

want my body carried south after
Peace is declared. and many there is
many a one that has breathed their
last sighing to see friends and home
but I never have heard one say that
they was sorry that they had enlisted
for their Country's cause there is a
great many N^y men here if you
know of any that you are acquainted
with or your acquaintance has
round got any friend there just let
me know and I can easily find
them out for you or them and will
do it willingly if you could see the
eager look of many a one as visitors
go to the tents you would shed the
bitter tears and as many as I have
when I have seen them we have I
believe as a community done our
duty by them and I Thank God
that there is so many of them willing
to think so. I sat and bethed a little
Drummer Boys side 4 hours at one time
when I was there he was from Pa and
a widows only child and 14 years of

Portsmouth N^y

Sunday Octo 19th 1862

Dearest Cousin Mary did
you think I have forgotten you
if so I will say I have not but
many times the past three months
I have undertaken to write an answer
to yours of July 21st. Cardon enlisted in
the Navy for one year he went from home
the 26 day of August and I have been
waiting ever since for him to be appoint^d
in some Gunboat so I could let you
know when I wrote so you could be
like the rest of us watching the papers
for reports of the Gunboat. I recieved
a letter from Satiller last night
saying that he is onboard the Gunboat
Junata bound up the Straits of
Gibraltar so now Mary he is gone
but I should not expect our family
to be exempt from the trial that

so many have I have give him up for
his country she needs all her true Union
hearted men at the present time my
and your cousin Charles G Gourjee
is enlisted in the Eleventh R I Volunteers
for three years or the war so you can
see some of our friends are there he is
Aunt Ablys son tell Uncle Thomas
that he ought to feel proud of his
Native State for she is doing nobly she
has the 12 Regiment in Camp at Pro
and are going to start this present week
so they say it is for 9 months the men
that would of fought at home rather
than be drafted unless there was some
fair play used but have volunteered
rapidly and some of them by whole
Co Companies that was only three
days from Washington after serving
three months and was not discharged
from the State service. Cousin

Mary your heart would bleed if you
could see what I have seen and
see very often for the U.S Hospital
at Portsmouth Grove R I is but 3 miles
from my door and I have stood by
and witnessed the death of many a
brave son of the Union and all so
far from home one little fellow
15 years of age from N Carolina a
rebel prisoner I asked him just
before he breathed his last if he had
any Father and Mother O Mary
Never Never shall I forget the expression
of his face or his answer he took
both of my hands in his and said
Yes or I once thought I had but
they drove me into the Rebel Army
against my wishes I have recieved
my death by them and I wish you
all to understand that I want to
lay here in Northern Soil I never

my writing. give my love to Uncle
and Aunt and all of your family
reserve a share for yourself you
spoke of cousin James I have not
had a letter from him in a year
the 15th of last Aug. I answered that
but have not recieved any since
but am going to write soon to
him so now good afternoon Cousin
Mary write soon wont you

I must stop

Your Cousin J. H. C.

2nd sheet Mary when shall I stop
age I thought of his poor Mother
at home and Mary what must
of been her feelings God alone
knows. I went amongst the Wis
men and was doing for them one
day and asked some of their names
and told them I had friends in
that state and they asked very eagerly
my name then the names of my friends
but they did not know them but it
seemed that I knew them I have
wrote many a letter to friends that
that the poor sick and wounded men
could not write for themselves
and if the friends at home knew
with what eagerness they look for
letters from home they would
write of tenor than they do to them
I went to a W. B. city doctor by the
name of Carpenter and I gave
him a regular jawing and a saucy

one he said but I got what I wanted it was his attention to a N.Y. boy that was suffering great pain from his wound and needed some thing to bathe it in and when it was brought and I was bathing his leg he cried like a child and when I gave him a stilling powder he was easier and I was about to leave him he drew my head down to him and kissed me and said you have saved my leg for it must of mortified without something to bathe it in he said are you a wife and mother I said I am he said O God I knew it I am a Husband and a father to 3 children I was there when his wife came to see him and she clasped me in her arms as the savior of her husband he belonged to Allegany County

and was discharged from service as a cripple for life his leg is stiff his name is George Herbert Dale I must now stop of this kind of strain and say a little of myself I am well as common for me Willie has been sick with bilious Fever but is getting quite smart again. Edwin is at Greenport again fishing I expect him home in about three weeks. I expect Sattler tomorrow to spend a week or two with me You must excuse my long delay in writing but I have told you the reason now you must write me a good long letter in return for this and I will try to do better next time. I have written this makes three letters this afternoon and I am tired dont you think so by the looks of

