

Bethel. Morgan Co Ill May 6th 390

Cousin Lewis yours
of Apr 22 I received last night I was
glad to hear from home once more, I had
just come to the conclusion that you
all had forgot me, or wanted to, as I had
not heard from them in most three
months, I am as well as usual I hope
these few lines will find you well
it is not enough to rest & digger
I the seasons have been drier than a counter
bution box at the time of passing for the
last three months, the farmers have
got pretty much through with their plant^{ing}
Alfred finished this yesterday, he has
planted eighty acres, as for my business
I like it pretty well. although it is
rather hard handling the horses, I have it
all to do, as Alf is as afraid of them as he

is of the old sick, one of them is pretty good to take care off & the other is uglier than the Devil is slicked

we have covered 21 mares now, the best one has had 17 the other 5 one is five years old the other three, the season here is the rhode gear round. Alf has the best horse in the county, one of them took three premiums last fall, as the best for stock, the best of travelling horse & the best horse of all, he won the sweepstakes of fifty dollars, he about in 2, 52, Alf could take \$1500 for him any time, he was sired by the Wetherby horse, the colt that Frank Williams ~~was used to own~~, the other is is about as smart as Van Amburges big elephant & nearly as large, alter him & he should make a good truck horse & that is pretty much all he is good for

Alf has two men to work for him

Beside myself, we have some high times & breaking young mules, last night we hitched up a pair of mules for the first time & drove them to the post office, they ran away with us one wheel ran off the wagon & one tire off the other wheel, they ran about a mile before we stopped them, we had what the Dutchman should call a run. I am big run, but she got out of it without any bones or wagon broken, Alf is building a new house there is eight houses at work on it, there is fourteen men here now in all, as supper is about ready I must draw this to a close, write soon & all of the news

Wm Johnson
to J & B

tell Fred ~~the~~ Goldsige that I am much obliged to him for answering my letter