

To: Family and Friends of the Kramers  
Subject: Cancellation Notice

Dear Loved Ones,

Due to the busy holiday season and other events, after much thought and tribulation, our family has decided to cancel our Christmas letter this year.

Mom and Dad are far too busy finalizing house plans, packing, and running back and forth to Menards and Home Depot to sit down and think of a creative Christmas letter to write. Dad is busy blowing insulation, laying floorboards, sheet rocking, and helping the carpenters at the new house. In his spare time, when he isn't farming, he has been restoring antiques that will appear in the new house and that leaves no time to help put stamps on the Christmas letters this year.

Mom's quilting career has really taken off this year. Between speaking at quilting guilds, appearing in yet another quilting magazine, designing, sewing, quilting new quilts, and blogging at [www.joscountryjunction.com](http://www.joscountryjunction.com), there is little time for her to write the letter. All of her free time is wrapped up in the house too. Mom and Kelli also are releasing their very first quilting book, Country Girl Modern, that they designed and created themselves. With the February 2015 release date coming up soon, and them being deep into book rewrites, they felt that canceling the Christmas letter this year was the best idea for them.

Kelli and Jason are busy enjoying their first year of marriage to send out their own Christmas letter; not to mention the fact that they are ALSO moving any day now to a new house a few miles down the road from where they live now. Kelli is preoccupied with finals this week as she will begin the nursing program at NICC this January and intends to graduate as a Registered Nurse in December 2016. Kelli, Jason, and their beagle Puppypcat also agreed that there is no time between now and the end of the year to send out a Christmas letter.

Kayla and Spencer have a full plate as Kayla is attending grad school to obtain her Master's degree from University of Northern Iowa while working full time as a Family and Consumer Science teacher at Marion High School. Spencer is busy continuing work as an electrician in Dubuque. This summer, Kayla and Spencer suffered some significant hail damage to their house in Monticello. Spencer was busy re-siding and re-shingling their house this summer and fall and their cars suffered hail damage as well. Kayla, Spencer, their yellow labs Bruce and Tony also agree they have no spare time to write the Christmas letter.

Buck and Jen are settling into their new house in Cedar Rapids. Between moving, remodeling, and renovating Buck and Jen both received promotions at their jobs as well! They did a lot of work to their new home before moving in, painting stripping floors, peeling wallpaper and landscaping were just a few of their tasks. Buck is now the supervisor of a framing crew that builds homes. Buck also tackles many side jobs bringing in extra money to make that dreaded house payment.

Karl finished his last semester at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) this past May and is completing his degree at Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar. Between grabbing lunch in the student center at NICC with Kelli and I, working full time at US Cellular in Decorah, and enjoying his new apartment in Decorah, it leaves little time for Karl to write a Christmas letter as well. Although he is on to bigger and better things, Karl still enjoys spending his time with his friends at UNI in Cedar Falls on the weekends when he isn't working. Karl also enjoys traveling to see all four of his siblings as often as he can. Karl is obviously far too busy to help with the Christmas letter this year.

As for me, Kalissa, by far the BUSIEST of all the Kramer kids, I somehow got stuck writing this cancellation notice. This was a pretty big year for me. I graduated from my first year of nursing school and began working as a Licensed Practical Nurse in the nursing home while continuing my education to become a Registered Nurse with hopes of graduating this May. Craig graduated from the John Deere Tech program at NICC and got a job at Baumler Implement as a tractor mechanic in West Union. Craig and I moved to my home town of Waucoma where Craig serves on the Fire Department and I serve on the First Responders. We also got a puppy, (a beagle of course) and we named her Betsy. Not only that, but after just over a year of dating, Craig popped the question over Labor Day weekend so now Craig and I are busy making wedding plans for September 5th, 2015.

Somehow even with all of that going on in my life, Mom and Dad thought that because I am on Christmas break from classes I would be the best candidate to write this cancellation notice because I didn't want all of you to be expecting a letter and not get one. I knew I had to at least write and explain that even though we would love to tell you about our lives, and how grateful we are for all God has blessed us with, and wish you all a Merry Christmas, we just didn't have time this year. Perhaps next year . . .

Speaking of next year, because of Mom and Dad's big move, after 2014 please begin sending any letters or cards to their new address: 111 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Northeast Waucoma, Iowa 52171 Speaking of the house. If you want, read mom's blog. You can see all the work they've done all year long on the house. Mom tells all about it there. It's fun to see all the progress they've made.

And so in light of not having time to write a full Christmas letter I guess I will at least wish you Merry Christmas from us all.  
The Kramers

