

The
Laird, Lindsay, Pierce,
Chapman, Brotherton,
and Hallett
Letters

June 17, 1849
To
February 9, 1864

Transcriptions and Historical Research
written by Jo Ellyn Hinds

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LETTER 1

Mount Carroll June 17th 1849

My Dear Sister¹

After a long silence I must now with a sorrowful heart take this opportunity [opportunity] of writing to you in answer to your letter of 30th Aprile [April] which you rote [wrote] to poor Larkin² Dear sister you will be shocked to hear the unwelcom [unwelcome] news but you must bear it as well as you can our dear Brother Larkin is no more he died on the 23th Aprile [23rd April] at St Josephs [St. Joseph, MO] with the Cholera on his way to California he took the cholera about the day light [daylight] in the morning and died that evening at 6 oclock [o'clock] he was gon [gone] two weeks from home when he died it fell to poor Larkin's lot to go round by water with the provision he landed at St Jose [St. Joseph] to meet the company that went through by land with the teams he was dead 5 days before his brother John³ and the rest of the company got there Richard Owings⁴ was with Larkin when he died Dick⁵ wrote that Larkin had his senses to the last his last words was what would become of his poor wife⁶ and children⁷ he told Dik [Dick] that he could not live we supposed he had a vilent [violent] attack Dick wrote that the Doctors done every thing [everything] for him but all in vain thare [there] is a great many gon [gone] from hear [here] to California you will be surprised to hear John⁸ and Larkin, George Barton⁹, Gifford¹⁰, William Yance¹¹ [Yontz], Robert Baty¹², Gilbert Marke^{13B}, John Fisk^{14C}, {commas added for clarity} all went in one company and a great many others to tedious to mension [mention] we received a letter from John a few days ago from St Jose [St. Joseph, MO] he wrote that he had got tomb stones put up at Larkins [Larkin's] grave before he left that place and Robert Baty composed a peace [piece] to go on them John seamed [seemed] to be verry [very] much hurt at the death of Larkin they was all well when John wrote and was going on there [their] journey Richard Owings took Larkins [Larkin's] place and John Pierce is to take him through and give him half he makes and the other half to Elizabeth Lindsay and her children John wrote that he would do the best he could for her and the children poor Elizabeth feels verry [very] bad at the los [loss] of her dear companion for she did not want him to go Larkin rented his place and moved his wife to her fathers¹⁵ [father's] William Pierce¹⁶ took our Johns [John's] farme [farm] and Julia Ann¹⁷ and Eliza¹⁸ stays [stay] withe [with] him untill [until] John gets back if he lives they expect to be gone 18 months oh Adaline¹⁹ it seem [seems] to me when I bid them farwell [farewell] that they was going to there [their] graves for I never expected to see them return Adaline, Larkin wrote along [a long] letter to you last November he wrote you all the news about every thing [everything] but I suppose you never received it dear sister there has been a great many changes hear [here] since you heard from us you wished to hear about all of you [your] friend [friends] Elizabeth Laird²⁰ departed this life last November she lay along [a long] time sick her bones cut through the skin she died with consumption Doctor Baty²¹ has her children²² and John Laird²³ is living in Cherry Grove there is a talk of him marrieng [marrying] Julia Pierce²⁴ had one boy it lived three months and died Fana Owings^{25A} has a daughter 9 months old Ada²⁶ I must write you the news respecting my self [myself] before I go any father [farther] Amanda M F Lindsay²⁷ was married on the 19th of last September to James Hallett²⁸ of Galena I suppose Peter²⁹ has some idea of him Margaret and Sam³⁰ is married at last they was married the last day of may I waited to get the news before could write to you Virginia³¹ is single yet she has been living with me ever since I have been keeping hous [house] She is quite a bell I am living in Mt Carroll in a fine brick house of my own and every thing [everything] coumferable [comfortable] that I want Mr Hallett is doing business [business] hear [here] with in [within] Chapman³² is living in Dubuque yet Evaline³³ has a daughter going on two years old she calls her Virginia³⁴ Evaline has wrote two or three times to you and received no answer William Chapman³⁵ is at Elkhorne [Elkhorn] now he has never brought Evaline to see us since he lived in Dubuque Virginia³⁶ and I have been to see her three times I spent last summer in Dubuque oh Adaline I wish you was near us so I could go to see you but if you never come to this

Country I never expect to see you in this would [world] but I hope to see you in the next and all my friends that's gon [gone] before me I am happy to inform you that I have jo ined the church and reformed from my past life and find more pleasure in religion than is in this vain would [world] your old friends in Cherry Grove is about the same Garner Moffitt³⁷ [Moffett] has bilt [built] a fine brick house Sarrah [Sarah] Ann Moffitt³⁸ [Moffett] has 5 children Elizabeth Lindsay³⁹ has three the two youngest she calls William⁴⁰ and John⁴¹ Frank⁴² is going to school William Owings⁴³ and Sarah Davice⁴⁴ [Davis] is to about married soon Elin [Ellen] Asbury⁴⁵ is dead she was married to Nat Sutton⁴⁶ my old sweet heart M C Orr⁴⁷ is dead he died since I was married Oh Adaline how glad I would be to see you and Peter and the Dear little ones I expect John⁴⁸ has forgot [forgotten] all about us I wish Peter would come back hear [here] to live I don't believe you would know this part of the Country it is improved so much Mt Carroll has got to be quite a town our Will⁴⁹ and Eliza⁵⁰ has grown out of your knowledge we all expected to hear that you and Peter had gone to california [California] our boys was in hope to meet with you on the road we was all glad to hear [here] from you and to hear that you was well we are all well at this time and I hope this letter will reach you enjoying the same good health it is verry [very] healthy hear [here] at this time Adaline I believe I have wrote you all the news I know a this tim [time] I could fill out my paper but I must hurry to send it by this mail your friend [friends] all sends [send] there [their] love to you and Peter you must answer this letter before you move and when you get to your journeys end yur [you] must writ [write] so we will know whare [where] you are so I will bring this letter to a close I had for got [forgotten] to tell you John Brotherton⁵¹ is married to a lady in St Louis her name was Amanda⁵² and she has a fine son so no more

but remain your affectionate sister

excuse all mistakes

Amanda M F Hallett⁵³

to Julia A Laird

Notes:

A. John A. Owings married Frances Beatty on October 21, 1847, Book C, Page 159, License #176, IRAD

B. Gilbert died in California. The Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, Edited by Newton Bateman, Munsell Publishing, 1913, says Gilbert's widow, Mrs. Laura Wicks, was still living near Mt. Carroll with her son-in-law Lyman L. Wood at the time of publication. (Page 666) Gilbert Mark married Philaura Willis June 6, 1844. IRAD, Marriage book B/0057/#74.

C. John Fisk married Lucretia Ellanor Hunter June 19, 1851. IRAD, OMR/401/#340

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and /or relationships in the Laird, Pierce, Lindsay, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Sister | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. Larkin | Joseph Larkin Lindsay |
| 3. John | John W. Pierce |
| 4. Richard Owings | Brother of Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay, wife of J. Larkin Lindsay and son of J. C. Owings of Cherry Grove, Carroll County, IL |
| 5. Dick | Richard Owings, son of J. C. Owings of Cherry Grove, Carroll Cty., IL |
| 6. Wife | Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay |
| 7. Children | Francis, William and John Lindsay, children of Larkin and Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay |

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 8. John | John W. Pierce |
| 9. George Barton | * |
| 10. Gifford | * Last name unknown |
| 11. William Yance | William Yontz, Brother of Julia Ann (Yountz) Pierce, wife of John W. Pierce |
| 12. Robert Baty | Robert Beatty, brother of Elizabeth Beatty, the first wife of John Laird |
| 13. Gilbert Marke | Gilbert Mark, Friend, not related to the Laird, Pierce, Lindsay or Chapman families. |
| 14. John Fisk | * |
| 15. His wife's father | J. C. Owings, father of Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay, wife of J. Larkin Lindsay |
| 16. William Pierce | Brother of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird and Amanda (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 17. Julia Ann | Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce, wife of John W. Pierce |
| 18. Eliza | Eliza F. Pierce, sister of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird and Amanda (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 19. Adaline | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 20. Elizabeth Laird | Elizabeth (Beatty) Laird, first wife of John Laird |
| 21. Dr. Baty | * |
| 22. Her children | Children of Elizabeth (Beatty) Laird and John Laird: Mary Elizabeth Laird, born Sept 11, 1843 and William Laird, born 1845 |
| 23. John Laird | Son of Joseph Laird, Sr. who emigrated from Scotland, husband of Elizabeth (Beatty) Laird |
| 24. Julia Pierce | Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce, wife of John W. Pierce |
| 25. Fana Owings | Frances (Beatty) Owings, wife of John A. Owings. She married John A. Owings October 21, 1847. IRAD Book C, Page 159 License #176. |
| 26. Ada | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 27. Amanda M F Lindsay | Amanda MF (Lindsay) Hallett, the letter writer |
| 28. James Hallett | Husband of Amanda MF (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 29. Peter | Peter Laird, husband of Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 30. Margaret & Sam | Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton and Samuel Brotherton (husband and wife), Margaret is the sister of Julia A. Laird and Amanda Hallett |
| 31. Virginia D. Pierce | Sister of Julia A. Laird and Amanda Hallett |
| 32. Chapman | Referring to Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman and her husband William Chapman |
| 33. Evaline | Mary Evaline Chapman, sister of Julia A. Laird and Amanda Hallett |
| 34. Virginia | Virginia D. Pierce, sister of Julia A. Laird and Amanda Hallett |
| 35. William Chapman | Husband of Mary E. (Lindsay) Chapman |
| 36. Virginia | Virginia D. Pierce, Sister of Julia A. Laird and Amanda Hallett |
| 37. Garner Moffitt | * |
| 38. Sarah Ann Moffitt | * |
| 39. Elizabeth Lindsay | Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay, wife of J. Larkin Lindsay |
| 40. William | William Lindsay, son of Elizabeth and Larkin Lindsay, born: November 13, 1845 |
| 41. John | John C. Lindsay, son of Elizabeth and Larkin Lindsay, born: December 31, 1847 |
| 42. Frank | Francis B. Lindsay, son of Elizabeth and Larkin Lindsay, born: February 10, 1844 |
| 43. William Owings | Brother of Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay |

44. Sarah Davis Wife of William Owings, sister-in-law to Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsa
45. Elin Asbery Eleanor H., "Ellen" Asberry, May 5, 1830 – April 2, 1849. She is buried in
Wolfe Cemetery, near Lanark, IL. She is a friend, not known to be related
to the Laird, Pierce, Lindsay, Chapman, Hallett or Brotherton families.
She married Nathaniel Sutton April 6, 1848. IRAD, OMR, License #200
46. Nat Sutton Husband of Ellen Asberry. A friend, not known to be related to the Laird,
Pierce, Lindsay, Chapman, Hallett or Brotherton families
47. M C Orr *
48. John John W P Laird, son of Peter and Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird, born May 28,
1844
49. Will William Andrew Jackson Pierce, brother of Julia A. Laird and Amanda
Hallett
50. Eliza Eliza F. Pierce, sister of Julia A. Laird and Amanda Hallett
51. John Brotherton May be related to Sam Brotherton, relationship unknown
52. Amanda Amanda Brotherton, formerly of St. Louis, MO, wife of John Brotherton
53. Amanda M F Hallett Amanda M F (Lindsay) Hallett, sister of Julia A. Laird

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

LETTER 2

Mt. Carroll Oct^{the} 28 {1849^A}

Dear Sister Adaline¹ It is with feelings of deep gratitude that I take the materials into my hand to address one who althoug [although] far far away is still held in sweet remembrance [remembrance] I often think while communicating my feelings to absent friends by letter that the invention of writing is a blessing which demands a high degree of gratitude For while separated [separated] from those who are dear and who holds [hold] a high place in my affections how often has this poor heart of mine been made to rejoice by intelligence [intelligence] from you that are away Dear sister we are all well at present and I hope you are blest [blessed] with the same good ness [goodness] we was glad to hear from you but sory [sorry] to hear Peter² had any notion of going to California [California] we have not hear [heard] from John³ since he was a the spers [spurs] of the rocy [Rocky] mountains this letter was written Jun the 13 he and all of his company [company] was well had good luck so far he spoke of the destruction he had seen since he left home and the daingers [dangers] he had under wnt [went] from the way he writs [writes] he is a different [different] man from what he was pore [poor] John⁴ I expect he expsrienced [experienced] what he never felt before we think we will get a letter in November if ever we had a letter from Evaline⁵ last week she was well had a fine son five weeks old she had received a letter from you some time before William⁶ is doing pretty well he is larger than John⁷ good looking also he is a the old traed [trade] seling [selling] horses he went to Galen Friday withe [with] 2 for sail [sale] Ad⁸, wat [what] do you think, man⁹ {Amanda} has a little Hallett¹⁰ 3 weeks old next Tuesday she talks of caling [calling] him Rusel¹¹ she is quit [quite] smart up at worke [work] now coms [comes] Marg¹² she is living at the Broretherton¹³ [Brotherton] place happy as a quen [queen] lize¹⁴ is with Julia¹⁵ she is taler [taller] than you tho very slender she suck [sucks] her thumb yet Betsy¹⁶ is at her Father's¹⁷ she is sick with a 'sour throught' [throat] was the last I heard from her she did not feel the los [loss] of her husban¹⁸ [husband] long you can judge how she would act I am sorry to say she has forgot him so soon but she acted so unbecoming she left home and Mr Owing¹⁹ was not willing fore [for] her to take the Children²⁰ with her so she cam [came] back she went to her old house and stad [stayed] 3 week [weeks] becaus [because] tha [the] man she wanted was thar [there] verry [very] often and her Father woled [would] not permit his coming to the hous [house] on her account I am sorry to writ [write] this to you fore [for] a fact but her actions are worse than before she was married I talked to her but she says she wants us to mind our buisiness [business] so I want no more to do with her than if she was a stranger to me the pore [poor] little boys are well taken care of by ther [their] grand ma²¹ she says if she marries she shant have the childrin [children] Adaline²² if you ever see John²³ you will see a striking reyemblence [resemblance] of pore Larkin²⁴ thay [they] are all smart boys Frank²⁵ goes to school and lerns [learns] fast I will write you more particulars in my next my eyes are sore and I must write with as little explination [explanation] as posible [possible] John Laird²⁶ is married to a Girl in Cherry Grove²⁷ she is a good girl I think folks that know says she is good natured and will make a good wife and mother you wrote you would com [come] to see us when John²⁸ come hom [home] I hope you will keep your promes [promise] for I wont [want] to see you and Peter²⁹ and Jonny³⁰ [Johnny] and Joey³¹ [Joseph] I would give a fortun [fortune] to see Jonny³² [Johnny] to night [tonight] O how hard it would bee [be] to see them and them not know me from any one [anyone] else I remember how John³³ looked but Joseph³⁴ I cant [can't] think how he looks but I hope I will see the little fellows some day kiss them for me somthing [something] that will surprise you no dout [doubt] William Owings^{35B} and Sarah Davis^{36B} was married last week Ad³⁷ all getting married but of D³⁸ she thinks it a verry [very] series [serious] matter is in no hurry for if a bad chois [choice] it is for life long or short if a good one single life can be pleset [pleasant] til 25 anny how [anyhow] adaline³⁹ I could write A long letter to you but nothing of importance Mount Carroll is improveing

[improving] every day has got to be a pretty considerable [considerable] place I stay in town the most of my time with Amanda⁴⁰ enjoy my self [myself] very much jacob Emmert⁴¹ has got to be a mearchient [merchant] in Mount Carroll tell Peter⁴² he had beter [better] come back to oure [our] County to live we would like to have him fore [for] a nabore [neighbor] again I will close fore [for] I am in {a} hurry it is getting {late} you will please write to me verry [very] soon fore [for] I wont [want] to heare [hear] from you bade [bad] give my love to Peter⁴³ and except [accept] the same for youre self [yourself] I will write to you when whe [we] heare [hear] from John⁴⁴ nothing more this time but take good care of your self [yourself] and family goodby excuse this I wrote it by gess [gas or guess] Virginia D Pierce⁴⁵

Notes:

- A. The year this letter was written is not on the original letter, but in December of 1849 the news of John's death was received.
- B. William Owings and Sarah Davis, who are mentioned as having been married the previous week, were married October 11, 1849.

Index of individuals mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Sister Adaline | Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. Peter | Peter Laird, husband of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 3. John | John W. Pierce, brother of Julia A. Laird and Virginia D. Pierce |
| 4. John | John W. Pierce |
| 5. Evaline | Mary E. (Lindsay) Chapman, sister of Julia A. Laird and |
| 6. William | William A. J. Pierce |
| 7. John | John W. Pierce |
| 8. Ad | Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 9. Man | Amanda M.F. (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 10. Hallett | Amanda and James Hallett's newborn child |
| 11. Rusel | Russell Hallett, son of Amanda and James Hallett |
| 12. Marg | Margaret J. (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 13. Brotherton | Margaret and Sam Brotherton |
| 14. Lize | Eliza F. Pierce |
| 15. Julia A. | Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce, wife of John W. Pierce |
| 16. Betsy | Elizabeth A. (Owings) Lindsay, wife of Joseph Larkin Lindsay |
| 17. Father's | J. C. Owings, father of Elizabeth A. (Owings) Lindsay |
| 18. Her husband | J. Larkin Lindsay |
| 19. Mr. Owings | J. C. Owings, of Cherry Grove, Carroll County, IL |
| 20. The children | Francis, William O. and John C. Lindsay |
| 21. Grand ma | Mrs. Owings, Mother of Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay |
| 22. Adaline | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 23. John | John C. Lindsay, son of Elizabeth and J. Larkin Lindsay |
| 24. Larkin | J. Larkin Lindsay |
| 25. Frank | Francis B. Lindsay, son of Elizabeth and J. Larkin Lindsay |
| 26. John Laird | Son of Joseph Laird, Sr. who emigrated from Scotland, and brother of Peter Laird |

27. Girl in Cherry Grove Christina Eshelman, second wife of John Laird
28. John John W. Pierce, brother of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird and Virginia D. Pierce
29. Peter Peter Laird, husband of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird
30. Jonny John W. P. Laird, son of Peter and Julia A. Laird
31. Joey Joseph A. Laird, son of Julia A. and Peter Laird
32. John John W. P. Laird
33. John John W. P. Laird, son of Peter and Julia A. Laird
34. Joseph Joseph A. Laird, son of Peter and Julia A. Laird
35. William Owings Brother of Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay
36. Sarah Davis Wife of William Owings
37. Ad Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird
38. D Virginia D. Pierce
39. Adaline Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird
40. Amanda Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett, sister of Julia A. Laird and Virginia D.
41. Jacob Emmert Mt. Carroll resident. A friend, not related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman or Hallett families
42. Peter Peter Laird, husband of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird
43. Peter Peter Laird
44. John John W. Pierce
45. Virginia D Pierce Virginia D. Pierce, the letter writer, and sister of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird

LETTER 3

November the 3
Rockville Delaware County^{Iowa} 1849

Dear Sister¹ it is with pleasure I seat my self [myself] once more to commune with you through the medieme [medium] of my pen I all most [almost] thought I should never have that pleasure for I thought you and peter² was mad at us or you had forgotten us all so to let you know that I got your kind letter dated August the 28 and to inform you it found us all in good health and I hope this will find you all in the enjoyment of the same great blessing it gave me greate [great] pleasure to heare [hear] that you had gaine [gained] your health Dear Adaline³ O if I could see you there then my soule [soul] would be relieve [relieved] O Dear Adaline let me give vent to my feelings my heart bleeds within me when I think of the various changes scince [since] I saw you last Dear Sister we now live thirty three miles west of Dubuque in a flourishing little village there is a grist mill saw mill two taverns 2 blacksmithes [blacksmiths] three stores william⁴ and Docter [Doctor] whitman⁵ owns half the property Docter [Doctor] finley⁶ is one partner William has built one steam flouring mill in Dubuque this summer he got 900 dollars for the job besids [besides] he has done a great deal of worke [work] out heare [here] he is doing very well Dear Sister when I received your letter I was not able to write I had been confined I have another fine son⁷ he was born the last day of August as soon as I got able to write I wrote to Mount Carroole [Carroll] I have ben [been] waiting to get an answer and I have got none I told them I had got a letter frome [from] you and I wanted them to rite [write] to me be fore [before] I wrote to you so I could let you heare [hear] I herd [heard] from them two weeks ago by John Whitesides⁸ we live in two miles of Whitesides he and his wife had been down to Illinois on a visit they brought word back {with} them O Dear Adaline poor Larkin⁹ our Dear brother his last words was my poor children¹⁰ what will be come [become] of them and my wife¹¹ now she has forgot him already [already] John Witeside [Whiteside] said her father¹² had drove her of [off] from his house she had been conducting her slef [herself] so bad he said she was going to marry a trifeling dirty stagedriver O poore [poor] larkin how my heart bleeds for them dear little children O Dear Sister I do pray that she my [may] turne [turn] her way to her injured father who is a husband to the widow and a father to the fatherless I pray she may find grace in whom her companion trusted O that she may brin [bring] up her little ones in the preseanc [presence] and admintion of the lord Dear Sister I am afraid she will disgrace her self [herself] and her children I expect Amanda¹³ has a fine son or daughter by this time she has been up to see me once cince [since] she was married she came up and staid [stayed] six months and was married at our house Margaret¹⁴ and them are not good friends she told william¹⁵ a lot of stuf [stuff] she tried to see her when he went down to his fathers Daniel Chapman¹⁶ is up at rockville Jane king¹⁷ is living with us she is williams niece she will live with us all winter Dear Sister I must now give you a decription [description] of my little ones Stephen¹⁸ is very large and as hansome [handsome] as ever he can spell in three sylables [syllables] he went to school to sunday school this summ [summer] I told him I was going to write to cousin John¹⁹ and Joseph²⁰ he told me to tell them he had a thrashing machin [machine] he wanted them to come and help him thrash. little Virginia²¹ without doubt is the prettest [prettiest] child in the country I dont [don't] think she favors any of her aunts she is very fair skin her hair is fairer than Amanda²² and very fine and curls [curls] in ringlets it hangs down on her neck I never have cut it of [off] cince [since] she was born she has butiful [beautiful] blue eyes Harriet Garner²³ says she has a countenance like Larkin william says she looks some like Amanda you would not know where she got her beauty she has a forehead very much like angeline²⁴ Marchel [Marshall] emerson²⁵ wife said she was the prettyest [prettiest] child in Dubuque she is the greatest talker in town she tells any person her name is Miss ginna D²⁶ she says

she is all the la___ theare [there] is in rocvelle [Rockville] she is a greate [great] fiet she will be 2 years the 17 of this month so much for ma ma little lady now for my boy he is very large larger than Steve²⁷ was I was very sick I had a very good Docter [Doctor] I call my boy William A J²⁸ he is blue eyed but I dont [don't] think he will be so fair skin [skinned] as the others he has darker hair he looks like Mr. Holebrook²⁹ I went to the church so much to hear him preach I took {a} great fancy to him did you know that William and I have got to bee [be] presbeterians [Presbyterians] William has join [joined] {the} church and I went a long [along] with him he is a strict presbeterians [Presbyterian] he joind a yeare [year] ago I wrote you a long letter last christmas day a bout [about] it and Amanda [Amanda's] weding^{30A} [wedding] and the pleasant time we had I believe I look a bout [about] the same I am fleshey [fleshier] than when you saw me last william too a bout [about] the same Seth³¹ is a bout [about] the same and as lazy a bout [about] his book Dear Adaline³² I wish we could see one aother [another] we could talk a month I expect to get a letter from Amanda³³ I expect she has been waiting till her trouble was over berfore [before] she wrote

I hope she may have good luck dear Sister you must write to me as soon as you get this you must not wait so long I thought hard of you for not writing to me you must write to me often let me know if John³⁴ has forgot me if you have got fidell [fiddle]

now dont [don't] forget to write often

be so kind as to send me som [some]

of your good famile [family] when you come to mount [Mount]

{the following line was squeezed in between these two sentences }

Dear Sis I send you some of the Seve [Steve]³⁵ and Sis hair the babe³⁶ is got none

Carroll then I will come and be with all the children

{This section makes most sense when read like this}:

Dear Sis I will send you some of Steve's and Sis's hair. The baby has none. Be so kind as to send me some hair from your good family. When you come to Mount Carroll, I will come and be with all the children.

