

Green Plain Feb 8 1857

Dear brother and sister

I have once more been permitted to see a letter from you I had almost discouraged of hearing from you again. There was a report here that the Indians was very bad in your Vicinity and I was afraid you were all massacred – but the deads alive and the lost if found but before I proceed further I will tell you we are well my family consist of my husband self and two boys Lake and George ?my health has been very poor since you left Ohio bit it now is improving We live near homer on the Moses Patrick farm owned by James Billington land has become so high here that we hardly ever expect to buy land here if we owned but one hundred acres of land here I could be content to stay here and let them go west that love money better than I do I visited you old farm last winter it value is at 50 dollars an acre I should think Maria you might write to Lydia and I I would write if I had to take a baby on one knee and my paper on the other I want to know how many babies Sams folks have how the Old gentleman and Lady likes and so and so Lake Ellworth is with us some of the time this winter their family has grown up till they have two young men and three young woman they quite intelligent young people Lake is teaching in an adjoiny district to us

I don't know whether you have heard of Quincys death or not he died two years ago last Aug he left a little girl I had a letter from Alma last week she talks of coming back to Ohio and I believe Harlow died since you left his girl is now 20 years old she writes she thinks of visiting us in the spring Isaac has gone to Illinois he owns a little farm near Springfield Turners widow has married again I have not heard from Wales for three years the last he wrote me he was married and had a daughter he was carrying on a shop in Cleveland but his wife had gone to Cincinnatti to make her last visit they were going to California so you see I correspond with what few relatives I have left on this Earth Our old father it seemed to me suffered a great deal before he died he was in London he had rented a little shop and thought to make his living by a few little groceries he couldn't bear liquor for six months before he died I had thought many times my heart like stone towards him but alas I pitied him he had no home and I hand none to ask him to be had spent all his property and Alma wouldn't have him about their house and he died among strangers I believe Lydia has had two children since you left Harlow and Oscar I suppose Martha and Abi think themselves young woman now for my Lake begins to talk about the pretty girls and he is not 13 yet although he is a large as most boys at 16 my other is 4 and small of his age I will bring my harangue to a close for this is the second long letter I have written today excuse mistakes for Lake Ellsworth and Scranton have kept such an incessant gabbling I hardly know what I was writing.

My husband joins in sending his respects to you all

Martha A. Scranton

To Maria Colver

If you think it worthwhile to write

Transcribed by Marcia Philbrick  
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