How do you get along with your trade. I
wish you were here a while, and then go
down with me, I hate to go alone but
perhaps the Regiment will be called
that way. I must finish up this letter
with a pencil, as the Doctor is using the only
good pen there is in the house, it is Tuesday
evening and I have been quilting all day for
Miss Kell. I quilted all last week for her, the
William is settling up his business here, and
of course is absent from home a good deal
and I stay there when he is gone. Milsted
was here today he said our folks were
well as usual. We have to go alone I am
going to stop at Hunt Pavilion two weeks I
think now. I do not know why Louisa
and Nett do not answer my letters I
wish they would, I always have answered
my letters when I was well as soon as
I could, it seems a good while to wait for
a five or six months for letters from
our friends. I must close write soon
as you get this, from your cousin
give my love to all. Minnie

Sunday Afternoon
Woodstown Augth 1862

Dear Cousin!

I have got home from
meeting and will try to answer your letter
it has rained today making it very
unpleasant and gloomy. But it compares
with my spirits, for I feel very sad.
William has got a commission as
Surgeon to the twenty fifth Wisconsin
regiment, and gets pretty soon and
something seems to tell me he will
not come back he is very slender and
his constitution is not good, he can't
stand the fatigues of his practice
without making him sick. It does
not seem as if I could let him go, but
we all have got to spare our dearest
friends to put down this awful rebellion
Arthur would go but his lungs are not
stout and the Doctor won't take him
in, he is at Madison and Eugene to
harvesting, that is eighty miles from home

it is the Capital of our state a beautiful
city. surrounded by so many little lakes
it is certainly a splendid sight to see
those lakes covered with little boats
filled with the gay happy youth of
the city, it is called the young forest
city. Mary I got your likeness and did
not know it. I was up home when it
came, I come home Gardner and the
Doctor were here and when I took it
up Gardner asked me who it was I thought
it was one of his cousins that I had seen
he laughed and said it was sent to me
from the east, he said he did not care
who it was, if it was my cousin it was a
fine looking girl any way, asked me
if I thought you wanted to marry and
said if you ^{were} he believed he should want
to. His sister is teaching two ^{children} from
our folks Arthur took her to a party the
fourth, to the county seat. I was there we
had a splendid time Eliza, Alice,
Hellen and the rest of the young folks
poin there all went, Eliza enjoys a
dance as well as any of them, such
parties are very fashionable and the best of
folks go it is not as it used to be east.

I am coming East to spend the winter
you will probably see me between this
and the first of October, I wanted to
teach this winter but my health is not
near as good as it was before I was sick.
I shall go to New York City to see the Dr.^s
folks so you see I shall have something
to take up my mind, I want to go
back to old Drykersville again and
I think now is a nice chance as I
have nothing to hinder, I am going to
Paeroff with him, there is where they
stop till called in to service. I was
up home week before last Mrs Keith is
there from Chicago and also Allie
Govehfs, it is very pleasant there, a little
rural village in a valley heavily
surrounded by hills and embosomed
by tall trees, I do think Viola is a pretty
place for a town I know you would like
the site very much. I wrote you that
I thought Pa would move he probably would
if we had gone but now will stay
there, It would be easier for him to
carry on a prairie farm than to
Wood's one, they are getting along well.



Postmark
May 27

Miss Mary S Briggs
Strykersville
Wyoming Co
N.Y.

