

Letter to Abigail Maxham from Jacob Hewes

The attached letter was mailed to Abigail and Silas Maxham in Lee (Stokes Post Office), Oneida County, NY on October 25, 1839 from Jacob Hewes in Le Roy, Genesee County, NY. The salutation of "Brother and Sister" suggests that the correspondent was Abigail's brother Jacob Hewes. Based on the content of the letter, Jacob and Nancy Hewes had visited Abigail and Silas Maxham in Lee and they describe their trip back to Le Roy. It mentions that Jacob and Nancy considered relocating to Chautauqua or to Michigan, but decided against it and remained in Le Roy. It goes on to discuss Jacob's employment and mentions several family members. It concludes with a discussion of religious faith.

This copy was provided to me by Gene Smith and Pete Smith of Chautauqua, NY, and the original is in the possession of Helen and Roger Dewey. .

William V. Gehrlein
May 2016
Lewes, DE

Le Roy Oct. 35. 1839.

Dear Brother & Sister

After having so long delayed writing to you through
inadvertence I shall perhaps be thought ^{not to} ~~not~~
assuming the character of a trespasser to think
at this late hour of intruding upon or troubling
you with that for which you have no relish -
or rather that which having so long done without
you have lost your appetite for consequently can
not as well digest it as you could had it been
presented to you ~~at an earlier period~~ ^{at an earlier period} reasonably.

Notwithstanding the supposed daring presumptuousness I
shall venture at least so far as to give an imper-
fect sketch of our circumstances and some things
which have transpired since our last ^{and to me} pleasant in-
terview. And to begin. After we left your house we
proceeded on to Rome where we found our good friend
Walter Morris with whom we spent two days very
pleasantly. His wife having been old friends
and intimates of my wife. The remainder of our
journey we accomplished in a day and got home ^{early} before
dark. If I mistake not when I left your house we
were not wholly settled in our minds about going
to Le Roy. But after a little deliberation it was
conceived best to go which we did as soon as con-

in celebration of
Cassius' birth & -
John's 25th office

insurance would permit. but not without some loss
of property both by accident and necessity - by accident
in damages of property in moving & some articles we
lost entirely by the meaness and rascality of the
Capt. - by necessity - as we must necessarily be at
considerable expense in moving back & forth -
we arrived at Le Roy the last of Nov. & I had now
nothing to do but to find some employ for the winter
the school were all engaged and I began to suspect
I should have nothing to do. But fortunately for me
Providence provided me employ. A school teacher about
7 miles distant was taken ill and the trustees sent
for me to teach their school which I did about 40 Mo.
and left my family at father Chamberlins during the winter -

After closing my School it was but a few days before
it was selected and chosen at the Town meeting as
one of their Constables and also as one of the Inspec-
-tors of the ~~the~~ school. Not having been habituated to
riding I did not know but it would agree with
me ~~and~~ Therefore I commenced business and soon
found that I was not equal to the task and I did
not do business but about four months - besides I found
it much less lucrative than I had anticipated -
It was rather my wish to go and buy a farm this
fall or next spring but I was not able to ~~find~~ ^{find}
a good farm in this country and my wife was so
much opposed to going to Chatauque or Michigan
or any other New country that I concluded to try
to settle myself once more in Le Roy and accor-
dingly have purchased a house & lot & am now
about repairing it to live in, it being contiguous
to the School house in which I have engaged to
teach school during the winter at 12 shillings
a quarter per scholar & perhaps during the
year - Daniel ~~is~~ ^{has} arrived at my house the
last day of Sept. in good health & spirits and ^{has} con-
tinues having earned about 25 bushels of wheat
threshing for every tenth - and several visiting days besides
in the mean time which at the going price ^{is about 12 shillings per 100} amounts to
better than eighteen dollars - Daniel was going to write but
~~at 6 o'clock~~ ^{he said I should communicate}

for him. Thus he speaks. that he left all friends well on his way hither - likes this country well. shall not be home till next Jan. perhaps not till spring. talks some of staying with me and attending my school during the winter - He has been at my house but very little since he came he stayed with me last night & the first night is all he went home with Ralph this morning and they two have threshed together pretty much all the time but Ralph has hired out peddling Gaining Mills & is at work alone though he is nearly through with all his engagements. Herbert also has been threshing chiefly since wheat harvest but he is not quite as rugged as he was before his fall & I fear never will be - His family together with ours are all well at present as far as I am acquainted

Our circumstance I cannot forbear to mention at
this time and especially as I know you to be of the
Abrahamic faith or those who believe in the final
restitution of all things as spoken by the mouth
of all God's holy prophets since the world began
It is this that the General Association of Universalists
was held here not long since and we had such
a time of refreshing in this part of the Lord's
heritage is the reason of my now forbearance to
mention it. The Gospel of God our Saviour was
ably ~~defended~~ ^{and} powerfully defended by Messrs. Peck,
A. A. Phelps, A. A. Phelps & others every thing seemed
to be conducted decently & in order & nothing oc-
curred to mar the peace and friendship which
prevailed but on the other hand peace, harmony,
friendship & love seemed to fill every bosom while
now & then a Unitarian Good against & confounded
the sound of the Gospel trumpets which proclaim
peace on earth & good will to men. It was indeed
a glorious time particularly the last day in the af-
ternoon when Brother A. A. Phelps spoke from these words
Gal. 4. 26. but Jerusalem which is above is free which
is the mother of us all. I tell you the stout heart-
ed could not refrain from shedding tears. It was
enough to melt the heart & down in contrition
and love to God. We held our meeting in the Presby-
terian house which we obtained more by ^{our} ingenu-

It is this that the General Association of Universalists was held here not long since and we had such a time of refreshing in this part of the Lord's heritage is the reason of my now forbearance to mention it.

than their good will by getting them to sign a paper
giving their consent before they had time to reflect how
awfully wicked it was for them to let Universalist
worship in a house that had been dedicated to God -
We had previously however engaged the methodist house
by verbal ~~and~~ individual consent of all the trustees but
when they come to reflect and come together on the subject
they thought differently and we soon had word that we could
not have it - which induced us to take the steps we did
with the presbyterians. It was told ~~that~~ by some of their own
members that certain of them could not eat drink nor
sleep - Indeed they almost wept tears of blood to think
that they had been so wicked. It made a terrible stir
amongst them I'll assure you - we must close this by solici-
ting you to give ^{our} love to all enquiring friends and answer
this as soon as may be -
all friends

Jacob Huxes
Nancy Huxes

subject of his faith in the
answer to this Jacob Huxes