I expect to tire you out with folishness [foolishness] so fare well [farewell] kiss both the boys for me and I will do the same little gina D³⁷ talks about you like she new [knew] you give our love to peter³⁸ and the children M E Chapman³⁹

{Written down the left margin near the end of the letter} Send me some of John⁴⁰ and Joseph⁴¹

Notes:

A. Amanda M. F. Lindsay was married to James Hallett on September 19, 1848.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. Sister | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. Peter | Peter Laird, husband of Julia A. Laird |
| 3. Adaline | Julia Adaline Laird |
| 4. William | William Chapman, husband of Mary E. (Lindsay) Chapman |
| 5. Dr. Whitman | * |
| 6. Dr. Finnley | * |

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 7. Amanda's fine son | William Andrew Jackson Pierce Chapman |
| 8. John Whiteside | * |
| 9. Larkin | Joseph Larkin Lindsay, brother of Julia A. Laird and Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman |
| 10. Larkin's children | Francis, William and John Lindsay (not mentioned by name) |
| 11. Larkin's wife | Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay |
| 12. Eliz. Owing's Father | J. C. Owings of Cherry Grove, Carroll County, IL |
| 13. Amanda | Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett, sister of Julia A. Laird and Mary E. Chapman |
| 14. Margaret | Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton, sister of Julia A. Laird and Mary E. Chapman |
| 15. William | William Chapman (husband of Mary E. Chapman) |
| 16. Daniel | Daniel Chapman, brother of William Chapman |
| 17. Jane King | Niece of William Chapman |
| 18. Stephen | Stephen Chapman, son of Mary and William Chapman, born January 13, 1846 in Dubuque Co., Dubuque, IA. |
| 19. Cousin John | John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird, son of Peter and Julia A. Laird |
| 20. Cousin Joseph | Joseph Laird, son of Peter and Julia A. Laird |
| 21. Virginia D | Virginia D. Chapman, daughter of Mary and William Chapman, born November 17, 1849 |
| 22. Amanda | Amanda (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 23. Harriet Garner | * |
| 24. Angeline | Angeline Chapman, sister of William Chapman |
| 25. Marchel Emerson | Marshall Emerson's wife, a friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce or Chapman families |
| 26. Miss ginna D | Virginia D. Chapman, daughter of Mary and William Chapman |
| 27. Steve | Stephen Chapman, son of Mary and William Chapman |
| 28. William A. J. | William A. J. Pierce Chapman, son of Mary and William Chapman |
| 29. Mr. Holebrook | A Minister in Dubuque or Rockville, IA, a friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce or Chapman families |
| 30. Amanda's wedding | Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett and James Hallett |
| 31. Seth | He is a child who lived with Mary and William Chapman's family. His last name and relationship to the Chapman family is unknown. |
| 32. Adaline | Julia A. Laird |
| 33. Amanda | Amanda M F. (Lindsay) Hallett, sister of Julia A. Laird and Mary E. Chapman |
| 34. John | John W. P. Laird, son of Julia A. and Peter Laird |
| 35. Seve | Stephen Chapman, son of Mary E. and William Chapman |
| 36. Babe | Julia Adaline Chapman, daughter of Mary E. and William Chapman |
| 37. Gina D | Virginia D. Chapman, daughter of Mary E. and William Chapman |
| 38. Peter | Peter Laird, husband of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 39. M E Chapman | Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman |
| 40. John | John W P Laird, son of Julia A. and Peter Laird |
| 41. Joseph | Son of Julia A. and Peter Laird |
- * A friend, not related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman or Hallett families

LETTER 4

Mount Carroll December 23th 1849

Dear sister¹

In answer to yours of Dec 12th wich [which] found us all in good health with the exception [exception] of sorrowful hearts we was all very glad to hear that you was all well and I hope these few lines may find you all in good health Dear Adaline² with an aiking [aching] heart I must write you the painful news of the death of another dear Brother poor John³ sleeps in a watery grave John^A and William Yountz^{4B} [Yontz] was drouded [drowned] on the 21st of june in plat [Platte] river the way the accidence [accident] happened was John had tow [two] of his wagin [wagon] beds lashed together to take ther [their] things over in in place of a boat they loaded up part of ther [their] provisions and started acrose [across] and Johns [John's] boat came in contact with a roap [rope] that was stretch [stretched] acrose [across] the river and was likely to upset there [their] boat and John told William Yountz to come to him and John took him by the hand and sprang in the water and that was the last that was ever seen of them

Gil Mark⁵ and George Barten⁶ and some other was in but got over safe Robert Baty⁷ and Gifford⁸ was left until [until] they come back for the balance of there [their] things Robert said he wanted to go over when John did but John told him to wait till the next load ore [or] he would of shared the same faite [fate]

poor John lost his life to save William's Robert sayd [said] they looked tow [two] days for ther [their] bodys [bodies] but all in vain

Robert Baty was all that was left to tend to John and William's business it is not in my power to write you all the particulars John had tow [two] teames [teams] William Yountz one and Larkin⁹ one and Robert only got one wagon and 6 yoak [yoke] of cattle through Robert wrote that after they lost John he could not do anything with George Barton and Giff Dick Owings¹⁰ left them after John [John's] death and Robert had to higher [hire] a nother [another] man to help him through the letter that brought us the bad news was wrote to Mr Yountz¹¹ from Robert Baty Oh Adaline¹² it was sad news to us all indeed we all felt verry [very] bad about it but we must bear it as well as we can and prepare to meet them in a better wourld [world] there is one concilation left for us Robert wrote that from the day of larkin death to the day of his own that he never seen a man so changed in his life as John was

he said that John read his bible every day and was very devoted indeed I do hope he was prepard [prepared] to meet the change

Mr Yountz has takeing [taken] Julia Ann¹³ and they are going to break up house keeping there is to be a saile [sale] the 11th of January to settle up the business of poor John Eliza¹⁴ is coming to town to stay with me and is going to school and William¹⁵ is going to school Virginia¹⁶ is with me yet Margaret¹⁷ and Sam¹⁸ is living at the old Brotherton place old Mr Brotherton¹⁹ and the tow [two] youngest²⁰ lives with them I suppose you have received a letter from Virginia before this time she wrote the news about my boy²¹ his is growing fine and is quite hansome [handsome] I had a letter from Evaline²² abouts [about] the first of October she wrote to me about your letter they have moved from Dubuque 30th miles to a little place call (rocville) she has another son²³ Dear sister I hope you will give up the idea of going to calafornia [California] think of our dear Brothers²⁴ what is all the gold to your life there is more lost by going than gained there is a report hear [here] that the indins [Indians] skind [skinned] Coon Garner^{25C} a live [alive] for chooting [shooting] a squaw Elizabeth Lindsay²⁶ and the children²⁷ are well and all the rest of your friends Liz²⁸ has forgot all about Larkin and is thinking more about marring [marrying] dear adaline how I would like to see you all dear little John²⁹ has no uncle John and Larkin I can't write no more this time A M L Hallett³⁰

On the Margins:

Page 2, left side

John was drowned 18 days after he wrote the last letter to (us) and that was the last we heard until [until] they got through

Page 3, right side:

excuse bad spelling [spelling] and writing

tell peter he must not go to California he must write Will you tell John³¹ and Joseph³² that they have a cousin Russell³³ I want you to write soon give my love to peter³⁴ and except [accept] the same

Notes:

A. John W. Pierce and Julia Ann Yontz married September 3, 1846 in Carroll Cty., IL. IRAD license #00C 0109 00000126.

B. William Yontz is the brother of Julia Ann Yontz. The two men who drowned in the Platte River were brothers-in-law.

C. This is a false rumor. In Letter 16A (Dec. 29, 1851), Eliza Pierce says, "James Garner has returned from California. Jef and Coon are there yet." Also, in Daniel Shottenkirk's letter dated November 18, 1854 (Letter 25) he mentions that William Pierce had passed by Coon Garner's place, but had not stopped to see him.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Sister | Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. Adaline | Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 3. John | John W. Pierce |
| 4. William | William Yontz |
| 5. Gil Mark | * |
| 6. George Barton | * |
| 7. Robert Baty | Robert Beatty, brother of Elizabeth (Beatty) Laird, first wife of John Laird |
| 8. Gifford | * |
| 9. Larkin | Joseph Larkin Lindsay |
| 10. Dick Owings | Brother of Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay, wife of the late J. Larkin Lindsay |
| 11. Mr. Yountz | Samuel Yontz, father of Julia Ann and William Yontz |
| 12. Adaline | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird, sister of Amanda M. (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 13. Julia Ann | Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce, wife of John W. Pierce |
| 14. Eliza | Eliza F. Pierce, sister of Julia A. Laird and Amanda Hallett |
| 15. William | William Andrew Jackson Pierce, brother of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 16. Virginia | Virginia D. Pierce, sister of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 17. Margaret and Sam | Margaret J. (Pierce) Brotherton and Sam Brotherton. Margaret is the sister of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 18. Sam | Sam Brotherton, husband of Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 19. Old Mr. Brotherton | The father of Sam Brotherton |
| 20. The two youngest | The Brotherton children, siblings of Sam Brotherton, names unknown |

21. Amanda's boy (Lindsay) Hallett and James Hallett Russell B. Hallett, born: October 12, 1849, Son of Amanda M. F.
22. Evaline Mary E. (Lindsay) Chapman, wife of William Chapman
23. Another son of Evaline William Andrew Jackson Pierce Chapman, born Feb. 28, 1849, son of Mary E. (Lindsay) Chapman and William Chapman
24. Our dear brothers Joseph Larkin Lindsay and John W. Pierce
25. Coon Garner *
26. Elizabeth Lindsay Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay, wife of the late J. Larkin Lindsay
27. The children Francis B. Lindsay, born: February 10, 1844, William O. Lindsay, born: November 13, 1845, John C. Lindsay, born: December 31, 1847, sons of J. Larkin Lindsay and Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay
28. Liz Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay, wife of the late J. Larkin Lindsay
29. Little John John W. P. Laird, son of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird and Peter Laird
30. A. M. F. Hallett Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett, the letter writer, and sister of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird
31. John John W. P. Laird, son of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird and Peter Laird
32. Joseph Joseph Laird, son of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird and Peter Laird
33. Russell Russell B. Hallett, born: October 12, 1849
34. Peter Peter Laird, husband of Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

LETTER 5

Iowa
Rockvill Delaware County Feby 12th 1850

Dear Sister Adaline¹

with pleasure I seat my self this evenig [evening] to write you a few lines I have not got no answer from you since I wrote you Deare [Dear] and much loved Sister we are all well at present and we cincerly [sincerely] hope you and your family are enjoying the same greate [great] blessing for truly Deare [Dear] Sister it is a blessing to be in possesion [possession] of good health O dear Sister the troubel [trouble] and trials I have had since I saw you O God my heart bleades [bleeds] within me Deare [dear] Sister doubtless you have herd [heard] of the untimed [untimely] death of another Deare [dear] brother² Deare [dear] Sister if I could see you just one hour I could leave this world happy O Adaline we have but once brother and will we ever see him a gain [again] poor John he was send [sent] into eternity without a minute warning O eternity where is the soule [soul] of our Deare [dear] brother{?} who can answer{?} none but the lord [Lord] we herd [heard] the news first from Jeferson [Jefferson] Garner³ I got a letter from Amanda Hallett⁴ the week be fore [before] they got the news I was in hopes it was a false reporte [report] as there was many but alass [alas] it was true Mr. Yonce⁵ [Yontz] got a lette [letter] and James Hallett⁶ wrote immeaitly [immediately] to us O the heart renching [wrenching] news Deare [dear] how hard it was for me to reconcile my self I was taken ill immedaitily [immediately] and was not out of my bed for tow [two] weekes [weeks] the doctter [doctor] said my heart and liver was effected [affected] O Sister the will of the lord [Lord] be done not oures [ours] poor John trid [tried] to swim to shore with William Yonce⁷ [Yontz] so they locked hands and plunged in the water but alas never to rise until that great day the resarrection [resurrection] morn when the graves shall burst and the sea and rivers shall give up there [their] dead Deare [dear] Adaline I feel like conversing with you on religion to night [tonight] my little ones are all sleeping quiet William⁸ and the boarders are in the other room I am all a lone [alone] and my meditation is sweet my thoughts are on heavenly [heavenly] things deare [dear] Sister I vowed to god [God] on new years day that I would live nearer to him than I did the past year Dear Adaline we should not neglect prayer let prayer be the key to open the heart to god [God] in the morning and to locke [lock] it against all his enemies at night let no chirstain [Christian] say he cannot pray for prayer is as necessary to him as breath let none say they have not time for prayer better take time from sleep than want for prayer think with youre self [yourself] this night may be my last night this morning may be my last morning for certainly that morning cometh of which you will never see the night nor that night of which you will never see the morning Dear Sister let the conclusion of every day put you in mind of the conclusion of all you days by the long night of death which will put an end to all your work and bring you to account and reckon with your master about it O Sister to lie down every night reconciled with him [Him] O that we could lie down and leave our hearts with christ [Christ] and compose our spirits, as if we were not awake till the heavens are no more D [dear] Sister let us sjourn [sojourn] in this world as travllrs [travelers] keeping so loose from the world as to be able to pack up and begone [be gone] from it at short warning – Dear Sister we have no continuing city, or certain abode here; therefore let us always be ready to arise and depart; and if we would be right travellers [travelers] towards [toward] zion [Zion] we must have christ in our hearts heaven in trust they are in that happy land far far away where saints and glory stand bright bright as day the White Oak grove is one days drive from Mot [Mt.] Carroll Deare [dear] Sister I would like to see you and peter⁹ [Peter] and that Deare [dear] little Johny¹⁰ [Johnny] and Joseph Larkin¹¹ O adlin [Adaline] train up them little lambs in the way they should go and when they get old they will not depart from it a mothers impressions is lasting little Stephen¹² is a very pious boy he is a preacher he sings and prays for us he wont [won't] go to bed without saying his prayers you would laught [laugh] to heare [hear] little Virginia¹³ say her prayers and sing, “thine is a happy land”

{Punctuation added for clarity} I suppose Amanda¹⁴ has wrote to you a bout [about] her fine boy¹⁵ my boy¹⁶ will be five months old the last day of this month he is a very fine child he is the best child you ever saw he has large bright blue eyes they are all as fat as pigs Margaret¹⁷ and Samuel¹⁸ has no children Dear Adline [Adaline] I want you to send me a lock of yours and the childrens hair. I sent you some of Stephen and sisters¹⁹ in my answer to your letter write me how John and Joseph looks how much they have grown you must kiss them for me and ther [their] little cousins Seth²⁰ is a great big sasy [sassy] boy he is learning to write Jane King²¹ is been living with us cince [since] last Spring angelin [Angeline] Chapman^{22A} is to be married be fore [before] long to a Mr. Hutton²³ her fathers [father's] wives [wife's] brother William²⁴ is going to Dubuque to morrow [tomorrow] the smallpocks [smallpox] are in Dubuque and Galinie [Galena] they expect the cholary [cholera] will be up the river this summer Dear Sister it is geting [getting] late Dear Adline [Adaline] the day this letter will be mailed to you will be on our birthes day [birthday] the 14 of feb[February]^B O sall [shall] we ever enjoy that privealige [privilege] of being together on that day once more I hope we will William²⁵ Daniel²⁶ Seth²⁷ and jane²⁸ [Jane] and all of us sendes [sends] our love to you all Adaline you must write to me often be sure and answer this as soon as you get it I want to {hear} from you before we move and then I will {write} to you there

from your unwhorthy [unworthy] Sister M E Chapman²⁹

Notes:

A. Angeline Chapman, sister of William Chapman married Isaac Elliott March 16, 1859 in Ogle County, IL. IRAD Book C, Page 881, License #1765.

B. This is the only mention of the birth dates of Julia A. Laird or Mary E. Chapman in the letters.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Sister Adaline | Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. Dear Brother | John W. Pierce, brother of Julia A. Laird and Mary E. Chapman |
| 3. Jefferson Garner | * |
| 4. Amanda Hallett | Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett, sister of Julia A. Laird and Mary E. Chapman |
| 5. Mr. Yonce | Samuel Yontz, father of William Yontz and Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce |
| 6. James Hallett | Husband of Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 7. William Yountz | William Yontz, brother of Julia Ann (Pierce) Yontz who was married to John W. Pierce. The two men died together in the Platte River |
| 8. William | William Chapman, husband of Mary E. Chapman |
| 9. Peter | Peter Laird, husband of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 10. Johny | John W. P. Laird, son of Peter and Julia Laird |
| 11. Joseph Larkin | Son of Peter and Julia Laird |
| 12. Stephen | Stephen Chapman, first son of Mary E. and William Chapman, born January 13, 1846 in Dubuque Co., Dubuque, IA. |
| 13. Virginia | Virginia D. Chapman, daughter of Mary E. and William Chapman, born November 17, 1847 |
| 14. Amanda Chapman | Amanda M F (Lindsay) Hallett, sister of Julia A. Laird and Mary E. |
| 15. Her fine boy | Russell B. Hallett, born October 12, 1849 |
| 16. My boy | William Andrew Jackson Pierce Chapman, born August 31, 1849 |

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 17. Margaret | Margaret J. (Pierce) Brotherton, sister of Julia A. Laird and Mary E. Chapman |
| 18. Samuel | Samuel Brotherton, husband of Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 19. Sister | Virginia D. Chapman, daughter of Mary E. and William Chapman |
| 20. Seth | Seth Chapman is a child living with Mary and William Chapman. His relationship to the Chapman family is unknown. He is listed with the family in Eagle Township, Ogle Co., Il in the 1850 Federal Census, page 68B, Line 1, Household #1. |
| 21. Jane King | Niece of William Chapman. |
| 22. Angelin | Angeline Chapman, sister of William Chapman |
| 23. Mr. Hutton | Angeline Chapman's father's wife's brother |
| 24. William | William Chapman |
| 25. William | William Chapman |
| 26. Daniel | Daniel Chapman, brother of William Chapman |
| 27. Seth | A child living with Mary and William Chapman |
| 28. Jane | Jane King, niece of William Chapman |
| 29. M E. Chapman | Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman, the letter writer and sister of Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

LETTER 6

Cover Page: ^A

Peter Leard missouri
Lynn County
Lyneous Post office

{The County is: Linn County}

{The Post Office is spelled Linneus}

may the 29th 1850 iowa

Clinton County

dear brother and sister¹ I at presant [present] Inform you in a stammering manner We are all well and hope you are EnJoying the same blessing we have had our health since we come to the whopsiepnica [Wapsipinicon]^B we would rote [wrote] soner [sooner] Onty [only] we moved down the river twelve miles from that place twenty miles from That post office,, we received your letter last march and was glad to hear you was well and doing well all but going California I ruther [rather] you would not go Crops faild [failed] for two years and times is hard wheat is a dolar [dollar] a bushel And corn is fifty cents and potatoee [potatos] 50 cen [cents] this spring is cold and dry I want you to write soon as you can And let us know how you are And tines [times] are have you springs and good water is tta [the] timber good and land to be had or got cheap or plenty{?} we expect move south of this we have a good chance for geting [getting] a long [along] the man we rented of is gone to californa [California] left us a nare [mare] and horse to work and give us A colt for taking care of two colts two winters and him find the feed And twenty busherls [bushels]of wheat and A handsom [handsome] farm but bad luck hapend [happened] to the man he was diging [digging] in the mines and we hear in the news paper him and one with him was diging [digging] together and the dirt caved on them a kill them both,, no more at prsant [present] but remain yours Alexander leard² and Jane leard³ direct your letr [letter] to massilon post office [office]^C my love to you all

Notes:

A. Letters were folded so the back of the page could be addressed. The Cover page is the blank square formed when the letter was folded.

This letter was transcribed as it was written. Jane (Miller) Laird had very little formal education. The 1850 Federal Census for Iowa also says Alexander Laird could not read or write.

