

Dec 24, 1861

James S. Richards
Dec^r 24. 1861

Rockland, Dec 24th 1861

Dear Brother;

having an opportunity
I thought I would write a
few lines to let you know that
we are all well, and hope this
will find you the same I am
doing nothing (this winter) at present
but do hope to get employment soon
I have not much to write, but in
having plenty of time I might as well
write as note father's family are
as well as usual. Edward and
Ruth have moved up to father's, and
I hope they will stay, I guess
they have gone one year or trial;
then I suppose if they all like
they will take the farm; and
I hope they will do not you?
for father needs some one with
him. Richard, Mother & family
are all well except what they had

Dec 24, 1981

Health is rather poor. we should
 all be very glad to see you, and
 your family. I want you to write
 to me, as soon as you get this, tell
 me how much land you own, how
 much stock you keep, and how much
 grain you raised this last season
 and so on. if I thought I could do well
 at farming in the area, I would
 come up and settle there, but I
 expect it is rather poor.
 but I have nothing more to write this
 time, so I will close, write
 as soon as you get this, don't
 fail.

from your Brother
 Duane J.

Don't forget to
 check land on D.
 Give my love to all the
 folks. When you tell them
 to write to me.

Don't forget to
 write to me