

Dear Friend John      Annie Flanders      Nashua      9\6\68

“I was thinking today it is just one week from today since I walk out with you it seems a long time to me I presume it does not to you but Oh, John can it be true and possible that what I have heard be true or not how shall I ever know but the time will come when I shall see your face once more + I can tell you all that is all I want to live for is just to see you some half day I thought of you every day that has past over my head may God be with you if I can’t + when you lie down to sleep all I hope is that everything you promise me will be fresh in mind you know you have said things that never will be forgotten on earth + you have kept me from day to day now say I don’t love you if I could keep tears from coming in my eyes I have shed more tears since last Friday at 7 o'clock but what good does it do I hope you will not think any less of me when you read this than you ever did for I have the same love + respect for you as I ever did I should be so pleas to get a leter from you I wrote a leter to you last Tuesday I went to the Office last night in hopes to get a leter from you I wish you would write + tell us if you got your box + how you like it Charley mother sent down word today to have Addie + I Oh Crikey I have had a \_\_\_ time Addie has taken me all around I like hear first rate only if my Darling John was with me how happy I should be + how well you know it when Addie was getting the box ready she told them hear that I kept house for you + she wanted me to stay a spell + so she was a goin to send you some things I want you should come down as soon as you can you can get good pay to have enough to eat + have it in season you will come down + stay with me because you have said your would stay with me + never leave me I will finish this by by Charley said today I want Annie to stay down hear so we can get John down he ask me if I did not like I told him I did + then he said you will stay untill he comes Friday afternoon

Well Crikey don’t you belive I was glad when I got your leter I bet I was to hear you was well every night when I go to bed I think oh dear whare is John tonight + does he think of me I want to see you very much I was real sora to see Charley he felt real disappointed to think you did not say anything about coming down I wish you would tell us in your next leter just as you mean are you coming down or not + when will you come you will see by this that I am hear but I don’t no how much longer I shall stay you must try to answer this leter as soon as you get it + tell me all the news + you look out for the school marm + Mrs Hewes you no me I think of all these things Little Addie was pleas with her leter she goes to school every day she speaks of you + said I want to see Uncle John What do they say up there about me tell me when you write have you ben over to Mr Goodells yet don’t you stay all night when you go will you you must be real good while I am gone for I shall be at home some day and make you a good long visit you get me a Place to stay + a little calf you may pick me out one be sure + keep watch of Henry Nichols so as to get your things does hat no whear I am you tell me all + be sure + write + don’t send a leter by anyone that you think would not be carefull about putting it in I wrote to Sarah tell he you want to read it I will bid you good by with much love + respect now write as soon as you get this + not fail from Annie Direct Box 439 don’t you want to see me you no what I shall think if you don’t write don’t be mad when you read the \_\_\_ of this leter Annie E Flanders Direct Box 439 Nashua NH now be sure to write.”

*[An honest to goodness love letter from the 1860s! John was almost 20 years older than Annie and she outlived him by 27 years. Their oldest son, John W., was born in 1876 but I don't know just when they were married.*

*Annie must be working in Nashua at this time. It sounds as if Addie is an adult, likely John's sister Adaline, but then Annie mentions a niece named Addie. So, Charley may be John's brother or brother-in-law.]*