B. The Wapsipinicon is a river that runs through the North West area of Clinton County.

C. The city of Massilon, which is located in the North East corner of Cedar County, IA (adjacent to Clinton County), is on the river.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Brother and Sister | Peter and Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. Alexander leard | Alexander Laird, brother of Peter Laird |
| 3. Jane leard | Jane Laird, wife of Alexander Laird |

LETTER 7

Cover Page:^A

Mrs. Julia Adaline Laird
Linneous, Linn County
Missouri

1850

Plum River Carroll County July 21

Dear Sister¹

I take my pen in hand to inform you that we are all tolerably well at present and hope that your health has improved since I last heard from you I received your letter to which gave much pleasure, to hear from you, and it also gave sorrow to hear of the bad state which your health was in. There has been a great Deal of sickness and Death here this Spring and Summer. the Disease was generally the measles. It seemed to go very hard with children. There was twelve or 13 children died in Mt. Carroll with the measles. We received a letter from William² about two weeks ago dated May the 15.^B He was 95 miles the other side of Council Bluffs he wrote that he was in good health and Spirits and he also sent us his likeness he had it taken in Kanessville It looks very much like him only his eyes look weak he wrote if nothing happened they would get through against the middle of August. I wrote to him yesterday if you wish to write to him or George Barton³ Direct your letter to Sacramento City Calafornia [California] they started from the Bluffs May the 7 and had been 8 days going 95 miles I am very saddened indeed to think that Peter⁴ has any Idea of going and Sacrificing all that he has got and likely his health and life too. look at John Owings⁵ what he has done he sold everything he had to fit out to go and left his Family⁶ nothing to live on She⁷ went to Doctor Beatys⁸ [Beatty's] and cant [can't] agree with them so she is comeing [coming] to live with William Owings⁹. Fanny¹⁰ has also made an increase in the family. she has got a Boy. It was born 10 of June her oldest will be two years old the 11 of August and can not [cannot] walk yet. It is a girl, they call it Elizabeth¹¹ the Boy they call John¹². I suppose you heard that John Laird¹³ was married. he was married September 4 to Miss Christiana Eshelman¹⁴ she has also got a fine son¹⁵ born May the 17 William Chapman¹⁶ has moved to Pine Creek Mills be near Dixon they came through Mt. Carroll and stayed a week they would have stayed longer had it not been for the measles. They were afraid the children¹⁷ would get them Amandas¹⁸ [Amanda's] little Boy¹⁹ has not had them yet. all of them thought that Evaline²⁰ looked very natural but me for my part I never would have known her the children were all fine and fat the youngest one could most walk. Elizabeth Lindsays²¹ [Lindsay's] children²² have had the measles and Frank was not expected to live for some time but he is got well she is at her Fathers²³ [Father's] yet and John Myers²⁴ is living on her Farm. Johns²⁵ [John's] Farm is rented to Smith,²⁶ but upon what condition I do not know Julia Ann²⁷ is at her Fathers²⁸ [Father's]. O Ad I had almost forgotten to tell you that Margaret²⁹ has got a fine son born May the 10 they call him Marshall Stephen Castle³⁰ Sam³¹ talks of going to California this Fall if he can sell his Farm. Julia Ann³² and Virginia³³ say they are comeing [coming] down this fall tosee you/stay a while [awhile] and you must be ready to come home with them and stay all winter. The Farmers have just commenced to harvest up here so to the grain it is very good better than it generally is I almost envy you your fine Orchard that you wrote about for there is no such a thing to be seen up this way. you will see by the top of my letter that I am not in Mount Carroll any more I am at Mr. Yontzs³⁴ on Plum River teaching School I have 20 scholars I get 8 dollars a month and my board I stay at Yontzs all the time it is about five miles from town it is the farm that Beeler³⁵ used to own there is a saw mill on it now and Yontz is building a large grist mill on it they have 24 hands working on it. it is not half done yet. Hays³⁶ is the Boss Millwright. Hitts Mill at Mount Morris was burned

down the 27 of June. Mt Carroll has got to be quite a Village since you left. it contains upwards of 500 Inhabitants. it {has} 6 stores 2 taverns and a number of other Shops a Printing office it is also quite a Village where Yontz³⁷ lives Blacksmiths Shop tavern and so on. I suppose you would like to hear something from your Old Friends at Chery [Cherry] Grove but I cannot tell you much about them. Hawk³⁸ bought Robert Beaty's³⁹ [Beatty's] Farm and is living on it Matthew Davis⁴⁰ and his mother and Ellen Maccoy⁴¹ still lives on the old place and Bill Owings⁴² a little ways from them in a new house and Old Asberry⁴³ has left he is keeping {a} boarding house in Galina [Galena] Garner Moffett⁴⁴ is has built him a large Brick house up on the road Abram⁴⁵ still holds to the old Cabin, you wrote that Dear little Johny⁴⁶ [Johnny] was going to School tell him as soon as he can write to write Aunt Liza⁴⁷ a letter If Aunt Ginny⁴⁸ and Julia⁴⁹ comes down to see you this fall I will send him and Joseph⁵⁰ some prety [pretty] present Frank⁵¹ and Billy⁵² go to School. Frank can read he learns very fast. you must please excuse this writing for I am doing it in haste and have a bad pen Give my So farewell for the present

Eliza F. Pierce⁵³

To Mrs. Julia Adaline Laird⁵⁴

N B

Virginia⁵⁵ and Julia⁵⁶ wants to know how near where you live they can go in a boat and what place to stop at Give my best to Peter⁵⁷ and tell him to give up the notion of going to California forty dozen kisses to John⁵⁸ and Joe⁵⁹ answer this as soon as you get it so no more Direct your letter to Mt. Carroll 'G⁶⁰

E F P⁶¹

Notes:

A. Letters were folded so the back of the page could be addressed. The Cover page is actually the blank square formed when the letter was folded.

B. When the History of Carroll County was written for the Historical Encyclopedia, (Edited by Newton Bateman, Munsell Publishing, Page 667), in 1913 William was the only one alive of all those who went to the coast from Carroll County. The following details are from the historic account:

William A. J. Pierce and Daniel Shottenkirk left for California with the Judge David Emmert party on March 23, 1850. The party consisted of Judge Emmert, his son Simon, William A. J. Pierce, Daniel Shottenkirk, Hugh E. Taylor, Daniel Brown, Joe Strickler, B. W. and J. L. Reynolds, Nathaniel Sutton, Jacob Traxell, Merriam VanGaston, George Goltman, Joseph Ganson, William Callahan and one or two others. The party rafted across the river at Savanna and journeyed through Iowa to a location about eight miles below Council Bluffs on the Missouri River.

There the party joined a company of sixty to eighty men and elected Evan Rea of Mt. Carroll as their captain. He had come with a party other than Judge Emmert's. Before the Emmert party left Mt. Carroll arrangements had been made in St. Louis for provisions to be waiting for them at the joining location.

After the parties forded near Council Bluffs they quickly ran out of money and had to stop, as many others had to do, at Salt Lake City, Utah. They worked for the Mormons until they had enough money to continue the trip.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

1. Sister Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird
2. William William Andrew Jackson Pierce, brother of Julia A. Laird and Eliza F. Pierce
3. George Barton *
4. Peter Peter Laird, husband of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird
5. John Owings John A. Owings, brother of Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay, the wife of Joseph Larkin Lindsay
6. John Owings Family Frances (Beatty) "Fanny," Children: Elizabeth Owings born August 11, 1848, John Owings born June 10, 1850
7. She "Fanny" Owings, wife of John A. Owings
8. Dr. Beatty Related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families through Frances (Beatty), wife of John Owings, Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay and Elizabeth (Beatty) Laird, first wife of John Laird
9. William Owings Brother of John A. Owings and Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay
10. Fanny Frances (Beatty) Owings, sister of Elizabeth (Beatty) Laird, first wife of John Laird
11. Elizabeth Elizabeth Owings, daughter of Fanny and John Owings
12. John John Owings, son of Fanny and John Owings
13. John Laird Son of Joseph Laird, Sr. who emigrated from Scotland
14. Christiana Eshelman Married John Laird September 4, 1849, daughter of Abraham and Hannah (Wolfgang) Eshelman
15. John E. Laird Son of John and Christiana (Eshelman) Laird, born May 17, 1850
16. William Chapman Husband of Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman
17. The Chapman children Stephen Chapman born January 13, 1846, Virginia D. Chapman born November 17, 1847, and William Andrew Jackson Pierce Chapman born August 31, 1849
18. Amanda Amanda (Lindsay) Hallett, sister of Julia Laird and Eliza Pierce
19. Amanda's boy Russell Hallett born October 12, 1849
20. Evaline Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman
21. Elizabeth Lindsay Elizabeth A. (Owings) Lindsay, wife of Joseph Larkin Lindsay
22. Elizabeth's children Francis B. born February 10, 1844, William O. born November 13, 1845, and John C. born December 31, 1847
23. Her Father J. C. Owings
24. John Myers * Acquaintance
25. John John W. Pierce, brother of Julia Laird and Eliza Pierce
26. Smith * Acquaintance
27. Julia Ann Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce, wife of John W. Pierce
28. Father of Julia Ann Samuel Yontz. His wife was named Mary
29. Margaret Margaret J. (Pierce) Brotherton, sister of Julia Laird and Eliza Pierce
30. Marshall Stephen Castle M. S. C. Brotherton, first son of Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton and Samuel Brotherton, born May 10, 1850
31. Sam Samuel Brotherton, husband of Margaret Pierce
32. Julia Ann Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce, wife of John W. Pierce
33. Virginia Virginia D. Pierce, sister of Julia Laird and Eliza Pierce

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 34. Mr. Youtz | Samuel Yontz, father of Julia Ann (Yontz) Lindsay |
| 35. Beeler | *Acquaintance |
| 36. Hays | *Acquaintance |
| 37. Youtz | Samuel Yontz |
| 38. Hawk | *Acquaintance |
| 39. Robert Beaty | Brother of Elizabeth (Beatty) Laird, first wife of John Laird |
| 40. Matthew Davis | *Acquaintance |
| 41. Ellen Maccoy | *Mother of Matthew Davis, an acquaintance |
| 42. Bill Owings | William Owings, brother of Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay |
| 43. Asberry | *Acquaintance |
| 44. Garner Moffett | *January 18, 1807 – October 5, 1856. Died of Typhoid Fever. He is buried in Wolfe Cemetery, near Lanark, IL. |
| 45. Abram | *Acquaintance |
| 46. Johny | John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird, son of Julia and Peter Laird |
| 47. Aunt Liza | Eliza F. Pierce, sister of Julia Laird |
| 48. Ginny | Virginia D. Pierce, sister of Julia Laird and Eliza F. Pierce |
| 49. Julia | Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce, wife of John W. Pierce, brother of Julia Laird and Eliza F. Pierce |
| 50. Joseph | Joseph A. Laird, son Peter and Julia A. Laird |
| 51. Frank | Francis B. Lindsay, son of Elizabeth and J. Larkin Lindsay |
| 52. Billy | William O. Lindsay, son of Elizabeth and J. Larkin Lindsay |
| 53. Eliza F. Pierce | Sister of Julia Laird |
| 54. Mrs. Julia Adaline Laird | Sister of Eliza F. Pierce |
| 55. Virginia | Virginia D. Pierce, sister of Julia Laird and Eliza F. Pierce |
| 56. Julia | Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce, wife of John W. Pierce |
| 57. Peter | Peter Laird, husband of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 58. John | John W. P. Laird, son of Julia and Peter Laird |
| 59. Joe | Joseph Laird, son of Julia and Peter Laird |
| 60. 'G | Virginia D. Pierce |
| 61. E F P | Eliza F. Pierce |

*** A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families**

LETTER 8A
Cover Page: ^A

10

Mrs Julia A Laird
Lineous Linn County
Missouri

Mount Carroll November the 17, 1850

Dear Sister¹

I take the present opportunity of informing you that we are all well at present I received your letter the first of October which gave us all much pleasure to hear that your health was improving. I would have written to you sooner but I waited to hear from William² for I feared he would never get through but we got a letter last week he was in Calafornia [California] he got there the 11 day of September he wrote on the 25 he was then in Weberville fifty miles North of Sacramento city. all that went from this part of the country got through safe Will says that last year was the time to make money but he is not discouraged if he has health. he was offered 6 dollars a day but he would not take it he said he intended to try his own luck. He found George³ and Giff⁴ both well when he arrived but Giff had been very sick. his doctor bill was 40 dollars . Giff is a criple [cripple] his hip is stiff so he can not stoop to dig but he was driving a team and getting one hundred dollars a month he can get 50 dollars a month for cooking in a Hotel but he wants to live with William⁵ George is doing {very} good he does nothing but gamble he owes 3 hundred dollars and has nothing to pay it with he borrowed some from Giff. William was out making enough to clear his board Dick Owings⁶ and Sam Gatton⁷ was making 8 dollars a day clear. he said it is healthy there. He has not tasted medicine since he left home. we have written 6 letters to him and he has not got any of them the rest of the company had all got letters from home Giff dresses as good as any one and he was laying up all the money he could get he wants to come home with William I believe I wrote to you in my letter before that Evaline⁸ had been to see us as she moved she went down to their mills and stayed 4 weeks and then she came back here and stayed 5 weeks. they had a great fuss at the mill. Old Mr. Chapmans⁹ [Stephen Chapman] was liveing [living] in one part of the Mill and Evaline was there one night some men broke in and they had a fight they broke Old Chapman's arm in two places Ev tried to shoot a man but the gun did not go off Adaline¹⁰ I have bad news to tell you about poor Margaret¹¹ her little boy is dead¹² he died the 19 day of August aged 3 months and 9 days ~~Manda's~~ Amanda¹³ and her family are well Russell¹⁴ can not walk yet Fanny Owings¹⁵ boy is dead John Laird¹⁶ call theirs [their's] Abram Grimes¹⁷ Margaret¹⁸ is now living in Mt. Carroll I am staying with her I intend going to school this winter Julia¹⁹ and Virginia²⁰ say they would certainly have been to see you this fall had it not been for the cholera Fany [Fanny] Owings is a Mr. Yontz's²¹ her little girl²² cannot walk yet William²³ says everything is very high priced in California Flour is worth 18 cents per pound Pork 30 Potatoes 38 Onions one dollar a pound Molasses 4 dollars a gallon. one Dollars [dollar] for a meals vituals 50 cents for room to lay down in the house. Sarah Ann Moffett²⁴ has been very sick she had a babe it was so Deformed that they could not tell whether it was a boy or a girl it did not live and they thought she would not but she is well now Abram²⁵ wants to sell his place if he can he will go to Oregon in the Spring Garner Moffett²⁶ William Owings²⁷ and Willis Fisk²⁸ all talk of going. Ad [Adaline] Virginia²⁹ is single yet but I shouldnt [shouldn't] wonder if you dont [don't] hear of her being Mrs. Irvine - you know John Irvine³⁰. I want you to kiss Johny³¹ [Johnny] and Joseph³² for me and give my compliments to Peter³³. I will now close as Margaret³⁴ is going to write a few lines to you. So no more ~~but~~

Good Bye do not fail to write soon to me Eliza F Pierce³⁵
Will says - to Direct Letters to Sacramento City, Calafornia [California]

LETTER 8B – Included with the previous letter

{ November 17, 1850}^A

Dear sister and brother¹ I once more will write you a few lines as Eliza² has wrote you all the news I can say but little my wish is that I only could see you instid [instead] of writing. Sam³ and farther⁴ [father] has sold out and we have rented in Carroll [Mt. Carroll] till spring [Spring] We do not {know} whear [where] we will settle yet sometim [sometimes] we think of leaving this country but Sam dont [doesn't] know where he will buy but he intends to settle for good this way of roling [rolling] A bout [about] this world is A poor way thay [they] sold for thirteen hundre [hundred] and fifty dollars to Mr. Millen⁵ that live at the old tavern Ad [Adaline] if you was hear [here] it would look lik [like] home agin [again] All thoue [though] thare [there] has been many changes since you left us I feel the lose [loss] of my little boy⁶ very much but the lord [Lord] can tak [take] better care of him than I can he could all most [almost] set [sit] A lone [alone] but he was verry [very] fat and he was taking sick on Sunday night and dide [died] the same time on monday [Monday] night with the hives and croup. My health is poor and I nevery [never] have ben [ben] stout since he was born all tho [although] I find A [a] siympathising [sympathizing] companion⁷ that takes part of all my trouble and takes good care of me as poor an excuse as he was thought to be I am still remain

Margaret Brotherton⁸ my love to them Dear little neffews⁹ [nephews] {Three or four words are questionable at the end}

Notes for letter 8A:

A. Letters were folded so the back of the page could be addressed. The Cover page is actually the blank square formed when the letter was folded.

Index of people mentioned in letter – Letter 8A:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

Letter from Eliza F. Pierce to her sister, Julia A. Laird

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Sister | Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. William | William Andrew Jackson Pierce, brother of Julia A. Laird, Eliza F. Pierce and Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 3. George | *George Barton |
| 4. Giff | *Gifford |
| 5. William | William A. J. Pierce |
| 6. Dick Owings | Richard Owings, brother of Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay who was the wife of Julia and Eliza's brother J. Larkin Lindsay |
| 7. Sam Gatton | * |
| 8. Evaline | Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman, sister of Julia A. Laird and Eliza F. Pierce |
| 9. Stephen Chapman | Father of William Chapman, and father-in-law of Mary E. Chapman |
| 10. Adaline | Julia Adaline Laird |
| 11. Margaret | Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton, sister of Julia Laird and Eliza Pierce |
| 12. Margaret's little boy | Stephen Marshall Castle Brotherton born May 10, 1850; died August 19, 1850, son Samuel Brotherton |
| 13. Amanda | Amanda (Lindsay) Hallett, sister of Julia A. Laird and Eliza F. Pierce |

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 14. Russell | Russell Hallett born Octboer 12, 1849 |
| 15. Fanny Owings boy | John Owings born June 10, 1850. Fanny is Frances (Beatty) Owings, sister of Elizabeth (Beatty) Laird, first wife of John Laird |
| 16. John Laird | Son of Joseph Laird, Sr. who emigrated from Scotland. John married Christiana Eshelman September 4, 1849. |
| 17. Abram Grimes | Abram Grimes Laird born May 17, 1850 |
| 18. Margaret | Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton, sister of Julia A. Laird and Eliza F. Pierce |
| 19. Julia | Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce, wife of John W. Pierce who was the brother of Julia A. Laird and Eliza F. Pierce |
| 20. Virginia | Virginia D. Pierce, sister of Julia A. Laird and Eliza F. Pierce |
| 21. Mr. Yontz | Samuel Yontz (his wife was Mary). Julia Ann was the wife of John W. Pierce |
| 22. Fanny Owings little girl | Elizabeth Owings born August 11, 1848, daughter of John A. Owings |
| 23. William | William A. J. Pierce |
| 24. Sarah Ann Moffett | * |
| 25. Abram | * |
| 26. Garner Moffett | * |
| 27. William Owings | Brother of Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay and John A. Owings |
| 28. Willis Fisk | * |
| 29. Virginia | Virginia D. Pierce |
| 30. John Irvine | John Irvine married Mary L. Chapman December 10, 1856 in Carroll County, IL |
| 31. Johny | John W. P. Laird, son of Peter and Julia A. Laird, nephew of Eliza F. Pierce |
| 32. Joseph | Joseph Laird, son of Peter and Julia A. Laird, nephew of Eliza F. Pierce |
| 33. Peter | Peter Laird, husband of Julia A. (Lindsay) Pierce |
| 34. Margaret | Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton, sister of Eliza F. Pierce and Julia A. Laird |
| 35. Eliza F. Pierce | Sister of Julia A. Laird, Virginia D. Pierce, Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton, and Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman |

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

Notes for letter 8B:

A. The date was not on this part of the letter, but it was written at the same time as Eliza's letter.

Index of people mentioned in letter – Letter 8B:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Sister and Brother | Julia A. Laird and Peter Laird |
| 2. Eliza | Eliza F. Pierce, sister of Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 3. Sam | Samuel Brotherton, husband of Margaret Brotherton |
| 4. Father | Sam Brotherton's father. Name unknown |
| 5. Mr. Millen | *Acquaintance |
| 6. Margaret's little boy | Stephen Marshall Castle Brotherton born May 10, 1850 – died August 19, 1850 |
| 7. ...poor excuse "he was" | Margaret is referring to her husband, Sam Brotherton |
| 8. Margaret | Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 9. Neffews | Joseph A. Laird, and John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird, sons of Peter and Julia A. Laird; nephews of Margaret and Sam Brotherton |

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

The children are: Harmony Laird, born 1830 (died March 5, 1863), Joseph A. Laird, born 1833 (died April 2, 1913), Sarah Ellen Laird born 1842, Elizabeth Laird born 1844 (died January 9, 1862). All of the children were born in Greene Twp., Clark Cty., OH.

C. John and Susan Anna (Laird) Dakin were enumerated with Liberty Twp., Clinton Cty., IA in the 1847 and 1849 State Censuses. They are listed with all seven children in Liberty Twp., Clinton Cty., IA in the 1850 Federal Census.

John Dakin was born in 1798 in New York. He died in Marshall Cty., IA

Susan Anna (Laird) Dakin (Daughter of of Joseph Laird, Sr. who emigrated from Scotland) was born in 1806 in Scotland. She died between 1870-1889 in Marshall Cty., IA

John Dakin married Susan Anna Laird September 30, 1830 in Clark County, OH.

The seven children are: William born 1831 (died about 1857), Almira born 1834, Charity born 1835, Joseph born 1838, James born 1842, John born 1844, and Americus born 1851

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Brother and Sister | Peter Laird and Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. James Leard | James Laird, brother of Alexander Laird |
| 3. James Laird's family | Harmony, Joseph A. Laird, Sarah Ellen Laird, and Elizabeth Laird |
| 4. John Dakin's family | See notes for this letter |
| 5. Charity | Charity Dakin, daughter of John and Susan Anna (Laird) Dakin |
| 6. Almira | Almira Dakin, daughter of John and Susan Anna (Laird) Dakin |
| 7. John | John Laird born 1837, son of Alexander and Jane Laird |
| 8. Eleanor | Eleanor Laird born 1839, daughter of Alexander and Jane Laird |
| 9. Joseph | Joseph C. Laird born June 19, 1842, son of Alexander and Jane Laird |
| 10. James R | James R. Laird born February 2, 1843, son of Alexander and Jane Laird |
| 11. David | David Laird born September 2, 1850, son of Alexander and Jane Laird |
| 12. Alexander Leard | Alexander Laird, brother of Peter Laird |
| 13. Jane Leard | Jane (Miller) Laird, wife of Alexander Laird |
| 14. Adaline Julia A. Leerd | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird, wife of Peter Laird |

LETTER 10

Glasgow Feby 6 1851

Mr. Peter Laird¹

Dr Sir

When I arrived at home I submitted your proposition to my brother for the tract of land you live on and he has authorized me to say to you that he will take your proposition by your giving security for the payment of the same. The proposition you made to me when I saw you was this, to give \$300 for the land payable in one, two and three years, with six percent per annum from date of note. If you conclude to close the matter write to me and I will come up and attend to it.