Give my love to uncle and Aunt and to Enquiring Friends

I have not said anything about myself as yet and for fear you may think me rather bold thus to address a person that I never saw I will ^{introduce} ~~express~~ myself to you

Sageur village Mass

I am the adopted Daughter of George and Savina Frink and at the hour of 11 o'clock when every person in the house is wrapped in profound slumber ^{I am} penning a few lines to you which I hope you will favor me with an answer

Good Night yours truly
from Miss Lavina Pagers
to Miss Mary Briggs

c. 1862 - W02

Sageur Novem the 11

Dear cousin it is with pleasure we received your kind note dated Oct 29 but we are sorry to hear that your brother is ill likewise that Nathaniel has been separated from his friends but since he has gone I hope the blessing of God may attend him and grant him a happy victory and safe return when you write to him give him my love and tell him he shall have an interest in my prayers likewise to Adellbert; you wish to know what had become of ~~the~~ Lucius well I will tell you he arrived safe home on Saturday after he left your place

you said that he agreed
to write to you but you
must not blame him too severely
for when he came home he
found most of his associates
gone to the war and he
felt so lonely he said he
was sorry that ~~he~~ he came
home and he seemed determin^{ed}
to enlist but we persuaded
him to stay at home altho^{ugh}
it was a hard task
he had fretted so much
there isn't enough of him
left to make a shadow
when you write to him
persuade him to stay with
his friends for if he goes
to the war it will break
his parents heart and I
don't think that they
would long survive the blow

for he is all they live
for so please give him
the best advise your
capable of and you
will be remember'd by
me while life lasts
please forgive brother Lucius
for he is sorry that he has
been so negligent and says
he will try and do
better in future
he sends his love to you all
don't blame him for not
answering your note for I
asked the privilege and he
couldn't very well refuse
to grant it

Father and Mother Frink
is in prettily ^{good} health for people
of their age they send
their love to you likewise



Lapeer March $\frac{10}{2}$ 1862

Dear Cousin I now take my
seat for the purpos of pening a
few lines to you. we are all enyng
good health & I ~~you~~ hope this will
find you the same. we have had good
sleighing for six week & I tell you
I have improved it. I have had pleasat
times this winter I went to a dance
the 22 of Feb and a tip top good time
I hope that you has good a time as that
you spok of the young folks all getting
maried of down thir I dont think
they can beat this place much they
have all jumped of the plank as
you told a boat I expect it will
be my turn next but I will let
you know when it happens. I told
you that I would write to Amelia

when I got home but I have not
done it yet. I dont want
you to think that I am a
story teller. it was no use of
my thinking of holding correspondance
with her. altho I suppose I ought to
write to her. I presume she thinks you
have got a strange cousin I dont
blame her for thinking so. if
I thought I could better my
self by so doing I should do as
I agreed. altho she is a fine young
lady. I should like to be on the
top of mount Sebo this evening
you had better believe. I am sorry
that I did not stay there this
winter but nevermind there is
better times a coming I have got
the road learnt it wont be so
long next time. I hope that



you have not forgot that
likeness of yours yet. I shall
expect to see you the next time
you write to me ~~it~~ it is getting
most time to attend evening church
so I must draw to a close. I
cousin you wanted to know about
that half sister of mine I will
tell you she is a lady that has
been living with us the most of
the time of 9 years she has gone
to canad on a visit now how
long she intends to stay I dont know
I will bid you good by
give my love to all from your
cousin L E Frink
to Mary I Prigg

if I had no relatives there
Old Stryker'sville would have
no charms for me, they it is
getting to be an awful drink-
ing hole and filled full
of dutch and french, a set
that I am not partial to.

I had a letter from Aunt
Gavina a while ago her
health is very poor, she
said Lucius talked of going
to war and if he did she
~~should~~ not live long after
I should like to see her
very much, and I mean
to before long. How do you
all prosper tell me all the
news, what is Vetto's babies name?
Mother was with me over two
weeks, they are all well.

My love to all. Write soon
and I will answer right off
"Mate" your cousin
Minnie

Readstown April 2th 1862

Dear Cousin,

After so long a time
I will try and answer your
letter nearly five months
has interceded since you
wrote me, high time to
answer it you think. Soon
after I received your letter I
went to Pirogue on a visit
and stayed two weeks, and
after I returned I went home
a while, and then I was taken
sick and have been sick
ten weeks, and now begin to
sit up so you must not
expect a very interesting letter
the first time I handle a

pen after such a seige.

