

Jan. 1841

This letter is badly damaged and has major parts missing.

My Dear Mother,

...trying to write you three months...but trying to ...but...account of the most multiplicity of my engagements...and brother Aaron's letter by Mrs. Henry and had...(thought?) of you twice since then. Once by way of Lucinda....her sister Catherine soon after her visit...to (?) The last we have heard from you, but hope...something of our intention of moving into the woods.

We have put this plan into execution, have bought 40 acres, built a small house and barn and settled (sic), as I expect, to move no more. Our house is only a better sort of shanty: thirty two feet long and eighteen wide. It is clapboarded up on the outside and the inside is lined with clean new boards. The space between is filled close with straw to keep out the cold. It is divided into two rooms below and two chambers, each chamber having a glass window in it.

The boys occupy (sic) one and Caroline the other. The chimney goes up through the middle (sic) of the house. In the kitchen is a large fireplace with a brick hearth; and in my room a stove. It is perfectly comfortable and looks altogether better than a log house.

In fact, no log house is fit for white folks to live in. They are all dark, smoky, nasty things. And when I am offered to go into one, I make a point of getting out, as soon as possible.`

We moved here the 17th of Nov. three miles from any house. There is only a small opening yet...house and barn and to one unused to new country presents an appearance (sic) of gloom and desolation...Impossible...to conjure up. I often go out in the evening of the corner of the house and look around me. All is one wild...(?)est ...trees tower in sullen majesty over our humble (? abode) ...as the wind sighs through their leafless branches; they are (? moaning) ing..over their fallen companions and their own...(?) Imminent demise) as I listen to the wailing of these gi(gangtic?).....

...(I wonder if?). I should ever again see home, country and friends? (? I realize)...though, unwillingly, that I never can. It wi..industry any way.. and rigid economy to not allow ourselves to be disheartened in view of our prospects....there much more cheering... than they have been albeit they

are none too bright now. If we compare our situation to those around us, we have every reason to be satisfied.

I know of one family this side of the river that lives as comfortable as we do. Little children go bare headed and bare footed the year round. What few clothes, they have on hang on them in rags and tatters. Their skins (for you can see nearly all of it) begrimed with smoke and dirt and their hair standing in all directions, as much as a stranger to a comb as their skin is to water.

The parents think they are so poor, they have the right to be dirty. If the time comes that people can make their own cloth they will in great measure be independent.

All kinds of goods as dear, but woollen (sic) goods in particular. Fulled cloth or sattinette that is fit to wear, is two dollars a yard. Broadcloths are enormous. It would take all a farmer could raise in a good farm in a year to buy him a suit of clothes and hire a tailor to make them up.

Oats are are twenty five cents a bushel, corn 31 and wheat fifty cents. Pork in the hog, three dollars a hundred...

You may wonder why we have (settled?) in the woods it is because we like the place (? as it was much nearer to to the village. If we had wanted to be....(letter/better?)

I was here last sumer (sic) and was struck with the.....And Charles wants to go a mile farther and they would have gone if it had not been for building (? a bridge over a deep gully) where the road would have to go. This they could not have stopped here. The land lies level all around us ... made a beautiful farm.

The boys are employed....the saw mill for a house. We intend building next...as the present house is too small. Besides....(? we want to use...) ll the lumber that was got out last winter is used in building (? our) farm and the house we are going to live in.

Charles cuts down the trees ands saws them into logs and Aaron draws them to the Mill. They get half the lumber their logs make. As soon as they get what lumber they need, they will go to chopping (sic) on our own premises.

We shall have a fine chance for making sugar. Maple trees are all around us, we need not go half a mile to make a thousand pounds.

You will think we must be lonesome here, yet, I assure you it is not the fact. We see much more company here than we ever have at any other time since we lived in Michigan. Scarcely a day passes but somebody is

here. I have to keep in readiness all the time for a call. Our visitors to appearance (sic) go away well satisfied with their entertainment. We give all castes a hearty welcome that come.

I never go out from home in the winter..But when the trees get greened (?), I make nothing of strolling off two or three miles and call at every log hut in my way. I so contrive my calls as not to be caught at meal times. This is more agreeable for all parties. I think I have seen much all sorts of folks in this western world. For they are from all quarters of the globe. There are many germans, french, Irish and norwegians (sic).

I received a letter from sister Caroline...she informed me of her intention to make us a visit next summer. This was joyful news. I now feel I have something to look forward to. Something to live for. I hope I may... How I wish it was possible for you to come with them...to have our new house done and things pretty snug about....We have nothing to fear. Some think we shall be sick ag(? ain). If we are, I don't know what will become of us.

We are all well.(Aaron?) is as fleshy as he ever was. As for me, I look precisely like George Lyman. You would scarcely tell us apart.

How is Harriet and all the children? Give my love to the whole clan. Tell Lucretia her father and Mother was (sic) here visiting a fortnight ago. They were all well. I am expecting Mr. & Mrs. Ballard now every day.

We have excelent (sic) sleighing and pleasant weather, not very cold weather yet, at last, we do not feel the cold here in the woods.

How does Ann get along? Lucinda wrote that she suposed (sic) we knew she had a baby and that is all we have heard from her. Don't let it be long before you write. For if you stop writing, I shall never hear from you in any other way. Caroline says Lucinda must write to her. Turner and children all send love to you

In the margin, written horizontally over the script.

.... plenty of milk this winter and I make some butter. We have killed two old hogs and four pigs ten months old. I made a fine lot of sausages. We have planted the plumb stones you sent us and other things you sent us. And think if I live to be as old as granny (sic) Chandler, I shall have fruit.

If you see any of the Arlington friends, give our regards to them. (? I haven't heard) from Laura after George's death. I shall write to them before long.

Tell niece Betsy that I have got a (? husband) picked out for her. He is worth coming after. And she must come get him. He says her height would be no objection. He is rich and likely. He waits on Caroline on all sprees she goes to. Has Harriet moved to her new house yet? How is little Albert? We all want to see him much. We hear a good account of him from all quarters. We are looking forward with some interest to the opening of spring and the improvements of our farm. No one has made any experiment to know whether it is good or...(huge chunk gone here). ...paying t...ought to have written immediately to that effect. I hope it (? won't) be long before we hear from you again.

Love to father and all, Affectionately, Adelia

It has been a struggle to try and fill in the gaps of the letter. I have indicated such by three periods and a question mark enclosed with parenthesis suggestions as to what might have been written.

JAC. 1/2023