Yours Respectfully

Jn M. Turner²

Note:

In 1851 Peter and Julia A. Laird lived in Linneus, MO, in Linn County. This is about 50 miles north of Glasgow, MO where Mr. Turner is located. In 1852 Peter and Julia went to California.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

1. Peter Laird Son of Joseph C. Laird, Sr. and Ellen Eleanor (Morrison) Laird who emigrated from Scotland
2. Jn M. Turner *Unknown

* Not related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

LETTER 11

Mount Carroll, April the 1st 1851

My

Dear Sister¹

I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know how we are all getting along and I am very sorry to tell you that Virginia² is not well she has had a very bad cough all winter and it has settled on her lungs for about 2 months she has not been able to help her self at all she thinks she is some better now she has not been confined to her bed but she is quite feeble Dr. John Hostetter³ is attending to her she is at his house he thinks a trip down the river would improve her health more than medacine [medicine] she expects to start to St. Louis in a bout [about] 3 or 4 weeks if she could find out where you live perhaps she would come and see you if you lived near the river she says she will come the Doctor says she must not travel any distance unless it is on water he thinks it would not agree with her to travel very far in the stage she wants you to write immediately and tell her exactly where it is and how far it is from the river. She will go to St. Louis first and then if she gets better she could go to your house and stay a month or 2 with you. I expect to go with her but I am certain if I go I will write to you a few days before we start so that you can write to us in St. Louis the rest of us are all well I received your letter on the 16 of March and was very glad to hear that you were all well it has been very sickly here this Winter a good many deaths the disease was principally the lung fever Abram Strickler⁴ died in January Mrs Sarah Ann Moffett⁵ is very sick she has the same disease that Mary Jane⁶ used to have a bleeding of the lungs we received a letter from William⁷ about 2 weeks ago he was well had not been sick a day since he left home we get letters from him regularly about every 2 and 3 weeks I do not remember whether I wrote to you before about him sending Ginny⁸ and me a present of twenty seven dollars and a breast pin he sent them by a gentleman that came back his name was Barber^{9A} he went to California with John¹⁰ Will¹¹ says he does not advise any one to go to California Simon Emmert¹² went to California in the same company that Will did he died November the 13 of typhus fever Will has not written anything about coming home yet John Owings¹³ has got home but he did not bring a fortune with him he was a great deal poorer when he came home than when he started he had scarcely money to bring him home Bill Owing¹⁴ has got a fine son with a sufficient quantity of thumbs and toes Margaret¹⁵ received a letter from Evaline¹⁶ a few days ago she wrote that she had got one letter from you with some of the childrens¹⁷ [children's] hair in it I was down to see her in January but I did not stay longer than 2 hours direct your letters to her to Paynes Point, Ogle County James Hallett¹⁸ has rented his house to Mr. Hollinger¹⁹ and Amanda²⁰ and her little Russell²¹ are going to board Adaline²² you want me to send you some seed but I don't know but they will fall out you must be sure and write immediately you must excuse this writing for I have a very bad pen and it is Sunday and the bell is ringing for church so I must be in a hurry Sam Brotherton²³ was taken quite sick this morning with some kind of fever I will now close this awful letter by subscribing myself your affectionate Sister

Eliza Pierce²⁴

Notes:

A. Barber is mentioned in the Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, Edited by Newton Batemen: Munsell Publishing, 1913, Page 666. Barber left his wife behind in Mt. Carroll when he went to California in the John Pierce Party. He sent quite a bit of money home to his wife, but he found out that a man with whom she was living was spending the money. Barber stopped sending money. He received a letter from his wife and immediately tore it up – then regretted his actions. Daniel Shottenkirk pieced the letter back together so it could be read. It was a very nice letter, but Barber did not respond and later married another woman in California.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Sister | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. Virginia | Virginia D. Pierce, sister of Julia A. Laird and Eliza Pierce |
| 3. Dr. John Hostetter | * |
| 4. Abram Strickler | * |
| 5. Mrs. Sarah Ann Moffett | * |
| 6. Mary Jane | * |
| 7. William | William A. J. Pierce, brother of Julia A. Laird and Eliza Pierce |
| 8. Ginny | Virginia D. Pierce, sister of Julia A. Laird and Eliza Pierce |
| 9. Barber | * |
| 10. John | John W. Pierce, brother of Julia A. Laird and Eliza Pierce |
| 11. Will | William A. J. Pierce, brother of Julia A. Laird and Eliza Pierce |
| 12. Simon Emmert | * |
| 13. John Owings | John A. Owings, husband of Frances (Beatty) Owings |
| 14. Bill Owing | William Owings, related to John A. Owings |
| 15. Margaret | Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton, sister of Julia A. Laird and Eliza Pierce |
| 16. Evaline | Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman, sister of Julia A. Laird and Eliza Pierce |
| 17. Julia's children | John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird, and Joseph A. Laird, children of Julia A. and Peter Laird |
| 18. James Hallett | Husband of Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 19. Mr. Hollinger | *An acquaintance |
| 20. Amanda | Amanda M F. (Lindsay) Hallett, sister of Julia A. Laird and Eliza Pierce |
| 21. Russell | Russell B. Hallett born October 12, 1849, son of Amanda and James Hallett |
| 22. Adaline | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 23. Sam Brotherton | Husband of Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton, sister of Julia A. Laird and Eliza Pierce |
| 24. Eliza Pierce | Eliza F. Pierce, the letter writer and sister of Julia A. Laird, Amanda Hallett, Margaret Brotherton and Virginia D. Pierce |

*** A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families**

LETTER 12

Cover Page: ^A

10

Peter Leard
Lyn County missoury^B
Lyeous Post office^C

Walnut Fork Iowa
April 19th

1851 April 14 Jones County Wollnut [Walnut] fork post office
iowa State

Dear brother and Sister¹ I take my pen in hand to inform you that we are all well and hope you are enjoying the same blessing [blessing] we rote [wrote] a letter and received no answer Alexander² directed it wrong he fergot [forgot] and wodent [wouldn't] beleive [believe] me,, I would like to know where you are going to move to we live in niger point And have bought us a claim but we expept [expect] to sell And go where the timber is plentyer and beter [better] perhapse [perhaps] we will stay where {here} two years we have knot [not] been doing very well this two years Alexander has been out of health for thee [three] year [years] and gets worse ery [every] Spring with a braking [breaking] out on his face occasioned [occasioned] by the liver cplaint [complaint] or a disease in the skin we have a son his age is seven months we call him david³ he is not very well he is cuting [cutting] teeth John⁴ has gone through his rithmetic [arithmetic] this winter Eleanor⁵ is learning to write Joseph⁶ and James R⁷ can read midling well the [they] want to know abought [about] their cousins⁸ it has been warm and pleasent [pleasant] this winter it is cool knights [nights] we Just have got through puting [putting] in our Spring wheat wheat is 50 cents a busel [bushel] and corn 25 health has been midling good no more at prant [present] but remain your friend and brother and Sister Alexander leard⁹ Jane leard¹⁰

Dahins^{11D} [Dakin] family is in health I bleive [believe] And doing mealing well Almira Dakins¹² says she wants you to come and live in this part of Iowa no more but remain yours my love to you pete leard¹³ and adaline¹⁴

Notes:

This letter is transcribed as it was written. Jane (Miller) Laird had very little formal education. The 1850 Federal Census for Iowa says Alexander Laird could not read or write.

A. Letters were folded so the back of the page could be addressed. The Cover page is actually the blank square formed when the letter was folded.

B. The city, county and state are: Linneus, Linn County, Missouri

C. The Post Office is: Linneous

D. The Dakins lived in the same area as Alexander and Jane Laird. They were enumerated in Liberty Twp., IA in the 1850 Federal Census. See Letter 9, Notes for more information about the Dakin family.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

1. Brother and Sister Peter and Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird, brother of Alexander Laird
2. Alexander Alexander Laird, Son of Joseph Laird, Sr.
3. David David Laird, age 7 months, born Sept. 2, 1850
4. John John Laird, age 14, born 1837
5. Eleanor Eleanor Laird, age 12, born 1839
6. Joseph Joseph C. Laird, age 8, he will be 9 on June 19, 1851
7. James R James R. Laird, age 8, he turned 8 on Feb. 2, 1851
8. Their cousins John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird born May 28, 1844,
Joseph A. Laird born 1847, sons of Peter and Julia Laird
9. Alexander Leard Alexander Laird, brother of Peter Laird
10. Jane Leard Jane (Miller) Laird, wife of Alexander Laird
11. Dahins John and Susan Anna (Laird) Dakin, Susan is the sister of Alexander and
Peter Laird
12. Almira Dakins Almira Dakin, age 17, daughter of John and Susan Anna (Laird) Dakin
13. Pete Leard Peter Laird, brother of Alexander Laird
14. Adaline Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird

LETTER 13

Selma Clark Co, August 17th 1851

Dear Brother,¹

We received your letter in due season and were very glad to hear from you. we are all well as common I am not very stout but in common health I received a letter from William² last spring informing us of the death of his wife³ she died last winter he had a girl^{4A} that they raised keeping house for him and thought that he would not break up he lives in Dearborn Co, Indiana but his P. O address is Harrison Hamilton Co, Ohio I have not heard from Thomas Clayton⁵ for several years but suppose he lives in Shelby Co, Indiana Shelbyville post office Joel Pharis⁶ [Phares] lives in Dewitt Co, Illinois we had a letter from them a short time ago they were all well his Post office is Clinton we are living on the farm known to you as the Lamb farm we are five miles Southwest of Charleston this country is improving very fast land is worth from 30 to 35 dollars an acre I talk of selling out and going west but think I shall not go as far as californa [California] we are within half a mile of the rail road leading from cincinnatti [Cincinnati] to columbus [Columbus] and thence to cleveland [Cleveland] the cars pass here six times a day and have a stopping place within a half mile of us. we are within a quarter of a mile of the turnpike leading from xenia [Xenia] to Columbus. it has been very seasonable this summer in this country we have abundant crops of all kinds. it is very healthy at present and the Doctors have not yet prophesied that it is going to be sickly. for my part I have no confidence in the prophesies of those who make thier [their] living off of the afflictions of others. we have four children Harmony⁷ is 21 years old Joseph⁸ is 18 Sarah Ellen⁹ is 9 Elizabeth¹⁰ is 7 I want you to write to me as soon as you get this and let us know whether the prophecies of the medical men are sullfilled [fulfilled] and I want to know what you call a low price for land. it would be a great satisfaction to me to hear from you frequently no more at present but remain your affectionate Brother and sister until death

James¹¹ & Anna¹² Laird
to Peter¹³ & Adaline¹⁴ Laird

Notes:

A. William and Mary (Cochran) Laird had one son of their own, Silas Cochran Laird (born 1834). Mary Dewitt Laird (born 1834), was raised by William and Mary (Cochran) Laird from childhood. After William's first wife died he married Mary Dewitt. The 1860 census shows Mary (Dewitt) Laird as the wife in the household with three children, William Laird born 1854, James Laird born 1857 and Emma Laird born 1860.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Peter | Peter Laird |
| 2. William | William Laird born October 23, 1800 in Aberdour, Scotland. He is the son of Joseph Laird, Sr. and Ellen Eleanor (Morrison) Laird who emigrated from Scotland |
| 3. William's wife | Mary (Cochran) Laird born 1798, died January 5, 1851 |
| 4. The girl they raised | Mary (Dewitt) Laird, born 1834 |

5. Thomas Clayton Born June 12, 1798 in Harrison, West Virginia. He was married to Elizabeth (Laird) Clayton born September 2, 1802 in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. She is the daughter of Joseph Laird, Sr. and Ellen Eleanor (Morrison) Laird who emigrated from Scotland
6. Joel Pharis Joel Phares, husband of Eleanor "Ellen" (Laird) Phares. She was born January 1, 1814 in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. She is the sister of Elizabeth, James, William, and Peter Laird mentioned in this letter and daughter of Joseph Laird, Sr. and Ellen Eleanor (Morrison) Laird who emigrated from Scotland
7. Harmony Harmony Laird born 1830
8. Joseph Joseph A. Laird born 1833
9. Sarah Ellen Sarah Ellen Laird 1842
10. Elizabeth Elizabeth Laird born 1844
11. James Laird Born 1808 in Scotland, son of Joseph Laird, Sr. and Ellen Eleanor (Morrison) Laird who emigrated from Scotland
12. Anna Laird Anna (Allen) Laird born January 10, 1805 in Shenandoah, VA
13. Peter laird Brother of James Laird
14. Adaline Laird Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird, wife of Peter Laird

LETTER 14

Mount Carroll, August 28, 1851

Dear sister¹

In haste and sorrow I am obliged to seat myself to inform you of sad news O Dear sister it is an awful task but I am compelled to inform you of the heart rending and sorrowful news of Our Dear Sister Virginia's² death O Dear Adaline³ it is an awful stroke and warning to us all that we must all die sooner or later She died on the 22nd day of August after an illness of nine days on wednesday [Wednesday] the 13 of August She and Amanda⁴ took the stage and went out to Mr Yontz⁵ a visiting Virginia eat some green corn for dinner and on thursday [Thursday] morning she was taken with a very bad Diarrhea they came home that same day and she kept getting worse until she died, you are aware that she went to St Louis in the Spring for the benefit of her health but I believe you never heard the particulars of her trip or whether it did her any good or not, It did improve her health a great deal She stayed there until the last of June and when she came home she was a great deal better than when she went away she arrived at home on the 4th of July the only medacine [medicine] that she took was Cod Liver Oil while she was in St Louis and a good while after she came home she could not get any so nearer than St Louis so she sent for some but it did not get here until after she was dead, the immediate cause of her death was the Diarrhea the Doctor could not get it it stopped he says it seems as if it was her time to die for he tried the most powerful medacines [medicines] that were ever heard of and it had no more affect on her than so much water Dr. John Hostetter⁶ was her Dr, On friday morning about 9 oclock [o'clock] he told her that he could do nothing more for her that she was in the hands of the Lord She appeared perfectly resigned and willing to go then there was another Physician called but he could do nothing for her She lived until about 7 oclock [o'clock] that evening and then died with out a moan or Struggle.....every Person that saw her said they never saw any person so resigned to death in their lives She was sensible to the last moment and knew every person around her she talked until about two minutes before she breathed her last we kept her until sunday [Sunday] and Mr Gray⁷ preached a funeral sermon and we took her to Cherry Grove and buried her beside Our Dear Ma, My Dear Sister you cannot imagine how she had changed I had her Daguerrrotype taken just before she died so if I ever have a chance I can let you see how she looked, O Adaline I never before could realize what Death was for I was to [too] young to know much about it when Ma and Pa⁸ died and the others⁹ Died away from home So I did not see them Suffer Dear Sister I feel so bad that I cannot write any more about it this time, for I think seriously of coming to see you this fall Now I cannot say for certain that I am coming so I do not want you to look for me for fear it might be a disappointment to you but I will come if I possibly can for it seems to me that I never can stay in Mount Carroll with out [without] My Dear Virginia it seems to me as though I am alone in the world If I come I shall go in company with some of our merchants when they go for goods as far as Saint Louis and I would stay till William¹⁰ comes home and have him come that way and bring me home I had a letter from him a few days ago he did not say when he was coming home

Notes:

This letter ends abruptly unfinished and unsigned. There may be a final page missing. The handwriting and style match that of Eliza F. Pierce.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

1. Sister Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird
2. Virginia Virginia D. Pierce
3. Adaline Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird
4. Amanda Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett
5. Mr. Yontz Samuel Yontz, Father of Julia Ann Yontz wife of John W. Pierce who was drowned in the Platte River.
6. Dr. John Hostetter *
7. Mr. Gray *
8. Ma and Pa Drusilla Ballard (Lindsay) Pierce b. abt. 1802 in Abingdon, Washington Co., Va, d. abt. 1842 in Cherry Grove, Carroll Co., IL., and John Pierce b. about 1802 in Dublin, Ireland, d. November 1844 in Cherry Grove, Carroll Co., IL.
9. The others Referring to Joseph Larkin Lindsay who died on the trail west from Cholera, and to John W. Pierce who died on the trail west in the Platte River.
10. William William A. J. Pierce

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

LETTER 15

White oak grove Ogle County Ill

December the 9 1851

Dear Sister Adaline¹

after a long delay and negglect [neglect] I now Improve the present oppertunity [opportunity] of writing to you and to answer your letter you wrote me a yeare [year] ago also to let you know that we are all well at present and hope this may find you and all your family in good health Dear Sister we hav [have] had a very hard time of sickness this fall I had a fine Daughter² the 24 of August and was quite smart untill [until] she was three weeks old and I was takin [taken] with the tifoid [typhoid] fever so was Stephen³ and Seth⁴ it went very hard with me and Stephen I call my little daughter for her aunt Julia Adaline she is a very interresting [interesting] child she {has} fair skin and blue eyes William⁵ thinks she favours [favors] you she has a little round chin like you O Dear Sister Adaline I long to see you and peter⁶ [Peter] and my Dear little John⁷ and Joseph⁸ O Adaline⁹ doubtless you have heard of our Dear departed Sister Virginia¹⁰ Dear Sister she has gon [gone] I trust to a land of rest, although she made no profeshion [profession] that would not prevent the lord [Lord] from parding [pardoning] her even on her death bed if she give her hart [heart] to god [God] and pryaed [prayed] for frgivesness [forgiveness] O dear Sister many has been the sceanes [scenes] since [since] we last saw each other Dear Sister I was at mount carroll [Mount Carroll] when we moved down and made a good visit Amanda¹¹ has another boy¹² and so has Margaret¹³ Mags¹⁴ first boy¹⁵ was a fine child it favoured [favored] her papa¹⁶ I hav [have] not seen either of theare [their] last boys¹⁷ Adaline you ought

direct your letters to pains point [Paines Point] ogle [Ogle] County^A

{start page two}

to see my William Andrew Jackson¹⁸ he is the boy for you and Virginia D¹⁹ is hansom [handsome] O Adaline I would like for you to see the children²⁰ we got a letter from William²¹ in June he sent the children and Willa²² some gold he says he will fetch his namesake somthing [something] nice from calaifornia [California] Eliza²³ was down to see me last winter Dear Adaline if we could meet once more I could tell you man things that I cant [can't] write Harriet garner²⁴ [Garner] is dead and Jef²⁵ is in calaifornia [California] we took Dinner at her hous [house] when we moved down I stayd [stayed] at her hous [house] a week she was a fine woman I seen Elizabth [Elizabeth] Lindsay²⁶ she was very gay in her pink and artificials and runing [running] all over the country insed [instead] of staying at home and taken [taking] care of her children Julia²⁷ was all in black Dear Sister I wish you would come and see us it would benefit your health your baby²⁸ is so larg [large] you could come nice mine are all babs [babes] but Stephen Adaline you must write to me just as soon as you get this letter I want to heare [hear] from you very bad now do write to me soon and often I intend to write to you often If we can never see each other to have a good talk we can converse on paper Virginia D says Aunt Adaline must come and see her little Ada and fetch it a pink dress and some apples ginia²⁹ [Ginia] is a very pretty child {she} is {has} very fair skin and fine features and long yellow curly hair Stephen is by my side and wants me to let him send John a little penknife [pen knife] in this letter he says to tell John and Joseph he has a nice little diem [dime] watch and he wants to see them Angeline³⁰ is living with me she sends her love to you all William³¹ and all the familly [family] sends our love to you all Mary Chapman³²

Note:

A. This line is at the bottom of the first page of the original letter.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

1. Sister Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird, sister of Mary E. (Lindsay) Chapman
2. Daughter Julia Adaline Chapman
3. Stephen Stephen Chapman born January 13, 1846, Dubuque Co., Dubuque, IA.
Son of William and Mary E. Chapman
4. Seth A child living with William and Mary E. Chapman, last name and relationship to the Chapman family unknown
5. William William Chapman, husband of Mary Chapman
6. Peter Husband of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird
7. John John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird, son of Peter and Julia A. Laird
8. Joseph Joseph Laird, son of Peter and Julia A. Laird
9. Adaline Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird
10. Virginia Virginia D. Pierce, sister of Julia A. Laird and Mary E. Chapman
11. Amanda Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett, sister of Julia Laird and Mary Chapman
12. Amanda's boy William Pierce Hallett born after April of 1851, son of Amanda and James Hallett
13. Margaret Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton
14. Mags Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton
15. First boy Marshall Stephen Castle Brotherton born May 10, 1850, died August 19, 1850
16. Papa Samuel Brotherton, husband of Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton
17. Their last boys William Pierce Hallett, son of James and Amanda Hallett, and Samuel Howard Brotherton son of Samuel and Margaret Brotherton
18. William Andrew Jackson William Andrew Jackson Pierce Chapman, born August 31, 1849, son of Mary and William Chapman
19. Virginia D. Virginia D. Chapman born November 17, 1847
20. The children Stephen born 1844, Virginia D. born November 17, 1847, William A. J. P. born August 31, 1849, Julia Adaline born August 24, 1851
21. William William Andrew Jackson Pierce
22. Willia William A. J. P. Chapman, son of William and Mary Chapman
23. Eliza Eliza F. Pierce, sister of Julia A. Laird and Mary Chapman
24. Harriet Garner *
25. Jef Husband of Harriet Garner. A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Pierce, Lindsay, Chapman, Hallett or Brotherton families
26. Elizabeth Lindsay Elizabeth A. (Owings) Lindsay, wife of Joseph Larkin Lindsay who died of Cholera at St. Joseph, MO
27. Julia Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce, wife of John W. Pierce who died in the Platte River, brother of Julia A. Laird, Mary E. Chapman, Virginia D. Pierce, Amanda Hallett, Margaret Brotherton and William A. J. Pierce
28. Your Baby Joseph A. Laird, born 1847 in Carroll County, IL
29. Ginia Virginia D. Chapman, daughter of William and Mary Chapman
30. Angeline Angeline Chapman, sister of William Chapman

31. William William Chapman, husband of Mary E. Chapman
32. Mary Chapman Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman, the letter writer

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

LETTER 16A

Mount Carroll Dec the 29th {1851} ^A

Dear Sister¹

I received your letter some time ago and intended answering it sooner, but was prevented by being so busy I am making arrangements to leave Mt Carroll soon I am going to Rockford to a female Seminary I intend to start next week I was very glad to hear of all of your good health we are all tolerably well at this time Margaret² was quite sick since I wrote to you last but she is well now Amanda's children³ have got the whooping cough we heard from William⁴ a short time ago and he was very well Joseph Christian⁵ has just returned from California he saw Will⁶ a few days before he left he says he talked of coming home in the spring William⁷ sent one hundred and five dollars home to Virginia⁸ and I he had not heard of her Death we had one letter from him since that and he had heard of it Pore [poor] fellow he felt very bad about it he had received a letter from you he said and intended answering it soon Also he had a letter from Evaline⁹ They were all well when she wrote she has another daughter it was born the day Dear Virginia died^B she calls it Julia Adaline¹⁰ Margaret¹¹ calls hers Samuel Howard¹² and Manda¹³ calls hers William Pierce¹⁴ Dear Sister if William¹⁵ ever lives to get home I think that he and I will make you a visit I should like to see you all I expect to go to school at Rockford six months or perhaps a year William¹⁶ also sent Virginia¹⁷ and me a gold ring each of us with our names engraved on them Amanda¹⁸ kept Virginias I have not much news to interest you William Brotherton¹⁹ is married to Miss Mary Austin²⁰ Stephen Brotherton²¹ has been out here to make a visit he has gone East again Mr Bennet^{22C} is married at last to a Miss Baily^{23C} he is still Driving stage and she is boarding James Garner²⁴ has returned from California Jef²⁵ and Coon²⁶ are there yet Jef's wife²⁷ died about a month ago I do not know what was the matter She was in Iowa at her mother's little John Moffett²⁸ Abram's²⁹ oldest boy is Dead he had a fever Old Mrs. Davis³⁰ Ellen McCoy³¹ and Margaret Hawn³² have all joined the Campelite church Robert Moffett³³ is teaching school at Cherry Grove William³⁴ is in Virginia at Bethany College I will now close and leave room for Margaret³⁵ to write some I want you to write immediately to me Direct your letter to Rockford, Illinois give my love to Peter³⁶ and the children³⁷ and accept a share for yourself

yours ever E. F. Pierce³⁸

Notes 16A:

A. This letter's date is based on the marriage date for William Brotherton and Mary Austin mentioned in Eliza F. Pierce's portion of the letter. William and Mary were married December 27, 1851. Illinois Regional Archives, IRAD, OMR, Page 49, License #373.