I took a very severe cold when I was at home, and that when I was unwell, and have paid dearly for it, and perhaps shall the rest of my life, for a while they did not think I would live, the way I took cold was, I went to visit with some friends at Hartwell Turners, and came home at eleven o'clock at night a foot, it was a mile and a quarter and no track in the road but that made by one sleigh, for it was after one of the hardest snow storms we had this winter, when I got home I rung my under garments out for they were ringing wet almost to my body. A great piece of presumption you will say, I have walked

in the snow farther than that before and it did not hurt one We Western Ladies can stand more than you Eastern (but I missed it that time did I not) O! how sick I was for six weeks I could not turn on either side but lay on my back all the time. I wished I could die a great many times I had spasms every day almost and was in pain all the time, I had five large blisters on me and was cuped eleven times and bled in each arm, so you see I have had a good time. But enough of this, I want to see you Mary you do not know ^{how} bad, I wish you could come and spend the summer with me. I should like to go east this summer, but I think

Troy Centre June 15th 1862
Dear Cousin

You must Excuse me
for waiting so many weeks before
I answer your kind letter but you
know that a ^{my} Farmer gets but
little time to write & when he
does his fingers are so stiff and
clummy it is difficult for him
to write. But no excuse you will
say. & so I say How do you all
do what is Henry about now
I owe him a letter & you may
tell him for me that I have
not forgotten that that is the
case I will write him soon

Cousin. I want you to the next
time you write to tell me all about your
Father what he is doing what are his
circumstances are & I am anxious
to know how he is getting along

you said in your last you
were going to start a Milliners Shop
now I hope you have got a pretty
lot of bonnets than I saw at our
Milliners the other day. why they were
a perfect lot of Scoops a man is
in danger of having his neck knock
ed out of joint when any of the Ladies
comes near him But they are fashion-
able and so they must pass I suppose
I will write to my Rhode Island
friends once in a while & they write
to me Cousin Brown writes a
good letter I tell you I have not
heard from them lately I dont
know but they have gone to the
war for they talked some of it
when they last wrote you must
write often that bearing spoke of
I did not get my self was the
reason you did not receive it but
I will send you on a paper Occasion
-ally

tell your Mother when you see
her that I send her my best love
and wish her to write me a few
lines and also uncle Thomas I want
them both to write I mean to come
and see you all yet before I die
tell your folks Hazy Hamel says
folks live at a place in this State
called Berlin it is not far from
here One of his boys stayed over
Sunday with me last winter it was
Silas they were all well the friends
are all well in these parts and
doing as well as they can times are
hard just at present your folks
ought to come out west now to take
up a farm the Homestead bill has
passed & now is the time for men
to get good Homes for themselves
write soon and much oblig
your Cousin

A. Briggs

to Providence and was under orders all day in a pelting rain and snow storm he said the lonesomeest sight he see in they procession was his riderless horse he had all his war trappings on and marched next to the Gearsse and he said seemed to feel his loss when they arrived at the tomb as Gloeum's Coffin was borne in to the tomb out of sight Edwin said his poor horse fetched one awful neigh and seemed to shudder all over he said there was many a white face standing by to hear him express his affection for his beloved master I was very well acquainted with his master Col Gloeum for many years and the last time I saw him was a year ago this month at Troy on that same little black horse I told him then I should never see him again I did not think how true my words have proved and this gallant little Gtate now feels the loss of such men as him and to think of their mutilating the dead O what an account has R. I. to settle with the Georgians it was worse than killing Ellsworth I must now close give my love to all your Fathers family reserve a share for yourself write soon and let me know what you think of my long delay
Mrs Gubie Brown



Portsmouth N. H.

Sunday June the 29th 1862

Dear Mary I will try to write to you it is long since I have received a letter I wrote you once since I received your last which was Oct 15 of last year I wrote the week before Christmas but cannot think you have got it so I will try once more.

