

**Letter from Mary Bassett[e] Sly to Nehemiah and Mary Lawson Bassett[e]**

*(LETTER HISTORY: Sent to Nehemiah and Mary Lawson Bassett in Lenawee, County, Michigan. Then it passed to their daughter, Amanda Bassett Carpenter, who passed it to HER daughter, Romanda Carpenter, who never married. Romanda passed it to her cousin, Judson Bassett, who was the son of Edward Bassett (the brother of Mary Bassett Sly). Judson passed it to his son Albert, who passed it to his daughter, Geri Bassett Maynard, who has the letter today.)*





Lockport, Niagara County, May the 16<sup>th</sup>, 1830

Respected Parents:

I now take my pen in hand to inform you of our health, which is tolerable good at present, and hope you are all well. I have never wrote to Grandmother or any of the family, nor heard from them since James come home last summer. I mean to write to them and, if I get an answer, write to you. Money was so scarce in Sardinia James thought best to go out of the place to work, so he started the first of February to look for work. Business was dull at that season and wages low. He heard that wages was higher in Canada than on this side. He went there and hired out to work for 15 dollars per Month. He worked a

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Respected Parents, I now take my pen in hand to inform you of our health which is tolerable good at present and hope you are all well. I have never wrote to Grandmother or any of the family, nor heard from them since James come home last summer I mean to write to them and if I get an answer write to you. Money was so scarce in Sardinia James thought best to go out of the place to work so he started the first of February to look for work business was dull at that season and wages low, he heard that wages was higher in Canada than on this side he went there to and hired out to work for 15 dollars per Month he worked a day or two and was taken sick with a disease called the Black Canker, he was soon reduced so low that he was thought incurable he was speechless but had his right mind he saw a bottle of vinegar in the room and motioned for it they gave it to him he drank it and was soon better (that complaint was in general Mortal a great many died with it, the doctors could do but little for it.) as soon as James was able he started for home when he got as far as Lockport he was so much better he hired to work though his mouth was very sore, he come home about the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, I expected when he come home to go to Michigan this spring and was ready and almost fancied myself there but James had such hard luck that he was no abler to go than when he started from home (I wish that general Equality had been invented, and Money never known.)

We removed from Sardinia to Lockport, James has hired to a wealthy man for one year he is to give him 16 1/2 dollars per month his work is tending saw mill driving team and so forth

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We removed from Sardinia to Lockport. James has hired to a wealthy man for one year. He is to give him 16-1/2 dollars per month. His work is tending sawmill, driving team, and so forth ...



James thought he did not want to stay away from Michigan  
all summer to pay our debts and go ~~to~~ there in fall with nothing.  
I hope if we don't have sickness this year we shall be able to  
come <sup>more</sup> decently than we could this spring. I want to hear from  
home very much and I want some of the family to write  
an answer as soon as you get this for I want to let  
Grandmother and the rest know how you are, I wish that  
Father and Mother would make themselves able to come and  
see me this summer. Why can't you? it won't cost much  
and you ~~will~~ would as live cross the Lake as not, I am not  
able to come home and I should not dare to cross the lake  
alone with a child. I want you should come and see our great  
Boy he is almost large enough to chop down small  
trees, so no more

we live in the lower  
town a few rods from  
the Lockport house

I want to see the  
children very much

Mary B. Sly to

Nehemiah and Mary

Bassette

James thought he did not want to stay away from Michigan all summer to pay our debts and go there in Fall with nothing. I hope if we don't have sickness this year we shall be able to come more decently than we could this spring. I want to hear from home very much, and I want some of the family to write an answer as soon as you get this, for I want to let Grandmother and the rest know how you are. I wish that Father and Mother would make themselves able to come and see me this Summer. Why can't you? It won't cost much, and you would as live cross the lake as not. I am not able to come home, and I should not dare to cross the lake alone with a child. I want you should come and see our great Boy. He is almost large enough to chop down small trees. So no more ...

We live in the lower

town a few rods from  
the Lockport house.

I want to see the  
children very much.

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