B. Mary Evaline Chapman's second daughter, Julia Adaline Chapman was born August 24, 1851, Virginia D. Pierce died on August 22, 1851.

C. Juliett Bailey married Smith Bennett October 21, 1851. IRAD Carroll County, IL, OMR Page 47, License #365.

Index of people mentioned in letter 16A:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Sister | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird, sister of Eliza F. Pierce |
| 2. Margaret | Margaret J. R. (Pierce) Brotherton, sister of Julia and Eliza |
| 3. Amanda's children | Children of Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett and James Hallett: Russell B. Hallett born October 12, 1849 and William Pierce Hallett born after April, 1851 |

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 4. William | William Andrew Jackson Pierce |
| 5. Joseph Christian | * |
| 6. Will | William Andrew Jackson Pierce |
| 7. William | William Andrew Jackson Pierce |
| 8. Virginia | Virginia D. Pierce born about 1849 in Virginia, died August 22, 1851 |
| 9. Evaline | Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman |
| 10. Julia Adaline | Julia Adaline Chapman born August 24, 1851, daughter of Mary and William Chapman |
| 11. Margaret | Margaret J. R. (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 12. Samuel Howard | Samuel Howard Brotherton born July 12, 1851, son of Margaret and Sam Brotherton |
| 13. Manda | Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 14. William Pierce | William Pierce Hallett born after April 1851, son of Amanda and James Hallett |
| 15. William | William A. J. Pierce |
| 16. William | William A. J. Pierce |
| 17. Virginia | Virginia D. Pierce |
| 18. Amanda | Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 19. William Brotherton | William A. Brotherton, brother of Sam Brotherton |
| 20. Miss Mary Austin | Wife of William Brotherton |
| 21. Stephen Brotherton | Brother of Sam Brotherton |
| 22. Mr. Bennett | *Smith Bennett |
| 23. Miss Baily | *Juliatt Bailey |
| 24. James Garner | * |
| 25. Jef | *Jeff Garner |
| 26. Coon | *Coon Garner |
| 27. Jef's wife | *Harriet Garner |
| 28. John Moffett | * |
| 29. Abram | * |
| 30. Old Mrs. Davis | * |
| 31. Ellen McCoy | * |
| 32. Margaret Hawn | * |
| 33. Robert Moffett | * |
| 34. William | Unknown which William the writer is mentioning |
| 35. Margaret | Margaret J. R. (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 36. Peter | Peter Laird, husband of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 37. The boys | Children of Peter and Julia A. Laird: John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird born May 28, 1844, and Joseph Laird born 1847 |
| 38. E. F. Pierce | Eliza F. Pierce, the letter writer |

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

LETTER 16B

Included and mailed with Letter 16A

{December 29, 1851}^A

Dear Sister and Brother¹

once more I take pen in hand to write to {you} A few lines although [although] I have never received {an} answer to the last lines I rote [wrote] you Dear Adline [Adaline] I can say to you that it is verry [very] hard that we what few of us is left cant [can't] have the privilage [privilege] of communing face to face instid [instead] of pen and ink it would be A pleasure to me to be so we could visit each other while we are spard [spared] to live on this earth for my part I hope to meet you all in a beter [better] world than this if I should not have that pleasure on earth for I feel my self failing every day my health is not very good all the connfort [comfort] that I have had since Dear virginnis² [Virginia's] death is at home with Sam³ and the bab⁴ [babe] for I not seen Amanda⁵ in 2 monnth [months] her children⁶ has the whooping cough and I did not want take the babe whare [where] it was I am confind [confined] very much at home for Sam⁷ is ben [has been] all winter halling [hauling] from carroll [Mt. Carroll] to galena [Galena] he is gon [gone] 3 days in A week and the famly [family] is with me yet and it takes al [all] the time I have to do my work I have no help I feel verry [very] lonely now and it will be worce [worse] when Eliza⁸ goes to school James⁹ and Elizabeth¹⁰ Brotherton gos [goes] to school and is A way [away] all day that leves [leaves] me A lone [alone] all day farther¹¹ [Father] makes A baby of the little girl¹² so that she is no help to me nor never will be eny [any] A count [account] while he is with her I wish you was {here} so you could come and tak [take] news years [New Years] with me I live in A large house and could entertain you all oh could it only be so that {I} could see you and Peter¹³ and the little boys¹⁴ soronding [surrounding] my table oh I could feel hapy [happy] to see it Dear sister it makes me feel bad to think of it so you must excese [excuse] my short lines and write to me and I may be perpard [prepared] to write you A longer letter Eliza¹⁵ has wrote all the news and I must close for the babe¹⁶ has set in his little chair till he is getting cross I must take him give my love to Peter and the dear little children and the rest for yourself write soon Sam is gon [gone] but I will send his love

M J R Brotherton¹⁷

John Laird¹⁸ has A nother [another] heire¹⁹ [heir] I no [know] not what it is yet

Adaline²⁰ you will be so kind as to send me some of your hair and Peters [Peter's] and the boys for I fave [favor] hair memory A large frame under glass I want all the famly [family] of my side and the Brotherton side in the frame

Note:

A. The original letter was not dated, but it was written at the same time as letter 16A dated December 29, 1851.

Index of people mentioned in letter 16B:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

1. Sister and Brother Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird and Peter Laird
2. Virginia Virginia D. Pierce born about 1949 in Virginia, died August 24, 1851
3. Sam Samuel Brotherton, husband of Margaret J. R. (Pierce) Brotherton
4. Babe Samuel Howard Brotherton born July 12, 1851, son of Margaret and Sam Brotherton

5. Amanda Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett, sister of Julia Laird, Eliza Pierce and Margaret Brotherton
6. Amanda's children Russell B. Hallett born October 12, 1849 and William Pierce Hallett born after April 1849
7. Sam Sam Brotherton, husband of Margaret J. E. (Pierce) Brotherton
8. Eliza Eliza F. Pierce
9. James James Brotherton, brother of Sam Brotherton
10. Elizabeth Elizabeth Brotherton, sister of Sam Brotherton
11. Father Father of Sam Brotherton, name unknown
12. Little girl Referring to Elizabeth Brotherton
13. Peter Peter Laird
14. Little boys John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird born May 28, 1844 and Joseph Laird born 1847, children of Peter and Julia A. Laird
15. Eliza Eliza F. Pierce
16. Babe Samuel Howard Brotherton, son of Margaret and Sam Brotherton
17. M J R Brotherton Margaret J. R. (Pierce) Brotherton, the letter writer
18. John Laird Brother of Peter Laird; Married (second wife) Christiana Eshelman September 4, 1849
19. John's heir James M. Laird born December, 1851
20. Adaline Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird

LETTER 17

June the 11, 1852 iowa

Dear brother and Sister¹ I take this presant [present] opertunity [opportunity] to write a few lines {to} you we are all well at presant [present] and hope this will find you injoying [enjoying] good health I we received yor [your] leter [letter] and was glad to hear from you we have 16 acres of wheat it appears good and fifty acres of corn we have a small im prove ment (improvement) we are about to get some breaking done as we are just begining [beginning] we cannot tell how well we might get along Alexander² wans [wants] to know what chance the [there] is for him if he gets abel [able] he will come if the prospect is good oher [our] horses are valued to one hundred and five and twenty corn 25 cents wheat fifty cents a bushel it has been sickly and sevrel [several] deths [deaths] this Spring I have my health beter [better] than I had for many years we had some sickness last Sumer [summer] we thought david³ would die but he got wel [well] again and william⁴ our babe was some sick he is well and harty [heartly] now the rest have been helthy [healthy] no nre [no more] at prent [present] but remains yur [your] friend Alexander Leard⁵ Jane Leaird⁶ right [write] soon as you can direct your letter to walnut fork post office

Note:

This letter is transcribed as it was written. Jane (Miller) Laird had very little formal education. The 1850 Federal Census for Iowa says Alexander Laird could not read or write.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Brother and Sister | Peter Laird and Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. Alexander | Alexander Laird, brother of Peter Laird |
| 3. David | David Laird born September 2, 1852, son of Alexander and Jane(Miller) Laird |
| 4. William | William Laird born 1852, son of Alexander and Jane (Miller) Laird |
| 5. Alexander Leard | Alexander Laird, son of Joseph C. Laird, Sr. who emigrated from Scotland |
| 6. Jane Leaird | Jane (Miller) Laird, born 1814 in Ohio |

1852
the 10th
Mount Carroll December

Dear Sister and Brother¹

I can in forme [inform] you that I had the pleasure of reading your letter of the 15th wich [which] was long exspected [expected] I was very sorry to hear of your sickness and was glade [glad] to here [hear] you was gaining health so fast all so [also] of the rest of the family and william² [William] your letter reach [reached] us all injoument [enjoyment] of good health all so [also] W. Chapmans³ [William Chapman's] family wa s well the last account we had of them I think from known accounts he is not doing much bisness [business] Eliza⁴ is in Rockford at school yet I think it all nonsense [nonsense] for her to go to school so much for she has more edgication [education] than all the rest of the family I no [know] not what use it is going to be to here [her] but all to thare [their] notion I am satisfide [satisfied] at this time and out of det [debt] but Sam⁵ and I had to worke [work] very hard to erne [earn] what we have we have bought A lot in town and bilt [built] A snug grant [granite] house it consist [consists] of 3 bed rooms and A little parlor hall and close [clothes] press and basement, cichin [kitchen] and sellor [cellar] A good stable Sam is teaming yet he has A 5 horse team he burcherd [butchered] last summer and in tends [intends] to go at it nex [next] summer Amand⁶ [Amanda] is geting [getting] Along very well she has 3 little boys to divert her attention Bart Hallet⁷ and wife boards with her she keeps A girl we live one lot A part [apart] how sad it makes me feel to think that out of A large famly [family] we are all that can see and visit one another For as to Eveline⁸ [Evaline] I neve [never] have had the pleasure of being in her house yet so Dear Ad⁹ I will stop as I cant [can't] write for to think of you so offan [often] some laid close by in thar [their] narrow homes and the rest in far distant lands prehaps [perhaps] I never see them on this sied [side] of eternity for Will¹⁰ I have all most [almost] despard [despaired] of seeing Again he seems be so weel [well] please [pleased] with that place but we are born for trouble [trouble] in this world so we may take it as easy as we can but as to ower [our] place it is {a} thiveing [thriving] place thare [there] is privilege of most every hting [thing] Dear Ad as to the news I hardly no [know] what to write John Laird¹¹ and family is well he is bilding [building] A new house thare have [they have] 3 children of the last set¹² Yantz¹³ [Yontz] family is well Julia Ann¹⁴ is not married yet but the talk is as strong as every poor mary¹⁵ [Mary] is ben [been] much hert [hurt] about the docter [doctor] and family¹⁶ Elizabeth and children¹⁷ is well and at the old mans¹⁸ [man's] yet Amand¹⁹ [Amanda] say [says] to tell you she got your 2 letters and will write soon {she} give [gives] you all her love and tell Peter²⁰ she think [thinks] he has got to his last moveing [moving] oh Dear sister I cant [can't] think it posible [possible] you are so far of [off] and Dear Will²¹ if he is chang [changed] so much the place must Agree with him but you may tell him I think he is geting [getting] so fat he mite [might] come and let us see him I rote [wrote] to him A few days before I got yours tell him we have good slaying [sleighting] and the young folk is making good use of it Adaline²² I must tell you of my little boy Sammy²³ is his name he runs all over the place and talk [talks] plain and is but 17 mounth [months] old in two days more he is all that we have Jimmy²⁴ and Liza Brotherton²⁵ is great big children oh I wish I could see you and Peter²⁶ and the boys²⁷ I could talk for 4 week [4 weeks or 4 a week] but I am Poor at writeing [writing] for I do very little of it Sam²⁸ sais [says] to tell you and Peter²⁹ and Will³⁰ he would lik [like] to have you all to tak [take] supper with us A [at] christmast [Christmas] but it will be here before this reches [reaches] you tell Will {to send a} Christmast [Christmas] gift for me you and all the rest the same Julia Ann³¹ and all the friend [friends] sends thare [their] love to you all Mary³² says to tell you and Peter she hops [hopes] you have not forgoting [forgotten] her for she thinks of you often Sam say [says] to give you all his love and tell

Will to tak [take] care of his fat sides he is going to tak [take] a load of pork to Rockford nex [next] week he will ge gon [gone]4 days he says if he could bring you A few hals [haul] to your place he could keep you all eating good meat for a while Dear Adaline you must excuse this letter for my hand was very cold and my pen was not fit to write with so if you can make it out I will try to do better the nex [next] time you must write soon and oftan [often] for the time seams [seems] long to hear from you all and that is all we can do is to write to one another give my love to william [William] and tell him to write my love to Peter and them Dear little boys and receive the rest to yourself tell Peter when he gets A pile of gold he must fech [fetch] you to see us so no more at this time but remaind [remain] your most affection [affectionate] sister for ever more and if on earth we meet no more let us try to weit [wait] in A better world so write soon fare well Dear Sister and Brother M, J, Brotherton³³

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Sister and Brother | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird and Peter Laird |
| 2. William | William Andrew Jackson Pierce |
| 3. W. Chapman's family | William Chapman, husband of Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman.
Children: Stephen born 1844, Virginia D. born November 17, 1847,
William Andrew Jackson Pierce born August 31, 1849, Julia Adaline born
August 24, 1851 |
| 4. Eliza | Eliza F. Pierce |
| 5. Sam | Samuel Brotherton, husband of Margaret J. R. (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 6. Amanda | Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 7. Bart Hallett and wife | Brother of James Hallett |
| 8. Eveline | Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman |
| 9. Ad | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 10. Will | William A. J. Pierce |
| 11. John Laird & family | Son of Joseph Laird, Sr. who emigrated from Scotland and brother of
Peter Laird |
| 12. John's children | John's second wife was Christiana Eshelman. Three children in this set:
Abram Grimes born May 17, 1850, James M. born December 1851, and
John E. born 1852. There were two children by the first wife, Elizabeth B.
Beatty: Mary E. born September 11, 1843 and William R. born February
5, 1846 |
| 13. Yantz | Yontz |
| 14. Julia Ann | Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce, wife of John W. Pierce who died in the Platte
River |
| 15. Mary | Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman |
| 16. Doctor and family | *Unknown |
| 17. Elizabeth and children | Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay, wife of Joseph Larkin Lindsay who died of
Cholera at St. Joseph, MO. The children: Francis B. born February 10,
1844, William O. born November 13, 1845, and John C. born December
31, 1847. |
| 18. Old man's | J. C. Owings, Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay's father |
| 19. Amand | Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 20. Peter | Husband of Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 21. Will | William A. J. Pierce |

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 22. Adaline | Julia A. Laird |
| 23. Sammy | Samuel Howard Brotherton born July 12, 1851, son of Margaret and Sam Brotherton |
| 24. Jimmy | James Brotherton born about 1841 in PA, brother of Sam Brotherton. |
| 25. Liza | Elizabeth Brotherton born about 1844 in IL, sister Sam Brotherton. |
| 26. Peter | Peter Laird |
| 27. Little boys | John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird born May 28, 1844 and Joseph Laird born 1847 |
| 28. Sam | Sam Brotherton |
| 29. Peter | Peter Laird |
| 30. Will | William A. J. Pierce |
| 31. Julia Ann | Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce, wife of John W. Pierce |
| 32. Mary | Mary Evaline (Pierce) Chapman |
| 33. M. J. Brotherton | Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton |

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

LETTER 19

I will take the liberty of addressing
this to the Care of Mr. Shottenkirk¹ as I
think you will be more likely to get it^A

Rockford Jan. 23. 1853

My Dear sister Adaline²

It has been some time since I received your letter and I assure you it has not been for want of inclination that I have deferred [deferred] writing so long. I have no excuse to offer excepting want of time and opportunity [opportunity] I find the trials and duties of a School girl numerous of course I don't [don't] mean to say that I employ all my time in study for I do not but when I am not studying there are so many other things to take one's attention and I {am} not claiming for my self [myself] very extensive bunch of punctuality at any rate of course I don't get along as well as I might Sometimes I begin a letter and then being called away I forget all about it and do not take it up again for a week then the date is too old and I am obliged to tear it to pieces and "Try again" I believe this is the third one I have commenced to you and as it is Sunday I shall probably finish this one. It is one of the strictest laws of the Institution not to write, or study any thing on the Sabbath excepting the Bible but I will be a
obliged [obliged] to transgress and what do you think will be the consequence, Well I will tell you what it will be tomorrow night before School closes I will have to get up and say before the whole school that I did not observe the Sabbath properly then I will get a black mark for it and worse than that I will get an awful talking to. Every night we are obliged to get up and tell all we have done wrong during the day. It is all left to our own consciences. I think I have given you quite a lengthy Introduction I will now proceed to something else. Well my Dear Sister I have been sitting here this afternoon thinking of the past It seems like an indistinct [indistinct] dream all that has transpired [transpired] for years seems concentrated in one short day. It seems almost as yesterday that we were one united band around the same fireside. Alas the question arises where now are all those loved ones memory answers mournfully. three are sleeping peacefully side by side beneath the cold cold earth^{3B} another lies lonely amidst the graves of strangers⁴, another has found a watery grave⁵, And now of those who have not yet been summoned from this Earth, You two far away in the distant Land of California separated [separated] from the rest of us by thousands of miles. It is not strange that you and William⁶ should occupy the most of my thoughts, many many an hour I spend thinking of you and him. Amanda and Margaret have both been very kind to me and I have the assurance of a home with either of them Yet I do feel sometimes as if I was almost alone in the world I wrote to William about me going out to California I think I should like to go but then I would not insist one way or the other I am perfectly willing to abide by what he thinks best for I feel that I cannot contradict him in any way. At least I hope I never shall for to him I am indebted for the advantages I enjoy and I shall never cease to feel my obligations I do wish he would come home but of course he knows what is best for him to do, but he never says one thing or this other and I wish you would write whether you think he has {any} Idea of coming soon or not. Adaline⁷ you have no Idea how much I would like to see your [you] and your little family. I cannot realize that Johny⁸ has grown any since I saw him I always think of him as the same bright-eyed prattling little boy that he was when I saw him last. O well do I remember the day that Amanda made him that little striped coat with pockets in it how proudly he walked when he got it on and Margaret⁹ took him to Cherry Grove that has been a long long time ago. And the stern hand of time has of course wrought a change in us all. Yet I see him now as he was then you know he was always my favorite and he and Russell are yet. I want you to tell me how he looks and how large he is and if he is as smart as he was when he was little I wish you would get will [Will] to have his own and Johny daguerreotypes taken together and you and Peter¹⁰ and Joseph¹¹ have yours taken together and

send them to me O now do You are in the land of gold and I think you might do it for it would be more acceptable than any thing else and they would come safely by mail for I know a good many who have sent them by mail to California without receiving any injury You coax Will and I will be very glad. Of your Old Chery Grove friends I cannot tell you any thing as I am a stranger there myself Elizabeth Lindsay¹² and her children are at her father's¹³ [Father's] yet Julia Ann¹⁴ is not married yet. Evaline¹⁵ has received a letter from you she wrote that she intended answering it immediately. I wrote to Will about Amanda¹⁶ having another boy She calls him James Walter¹⁷. I do not think of any thing else at present only I want you to write with out fail soon and write me a long letter. tell Will to write I have been looking two or three weeks for an answer to the one I wrote him about going to California. I think I will certainly get one soon I will write immediately if I get one Give my love to Peter and Will and Johny and Joseph and accept the same from your affectionate Sister Eliza F. Pierce¹⁸

Notes:

- A. This section appears written upside down on the top left corner of the letter. When the letter was folded for mailing this message appeared on the flap of letter.
- B. Joseph Larkin Lindsay died April 23, 1849 of Cholera in St. Joseph, MO. and is buried near where he died. John W. Pierce died June 21, 1849 by drowning in the Platte River, in Nebraska. Virginia D. Pierce died August 22, 1851 from Diarrhea and is buried in the Cherry Grove Cemetery, Carroll County, IL.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. Shottenkirk | A life-long friend |
| 2. Sister Adaline | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 3. Three sleeping... | Joseph ‘Larkin’ Lindsay, John W. Pierce, and Virginia D. Pierce. |
| 4. Amidst strangers | Joseph Larkin Lindsay |
| 5. Watery grave | John W. Pierce |
| 6. William | William Andrew Jackson Pierce |
| 7. Adaline | Julia A. Laird |
| 8. Johny | John W. P. Laird, son of Julia and Peter Laird |
| 9. Margaret | Margaret J. R. (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 10. Peter | Peter Laird |
| 11. Joseph | Joseph A. Laird born 1847, son of Julia and Peter Laird |
| 12. Elizabeth Lindsay | Elizabeth (Owings) Lindsay, wife of J. Larkin Lindsay |
| 13. Her Father’s place | Home of J. C. Owings in Cherry Grove, Carroll County, IL |
| 14. Julia Ann | Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce, wife of John W. Pierce |
| 15. Evaline | Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman |
| 16. Amanda | Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 17. James Walter | James Walter Hallett born September 14, 1852 |
| 18. Eliza F. Pierce | The letter writer |

April 12, 1853

Dear Sister¹

White Oake Grove, Ogle Cty, Illinois

After a long neglect of writing to you and William² I now improve {with} this present opportunity Dear sister we received your letter in December it gave me great pleasure to hear of your safe arrival^A to the land of your desteny [destiny] dear Adaline³ I shed tears of joy over your letter for I had made up my mind that you would be laid in the wide plains I thought you never could never stand the journey Dear sister we are all well and I hope this may find you all enjoy the same blessing your friends are all well at this time Eliza⁴ is going to school at rockforde [Rockford] I am looking for her every day to pay us a visit it is only 25 miles from white oake dear adaline I woude [would] like to come to your land but I can't get William⁵ in the notion after we got your letter he had the gold fever bad but theare [there] has been so much bad news this winter from Calafornie [California] that he has got out of the notion the railroad is laid out to run in three miles of our place it makes his property more valuable father Chapman⁶ has been dead one year he dide [died] with the typus [typhus] fever he never was the same man after we had the battle at the mill dear Adaline I shall say nothing of the hard times I have seen since I came to this place we have fought and clawed but we come off victorious in both every time just as hard as to go to California dear Sister I have not been to Mt. Carrool [Mt. Carroll] since poor Virginia⁷ dide [died] Mag⁸ lost her childe⁹ [child] while I was up there but she has another boy¹⁰ I have not seen it Amanda¹¹ has three boys¹² I have not seen any but the first I have four children¹³ two boys and two girls and by the time you get this I will have another boy¹⁴ you must write to me and then I will write you the particulars I would like to see John¹⁵ and Joseph¹⁶ very much the children wants to see them I am the onley [only] one that can raise a girle [girl] I have two as pretty girls as theare [there] is in Ogle County they all have very fair skins and fair hair Stephen¹⁷ is a large boy he weighs fifty eight and a half he can spell well and reads pretty well and writs [writes] is first rate in figuars [figures] he knows all the multiplication table he never has been to scholl [school] a day he is a better scholar [scholar] than Seth^{18B} his papa¹⁹ has set him to studeing [studying] lattin [Latin] Virginia²⁰ she can spell pretty well Willa²¹ he knows his letters he wans [wants] to go to Calafornia [California] to dig gold with uncle will [Will] if any one [anyone] asks him what his name is he say William Andrew Jacson [Jackson] Pierce Chapman O but little Ada²² she is the gregest gabler [greatest gabber] I will send you a lock of her hair I think I sent you some of the rest of the childrens hair

O adaline it seemes [seems] so hard that we must be so far from each other theare [there] is a great excitement here about the spirtial [spiritual] happens [happenings] they are certainly one of the last since there has been a milerite [Millerite] preacher around here [here] he converted a great many sinners dear sister I never expect to see you in this world unless we shoulde [should] come to you and william don't believe in taking his family so long a journey he says he thinks two [too] much of us doctor beatia²³ [Dr. Beatty] was at our hous [house] before he started I told him he would wish he was back dear adaline I must bring my letter to a close I want to write a few lines to William²⁴ O that I could see you once more before I die but if we meet on earth no more O may we meet on canaan [Canaan] shore Virginia²⁵ and Stephen²⁶ wants to send the boys something write to me I shall be glad to heare [hear] from you tell peter²⁷ he must write to us So farewell

Mary E. Chapman²⁸ to Julia A²⁹

Notes:

A. The trip to California was about six months. Mary mentions Julia's letter arriving in December. It took a month or more for a letter to travel from California to Illinois. Peter and Julia started the trip in the Spring of 1852, and arrived in California in October or early November, 1852.