In the first place my family are all well Edwin is at Greenport Long Island again fishing and I am rather lonely now Willie is a great boy now Sister Mary has been here this spring 6 weeks with me she is in Newport now working at her trade which is dressmaking. Fathers family are all well as far as I know. I suppose you have received a letter either from Ardour or Latic herself telling of her getting

Married if not I will tell you
she was married the 15th of
last February and came
here on their wedding tour and
staid a fortnight she has gone
to his fathers to take charge of
the house work I tell you Mary
that I think farming will
fly with her for she knows
about as much about farming
house work as a child they farm
it on a big scale. R.S. is still
again ~~that is~~ bleeding in the
refuge of James Island. I
have lost many an acquaintance
in this bloody war in the battle
at Beaufort N.C. under our Gallant
Burnside I lost 4 acquaintance
one was Doct George H Church
son at Wickford tell Uncle I
guess he remembers Doct Church
one of our Portsmouth ~~friends~~
soldiers is at home here now

on parole of honor he was
taken prisoner at N.C. under
Burnside while out on picket
duty they kept him awhile then
they told him they had not ~~enough~~
enough for their own men to eat
and told him to come home his
name is Phillip Bassett. You
asked if any of yours and mine
relatives in this was Aunt Fizzie
Briggs son Tommy is in the 4th
S.C. regiment I believe I have
a number of cousins on my
fathers side in the various regi-
ments. why is it Mary that this
gallant little State should have to
mourn for so many brave men
and such men as the beloved Glocy
Ballou and Paper and a great
many others that I could mention
Glocum was brought home and
buried with military honors
Edwin went with his company

Readstown June 28th

Dear Mary,

Friday Afternoon

I received your letter last mail and now take up my pen to answer it before the mail goes out which is in a little while. You say you had had no letter from me since you wrote before, I answered your letter right off, and have waited very patiently for an answer ever since. So you see I am not so bad as you thought. It is drawing nigh the fourth of July, O' how I wish I could spend it with you Mary and a few others there with you, that day will be celebrated all over America as it never was before, preparations in this state in the large towns are gorgeous. William talks of going to the army he has sent for a commission as a Surgeon. I am so afraid he will go, but if he does I am coming East, so then I shall see you once more, if he thinks it is his duty I suppose I must not hinder him. Perry has gone and Elmore from around Viola, Arthur wanted to go, but Pa did not want him to, Eugene has

scattered in almost a minute. Our folks are smart. Mothers health is better than in the spring. William sends his respects your affectionate son.
Michigan

been laid up all the Spring, and is yet with a very bad limb, it is better now. We feared one while that it would be a white swelling. You would not know either of the boys if you should see them. Arthur is most six foot high Eugene is a great fellow, I rather guess you would know me. all the change you would see I am not near as fleshy as I was. aside from that I am the same old six pence.

Mary I do not feel in a writing mood to day to be so warm I am lazy. I wish you were here to go a Strawberrying, with me this afternoon. wont you come and go. Eliza was down last week and said she was a going to write you soon (quite a present you sent me by her, but you may need it first yet.) She enjoyed her visit East very much. She looks healthier than I have seen her in some time. Where is Henry? tell him I will answer his letter soon. Why dont he come up here he would like it, has he gone to the war. Gardner Bliss has gone and is soon going to Washington. Mary I wish you would come here and teach school, you could just as well as not teachers wages are good and they are not as plenty here as there so they give them a certificate who can spell their own name. You would do well here. I must stop. Write soon my love to your Mother. Excuse this for it is

feature day to meet face to face my relatives
there I remain ever the same if you direct
to me in my husbands name please put the
middle ^{letter} name in for he has an uncle
Thomas and he sometimes gets my letters
when that is not in

Mrs Thomas N. Fay
East Greenwich
R.I.

East Greenwich Oct. 28 1862

Dear Cousin Mary

It being a long time since
I have had a letter from you thought would
write again, thinking you had never received
a letter from me, which I wrote last January
and I felt a desire to hear something more from
my relatives that are so far from me.

Since I last wrote you I have have left the state
of single blessedness. and as the yankees say have
got spliced or married and suppose you would
like to know what kind a new cousin I have
brought into the family, first he is 6 foot
in height rather slim than otherwise but don't
think he is a hay pole for all that has very
black piercing eyes brown hair and sandy
whiskers he does not sport hair on his upper
lip for I do not like it on him. and he loves

a joke as well as any one now from what I write do not think him very homely for of course I do not think him so. I will describe any place of residence it is about one mile from my Fathers an what used to be called the Gov. Ward farm I think your Father knows it is about 3 miles from the village the house which is owned by my husbands father is a large two story white house standing a short distance from the road. decidedly a very pleasant place I live in the family with my husbands father's but if you would only come this way what a pleasant time we would have for we keep three horses Bob, Nig, and Prince the stews first which I can drive and have when I please and I will take you to all of our relations in R. I. my husbands name is Thomas M. Fry

