, at present John & Eva are living in a part of their house, but they have rented a house which they will be able to move into shortly and will then keep house for themselves, I think that John has done well and a good thing in getting married. he is a good fellow and willing and ready to work but lacks a little in perseverance and carefulness, Eva has both these characteristics. I think, and together I think they will do well, John's own testimony is that he has saved more money since he has been keeping her company, than he ever did before, but there is one important thing that I have neglected to mention viz that she is a good earnest Christian which is of as much

importance as all the rest put together
 as I said. Uncle & the whole family came to the wedding
 we did not know of their coming untill Sunday as they came
 on the following Tuesday, and as we were daily expecting
 Lucy's trouble it was not very convenient for us but part
 of the time they have been in Ironville and the rest of the
 time, Sarah Ann & Mary Jane stayed at my house &
 Uncle, Aunt and the two two little ones stayed at Sam
 Jarrett's about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away from us, we of course were
 very glad to see them, I had not seen B. A. & M. J.
 since they left here, six years ago, and Mother had not
 seen them since they left England, of course they have
 grown since then but in other respects they are the same
 as they ever were their faces dispositions &c are the same as
 when I first remember them, the little ones are growing
 quite fast but they are quite backward in their learning
 which I think is a great ^{pity}, Uncle & Aunt are both
 well but looking rather thin, Uncle has been working
 very hard all winter holding special meetings with
 good success, I expect some of them will write to you
 very soon, a week ago last Sunday the 18th inst we were all
 at James' to dinner, it was the largest meeting of the family
 that there has been in this country, we had a very pleasant
 time, we thought and talked of you all at home, and
 though the family may never all meet again on earth we
 hope to meet above were parting will be no more;
 Uncle & Aunt and the little ones go back home this week,
 B. A. & M. J. will stay a week or two longer; A friend of Uncle's
 got them passes on the railroad for a part or the whole of

way, I don't know which, but it has saved them a very great deal, if they had not got them I believe the girls were not coming;

I must now tell you a little about myself, I am still working in the City Civil Engineers' Office, earning two dollars (2.00) per day and steady work, the longer I am at the business the more I like it, as it not only employs my hands but my mind also, I have had to study a great deal and expect to keep on as long as I am in the profession it is a work that is never all learned, and it will always pay a man for the time he spends in study, business has been very dull during the last three years but the times are brightening and I hope that after a while things will be better and I think I may fairly expect that I shall do better so far as dollars & cents are concerned than I have in the past but I do not complain as I have done better than many others for which I am very thankful, my work in the Church & Sabbath school occupy a large portion of my spare time, I am deeply interested in the work and find that it fully repays me for the time & trouble put into it, and beside that while my own soul is blessed, I rejoice in the belief that others also are blessed, and while I feel my own insufficiency & weakness I look to him for help who is able to make the weak vessels strong in his might;

I don't know but that some of you may think that I forget you because I don't write often, but it is not so, but my time is often so fully taken up that I can't find the opportunity and you must accept this as my apology;

The fact that John is married leaves me in a sense alone, but then it is as it always has been, Jim & John always seemed to get ahead of me at first but I generally used to come out all right in the end and I hope I shall in this case, anyhow I am not alarmed, I have built part of my house, and after awhile will build more, then when the nest is ready look out for the bird, in the mean time I am not idle, and I have one lady companion that to say the least I esteem very highly and if every thing comes out as I anticipate and I have no reason to doubt but what it will, I think that I shall do as well as the rest, but, the proof of the pudding is in the eating, I enclose a photo of myself which is a specimen of Rob's work, we sent some pictures of Mother and I at time since, I hope you received them safely. Robert is getting along very well, is a good boy, growing fast, and learning fast, he will write soon, Mother is well, she has felt the cold weather some but has got through the winter all right, We all join in kind love to you, and all

Dear Grandma as I write these lines the thought comes to me that God has preserved you to a good old age, and I thank him for it & for your life, and also for the kind care with which he has watched over you and all of us, and the thought comes also that sooner or later, perhaps at no distant period the Lord may say to you, "come up higher" and while it is with sadness that I think of this, yet I rejoice that there is a bright prospect before you, and I pray that when you come to the valley & shadow his rod and his staff I may support & comfort you, and that his presence which is always with us, may be specially sorrowful to that time, and may his truth sanctify us wholly so that we may all at last meet to praise him for ever, is this your prayer, of you.

Affectionate grandson

Wm Wickenden

P.S. I expect to write to Emma next