B. The relationship of Seth to William and Mary is not known.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and /or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

1. Sister Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird
2. William William Andrew Jackson Pierce
3. Adaline Julia Adaline Laird
4. Eliza Eliza F. Pierce
5. William William Chapman, husband of Mary E. (Lindsay) Chapman
6. Father Chapman Father of William Chapman
7. Virginia Virginia D. Pierce
8. Mag Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton
9. Mag's lost child Marshall Stephen Castle Brotherton born May 10, 1850, died August 19, 1850
10. Mag's second child Samuel Howard Brotherton, born July 12, 1851 in Mt. Carroll, Carroll Co., IL
11. Amanda Amanda (Lindsay) Hallett
12. Three boys Russell B. Hallett born October 12, 1849, William Pierce Hallett born after April, 1851, James Walter Hallett born September 14, 1852
13. Chapman children Stephen Chapman born January 13, 1856, Dubuque Co., Dubuque, IA. Virginia D. Chapman born November 17, 1847, William Andrew Jackson Pierce Chapman born August 31, 1849, Julia Adaline Chapman born August 24, 1851
14. Chapman child Name unknown
15. John John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird, son of Peter and Julia A. Laird
16. Joseph Joseph A. Laird, son of Peter and Julia A. Laird
17. Stephen Stephen Chapman, son of Mary E. (Lindsay) Chapman and William Chapman
18. Seth Seth Chapman. His exact relationship to the Chapman family is unknown
19. His papa William Chapman
20. Virginia Virginia D. Chapman, daughter of Mary E. and William Chapman
21. Willa William Andrew Jackson Pierce Chapman, son of Mary E. and William Chapman
22. Ada Julia Adaline Chapman, daughter of Mary E. and William Chapman
23. Dr. Beattia Dr. Beatty, related to the Laird, Pierce, Lindsay, Chapman and Hallett families through Elizabeth (Beatty) Laird, first wife of John Laird
24. William William A. J. Pierce
25. Virginia Virginia D. Pierce

26. Stephen
William Chapman

Stephen Chapman, born January 13, 1846, son of Mary E. and

27. Peter

Peter Laird

28. Mary E

Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman

29. Julia A

Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird

LETTER 21

This letter is not dated, but it is a companion letter to the one written to Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird on April 12, 1853. Eliza included it in her letter to Julia so it could be delivered by Julia and Peter Laird to their brother, William Andrew Jackson Pierce. It is presumably written on the same day, April 12, 1853.

Dear brother William¹ You must pardon our long delay in writing to you William² was in the law with this property he said he wanted to waite [wait] and see wich [which] way it would go before he wrote to you they sent it to the supreme court and we beat them theare [there] William has shipped [whipped] them out in every trial so he neglected writeting [writing] to you for when he wrot [wrote] he wanted to write you all the particulars and it would be a funny letter for we have had some great times some famous battles the last fight we had ended all the fights William³ and Daniel^{4A} was gone from home there was two men came in the mill to take it by force and to throw us out we lived in the mill then they come in on the miller⁵ before he new [knew] it there was my self and Mother Chapman^{6A} they stabad [stabbed] the miller gran papa^{7A} was up on the dam at work and we sent for him there was no one to fight but me and gran mama⁸ until [until] gran papa come from the dam they brooke [broke] granpapas arm in three places but I tell you I fought with gun and spades and every thing we could get hold of we gain [gained] the victory they run [ran] like turkeys and left there [their] hats in the mill and knives they run [ran] away and one of them venturde [ventured] back last august and William got a warrant [warrant] and went and searched the mans [man's] hous [house] that went his ba il and found him between [between] two beads [beds] they are under 50050 [\$550.00] dollars baill [bail] and if they stand triall [trial] they are good for the stats [states] prison O Dear William if we could see each other I could tell you a great many things that I cannot write William commenced writing [writing] you a letter in poetry I expect you will get it some time ther [there] has come a report to this country that Sample Jurney⁹ [Journey] was hung in California for stealing onesty [honesty] is the best policy yet his wife has gon [gone] to Iowa to live on her brothers place some people say if she had conducted her self write [right] he would {have}been with her now I want you to write to us and say what you think about us coming to California I¹⁰ and the children¹¹ wants [want] to come bad If we was to come William says he would go in the summer as far as Councill bluffs and then start the next spring to California Eliza¹² wants to come the children was very proud of the gold you sent them Willa¹³ he claimes it all he tryed [tried or cried] hard to eat it he shows it to every one that comes in you wanted to know if he was indeed named for you he was I named him my self [myself] and he was baptized the full name and he is full as hansom [handsome] as his uncle Willa¹⁴ was you would laugh to heare [hear] him tell his name he has large blue eyes and white skin and rosy cheeks and a very large fore head [forehead] he has a card he has saved this two years to send you I will send you a lock of his hair if I could send you his likeness I would I want to know if you are going to settle in California send me a lock of your hair and tell Ad¹⁵ to send me some of hers [her's] and peters¹⁶ [Peter's] Dear brother I must bring this to a close and say good by may the lord bless you all and prosper you and help you to seek forst [first] the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness [righteousness] and all thes [these] things will be aded [added] unto you we all join in sending our love to you all William¹⁷ is working at grandetour^B [Grand Detour] he get 2\$ and a half a day and boarde [board] direct to Paines Point Angeline^{18A} is at Mount Morris^C

William A J Pierce¹⁹

M E Chapman²⁰

Notes:

A. (4A) Daniel Chapman, son of Stephen and Grace Chapman, is listed in the 1850 Federal Census for Ogle Co., IL in Eagle Township on page 68B, line 35. He is 12 making his birth year 1838.

(6A) Grace (Hutton) Chapman is listed in the 1850 Federal Census for Ogle Co., IL in Eagle Township on page 68B, line 31. Her age is 58 which makes her birth year 1770.

(7A) This information is from a biography of Stephen Chapman, the son of William and Mary Chapman who was named for his grandfather. ("Goodspeed' s History of Southeast Missouri, Biographies of Stoddard County, 1888") "Stephen Chapman, was born in West Chester, Chester Co., Penn., and emigrated to Canada before the War of 1812. He remained there until after the so-called Canadian Rebellion in 1837. He then immigrated to Ogle County, Ill., where he regained his citizenship. He was a master-builder or contractor, and was a practical mechanic." The 1850 Federal Census for Ogle Co., IL lists him with his family in Eagle Township on page 68B, beginning with line 30. His first name is spelled "Steven". His occupation is listed as a Millwright. He is 69 years, born 1781.

David Chapman, who is not mentioned in any of the letters, is listed as living with Stephen and Grace Chapman in the 1850 Federal Census for Ogle County, IL, page 68B, line 33. His occupation is Millwright. He is 40 years old making his birth year 1810.

(18A) Angeline Chapman, daughter of Stephen and Grace Chapman, is listed in the 1850 Federal Census for Ogle Co., IL in Eagle Township on page 68B, line 34. Her first name is spelled "Angelina". She is 19 making her birth year 1831. She married Isaac Elliott March 16, 1859 in Ogle County, IL. IRAD Book C, Page 881, License #1765.

B. Grande Detour is located in South West Ogle County, IL

C. Mount Morris is located in Central Ogle County, IL

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. William | William Andrew Jackson Pierce |
| 2. William | William Chapman, husband of Mary E. Chapman |
| 3. William | William Chapman, husband of Mary E. Chapman |
| 4. Daniel | Daniel Chapman, brother of William Chapman |
| 5. The miller | *An acquaintance |
| 6. Mother Chapman | William Chapman's mother, Grace (Hutton) Chapman |
| 7. Gran papa | William Chapman's father, Stephen Chapman |
| 8. Gran mama | William Chapman's mother, Grace (Hutton) Chapman |
| 9. Sample Journey | *Unknown |
| 10. I | Mary E. (Lindsay) Chapman, the letter writer |
| 11. The children | Stephen, b. January 13, 1846, Dubuque, IA, Virginia D., b. November 17, 1847, William A. J. P., b. August 31, 1849, Julia A., b. August 24, 1851 |
| 12. Eliza | Eliza Pierce |
| 13. Willa | William Andrew Jackson Pierce Chapman |
| 14. Willa | William Andrew Jackson Pierce |
| 15. Ad | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 16. Peter | Peter Laird |
| 17. William | William Chapman, husband of Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman |
| 18. Angeline | Angeline Chapman, sister of William Chapman. |
| 19. William A. J. Pierce | William Andrew Jackons Pierce |
| 20 M. E. Chapman | Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman, the letter writer |

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

Selma, Ohio June 19th 1853

Dear Brother & Sister¹

We received your letter a few days ago & read it with feelings which we shall not attempt to describe. we are highly pleased to hear of your good health & success. Long may it continue. we are in the enjoyment of good health, peace of mind & many other blessings, for which we ought to feel thankful. the health of our country is tolerably good. we have had but little rain for six weeks, & vegetation has suffered much in consequence, however we had a slight shower a few days ago which revived things a little. There is a good prospect for wheat & fruit of all kinds. we rec'd a letter from Pharis² a short time ago. they were in tolerably good health. we have not heard from William³ since we wrote to you. we have had no word from any of the rest of our family lately.

We received a paper from California but we dont [don't] know who to thank for the favor, as it had no name by which we could determine who sent it, but we cannot do less than wish the sender good success.

much obliged for the specimens of the yellow metal you were so kind as to send us. we hope your fondest hopes may be realized.

Now we are going to ask you a few questions which we wish you to answer in your next letter if you think proper. In the first place we want to know if you intend to make California your future place of residence & we then wish to know the state of society. are there any religious meetings & if so what kind? is it a good country for grain, grazing & etc. Is it likely to be good for fruit? What is the price of land & whether farming will pay. We expect to take a trip west this fall to see Harmony⁴ & the rest of our relatives. Please write soon

Yours affectionately
James & Anna Leaird⁵

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman and Hallett families.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Brother and Sister | Peter and Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. Pharis | Joel and Ellen (Laird) Phares, sister and brother-in-law of James Laird |
| 3. William | William Laird, brother of James Laird and Peter Laird |
| 4. Harmony | Harmony (Laird) Oglesbee born 1830 in Greene Twp., Clark Cty., OH, daughter of James and Anna Laird. She married Calvin Oglesbee September 30, 1852 in Clark Cty., OH |
| 5. James & Anna Laird | James Laird (Son of Joseph Laird, Sr. and Ellen Eleanor (Morrison) Laird who emigrated from Scotland), and Anna (Allen) Laird |

LETTER 23

Mount Carroll Feb. 2nd {1854}^A

My Dearest Sister¹

I do not remember whether I owe you a letter or not. It has been sometime since we heard from you directly. Will always speaks of you in his letters but we would like to have you write oftener yourself. I returned from Rockford about four weeks ago. I came by Evaline's². I enclose a note in this from her to you. They were all quite well when I was there but had been sick before. They have all turned Millerites. They think the world is certainly coming to an end next spring. They have joined the Millerite church. Stephen³ is a member also. Him and Ev⁴ were immersed when Evaline's baby^{5C} was but two weeks old. Dear Adaline⁶ I presume you have ere this heard of dear Margaret's⁷ affliction in the loss of her husband⁸. She says she is going to write to you soon. She has a great deal of trouble. Both of her little children⁹ have been sick a great deal. Her little baby is quite sick now. If the children keep well she thinks of going to Pennsylvania in the spring to make a visit. She owns two good houses and lots here. She rents one of them for eight dollars a month and lives in half of the other one and rents the other part for four dollars. If she goes away she will rent it all. There are a great many families coming here to settle in the spring and rent will be very high. Margaret feels very lonesome and bad. You ought to write to her. Adaline you know your part of the estate of John¹⁰ is about \$200. dollars. a part of it is now due or nearly so will be sometime in this month. If you wish it collected and sent to you, you must send an order to someone to collect it. Now Dear Sister if George Harris^{11B} or any one comes home in the spring wont [won't] you please send me all your likenesse s. You are in the land of gold and I do think you might grant me this one favour. Dear Sister this is a world of changes and I have but little hope of ever seeing any of you in this world and it would be a great pleasure and comfort to have even a faint shadow of you. and among all the nephews and nieces I never have forgot [forgotten] my favorite little Johnny¹² [Johnny]. Now do please send them. and dear sister I want you to answer this just as soon as you get it and write a good long letter and tell me how you are getting along. Amanda¹³ is boarding at the Hotel this winter. She and the children¹⁴ are well. Amanda¹⁵ and Margaret¹⁶ both send love to you all. all the Baptists denomination have had a great revival of religion here. Margaret is one of the converts. She has not joined any church yet. write immediately. Good Bye. E. F. Pierce¹⁷

Notes:

A. This letter had no year listed. Samuel Brotherton died in October, 1853.

B. George H. Harris went to California, but the party he went with is unknown.

His daughter, Mary C. was married to David Mumma whose party left for California on April 1, 1850 from Mt. Carroll, IL. David Mumma returned to Mt. Carroll from the gold mines of California, then went to Pike's Peak to mine for gold. He contracte d mountain fever, returned to Mt. Carroll and died. Mary C. Mumma was still living in Cleveland, OH when this history was written in 1913. The Mumma's had six daughters. Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, Edited by Newton Bateman, Munsell Publishing, 1913 (Page 670)

C. This child was born in White Oake Grove, Ogle County, IL in about June, 1853. In letter #20 dated April 12, 1853 Mary Chapman wrote to Julia that by the time Julia received her letter Mary would have another son. (Mary could not have known if the child would be a girl or boy.) His/her name is not mentioned in any letters.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Dearest Sister | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. Evaline | Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman |
| 3. Stephen | Stephen Chapman, born January 13, 1846 in Dubuque Co., Dubuque, IA. He died in Stoddard Co., MO in June of 1914. Son of William and Mary E. Chapman |
| 4. Him and Ev | William and Mary Evaline Chapman |
| 5. Evaline's baby | Name unknown |
| 6. Adaline | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 7. Margaret | Margaret J. R. (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 8. Margaret's husband | Samuel Brotherton died in October, 1853 |
| 9. Margaret's children | Samuel Howard Brotherton born July 12, 1851, second child unknown born 1853. There were also two children from Samuel's first marriage in the household: James born about 1841 in PA and Elizabeth born about 1844 in IL. |
| 10. John | John W. Pierce who died June 21, 1849 in the Platte River, Nebraska |
| 11. George Harris | * |
| 12. Johny | John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird, son of Julia A. and Peter Laird |
| 13. Amanda | Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 14. Amanda's children | Russell B. born October 12, 1849, William Pierce born after April 1851, James Walter born September 14, 1852 |
| 15. Amanda | Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 16. Margaret | Margaret J. R. (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 17. E. F. Pierce | The letter |

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

Green Plain April 6th 1854Dear Uncle¹ & Aunt¹,

I received your letter a short time ago. We are always glad to hear from you, and especially so to hear that you are still in possession of health and other comforts of life. Your letter found us in good health, except Father² is troubled with the toothache. Harmony³ and her husband⁴ spent two months with us last winter, they left here the last of February for home. They expect to move to Iowa next September. We got a letter from Uncle William^{5B} yesterday. They are well. a frightful hurricane passed through their part of the country in February. Several houses and farns [farms] were blown down and much damage done to orchards & fences &c. We have not heard from any of the rest of our relatives since we last wrote. I should like to see California and take a scramble thru [through] The "Golden Valleys" to say nothing of the big lumps which I might happen to stumble over and put in my wallet. The last accounts that I have seen state that the miners are generally doing well, if I was certain that I could rake up enough in a short time to make me independent through life I would'nt {wouldn't} mind undergoing some hardships, but I have yet summoned courage enough to run the race. Two young men went from our neighborhood last spring. They are mining near weaverville [Weaverville] and doing well. Father wished you if convenient to give a description of your farm. whether it is level or broken, prairie or timber. What kind of land it is &c. I suppose there is a wide difference between your climate and ours. We have just commenced ploughing and still have to feed our stock, but the weather is fine at present and if it continues so we will soon have plenty of grass. The prospect for a wheat crop is quite dull owing to the severity of the weather. Wheat has been selling here this winter for from 1.00 to 1.25 per bushel. Our country is improving very fast. The cars are just now rumbling by after a short stop at Selma. land here is worth from \$30 to \$60 an acre. wages for hands on a farm from \$15 to \$20. I suppose such small sums in your country are handly worth counting but they are considered very high here. Govt {Government} horses here are worth 100 to \$150. Cows from 25 to 40. Cattle 3 dollars a hund. [hundred] on foot.

Mother & Father^{6C} would be very glad to see you & hope you will some time visit us I think there will, in a few years, be an easier and more expeditious mode of conveyance than crossing the plains with ox teams.

{Joseph A. Laird}^A**Notes:**

A. This letter appears to be missing the final page(s). There is no signature, but this letter was written by Joseph A. Laird, son of James and Anna (Allen) Laird. Joseph lived near Selma, Ohio in 1857 when Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird died. He sent a sympathy card to Peter from Selma. The original card is in the possession of Mary (Laird) Larson.

Joseph was born in 1833 in Greene Twp., Clark County, OH. He died April 2, 1913 in Wayne Twp., Henry Cty., IA. He is buried in Asbury Cemetery, Wayne Twp., Henry Cty., IA.

Joseph was married to Mary Kitchen in 1855 in Greene Twp., Clark Cty., OH. She died between 1864-1868. There were two children: Minnie and Elizabeth Laird.

Joseph married Sarah A. Hatfield October 31, 1869 in Green Twp., Clark Cty., OH. Letter #38 dated February 9, 1864, written by John W. Laird to John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird (the two are first cousins) says Joseph is living with his parents in Wayne Twp, Henry Cty., IA and Joseph is married.

Joseph and Sarah lived with Joseph's parents for a period of time and moved back to the Selma area because Sarah died in Miami Valley, OH (near Selma, OH) in 1894. Then Joseph returned to his parents home in Wayne Twp., IA. Joseph and Sarah had one child, Oscar Laird, born in 1872. It is unknown if he was born in Iowa or Ohio

B. William R. Laird was born October 23, 1800 in Aberdour, Aberdeen, Scotland. He was married to Mary Cochran December 20, 1821. She died January 5, 1851. They had one child, Silas Cochran Laird born in 1834. They also raised a foster daughter named Mary DeWitt Laird.

William married the foster daughter after Mary (Cochran) Laird died.

William and Mary DeWitt Laird had several children: Baby Laird born 1852, William C. born 1854, James A. born 1857, Emma J. born 1860, George born after 1860 and Ida M. born after 1860.

C. James and Anna Laird lived five miles southwest of Charleston, Ohio. Jane Laird's letter to Peter and Julia Laird dated August 17, 1851, letter #13, gives a detailed description of their location.

James Laird was born in 1808 in Scotland. He is the son of Joseph Laird, Sr. and Ellen Eleanor (Morrison) Laird who emigrated from Scotland. James died January 18, 1880 in Wayne Twp., Henry Cty., IA. He is buried in Asbury Cemetery in Wayne Twp., Henry Cty., IA.

James' wife, Anna (Allen) Laird, was born January 10, 1805 in Shenandoah, VA. She is the daughter of Jackson Allen and Sarah (Bond) Allen. Anna died December 5, 1875. She is buried in Asbury Cemetery in Wayne Twp., Henry Cty., IA.

James and Anna were married May 22, 1829 in Greene Twp., Clark Cty., OH.

The children are: Harmony Laird, born 1830 (died March 5, 1863), Joseph A. Laird, Sarah Ellen Laird born 1842, Elizabeth Laird born 1844 (died January 9, 1862). All of the children were born in Greene Twp., Clark Cty., OH.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Uncle & Aunt | Peter and Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. Father | James Laird |
| 3. Harmony | Daughter of James and Anna (Allen) Laird |
| 4. Calvin Oglesbee | Husband of Harmony (Laird) Oglesbee |
| 5. Uncle William | William R. Laird and Mary (DeWitt) Laird and their children |
| 6. Mother & Father | James and Anna (Allen) Laird |
| 7. Joseph A. Laird | Son of James and Anna Laird |

LETTER 25

Slapjack Hollow Nov 18th 1854

Friend Adaline¹

I received a few lines from William² this evening. He wrote but little. He says they are all well but the diggings are not so good as he expected to find them. He says he will write in a few days to Peter³. He says he passed near where Coon Garner⁴ is but he did not stop to see him _____.^A I received a letter this evening from Jacob P Emmert⁵. He says your friends and relatives are all well, and that Eliza⁶ intends going to the new Seminary in Mount Carroll next winter instead of Rockford

All well here

In haste &c.^B

Daniel G. Shottenkirk⁷

*Honour ---thy---Father---with---thy
Whole---heart---and---forget---not---the
Kindness---of---thy---Mother---how---canst
Thou---recompense---them---the---things
They---have---done---for---thee^C*

Notes:

A. This blank line is not a missing word, it is part of the original letter.

B. &c. is the abbreviation for "and etc."

C. This section of scripture is written upside down at the bottom of the letter. When the letter was folded for mailing this item appeared on the outside flap of the letter.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Adaline | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. William | William A. J. Pierce, brother of Julia A. Laird |
| 3. Peter | Peter Laird, husband of Julia A. Laird |
| 4. Coon Garner | * |
| 5. Jacob P. Emmert | * |
| 6. Eliza | Eliza F. Pierce, sister Julia A. Laird |
| 7. Daniel G. Shottenkirk | *Daniel was a life-long friend with family roots in Carroll and Ogle Counties, IL |

* All the friends listed in the index for this letter lived in the Mt. Carroll vicinity before going to California.

