

Letter from Abigail Maxham to daughter Orpha Maxham Fenton

The attached letter was mailed from Abigail Maxham in Hartfield, NY on January 5, 1852 to her daughter Orpha Maxham Fenton in French Creek, NY. The letter was a request that the parents Silas and Abigail Maxham might come to live with Orpha and her husband Hibbard Fenton. Abigail was in poor health when the letter was written and she died only two months later on March 7, 1852.

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

Wentworth & Co.
Jan 7 1/2

Dec 3

Mr. Hubbard, Panton
French Creek
Shattuck & Co.
N.Y.

Chautauque January the 5th 1882.

Dear children

I sit down to write a few lines to you to let you know we are yet alive and yet do our own work though I have taken cold and do not feel so smart as usual but I hope I shall feel better in a few days, I hope you are enjoying good health after your journey to the wedding and your visit to Ellery, we should have been pleased to have seen you but we heard from you so we do not complain. We thought we would write to you about our coming to live out there with you if you were willing and thought you could spare us house room we do not think of being dependent on you for a living we have enough provided to live on as long as we are able to do for our selves we will try not to be an expense to you and if you will write us a line and let us know when you think we had better come, I want you to engage half ton of hay and I will pay the money for it. if you wish to sow some wheat I have two bushels first rate for seed if you want it write and let me know and I will save it for you. I am ready to come any time you see fit to come I should have two loads I will pay you the money for taking us out there if Sophia thinks she can come we should be pleased to have her come - we may the Lord bless us all in every good word and work while we live may the Lord give us power to do his will. - This from your

affectionate Parents

Abigail & Elias Matham