

I had a postal of the 12th from Robert yesterday, all well at that date. Papa has just received notice from Mr Henry, Crawford Co Iowa, that the draft on N.G. for \$155.50 which he sent to pay taxes was not received. He can get the draft duplicated, but has to give bonds for a large amount and it is a good deal of bother.

Affectionately, your mother
Alice K Grierson

Ft Concho Feb 20th 1879
My dear Charlie
Papa returned from his trip of a week, while we were at breakfast this morning. They started before daylight, without breakfast so as to get in early. They brought two antelope with them - the beef here now is not very good - game is more tender. A few weeks ago papa received a bill from Brooks & Brothers for a pair of pants \$6.00, but wrote them he had gotten no pants, and there must be a

mistake. They wrote him in reply, that the pants were cadet grey for you, and as they had no account with you, they sent the bill to him. I suppose however that you intended to pay for them, as you have money to your credit, I suppose you can get the amount to pay them at once, can you not? As they probably suffered considerable loss by their fire, I presume they need prompt payments. Capt Keyes moved into Capt Kennedys quarters on Monday, Capt Norwell came next door to us again and Lt Lane moved across the hall from the Chaplain, so there

was not a general upsetting of the garrison this time. Cousin Helen has not had to commence "taming and domesticating the idea of being ranked out of quarters" as Aunt Louisa says. Helen said she had a first rate ride on Dr DeHannes pony, with George for escort, yesterday afternoon. She saw Harry riding past on Georges pony, which put her in the notion of riding horseback too, and she asked Harry to escort her, but he did not want to ride longer, as he had quite a hard pain in his chest all day yesterday, so George had the honor of going with her.

In the letter to the left and transcribed below, Alice Grierson catches her West Point cadet son, Charlie, up on the goings on at home. She quickly gets to her point and chastises her son for charging a pair of pants to his father's account rather than paying for them himself. After getting her point across, she moves on to the mundane details of garrison life.

A letter to Charlie from his mother Alice

Ft Concho, Feb 20, 1879

My dear Charlie,

Papa returned from his trip of a week, while we were at breakfast this morning. They started before daylight, without breakfast so as to get in early. They brought two antelope with them - the beef here is not very good - game is more tender. A few weeks ago papa received a bill from Brooks and Brothers for a pair of pants \$6.00, but wrote them he had gotten no pants, and there must be a mistake. They wrote him in reply, that the pants were cadet grey, for you, and as they had no account with you, they sent the bill to him. I suppose however that you intended to pay for them. As you have money to your credit, I suppose you can get the amount to pay them at once, can you not? As they probably suffered considerable loss by their fire, I presume they need prompt payment. Capt Keyes moved into Capt Kennedys quarters Monday. Capt Norwell came next door to us again, and Lt Lane moved across the hall from the Chaplain, so there was not a general upsetting of the garrison this time. Cousin Helen has not had to commence "taming and domesticating the idea of being ranked out of quarters" as Aunt Louisa says. Helen says she had a first rate ride on Dr DeHannes pony, with George as escort, yesterday afternoon. She saw Harry riding fast on George's pony, which put her in the notion of riding horseback too, and she asked Harry to escort her, but he did not want to ride longer, as he had quite a hard pain in his chest all day yesterday, so George had the honor of going with her. I had a postal of the 12th from Robert yesterday, all well at that date. Papa had just received notice from Mr Henry Crawford Co Iowa, that the draft on N.G. for \$155.50 which he sent to pay taxes was not received. He can get the draft duplicated, but has to give bonds for a large amount and it is a good deal of bother.

Affectionately your mother,
Alice K Grierson



To Left:
In 1950, when the sons took over Brooks Brothers, they adopted the Golden Fleece as their logo as a symbol of fine quality, heritage and excellence.

Below:
The store front for Brooks Brothers when Charlie was buying his cadet grey pants.

The Brooks & Brothers that Alice refers to when chastising Charlie is most like Brooks Brothers, the oldest men's clothier in the U.S. Brooks Brothers was both famous and infamous as a supplier of military uniforms. On the positive side, many officers turned to Brooks Brothers, as did Charlie and apparently Ben since he had an account, for their uniform needs. On the negative side, the company supplied New York troops with shoddy uniforms during the Civil War that literally fell apart in the rain. Brooks Brothers were founded in 1818 and despite filing for bankruptcy recently, is still in business. It started with Henry Sands Brooks in 1818 "To make and deal only in merchandise of the finest body, to sell it at a fair profit, and to deal with people who seek and appreciate such merchandise." In 1833, Brooks' four sons joined him in business. Brooks Brothers dressed Abraham Lincoln and for his second inauguration, crafted a special jacket with an eagle and the inscription "One Country, One Destiny" handstitched in the lining. In all Brooks Brothers has outfitted 41 of 45 American presidents. Theodore Roosevelt even ordered his military uniforms from Brooks Brothers and reportedly wore one up San Juan Hill. The fire Alice wrote of was probably the fire that destroyed the third storefront of Brooks Brothers, a building the business had moved out of a few years earlier but still owned. The New York Times reported it as "A Blazing Broadway Pile" and noted it cost the life of one firefighter and caused approximately \$1.5 million in damages. The building was worth \$350,000 and insured at \$250,000. Charles' indiscretion was barely a month later and Alice surely felt Brooks Brothers needed all the cash they could get at that point.

