

Office of
J. H. McCUNE,

SHERIFF OF TOWNER COUNTY.

Cando, N. D., Nov 22 1893

Dear Parents, I will now write to you to let you know how my trial went on here at Cando. I will also tell you that I have seen Sam & Dave last night after the trial I have seen them when they were ^{with me} alone & I have told them all & anything that I do not think of at present. Sam will let you know for he had some trouble with Dan Koider similar to mine now I will explain it to you all. I came here last winter & as soon as I came off the train the first man I met was Dan Koider & he suggested to me that I should work for him but I did not go with him then for I did not like him. I worked here in the town for about two weeks when I was taken sick & Dan was after me again & kept after me until I made a bargain with him he was to pay me \$500 for one year work & I accepted it & went with him to the farm well it was a cold winter & I had to work every day cold or not & I knew how Dan was but I made a bargain & told him that if I was to work for him he would have to take care of the team that he drove & that I would take care

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of the ones that I would drive so I took care of all the horses all winter & done all the work that was to be done on the place I used to cut all the wood & when they wanted any wood they would tell me to go after it, Dan would not take a stick if it was laying right by the door nor none of the rest of the family, but this not bother me so much untill in the spring when the farm work started then I used to go out to work & when I came home & got done with my chores & wanted to go to bed I would have to make my own bed & I had to do this all winter but it did not bother me in the winter but no when I had to work all day on the farm then I ask Annie who makes the beds & she told me she did them I told her that she should make my bed as I had to work hard & needed to have a good bed to rest in but she did not seem to care so I told Mrs Kovida about it but it was not any better & that used to make me awful mad the harder I would work the more I would think of it & the madder I would get & I felt like quitting him but then if I would think if I quit I would not get anything for my

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for my winters work & I did not want to loose that for I worked for it so when we started to do our seeding in the spring I used to go out in the morning & currie of all the horses & put on the harness on all of them before breakfast & then when Dan would go to town he would kick on the horses manes the manes would not stay on one side as good many horses manes will part & some of it go to each side then he would kick & say I did not currie the horses but I did not say anything I left it go on but was sick at heart of the job but made up my mind to stick out the year so after we were working awhile in the spring Dan would turn his teams loose when he came in the yard & I would have to go & take off the bridles of his horses & then go & pump water for all of them before dinner then after dinner he would send me out to oil his drill & clean out all the shoes & fix everything that was to be done the same way when we went to plowing I would have to grease his plow for him & sharpen his plow bars & tighten all the bolts on it & then when he would go to town & come home he would kick & want to know

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what I was doing all day he would say that I did not do anything & what I did do would not suit him everything ~~that~~ I done would not be right he would say why did you not do so & so & that would make me feel awful bad I was sick of it all the while I was there but try & stick out the year, I used to put in a lot of straw for bedding & then they would turn in the hogs & cattle & they would spoil all the bedding & they would say I did not put in clean straw & when Annie would milk the cows she would say Albert put some straw here then I would put in there & still I could not satisfy her she would kick one day I was to put some colts in the pasture & one of them would not follow its mother so I throwed a rope around its neck that I had in my hand & was pulling it along when Mrs. Hovide come out & scolded me & said I would pull the neck of it then she told Dan & he blowed me about it then one time Dan went to town & he told me to bring in a load of wheat & the team he told me to take was a poor team so when I started one of the hovers would not pull

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& I tried to pry up the load & get them started when Mrs. Knicker came out & scolded me for hitting the horses when I told her to mind her own business & never mind me for I was driving that team I was so mad at the time that I could not help it I used to be so mad that I could not sit up with them in the house as soon as I would get done with any chore I would go up to my room & go to bed & many a night I would lay in bed all night awake & think of how I was abused but always had in my mind to stay my year so after reeding & spring work I had to put up a pasture & I would dig post holes all day & work hard & at night Dan would kick & say that I did not do anything I told him that I was doing all that I possibly could do but he was not satisfied another time when I was reeding a slough that was full of water in the spring & I had to sow it by hand & harrow it I was quite aways from the house they could not see me from the house & in the evening when Dan come in the girls just got home from school with the pony then Dan took the pony & come down