LETTER 26

Mr. William A. Pierce
Sacramento City
California

Mount Carroll Jan {1855}^A

My Dear Brother¹

I have been on a study sometime whether or not to write to you not knowing but that you may be on your way home. however I have understood by Mr. Barnes² that you will not be here before spring so I will write this time - and then I'll get spunky too - and not write any more if my letters are not answered short metre [meter] We have had a very mild pleasant winter so far not any snow at all everybody is wishing for sleighing but wishing in vain As regards amusements Mt Carroll is duller than usual but once in a great while the pleasure seeking characters get desperate and go off to some other place to have some fun On Christmas about 14 couple [couples] went down to Savannah to attend a ball at the Carroll house Jerome B. Neely³ is the proprietor of the house. Jane Ingram⁴ and Mary Garner⁵ was there - Janes [Jane's] partner was Mr Henry Ashway⁶ a dutchman [Dutchman] - former proprietor of the Mansion House in this place aged about 36 I dont [don't] think you have any reason to fear him as a rival however - for Jane did not seem to value him very highly their acquaintance is rather short Jane never saw him until she was down here this fall to see me when she went home he was in the stage going to Freeport they rode together this was all the acquaintance they had before the ball - Ing took Mary - Jane had a party up at her house last week I do not know how it went off She sent for me four times but I was out in the country and did not get the word until it was over I am going up this week to stay awhile There is to be a party at Mary Smiths⁷ [Smith's] the 22nd of Feb we are all going - I wish you was here to go too - Abram Polsgrove^{8B} has bought Yontz⁹ [Yontz's] mill for \$8,000 - he has taken possession Yontz is to move to town soon Polsgrove gives Yontz our old farm which he values at \$4,000 A house in town at \$800 and the balance cash - It is generally thought Yontz has sold very cheap All the friends are well I believe Write soon and say when we may look for you home for the present Farewell dear brother

E. F. Pierce¹⁰

Notes:

A. The year this letter was written was determined through clues given in this and previous letters:

1. Eliza wrote to Julia December 29, 1851 that she was going to Rockford the following week and would be at the school for 6 months to one year. (Letter 16)
2. December 10, 1852 Margaret Brotherton wrote to Julia and Peter that Eliza was still in Rockford. (Letter 18)
3. April 12, 1853 Mary E. Chapman wrote to Julia that Eliza was still in Rockford. (Letter 20)
4. February 2, 1854 Eliza writes to Julia that she has just arrived back in Mt. Carroll about four weeks previous. She knew Will was still in California at that time, and mentions him in her letter to Julia.
5. It is known from Daniel Shottenkirk's letter to Julia Adaline Laird dated November 18, 1854, that William was still in California. (Letter 25)
6. Eliza's letter was written from Mt. Carroll in January of 1855. William and Daniel began their return trip to Mt. Carroll May 1, 1855. (Letter 26)

B. Abram Polsgrove married Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce (first wife of John W. Pierce who died in the Platte River) March 3, 1853. IRAD record OMR 0063 License #427.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

1. Brother	William Andrew Jackson Pierce
2. Mr. Barnes	*
3. Jerome B. Neely	*An acquaintance of Eliza F. Pierce
4. Jane Ingram	*
5. Mary Garner	*
6. Henry Ashway	*An acquaintance of Eliza F. Pierce
7. Mary Smith	*
8. Abram Polsgrove	Second husband of Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce
9. Yontz	Samuel Yontz, father of Julia Ann (Yontz) (Pierce) Polsgrove.
10. E. F. Pierce	Eliza F. Pierce

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

LETTER 27

San Francisco Apr 30th {1855}^A
10 o'clock P. M.

Mr. Peter Laird¹

In haste I sit down to write you a few lines. We arrived here about 9 o'clock [o'clock] Saturday. We bought our tickets this morning. Fare is \$120 in the Steerage. \$175 Second Cabin & 250 First Cabin. We took the Second Cabin, and were but just in time to get our tickets. There was a great crowd. I think there will be 800 passengers at least. We have been on board the boat the Golden Gate and have traveled San Francisco all over. Part of the City looks very well but the greater portion of it is a shabby looking concern. The weather is warm and pleasant in the forenoon but in the afternoon it is cold and windy. We were out yesterday afternoon and Will² says he got \$20 worth of Stone Coal and dust in his eyes.

Our Boat will be full and I expect the Steerage will be awful. The sight of it is enough for me, but I can tell you more about it after we get out. We expect to be off to morrow [tomorrow] morning at nine o'clock.

In haste yours truly
Shottenkirk³ & Pierce⁴

Notes:

A. The year this letter was written is not on the original letter, but William A. J. Pierce and Daniel Shottenkirk left San Francisco May 1, 1855. See letter 28, dated May 12, 1855.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Peter Laird | A life-long friend of Daniel Shottenkirk |
| 2. Will | William A. J. Pierce |
| 3. Daniel Shottenkirk | His family roots were in Carroll and Ogle Counties, IL. He is not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families |
| 4. Pierce | William A. J. Pierce |

Steamship Golden Gate
May 12, 1855

Mr. Peter Laird¹

Dear Friend

We set sail from San Francisco at noon on the first day of May. We expect to be in Panama sometime tomorrow making the trip in 12 days and some odd hours. The first two days we had a stiff breeze and it was quite cold. since that it has been very warm and the water is as smooth as a mill pond. As soon as we got out to the ocean the passengers commenced getting sick. W^{m2} was seasick two days, cried New York nicely for a little while. Have escaped so far.

The Second Cabin passengers fare better on this side than the First Cabin do. The Fare is just the same, and we get our meals two hours sooner. The Steerage is dear at any price. There have been two deaths on board. One who was sick when we started, another fell down the gangway last night and broke his neck. There are about 1000 passengers aboard. We stopped six hours at Acapulco. We have fared well, and are getting along finely so far. Give mine and William's respects to every body. There are a good many more particulars I might write, but I have spoiled my pen so it will hardly scratch, and I must defer it until we arrive in New York.

Yours Truly &c
D. G. Shottenkirk³

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Peter Laird | A life-long friend of Daniel Shottenkirk |
| 2. William | William A. J. Pierce |
| 3. Daniel Shottenkirk | Daniel was a life-long friend with family roots in Carroll and Ogle Counties, IL. He is not related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families |

LETTER 29

New York City
May 25, 1855

Mr. Peter Laird¹

We arrived in Panama on Sunday the 13th just as I anticipated making the trip in 12 days and 4 hours. We crossed in the cars on Monday in four hours, but did not leave Aspinwall until 10 o'clock P. M. Tuesday. The Boat on this side was not in and we were detained two days. We arrived here yesterday noon making the trip in 23 days including all stoppages. We had fine weather all the way. Wm² was sea sick again on this side. It did not affect me any. I have gained eight pounds on the trip. We intend to leave this evening on the cars for Illinois. I will write more particulars after we arrive home. Remember me and William to everybody.

In haste yours &c.
D. G. Shottenkirk³

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Peter | Peter Laird |
| 2. Wm | William Andrew Jackson Pierce |
| 3. D. G. Shottenkirk | Daniel was a life-long friend with family roots in Carroll and Ogle Counties, IL. He is not related to the Laird, Lindsay, pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families |

1/55
Mount Carroll June 8th {1855}^A

Dear Sister¹

I am happy to inform you that brother W^{m2} and Mr Shottenkirk³ have arrived safely, Thinking you would be somewhat anxious about them, I concluded to write and inform you of their safety. W^m says he will write before long. They arrived here May 28th Just four weeks from the time they left you, had a very pleasant voyage except Will was sea sick several days, Of course we were all surprised and greatly delighted at Will's return we were not expecting him at all Of all their numerous friends and acquaintance but very few recognized them. I knew both of them the first moment I laid eyes on them. Margaret⁴ talked to them some time before she knew them, I know dear Sister it must have been hard for you to part with W^m for my part I can scarcely [scarcely] realize the truth of his presence yet. the pleasure seems about too great to be true, for I had almost despaired of ever seeing him again. he says he intends to return to California but I think he merely says it to teaze [tease] me, If he come [comes] you may look for me too, for I shall never consent to part with him again. I am glad to learn that your health is so much better than it formerly was The boys give a very good account of Johny⁵. I am glad to hear he is such a good boy I shall expect to receive a letter from him soon. If Will had not come home I was going to start to Evalines⁶ [Evaline's] in a few days to stay all summer Since he came we have had fine times riding around visiting, and to pleasure parties

Mr Shottenkirk has gone down to Ogle County to his father but is expected back soon. I was greatly disappointed [disappointed] that you did not send your likeness Your acquaintance are all well so far as I know I sent you a long letter last winter directed it to Sacramento City, Will says you never received it. I want you to write as soon as you get this. for the present farewell dear Sister

E. F. Pierce⁷

Note:

A. Previous letters date the return of William and Daniel as May, 1855. (Letters 27-29)

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Sister | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. Wm | William Andrew Jackson Pierce |
| 3. Mr. Shottenkirk | Daniel G. Shottenkirk, a life-long friend with family roots in Carroll and Ogle Counties, IL. He is not related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families |
| 4. Margaret | Margaret J. R. (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 5. Johny | John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird, Son of Julia A. and Peter Laird |
| 6. Evaline | Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman |
| 7. E. F. Pierce | Eliza F. Pierce |

Ogle, Ogle Co. Illinois
June 24th 1855

Mr & Mrs Laird¹

Dear Friends

Neglected for a time I must acknowledge that you have been, but not forgotten. We arrived in Mount Carroll in twenty seven days from San Francisco. We were strangers to a great many of the inhabitants of Mount Carroll. some of whom did not recognize us, besides a great many strangers who have moved into the place since we left it Eliza² and knew William³ quick enough but Margaret⁴ did not recognize him. We found every body well and apparently doing well. I have been at Mt Carroll and vicinity most of the time since I came back; I have been kept so busy visiting old acquaintances, answering questions about every thing and every body in California that I have had but little leisure time for writing. The weather was very cold when we arrived here, nearly cold enough to require us to wear overcoats It had been dry all the spring and crops of all kinds were very backward There has been considerable corn planted (the second or third time) since we arrived here But the last week or two we have had copious rains, and the weather has been warm enough to suit the most fastidious so that wheat, corn, oats &c. are growing finely, and will probably make good crops yet. Mount Carroll is spreading itself all over the surrounding hills. Hurley⁵ has sold some of his farm (20 acres perhaps) at \$200 per acre for town lots. Part of the Geo Christian⁶ farm has been cut up in town lots. The Seminary and Churches built up on the hill improve the appearance of the place very much. The march of improvement is not confined to Mt. Carroll either. Freeport has become a City Rockford ditto, and in short all the western towns are improving amazingly fast What caused it mostly is that the county around them is settling up so fast Produce is very high, and the farmers are making money fast, Horses Cattle &c. are correspondingly high. A good horse sells readily for 150 dollars. Oxen from 100 to 125 per yoke. Cows 30 dollars each &c. Since we have been here Wheat has been worth \$1.60 per bushel Corn 60 cts Oats 40 &c.

Real estate has advanced in price correspondingly. David Emmert⁷ sold his farm recently for \$55 per acre. Most of the farms about Cherry Grove are worth from 30 to 35 dollars per acre. The naked prairie ten miles from timber is worth from five to seven dolls[dollars] The land office at Dixon is closed for want of business nearly all the land having been entered There was never so great an emigration from the east to the west as there is the present year. Illinois is receiving a good share of it while Iowa and Minnesota are setting up rapidly. 'Land' Land! is all the rage, we can see nearly as many covered wagons and droves of cattle going westward as we did crossing the plains in 1850 besides considerable travel by railroad and stage. Your friends in and about Mount Carroll are well so far as I know. I believe William has not written yet, though he says he will some of these days. He has finally a day or two since shaved off part of those luxuriant whiskers. Eliza and all the rest of the folks send their respects to you all A day or so after we arrived at Carroll I came out here, found my fathers [father's] family all well though I was a perfect stranger to them they had not the least idea who I was I stopped here a day or two, returned to Mt Carroll, and have but just returned home again I shall probably stop here all summer so you will please direct your letters to Ogle, Ogle Co. Chapman⁸ lives about five miles from here though I have not seen them yet. Eliza is coming over next week to stop a month or so with them. My father has got a very pretty place. 185 acres of land worth probably 30 dollars per acre.

Dont [Don't] fail to write on receipt of this. Remember me to every body, and believe me to as heretofore

Yours truly
Daniel G. Shottenkirk⁹

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

1. Mr. and Mr. Laird Peter and Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird
2. Eliza Eliza F. Pierce
3. William William A. J. Pierce, Brother of Julia A. Laird
4. Margaret Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton
5. Hurley *An acquaintance
6. Geo.Christian *An acquaintance
7. David Emmert *
8. Chapman Referring to William Chapman, husband of Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman
9. Daniel G. Shottenkirk Daniel was a life-long friend with family roots in Carroll and Ogle Counties, IL. He is not known to be related to the Laird, Pierce, Lindsay, Chapman, Hallett or Brotherton families

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

LETTER 32

July 10, 1855
Mt Carroll Illinois

Dear Brother & Sister¹

You will parden [pardon] me for not writing sooner we arrived her [here] in 4 weeks from the time we left Frisco^A we had a good time I was sea sick 5 days Spent about 300 getin [geting] home saw a good deal of the Elepant {meaning uncertain} cant [can't] tell you much untill [until] I see you this place has changed very much it is setteled [settled] up with Duch [Dutch] I came in at Night stoped [stopped] at the Hotell wasent [wasn't] none [known] by my best Friends Eliza² new [knew] me the first site [sight] Bob Brotherton³ & Bart Hallett⁴ said tha [they] did not no [know] me I didnt [din't] shave untill [until] two Weeks ago tha [they] say tha [they] no [know] me now I am singel [single] as yet Jane⁵ is south leen [been] gon [gone] 3 months if {she} had been here I shold [should] of been Married ere [before] this if reports are true one thing I doo [do] no [know] I wanted to marry one Miss --- had evry [every] encouragement till I thought evry [every] thing was settoled [settled] when She coolly [cooly] told me she had beened [been] advised to dismis [dismiss] me of corse [course] I toled [told] her to go to He---- whare [where] all Girls aught [ought] to go I have been to a ball tuck [took] no partner Down on the sex for life I braught [brought] two chine [Chinese] shawls worth \$50 each gave one to Mrs Hostetter⁶ the other I will use fore [for] a horse blanket before enny [any] woman shall have it

This stuff is not interesting to you I will try to tell you about all the folks all of your acquaintances was glad to here [hear] from you John⁷ says he wold [would] like to see you once more he is well of [off] in fact all the Farmers has got rich Eliza has written to you since I got back I dont [don't] feal [feel] like writing to day [today] excuse me this time I will try to doo [do] better the next time tell G H H that his wife⁸ is well all the rest tell Hugh & wife⁹ that I will rite [write] soon to them Stricklars¹⁰ is all well tell George¹¹ Sam¹² Hugh¹³ Mc¹⁴ and evey body [everybody] to write amediately [immediately] I will exsplain [explain] to them my delay of writing R Brotherton¹⁵ is to preach next Sunday hasent [hasn't] as much religon [religion] as I have I dont [don't] no [know] what I will go at untill [until] I see one Miss----- I am tired of Mt Carroll don't [don't] no [know] What I came for W. A. J. Pierce¹⁶

no more but remain your affectionat [affectionate] Brother

Note:

A. When William Pierce and Daniel Shottenkirk returned to Mt. Carroll from Sacramento, California they left San Francisco on May 1, 1855 traveled through the Panama Canal to New York City and finished their trip to Illinois by railroad. They arrived in Mt. Carroll on May 28, 1855.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Brother and Sister | Peter Laird and Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. Eliza | Eliza F. Pierce |
| 3. Bob Brotherton | Related to Samuel Brotherton, husband of Margaret J. R. (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 4. Bart Hallett | Related to James Hallett, husband of Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 5. Jane | *Jane Ingram, A girlriend of William A. J. Pierce |
| 6. Mrs. Hostetter | *Wife of Dr. John Hostetter |

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 7. John | John Laird who lived in Freedom, near Mt. Carroll, the brother of Peter Laird |
| 8. G H H and wife | *George H. Harris |
| 9. Hugh and wife | *Hugh and Rebecca Taylor |
| 10. Stricklars | *The Joe Strickler family |
| 11. George | *George H. Harris |
| 12. Sam | *Samuel Spang |
| 13. Hugh | *Hugh B. Taylor |
| 14. Mc | *Unknown friend |
| 15. R. Brotherton | Robert Brotherton, related to Samuel Brotherton, husband of Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton |
| 16. W A J Pierce | William Andrew Jackson Pierce |

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

Mount Carroll March 15th 1/57Dear Sister¹

Again I seat myself to tell you how we are all getting along – yet I can not but think how much more pleasant it would be to step into your house if it were possible to do so than to write. It is Sunday Amanda and James have gone to church and the boys are out doors so that I am entirely alone I {have} been thinking about you all and so I thought I would write. We are all very well at present but Margaret^{2A} has been complaining a good deal this winter I wrote to you in my last letter about her troubles with her husband³ – they have been living together all winter but have seperated [separated] now – and she says she will not live with him again she intends to get a divorce from him. Will⁴ boards with her now----- There is some talk of Will getting married I dont [don't] know whether there is any thing of it or not but hope not for I dont [don't] like the girl she is old Mrs. Frothinghams⁵ Grand daughter Martha Masters⁶ – Will did talk some of returning to California last fall If he had gone I would have gone too for I always did have the California fever and would go any time if I had a chance Tell John⁷ if he will come back and see us that I'll go home with him – Will sold his Stable last fall but he has bought it back again now so I guess he intends to remain here. We had a letter from D. G. Shottenkirk⁸ a few days ago. Dan has a fine boy born Feb. 22nd Calls him William Pierce⁹. I expect to go down to see them soon. Dan's sister was up here last summer to see us. I have never seen his wife – It has been sometime since I heard from Evaline¹⁰ We have had a very severe winter here and a great deal of snow from all appearances we are going to have a very backward spring a week ago to day [today] it snowed all day long without ceasing – There has not been much going on this winter only occasionally a party and the pious folks have had a great time there has been great revivals here in the Baptist and Methodist churches they kept up meetings every evening for about three months. a great many have joined both churches

There are a great many talking of emigrating to Kansas this spring – there is almost as much excitement about going to Kansas as there used to be about California----- Wm Chapman¹¹ said when I last saw him that they would go to Texas this spring but I do not think they will

Amanda¹² James¹³ and his sister Lucy¹⁴ went to Boston {for} a visit last fall they were gone about six weeks they left me to take care of the three boys¹⁵ and to keep house – they had a very pleasant trip they went for the sake of travelling [traveling] and to see his relations – They are working on the Rail Road at Cherry Grove – and they think there will be quite a large town there in a few years. You heard of Sarah Ann Moffetts¹⁶ [Moffett's] death. Abram¹⁷ married a young widow in about a year after his wife died. Garner Moffett^{18B} died last fall of typhoid fever. John¹⁹ and Wm²⁰ and Margaret²¹ are at home with their mother. Robert²² is off at College yet and Sarah²³ married Sarah and her husband have been east to spend the winter they were to return by Washington {to} see the President take his seat and they are looking for them home now. I saw John Laird²⁴ not long ago he enjuired [inquired] about you said he had written to Peter²⁵ – Do you know anything of Gif²⁶ what is he doing? give my respects to him –

Now Adaline²⁷ I want you to write soon and I want you to se sure and have the boy's²⁸ write I know John can write a firstrate [first rate] letter by this time there is nothing I would like so much as to get a letter from him he must be sure and write very soon – Give my best love to Peter and the boys and to any person else that I know there – Amanda²⁹ James³⁰ Russell³¹ William³² and Walter³³ join in sending love to you all and Margaret³⁴ and Will³⁵ would if they knew I was writing – Good Bye My dear Sister, brother, and Nephews. from Your affectionate E. F. Pierce³⁶

{This postscript was written sideways across the top of the letter}

If you see G. Harris³⁷ tell him his friends are all well they look some for him home this summer. If you see any of Mrs. Beatty's³⁸ folks tell them Mr. Yontz's³⁹ [Yontz's] folks⁴⁰ are well – they have been living in town for a year or two but are going to move on John's⁴¹ old place in a week or two – All four of their girls⁴² that are single joined the church this winter I shall expect a letter from you all soon – I remain
Your Affectionate Sister Eliza F. Pierce⁴³

Notes:

A. Margaret (Pierce) Brotherton married Casper Irtel December 14, 1854.

B. Garner Moffett, The inscription on his tombstone in Wolfe Cemetery, (near Lanark, IL) says, 'January 18, 1807 – October 5, 1856, age 49 years, 3 months, 17 days.'