Aunt Mary Ann ^{no} Reynolds was buried a week ago last sabbath her complaint was kidney complaint it has been plaguing her for years it was a lonely sight Uncle Geo did not know hardly what to do with her self

she has one only child a young man about 30 he looked very lovely indeed. I saw Aunt Harriet at the funeral she is 76 years old and does not look as though she was ~~over~~ more than 50 certain is quite well saw Uncle Ambrose she is quite well for him. Mother fails I think she has spells of her heart it troubles her quite often of late I am at Fybil at present on a visit but began my letter from Greenwich. Parson has gone in the Navy we do not know as yet how to direct to him. This war ~~so~~ will make many homes desolate and hearts sad. I have cousin on my fathers side a great number gone and Uncle David Briggs youngest son has gone his name is Thomas Henry he has been wounded but not seriously. This war has taken many of our near and dear friends from our side to awful scenes of bloodshed but this rebellion must be put down ours are no better than others but we are all selfish mortals Please give my love with my husbands to Uncle and Aunt and your brother and sister keep a good share for your self hoping in some

Home Sabbath Evening Nov 2nd 1862

My Dear Friend, Mary.

Miriam has been kind enough to leave one side of her paper for me to write on so I think I will improve my time. I received your very welcome letter of Oct 17th last week and I was indeed very glad to hear from you again. For I had thought you had quite forgotten your Plover friend and comes per uident, but I am glad of even an old unanswered letter reminded you of it. You must see that the form of another of our young friends lies in the side of tomb. The arrows of two winters have blown over the grave of our loved Frank, and now another has gone a victim to that dreaded disease Consumption. It will be ever thus, one after another goes and sleep that long sleep, and we mourn their loss, but I can hardly realize it, probably not as much as you do there, you who were present with her during her sickness.

I went down to the Bluffs last week and had a good visit as well as a good horseback ride, Sunday at home and just as full of mischief as ever. I have written until I am tired and the fire is all out so you will excuse me this time if I write a very short letter. Love to all, a large share for yourself, and write soon to your friend

Atya.

Write you a letter dear cousin, it is a beautiful Sabbath evening, the moon is shining in all her majesty this evening. Although we had a snow storm last night and this morning, to remind us of what is coming by and by when the winter thing arrives in all his cold, and stately majesty, yet I do not know as I dread his coming, for with him comes many pleasures which we do not participate in at any other season of the year. I am at Uncle Harry's to night Edija and I are on the cozy little parlor bench writing, she to Louisa I to you. I have written to the Liberator, and his mother to day. I received a letter from him Friday eve, full sheets of letter paper completely written over, describing his journey through the Indian country and the scenes of the late massacre, it is very interesting I wish you could read it. It is long since he left I hardly know what to do with myself. I am at home at present. Mary I have given up coming east this fall it is so late I could not enjoy myself in visiting New York city for I want to go round and I could not work, so I am going off to school and am going to teaching again I can occupy my time that way the most profitably I think of any. I want to go to school till next May, and shall if I can, I am sure I could not have gone six weeks earlier than I should have liked to have come. You must not be disappointed because I do not come, I will come if William stays long.

Home Sabbath Afternoon 1862

I am sorry he had to go north he wished to go south for it is very cold, and then not so pleasant to fight Indians, and he wished to see his folks, so he went rather reluctantly north. I mean to improve my time this winter to the utmost am going to mark out a course of reading for my improvement, I wish you were here to pursue reading with me I have Mc Canby's, and Channing's works to read, I rather think Emma Rip will go with me, Sadner is at home now. Mr. Rip's health is very poor I am afraid he will not stand it long. I write you all about them just as if you knew. ~~But~~ I think as much of them I think you must hear of them to. Nathan and Edson are here and talking so glibly that I cannot think of any thing to write, if you were here I would tell you a great many things which I cannot put upon paper for it would take twenty sheets of paper. Why cannot you come when here I know you would enjoy yourself well, when Williams comes home you must come and live with us, and we shall not take too for an answer so make up your mind to that. O. I hope he will come home safe and well, he is so delicately framed I fear the hardships of so cold a climate will undermine his health, for he has got to ride over many many miles of long dreary, lonesome prairie, without a house or tree to break the view or even a sign of man. The wind blows terribly there, and I feel fearful he will be sick, but I will leave him in the hands of a kind Providence which will watch over him there as well as here.

