

Grand Rapids. Feb. 25. 1844

My dear mother,

Every week for the last three months, I have been thinking I should write to you; I wanted to let you know that the articles you sent in the fall all got here safe and in good order the (chises?) were excellent and done us a great deal of good- And again, I must give you my best thanks for the many other good things we received at the same time, I have not written to Arlington yet, they are very kind to me and I ought at least to thank them for their liberality, But I really have not had time all winter.

We have had a house running over full ever since last Sept. This winter we have had one hired man of our own; and four men boarding here, besides our own family. And then we have a great many comers and goers that keeps both Caroline and myself every minute at work so that we have no time at all we can call our own.

I feel worn out in body and mind, and wish I was so far in the woods that nobody could find us. I do so long for rest and quiet, I don't know why I should feel as I do. But since my husband's death, I have never wanted to go from home; or see any company at the house. I have never been out of the woods since he died and feel as though I never wanted to; It is something of a satisfaction to me, to know that you and the rest of my kind understand my feelings; For there is (sic) many that that does not. They think that because I have all the comforts of a home left and boys that are able and willing to provide for me that I ought not to complain. I know I have much to be thankful for, but I wanted my husband too.

When I began to write I thought I would not mention one word about my old troubles, but, I can't help it for "from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh".

I learn from the Bennington papers that Gen. Robinson has gone to his rest. I have not heard a word from Ben except by the newspapers since I got your last letter in September.

I have lately receive a letter from sister Read, she is well and settled to her mind. I should like to see her, and her sweet little girl very much. I do not wonder that she worships the child. She sees her with the same eyes that I do my little Georgy and that is enough, I think he is the prettiest child I ever had and young as he is, I can see he has his father's disposition.

I suppose there has been at least a half dozen grandchildren and great grandchildren born since I have heard from Ben. And those that were little when I came away are grown up by this time. Six years make a great difference in children. I can see that by my own family. I don't think you would know any of them, without it is Hollis he looks as use(d) to only he has grown very much he has been gone from home all winter to school about eight miles up the river. We need him at home now as the sugar season has already come on and we are expecting to make a good deal of sugar.

An old Indian trader that has lived a great many years that this will be the last year for making sugar that we have had for many years and as he always guesses right we put full faith in his prediction.

The boys already tapt (sic) three hundred trees and will tap another hundred if they can manage to store the sap till they can boil it. We have two caldrons and a large brass kettle, but that is not enough without boiling all night and that they do not like to do. We did not make but little last year; and I missed it very much. It is a great convenience to always have it on hand with out buying. I suppose you will make in any quantity this spring; and have plenty of company to help out while you are making, As most people think that don't make sugar themselves think those who do make, make it for the express purpose for them to eat and that they must eat as much as they care and as long as they can and then carry home the rest. That is the sole object in making maple sugar-

This region of country is now filling up with settlers we have neighbors within a quarter of a mile. Two young men came in last Sept., bought land and boarded with us till they could build and get ready for their wives. This took till Dec. they then went back, got married and brought the wives on, they are very agreeable, pretty young women good mates for Caroline, about her age. I have never been to see them but once; they are in here often and Caroline goes there.

Land can be bought here now for next to nothing, but buying up State warrant for forty or fifty cents on the dollar and then beyond land with the warrants State lands are selected in our immediate neighborhood and that is why the tide has turned this way. As soon as navigation opens, there is a great many coming on; I already begin to dread the summer, for fear we shall have a house full of men to do the work for; Strangers that only a stay or two I an get along with very well, but week after week is more than I can stand.

Last fall, a young man came in here and bought a quarter section of land. He boarded with us six weeks and then went away. This winter he is getting his land cleared and it is his men that we have had here. They are all gone now but one so that I get along more comfortable. I don't know how long we shall live so but not long I am afraid. Caroline and myself both need rest. The boys hate to have a gang of young men here as bad as we do, but we can't get rid of them for there is no where else for them to stay at present,

But this state of things will not last, already the woodmen are laying the forest low. Giant oaks of a hundred years growth are falling day by day; soon all will disappear and cultivated fields will rise in their stead. But all this brings no joy to to me I had as (lief?) live in one wide unbroken wildness as anywhere, and rather too.

I received a letter from Ann last week. She was well and is desirous to move to Michigan but is not able at present, her husband is constable has not worked at his trade for the last year, has lately lost a brother from consumption- Charles and Aaron wish me to mention to uncle Aaron something about that deed, that he could get it in readiness and send it by mail. For my own part I would as soon have it rest as it is up anyway or at any rate all Mr. Hinskill on some of the family go east and then send it by them.

But the boys think different. They have bargained with choppers to come and get to chopping the first of June, and they want it their own before they begin, or mine which is the same thing. They bought eighty acres last summer, but are not satisfied yet. They now want eighty more from Hollis and George. If they do not get it soon it will all be taken up. I have no objection to their owning land, I mean Hollis and George, but I intend, if I live, they shall both learn trades—

I think clearing up a new farm is the hardest way to live that ever was contrived.

Today, Feb.27 we have enough syrup on hand for one hundred pounds of sugar as we have back those good days, but today it rained and is no sap day. Hollis has got home again. His school is out, he has not been home since New Year's. His arm is better, though not entirely well; the hand is still ridged up and sore. He has grown all this winter, but keeps his flesh, his face is as fat and as round as it was when he was a little child. There is no flesh on me, any body would think I was sixty years old, but I don't care how quick I got old.

(In the margins of the letter)

I hope you will write soon. I want to hear from you very much. How is Harriet and all her family? What does she and Lucretia call their babies, has Vander and Janette moved back yet, and does sister Betsy like her new home? Have you had a visit from Catharine?

This winter since we moved here we have had but little cold. My cloak will last some time as I have not had it in that length of time. Aaron bought a pair of horses last fall and gave two hundred dollars for them but there was so little snow that he did not find it profitable to keep them so he sold them a few days ago for what he gave -he did not lose anything by them, but if it had been good sleighing he could have made a hundred dollars without any difficulty by lumbering.

I expect we shall have Caroline at home one more year, her man had gone to Muskegon, lumbering, has hired a saw mill a year and not be married till he gets through. I hope he will find it so profitable that he will stay there a good many years. I am in no hurry to part with my only girl. Indeed, I feel that that I could not get along without her. She is very much like her father. Aaron is waiting to take my letter to town, he has just hired two men to come live here and make shingles all the spring. So it goes.

Caroline sends love to Lucinda, has started half a dozen letters but never got any completed.

Love to father and all the family,

Yours very affectionately,

Adelia

Comments: Again, a rare use of commas, some missing capitals but the handwriting is quite clear to decipher. I have inserted some punctuation for clarity. Also, some paragraph form since all was written together. JC

Addressed to Mrs. Lucinda Hubbell, Bennington, Vermont