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Sister | Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Pierce |
| 2. Margaret | Margaret (Pierce) (Brotherton) Irtel. |
| 3. Margaret's husband | Casper Irtel |
| 4. Will | William Andrew Jackson Pierce |
| 5. Mrs. Frothingham | *Acquaintance |
| 6. Martha Masters | She married William A. J. Pierce May 14, 1857 |
| 7. John | John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird, son of Julia A. Laird and Peter Laird |
| 8. D. G. Shottenkirk | *Daniel was a life-long friend with family roots in Carroll and Ogle Counties, IL |
| 9. William Pierce | William Pierce Shottenkirk |
| 10. Evaline | Mary Evaline (Lindsay) |
| 11. Wm Chapman | William Chapman, husband of Mary E. (Lindsay) Chapman |
| 12. Amanda | Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 13. James | James Hallett, husband of Amanda M. F. (Lindsay) Hallett |
| 14. Lucy | Lucy Hallett, sister of James Hallett |
| 15. Three boys | Russell B. born October 12, 1849, William Pierce born After April 1851, James Walter born September 14, 1852 |
| 16. Sarah Ann Moffett | *Wife of Abram Moffett |
| 17. Abram | *Abram Moffett, husband of Sarah Ann Moffett |
| 18. Garner Moffett | *Born 1806, married to Margaret Garner |
| 19. John | *John Garner born 1834, child of Garner and Margaret Garner |
| 20. Wm | *William Garner born 1833, child of Garner and Margaret Garner |
| 21. Margaret | *Margaret Garner born 1840, child of Garner and Margaret Garner |
| 22. Robert | *Robert Garner born 1836, child of Garner and Margaret Garner |
| 23. Sarah | *Sarah Garner born 1837, child of Garner and Margaret Garner |
| 24. John Laird | Brother of Peter Laird |
| 25. Peter | Peter Laird, husband of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 26. Gif | *Gifford |
| 27. Adaline | Julia A. Laird |
| 28. The boys | John W. P. Laird and Joseph Laird, sons of Peter and Julia A. Laird |
| 29. Amanda | Amanda M. F. Hallett |
| 30. James | James Hallett, husband of Amanda (Lindsay) Hallett |

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 31. Russell | Russell Hallett |
| 32. William | William Pierce Hallett |
| 33. Walter | James Walter Hallett |
| 34. Margaret | Margaret (Pierce) (Brotherton) Irtel |
| 35. Will | William A. J. Pierce |
| 36. Eliza F. Pierce | Eliza F. Pierce |
| 37. G. Harris | *George H. Harris |
| 38. Mrs. Beatty | A relative of Elizabeth (Beatty) Laird, first wife of John Laird |
| 39. Mr. Yontz | Samuel Yontz, father of William and Julia A. (Yontz) Pierce |
| 40. Mr. Yontz's folks | Samuel and Mary Yontz, parents of Julia A. (Yontz) Pierce, first wife of John W. Pierce and William Yontz who died in the Platte River in 1849 |
| 41. John | Referring to John W. Pierce, brother of the Lindsay/Pierce children first husband of Julia Ann (Yontz) Pierce |
| 42. Girls | Daughters of Samuel and Mary Yontz |
| 43. Eliza F. Pierce | The letter writer |

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

Eldorado Aug 21/57

Dear Laird¹ I have not had the pleasure of Seeing you Since I parted with you on that Solom [solemn] day.^A But we Should not morne [mourn] allways [always] But respet [respect] & cherish the name and memory of our friends & relatives who have departed this life for a better State of being. I hope you & your Boyes² [boys] are all in good health.

Now about the coming Election we have a dutch Jew N. Rhine³ who is up for County office & for the Same office we have Mr. Parkes⁴ of Diamond Springs who no man in the world could Say one worde [word] against in point of Honor & good qualifications. I Do Hope you will _____ You can, let your Politics be what they may to Elect an American in preference to a little Dutch Jew.

I wish I could portency [portend] to you the difference betwene [between] the two candidates. hoping [hoping] you will think as I do on this matter. I remain yours very truly,

M. D. Hinman⁵

Notes:

A. Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird died in a mining accident. A rock from a dynamite explosion hit Julia in the head as she lay in a hammock in their camp at the Mokelumne Mines in California. This letter mentions the funeral.

The exact date of her death is not known, but Eliza Pierce wrote her a letter on March 15, 1857. This means word of her death had not yet reached Mt. Carroll on March 15th. Julia died between March and August of 1857 when this letter was written.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Laird | Peter Laird |
| 2. Boys | John W. P. Laird and Joseph A. Laird, sons of Peter and Julia A. Laird |
| 3. N. Rhine | *Unknown |
| 4. Mr. Parkes | *Unknown |
| 5. M. D. Hinman | *Unknown |

* Not related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

Deer Creek^A September 22, 1861Dear Friend¹

I take the presant [present] time, to write A few lines to you We are all reasonably well at presant [present] and hope this may find you and the boys well, Hugh² is busy puting [putting] up A chimney and his hands feel so bad that he wanted me to write to you we had A letter from Wm Pierce³ some time ago which I will send to you in this letter, we have been looking for you up all Summer or we should have sent it before this Hugh wants to know if you could save him A load of black wild oats, and wants you to write and let him know if you can and if so to tell him where he shall come for them, and when to come; he say [says] he would like to have them if you could not get more than five hundred pounds he wold [would] come for them, and as much more as you can get that is if it is not more than he can haul; as the hogs have picked up all the seed on the ground, at least all the white wild oats. Jimmy⁴ from town has been with us for A week he left this morning – he starts for the states this day week; he wanted to see you and the boys badly, but he has been quite sick and was not able to go to see you he sends his {love} to you all; John Goodall⁵ is back he is married he left his wife in new york [New York] till Spring with her mother; Whites⁶ [White's] folks are just tolerably well Liz⁷ is well She is going to School she boards at bennets⁸ and goes to school up on the road by the rail road Kate Edwards⁹ teaches we miss Liz very much and she dislikes being away from home but she likes the school, she comes home every friday [Friday] evening and stays till monday [Monday] morning – Hugh has sold her mare or she would go from home he just sold her when we heard we was going to have A school he wants to buy her another poney [pony] if he can find one suitable for her to ride one that is gentle and quiet and ain't to hard riding if you see any such let Hugh know if you please

you must all come up as soon as you can give our love to the boys¹⁰ and except [accept] a portion for yourself write soon for Hugh is anxious to hear from you Direct to Clarksville and you will oblige [oblige] your friends

H B Taylor¹¹Rebecca Taylor¹²

P. S. Hugh would like if when you write you could tell him about what the oats will be worth so that he will know about what he will have to pay, R T

Note:

A. Deer Creek is located between Red Bluff and Corning, California, and a few miles to the East of the Interstae 5 corridor.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Friend | Peter Laird |
| 2. Hugh | *Hugh B. Taylor |
| 3. Wm. Pierce | William Andrew Jackson Pierce |
| 4. Jimmy | *Unknown |
| 5. John Goodall | * |
| 6. White | * |
| 7. Liz | *Most likely the daughter of Hugh and Rebecca Taylor |
| 8. Bennet's | * |
| 9. Kate Edwards | * |

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 10. Boys | John W. P. Laird and Joseph Laird, sons of Peter Laird |
| 11. H B Taylor | *Hugh B. Taylor |
| 12. Rebecca Taylor | * |

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

the ninth of September
Sixty three

Dear friend Mrs. talere^{1, A} after my best Respects [respects] to you and frank² I will inform you that we are All [all] well at presant [present] and I hope this few lines may find you all well I have nothing of interest to write to you only this is the Rich contry [country] In [in] the world california [California] Is no where to compare with this contry [country] I am so glad we moved I dont [don't] no [know] what to do i [I] thint [think] we escaped well now the Land mater [matter] is seteld [settled] and I dont [don't] no [know] one {anyone} that is Able to by [buy] there [their] place I no one thing if we had our house of {on} the land old hicks³ [Hicks] might tate [take] it and go the devle [devil] with it for I would not live over there If [if] he would give me his farm as long as there Is [is] beter [better] things in the world I wish you would com [come] overe [over] here and Live [live] for you dont [don't] no [know] how Rich the contry [country] Is [is] the mountains Is [is] made of silvre [silver] there is a bout [about] three thousand pupils here and they ar [are] coming evry [every] day by the stage and wagons and packed and a foot back i [I] want you to rite [write] as soon as this coms [comes] to hand and Let [let] me no [know] what you ar [are] doing I would like to see you first rate and if you have eny [any] notion of coming in the spring let me no [know]

I wont [won't] Rite [write] you a long Leter [letter] this time but when you answer this I will write you a long leter [letter] tell me how Iohna⁴ [Iona] and Rosa⁵ is a geting [getting] a long [along] and if butler⁶ [Butler] has the fort yet and if there is eny [any] prospete [prospect] of Rosa geting [getting] maried [married] tell me if bill frasure⁷ [Bill Frasier] stills [still] lingers a Round [around] the fort I wont [won't] write no more at this time

give my Respects [respects] to Mr laird⁸ [Mr. Laird] and the boys⁹

Permelia talere¹⁰

Adaline Biorchim¹¹

Notes:

A. The 1870 Federal Census for Inyo County, CA, Bishop's Creek, shows Joseph A. Laird, age 23, (son of Peter Laird) living in a household with Permelia, age 44. She is keeping house. There are two boys: George age 16, and Frank age 12.

The census record records Permelia as the wife of Joseph A. Laird. This is not necessarily true. Joseph had an extended illness before he died in 1872. Permelia may have been his wife, or she may have been his housekeeper and caregiver.

B. The Talere and/or Biorchim families are not known to have come from the Mt. Carroll vicinity.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Mrs. Talere | A friend of Peter Laird, not confirmed to be related to the Laird family. |
| 2. Frank | *Son of Mrs. Talere |
| 3. Hicks | *Unknown |
| 4. Iona | *Unknown relative of Mrs. Talere |
| 5. Rosa | *Unknown relative of Mrs. Talere |
| 6. Butler | *Unknown |
| 7. Bill Frasure | *Unknown |
| 8. Mr. Laird | Peter Laird |

9. The boys John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird and Joseph A. Laird, sons of Peter Laird and Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird
10. Permelia Talere Unknown, not confirmed to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman or Hallett families
11. Adaline Biorchim *Unknown friend or relative of the Talere family

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families

LETTER 37

the
February 9, 18,64
Wyoming Jones County Iowa

Dear Cousin¹

I seat myself this morning to write you a few lines to in form [inform] you that I {am} well at this time and I sincerely hope this will find you the same when they reach you if you have the luck to receive them. I am at Our Uncles John Lairds² [Laird's] at this time I have bin [been] here Three Weeks to morrow [tomorrow] evening. I came over here in a sley [sleigh] and the snow is all gone in a manner and I have to go home before long and I want [won't] like to go home a {on} horse back it is to [too] long a ride it is 80 Eeighty [eighty] miles from here and a rough road at that. I will tell you a bout [about] my folks they were all well when I left home. I will tell you a bout [about] my father³ Fathers [Father's] Death he has bin [been] dead fore [for] four years. it is a harde [hard] thing to do with out a father in this world. I will now tell you what I am going to do I am a going to farm for my self [myself] next summer that is I will renet [rent] a farm for I have rented a farm for next year I get the half of every thing [everything] I raise and they find every thing [everything] sead [seed] and barn. I have hired one for three years and I have not made much at it and I {thought} that I would of {have} by farmind [farming] for my self and if I cant [can't] do any better at that I am going to try California [California] before a greate [great] wihile [while] if times do not get better than they are now.

I want you to tell me what wages is there for hands on a farm is the month or by the day eather [either] and if the chance is good I will see if I {can} get their [there] and get some of the goald [gold] some have {said} goald [gold] is a [as] scarce as nical [nickel] in this parte [part] of the world and silver is not far behinde [behind] I hardley [hardly] know what to write for I have got the Calaforna [California] feaver [fever] so bad

Well Dear Cousin I will tell you a bout [about] the war it is a going on as good as ever it has not got me yet but I cant [can't] tell when I will half [have] to go for they have made a nother [another] caul [call] and if they doan't [don't] get them by the first of march [March] they will Draft and then they may get me but if they do I will go like a man. I will walk as strait [straight] as a Rainbow. I take my stand in Dixiland [Dixieland] to whip Jef Davis if I can. Away down South in Ioa. [Iowa] I have one Brother⁴ in the servis [service] he Enlisted last Fall in the Tweloth Colveldry [Twelfth Cavalry] Ohio^A he is a doing well he says he likes it as well as he epected [expected] he would. I have got one sister and three Brothers⁵ my sister^{6B} is married and my to [two] brothers are boath [both] young. one [One] is 13 yars [years] old and the other is 11 years old. I must tell you a little a bout [about] our Uncl [Uncle] and Aunt and Cousins^C they are all very clever I think a heap of all of them boath [both] big and Little [little] good by for this time write as soon as you get this

I will close by asking you to write as soon as you get this letter now do not forget to write as soon as you get this letter. I want you to excuse this short letter and bad spelling so good bye fore [fare] well Fine Cousin John W Laird. I will tell you my fathers [father's] name it was Alexand [Alexander] Laird I am one of his sons and my name is Joseph Laird⁷ Direct youre [your] letters to Wyoming Jones Co Iowa

Notes:

A. John W. P. Laird was still living with his father in Bishop Creek, Inyo County, CA when this letter was written.

B. James R. Laird enlisted September 9, 1863 at the rank of Private. He was 20 years old at the time he enlisted. He served in the OH Company C, Twelfth Cavalry Regiment. They mustered out (disbanded and discharged all troops) at Lexington KY on May 24, 1865.

C. Eleanor (Laird) Wolf, born 1839. She married Henry Wolf on September 28, 1862 in Jones County, IA.

D. This is a reference to the family of John Laird and Christina (Eshelman) Laird and their children. The family also includes children from John Laird's first marriage to Elizabeth Beatty.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

1. Cousin John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird born May 28, 1844, son of Peter Laird (born March 22, 1821 in Clark Cty., OH and Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird born February 14, 1826 in AL
2. Uncle John Laird John Laird born June 8, 1817 in Warren or Clark Cty., OH, son of Joseph Laird, Sr. who immigrated from Scotland
Peter and John Laird are brothers
3. Joseph Laird's Father Alexander Laird, born in 1812 in Scotland. He is the brother of Peter Laird and John Laird
4. Joseph's enlisted brother James R. Laird, son of Alexander and Jane (Miller) Laird
5. Joseph's three brothers James R. Laird born February 2, 1843; David Laird born September 2, 1850, and William Laird born between April of 1851 and June of 1852. There were two other brothers (Thomas and John) and a sister (Margaret) who died previously.
6. My sister Eleanor (Laird) Wolf
7. Joseph C. Laird The letter writer and son of Alexander Laird. He was born June 19, 1842 in Indiana.

Lanark Carroll Co. Ills
Feb 9th /64

Dear Cousin^{1A}

I now improve these few spare moments in answering your kind but unexpected letter which I received yesterday evening with great rejoicing [rejoicing] we were all surprised to hear from you once more, but had it not been one of our friends in this part of the country we would not have heard from you this time yet, we do not get our mail at Mt Carroll any more and we do not go there much, but one of our friend [friends] living near there saw the letter advertized [advertised] in the newspaper and he went and lifted it out of the office and brought it to me. Please direct your next letter to Lanark, Carroll Co. Ills. and then I will get it without delay. We are all well at present and all the rest of the friends as far as I know. your aunt [Aunt] Evaline Chapman² was down below St. Louis about two hundred miles from here, the last account I had from her. I heard too that her husband³ was in the army. Cousin Joseph Laird⁴ from Iowa one of Uncle Alexandria [Alexander] Lairds⁵ [Laird's] sons is at our house at present he is well at present and he talks of writing to you if he does he can tell you about his folks better than I can.

Uncle William Laird^{6A} lives in Indiana they were all well the last account I had from them, and that was about 2 or 3 months ago.

Aunt Eliza Clayton⁷ lives in Indiana. I received [received] a letter from Sandford B. Clayton⁸ a son of Aunt Elizas [Eliza] about a month ago and they were all well he was teaching school this winter and he gets \$1.50 per day. Uncle James Laird⁹ lives in the State of Iowa they were all well that were living the last account we had from them and that was last fall Cousin Elisabeth^{10B} and Harmony^{11C} are both dead they have been dead for over one year, Harmony had been married She died and left two children they were both girls, one was 4 yrs old and the other was seven yrs old when she died. Joseph¹² and Sarrah Ellen¹³ are both living at home Joseph is married. They two are all that are living of the children Aunt Susan Dakins^{14D} lives in Iowa they were all well the last account some of them are married but I cannot tell you how many. Aunt Ellen Pharos^{15E} lives in Missouri they were all well that were living last winter, Meary¹⁶ [Mary] and Sarah¹⁷ are both dead, they were both married before they died

Cousin James Pharos^{18F} has enlisted in the service of his country, he has been serving for over one years [year] he keeps his health first rate.

I cannot give you a full history of all our friends this evening as it is geetting [getting] late and my space narrow. your friends are all well about Mt Carroll William Pierce¹⁹ lives about one mile south of Mt Carroll on the old masters [Master's] place he talks of moving to California in the Spring.

One thing yet about [about] Aunt Susans²⁰ [Susan's] folks and that is cousin William²¹ is dead, he has been dead about 6 or 7 yrs He was married before he died. I have been giving you a sketch of all the friends except ourSelves [ourselves] I guess I will have to tell you a little about us, We are nine in number that are living 3 girls and 4 boys are living²². one of my brothers is dead²³ he has been dead over two years he was 18 months old when he died. We still live on the same place that we all ways [always] did, and none of us is married yet and no telling when we will. I will be 19 yrs old if I live to see the 25th day of February. I am going to school this winter I am persung [pursuing] the branches of Arithmetic Practical and Intellectual Practical Grammar Wilsons US History Sanders Speller.

We have got a railroad running about 2 miles South of us. It runs from Racine to the Missifssippi [Mississippi] river and it is called by that name. our nearest station is where Old Mr. Danels²⁴ [Daniels] used to live. I suppose that you do not know where that is but I guess that your father recollects. A little about the volenteers [volunteers] yet and then the close. Our quota has been filled for the last call in 1863 without the draft. there is some talk of another call being made for 200,000 more if so we will have to make up another hundred. We heave [have] sent in all since the war has broke some 6 or 7 hundred volenteers [volunteers] from this couty [county] and if they need us there is still a few more to

go. It is getting late and I must close as I have nothing more of importances [importance] to write. please excuse my mistakes for this time. No more at present

Write soon,
but I remain your
affectionate Cousin

William R. Laird²⁵
(please write soon)

To John W. Laird²⁶

{Down the left edge of the page at the end of the letter:} Direct your letter to Lanar [Lanark] Carroll Co Ills

Notes:

A. John W. P. Laird was still living with his father in Bishop Creek, Inyo County, CA when this letter was written.

B. The William Laird family lived in Dearborn Cty., Logan Twp., IN. He was born October 23, 1800 in Scotland

His first wife was Mary (Cochran) Laird. She was born in Pennsylvania, most likely near Salem, Westmoreland County, PA. She died January 5, 1851. There was one child, Silas Cochran Laird born in 1834, and a foster or adopted daughter, Mary DeWitt Laird born in 1834.

William married Mary DeWitt Laird in about 1853. There were three children: William C. born 1854, James A. born 1857 and Emma J. born 1860. This information comes from the Dearborn County, Logan Township, Indiana Federal Census for 1860.

William Laird died August 12, 1869 in Logan Township

C. Elizabeth Laird was born 1844 and died July 9, 1862. She is the daughter of James Laird and Anna (Allen) Laird. Who she married is unknown.

D. Harmony (Laird) Oglesbee, daughter of James and Anna Laird. She married Calvin Oglesbee September 30, 1852 in Clark Cty., OH. She was born in 1830 and died March 5, 1863. The names of her two daughters ages 4 and 7 are unknown.

E. She was born in 1806 in Scotland. She is the daughter of Joseph Laird, Sr. who emigrated from Scotland. She married John Dakin September 30, 1830 in Clark Cty., OH. There were seven children.

F. Eleanor "Ellen" Laird was born January 1, 1814 in Scotland. She is the daughter of Joseph Laird, Sr. She married Joel Phares October 28, 1830 in Clark Cty., OH. There were twelve children. The family lived in Braymer Twp., Caldwell Cty., MO

G. James Phares was born January 22, 1843. He is the son of Eleanor "Ellen" (Laird) Phares and Joel Phares. He enlisted in 1861 and served 3 years in the Union Army.

Index of people mentioned in this letter:

Explanations are given in relationship to the letter writer and recipient; and/or relationships in the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, and Hallett families.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Cousin | John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird born May 28, 1844, son of Peter and Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird |
| 2. Evaline Chapman | Mary Evaline (Lindsay) Chapman, sister of Julia A. (Lindsay) Laird |
| 3. Aunt Evaline's husband | William Chapman |
| 4. Joseph Laird | Son of Alexander Laird, born June 19, 1842 |
| 5. Alexander Laird | Son of Joseph Laird, Sr. who emigrated from Scotland |
| 6. William Laird | Son of Joseph Laird, Sr. and brother of Peter and Alexander Laird |

7. Eliza Clayton Elizabeth (Laird) Clayton, daughter of Joseph Laird, Sr. and wife of Thomas Clayton. She was born September 2, 1802 in Scotland. Her family (14 children plus two that died at birth) lived in Flat Rock, Shelby County, IN. Eliza died April 21, 1865
8. Sandford B. Clayton Sandford Ballingal Clayton born August 14, 1844, son of Eliza and Thomas Clayton. He died April 12, 1864. Only two months after this letter was written
9. James Laird James R. Laird, son of Joseph Laird, Sr. and brother of Peter Laird, Alexander Laird, William Laird, Eliza (Laird) Clayton.
10. Elizabeth Elizabeth Laird
11. Harmony Harmony (Laird) Oglesbee
12. Joseph Joseph A. Laird born 1833, son of James and Anna (Allen) Laird. Joseph married Mary Kitchen in 1855 in Greene Twp., Clark Cty., OH. There were two children, Minnie born 1861 and Elizabeth born 1863. Mary died between 1864 and 1868. Joseph married Sarah A. Hatfield October 31, 1869 in Greene Twp., Clark Cty., OH. One son, Oscar, was born in 1872.
13. Sarrah Ellen Sarah Ellen Laird, daughter of James and Anna Allen born 1842
14. Susan Dakins Susan Anna (Laird) Dakin
15. Ellen Pharos Eleanor "Ellen" (Laird) Phares
16. Meary Mary Elizabeth Phares, daughter of Ellen and Joel Phares.
17. Sarah Sarah Phares, daughter of Ellen and Joel Phares
18. James James Phares, son of Ellen and Joel Phares
19. William Pierce Brother of Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird
20. Aunt Susan Susan Anna (Laird) Dakin, wife of John Dakin
21. William William Dakin born 1831, son of Susan and John Dakin
22. William's siblings William R. Laird.
The children of John and Elizabeth (Beatty) Laird: William R. Laird (the letter writer, born February 25, 1845), Mary E. (September 11, 1843)
Children of John and Christiana (Eshelman) Laird: Abram Grimes, (May 17, 1850), James M. (December 1851), John E. (1852), Sarah Annie (April 11, 1854), Amelia (November 25, 1855), Abraham (January 16, 1859), Joseph (1860)
23. William's dead brother Abraham Laird born January 16, 1859. He died August 5, 1860
24. Old Mr. Daniels *An acquaintance
25. William R. Laird Son of John and Elizabeth (Beatty) Laird
26. John W. Laird John Whitcomb Pierpoint Laird born May 28, 1844, son of Peter and Julia Adaline (Lindsay) Laird. John lived with his father and brother Joseph in California. His mother Julia A. Laird died in March 1857.

* A friend, not known to be related to the Laird, Lindsay, Pierce, Brotherton, Chapman, or Hallett families