Eliza is so mean I can not write, she will not let me alone a minute

to go and examine a problem life is subject to Rheumatism and he is very much afflicted with it. I have a fine looking soldier who will help pulling my net and joining my elbow, she spilled the ink on my paper, so I think I had better quit. Now I will resume my letter I am helping Ma do her fall knitting, and sewing, I have got a new wadded dreg to make for her this week. Father has a great deal of work to do this fall, I went out and helped him husk corn two days, so do not you think I am getting to be good for something. I do not know whether Eliza will teach or not, they want her to teach a few miles from home, Helen is a going to teach and get twenty dollars a month, if you know the young folks here I could tell you a good deal, but as you know no one here you will not care to read about them.

Now I got all ready to go even my traveling dreg and hat, and trunk all packed, to come and then give it up. So do you ^{not} think I back out of a bargain quickly. The girls have great times here riding, Eliza has got a new saddle and enjoys her rides finely, I really love to ride horseback it is the nicest recreation imaginable I can tell you. Alice Turner has gone to Appleton College the best one in the state, she wishes to graduate, I wish I could go two years, I think I would enjoy it. Arthur did not go to war, he joined the twenty third regiment and then wrote to them to transfer him into the twenty fifth with the Doctor and they said they would, so he went into the 25th but they regretted to send on his transfer and left the state, and when the 25th left camp they told him he could not go without it, so he is home, till he hears from some of them, and I am not sorry for I do not think he is well enough

Will Mary what do you think
of such a winter as this I like
it pretty well on one account on the
rest I dont get carried to school all
these muddy rainy mornings but it
is rather unpleasant having so much
mud tracked into the schoolhouse
and now I have got better acquainted
I will tell you what kind of a family
I have got into the woman is as good
as she can be almost but the man
is a selfish all sufficient disagreeable
fellow who lins with his sun a bag
of eleven years and for that matter his
mother is none the better but they have
good conveniences for me and company if
I have it and are willing to do any thing
to make it pleasant for me so after all
rather like the place Well what kind
of a time did you have Christmas did
Old Sauty call round your way my pen
has taken a notion not to jine down
very well so I will have to stop

Your friend as ever

Amelia

Althia Dec 22nd 1822

Dear Mary

I should have answer^d
yours before but I had expected to go
out there Christmas and so you
must excuse my delay it is Sunday
and so mady we cannot go to church
so to pass away the time I am writing
to old friends but even that does not
avail to drive away a lonesome feeling
but instead reminds me of how
pleasant would be the sight of
an old familiar face and that I

(I am encouraged at the thought)
I shall see ere long and the one I
most want to too at present Elsie
I am going to start wednesday night
and I think I shall spend a happy
new years day with her & aunt and
now I must tell you what a merry
Christmas we had Mr Austins
people had a party consisting mostly
of connection forty five came before
night took supper which consisted of
Hesters Chicken pie garden vegetables
several kinds of cake pie tarts honey
nuts candies currant wine &c &c
in the evening we got the old folks
waked up and a merryer set I never
saw together old men over seventy years
joined in the plays which continued
till daylight for no one could go home
because of the darkness
My school goes along tolerably fair I have
only been out with the young people once

but they are coming here to spend
Tuesday evening this week there is one
great tall fellow that seems to take
quite a fancy to our schoolmarm but
I guess she is not over charmed with him
though he is a fine fellow and has a nice
farm another farm I have heard of up
in Wisconsin but the schoolmarm is
not a farmer Soldiers letters she gets
once in a while some rather discouraging
of the employment some not many about
that base you spoke of I would not venture
nor count even if all is right with him
which I very much doubt there is thousands
as good fish in the sea and perhaps some
better as for me I have made up my mind
to wait a while here and if I dont find
my liking to go up where Crostus is and
renew my age and be just in the market
five years hence no fret but I cant
write a long letter this time for fear of
doing injustice to others write me immediately