Oct 9th/96 Barkerville

B. C.

Dear brother.

I recieved both your letters yesterday, the first one must have been delayed at Quesnelle. I am glad to hear you have made a beggining, for that the battle; you must have courage erseverance, now, and keep it agoing, you'll be rewarded after awhile.

I will enclose $50 with this letter, and I'll send another 50 next month. I have parted with nearly the whole of the $110, repayed the doctor 40, promised 5 to hospital subscription, 7½ payed for filling 3 teeth, payed for 2 months washing, etc, so have not much left; make the 50 do if you can.

As for going in with you, I dont know yet. Anyhow if you'll go ahead and try, I'll not see you stuck if I can help you.

I shall send your things down with August Baker, he leaves here, to-morrow morning. I could not find any drawers in the cabin

The picture arrived quite safe, and I have it hung in my room. Send me word if you paid carriage on it, Stone does not know.

The letter from Martha Ann was sealed and enclosed in one she sent to me so I did not read it. She say [illegible] lost his sweetheart.

No more at present

Your dear brothe

Tom

May 15th/96

Barkerville
Cariboo
B. C

Dear father

I cannot find words to sufficiently express my sorrow for you, and my own grief, at this our great affliction. The news of our Annie's death was a very severe blow to me, for I had great hopes of a future for her, full of happiness and prosperity; to you, it must have been very hard to bear, to see her taken away at such an early age, just in the May-time of life.

I wrote to Sam last week. I feel so very sorry for him; this is a terrible experience for him.

I wrote to our Will last week, telling him about getting the post of steward at the Cariboo Hospital. I am now living in, and take charge next Wednesday, the 20th. I think I shall like the place very well, for there is no very hard work, and it is a pleasant and comfortable home, and pretty good pay.

I am going to buy myself a suit of clothes. and a few other things, and after that I'll be able to save $50 a month out of my salary; so I can soon pay off both our Jim's and my own debts to you; but I would like to borrow the money a little while longer, if you please, because I think we could make good use of it before long.
Within a short distance of where I was working last summer, there are several big mining schemes being projected, and if carried out will find work for a large number of men. Then, it is pretty certain there will be quite a town there, within the next 3 years or so. The people are beginning to prospect ~~for~~ in quartz, and if it is a success, a railway will be built. The Cariboo Gold-fields Co got a charter from the government this winter to build a railway, from the C.P.R. at Ashcroft and Port Simpson to Barkerville. Some of the conditions laid down, are. It is to be commenced within two years, to be built

half-way, Barkerville, within 5 years, and be finished to Port Simpson (on the coast near Alaska) within ten years.
A station will be built at Jack o' Clubs lake - for Barkerville - and it is quite likely a town will grow up around it.
I would like to start a little store or hotel - or both on the spot, and think I could do well. There is large, unoccupied building there now, built by the government some years ago for the accomodation of men working at the Island Mt. quartz-mine, and the works for treating ores. It is the finest building up here, and just suitable for hotel, restaurant and store. I dont know but what I might get it. I am going to watch my chance now. I dont feel like going in for ranching now, since we lost both Bear Lake and Four Mile creek, there is no other place around here that I care about. If I did start business, I think I could get our Jim into my place, then we would both do well, I think. I think he is

somewhere on his way back to Cariboo, now, he sent me a letter three weeks ago, saying he would start off back if he did not get work in Kamloops in a day or two. I have not heard from him since. Please write soon and let me know what you think of my plans.

I know that you are most pleased to see us doing well and gaining respect for ourselves; but I wish to assure you, my greatest regard is for your own happiness and comfort. Hoping you are in good health and with love to all. I remain

Your affectionate son

Tom