Dear Sister,

Chittenango 2d Mo. 19th 1825

We having heard there was a letter at Edith Coldens from brother Daniel P. M. c. to see whether it was correct and finding it was so I sent up for it and knowing it would be a satisfaction to you to hear the particulars all the account of him is not very pleasant the following is a copy of

Rocky Mountains July 1st 1826

Dear and respected friend,

I take this as the only opportunity to write to you and lay to be excuse for my bad spelling and writing. I have more know than I am able to communicate whereas I will give you the most important.

After leaving you I arrived in Illinois in July the same year on board thither until mid winter and from thence to Missouri where I stayed until spring from then I embarked for the Rocky Mountains and the Columbia for the purpose of hunting and trapping and trading with the Indians in a company of about one hundred men. We hoisted our sails on the third day of April 1826 at Saint Louis and arrived at Coosport about the middle of July when we were reduced to the need necessity of eating anything we could catch as our provisions where exhausted and no game to be had.

Being advanced five hundred miles above the frontiers, we were glad to get a dog to eat and I have seen some get their the skins of dogs up through the Camp and roast them and eat hearty. This so discouraging me that I was determined to turn tail if streamed and bear my course down in company with eight others and by the way lost from the others without gun ammunition provision or even clothes to my back of account being four hundred miles from any white people or even knowing where to find Indians. Now my dear friend how must I have felt young Birds frogs and snakes where acceptable food with me and not means of fire! So in the course of a few days fortunately fell in with a party.
of Indians who treated me with great humanity and honor with them four days and then fell in with a trader who conducted me within 320 miles of the frontiers he being able to give me but little aid I return but three days when I started with provision consisting of only 360 pounds of Buffalo meat and arrived at the frontiers in six days went by eating too much and starvation I was taken with a severe spell of sickness which almost took my life I here met with a second boat and ascended the Missouri the second time and arrived at the mouth of Kgulpe Dolla on the latter end of November where I wintered with thirteen others there was a remarkable escape of my scalp as two long parcels of Indians winter within twenty miles of us and our better enmity the black feet this place is in latitude 48 the River froze to the commence thickening of four feet and did not break up until the fourth of April and we embarked in Canoes on the 6th and on the 11th I was severely wounded by a wapiti stick being shot through both knees which brought me to the ground this disabled me for the spring of hunt and almost for ever this spring two parties here met with a great defeat one by the loss of four men the other severe about the same time a third boat was ascending the rivers and was attacked by Rickarongs Indians and was also defeated with the loss of 15 killed and 18 wounded Indians only one or two this so infuriate our blood that we unanimously volunteer our service to reinforce and give them battle which we did with the aid of three hundred Regulars and one thousand four hundred Indians and defeated them without the loss of one man in this engagement about seventy Rickarongs lost their lives and evacuated their village out with the company only thirty odd return and those who remained only the Mandanis and Tyrosuants in the dead hour of the night and killed two wounded two more of our men two guns were fired from our men and killed one Indian and they retreated one man was also torn nearly all to pieces by a White Bear and was left by the way without any gun who afterwards recovered from thence we moved our course for the mouth of the little horn and by the way I was closely pursued by a party of Indians on Horseback whom I took to be Black feet
and narrowly made my escape by hiding in a little brush and they came close that I could see the very whites of their eyes which was within five yards. From thence I started with a party of others a try at the Rocky mountains at the commencement of winter we started for the Columbia Mountain to winter with the Crow Indians who are our only friends in this country here I got strayed away from my company and fell in with Indians who were not & Crows a trail thirty miles from one hour by sun in the evening until midnight across the mountain through snow up to my middle which froze my feet severely so that I lost two toes there on two others in part from this I did not recover until late in the spring nevertheless I made this spring with the addition of two days last fall three hundred and fifty dollars and the ensuing fall and spring I expect to make about twelve hundred dollars if nothing happens more than I know of — the mountains are now covered with snow many feet deep in places and vegetation without the feet of it in full bloom — We are about to embark for the Columbia waters where I expect to remain for two years at least. A man in this country is not safe neither day nor night and hardly ever expect to reach home get back. — This country is the most healthy in the world I believe. A variety of hot springs, boiling Sulphur, and Oil springs, allos salts, salt Peter, and Vulcaines; petrification is astonishing such as men, animals, fish, wood, and sea shells those into the best kind of flint, those are to be found in the highest mountains. I have celebrated the fourth of July by the pursuit of a bull buffalo two being on horseback and how about three miles came up along side found on two broad sides he took the man but not being scarable he sunk to the bottom and the pursuit ended when I have been hunting I have often thought of you and some others of my friends how you would along in the sport — White Bear, Buffalo, Elk, Deer, Ahtolce, and Mountain sheep are our principal game. I shall now bid farewell and desire you to remember my best respects to all my enquiring friends, particular J. Taylor J. McClallen, C. Morrow, and J. Mather inform them I am in good health and spirits I remain with high respect your most particular friend and servant.

Daniel Hothe

Thomas Coghlan — Ab the letter writer s. Hochlen