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on a ~~dead~~ dead run to where I was & says to me what
are you doing here all day you should have been done
with this here long ago then that made mad to think
that I was working hard all day & then have him to
come & jump on to me that way so I told him that
he would have to quit that & that I had enough
of his wifes bossing, so I had to haul manure
from the place & they would kick & say that I was
not cleaning it up good enough but still I did not
say anything I wanted to work my year & then as
much as I have been around the country I never
thought of playing poker or gambling but when
I was with Dan he took me into the gambling
houses & kept urging me on to play poker
untill at last I sat in & played & then when I
used to win Dan would get mad at me, & another
time I bought a box of cigars & left them up in my
room when the children took & broke them up & Dan
asked me to bring the box down & show it to him
& so I did & all he done about it was to laugh I was
so sick of it that I used to go to town & did not
care what I done with my money I used to get

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don't just a purpose to put it of my mind then
 the morning that this trouble happened me I never
 thought of killing any of them I got up & went to
 the pasture & caught a horse & while I was
 currying it my brain started to reel & I was dizzy
 & thought that my head would split so all of a
 sudden a thought struck my mind while I felt
 like this that it would be best to get rid of the
 whole family so I went in & killed them & while
 I was going in I remember that I was so mad
 that the froth just foamed out of my mouth
 & then after I shot those that I killed I began to
 realize what I was doing & quit & I could not kill
 anymore so you see how it all is now there is
 a good deal that I left out of here & I cannot think
 of it all as I write but I will write to you again
 later on & Dave can tell you a good deal more as
 he had trouble with Stan similar to mine I
 was brought here for trial & pled guilty the people
 here use me well I will receive my sentence on Thursday
 after which I will write to you as you see what drove me
 to it so do not trouble yourself on my account
 Yours Truly A. T. B.

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when Annie used to be in the barn I would
fool with her when we were good friends & would
bump her around when I carried in hay & have
often tried to do it to her & said I would get
it in & to her yet one night I went to her
room & she would not have it so I went back to
my room & once I went into Bernice's room &
put my hand under the cover when she gave a
start & I went to my room & did not bother her
anymore, when we used to play cards together
in the house at night Dan would always get mad
& say that I cheated & was trying to learn his girls
to cheat at another time I had one horse hitched
up to haul manure when Bernice come & took it
to haul some water & she did not bring the horse
back & I run after her when Dan come out & said
dont you go for any of my children or I will
show you Annie used to be around me & I would
get worked up & would fall like laying her right down
& put it to her the night before I murdered them
we were playing croquet & never thought of harming
them that night I went to Annie's room & tried

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to get it from her but she would have it so I went to bed & lay awake all that night thinking of her she said she was going to tell the old folks about it so when I don the deed in the morning I shot Dan first & did not know whether he was asleep or not I next shot the Mrs in the kitchen she never said a word I then got some more shells up over the pump house & went to the stairs & told Annie that she should go to my room they were all standing at the head of the stairs all but the little ones then I went up & shot into them I then seen Mary jump out of the window & I went & brought her back & shot her then I could not kill anymore I then went to Annie in my room & she begged me to save her live & I told her she need not be scared I could not kill anymore I then put it to her on my bed I then told her to get me something to eat & she got me a pie & some bacon but I could not eat it I put two pieces of pie & some bacon in my pocket then told her to get the money she had in her room then told her to get the watch then we went to the stable & I took the rifle with me I then had Annie to get me the

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riding bridle then I had her walking up & down
the stable & she begged of me again the cold sweat was
running of me she said if I spare her she would
let me do it again & she went in to a stall & I did
it again I was then going to tie her up but says to
her she better go upstairs the hogs might eat her down
here so she went upstairs & I tied her I then went
& saddled the pony & started I left the rifle it was
too heavy I did not try to get away or they would
never caught me Dan was always mean to his
children Annie is a bastard she was born of Mrs &
Mr Knicker before they were married Dan was no
good anyway when he got a little bit the bit of a
man he would shit on him it is all over now
& I will not try to get away but will stand to it
as I know & what I done I know what I am going
to get but I will take her but I do wish that
I would have quit in June when I was going to & I
would not be here to day.