

We are boarding with a very
 fine family indeed formerly
 from Rochester by the name
 of Bliss you have noticed
 I have spoken of them
 before, I boarded there both
 seasons I taught there nearly.
 We had an exhibition at Viola
 last week I read the paper
 I tell you it was nice, a
 great many plays and well
 acted, I wish you could
 have heard them, we
 have had a debating Club
 all winter and they have
 improved very much indeed
 Arthur is a going to make
 a fine declaimer and so
 is Eugene, Perry is at home
 Eliza is going to teach I believe
 and talks of making you
 a visit next fall.

the folks are all well Mrs's health is quite good tho'.
 I have got one a new brook both clock brown
 with a top of the same silk top makes work
 it does not seem to me that a hot as you
 would like to see it. I did dix dollars for
 it. Mary what are your things? Write and tell me
 all the news I must
 love William sends
 his love write soon
 I took the night
 train to all
 Monday
 I was gone
 affectionate
 Louisa
 Mine

I received one
 from your dear hand
 and you do not
 know how glad I was to hear
 from you it had been so
 long since I received one
 from you. I would
 really like to see
 you after school would
 your ear suffer I reckon
 and perhaps you might
 a hand to get a
 shaking. Every body. I laid aside
 my pen for tea and have

I received your letter dear Mary it came
 to answer you
 Tuesday afternoon
 April 5/60

again resumed it. I am
now in the office of my hus-
band, how that sounds I think
I hear Mary say Minnie has
gone and done it, but never
you mind Mate may get
caught yet in the same
trap. I was married three
weeks ago I had a very nice
wedding party how I wished
you and Nettie could have
been there, my happiness
would have been complete
I had five kinds of cake
and I wish I could have
sent you some it was nice.
I was dressed in white for
he wished me too, white
gloves, white flowers, in my
hair, white wax beads on
my neck, and arms,
I never
said a word about him to

you in answer to any of your
questions, I became acquainted
with the next summer after
I came here I was teaching
in that place when he
came from Albany he
was born and brought up
there but graduated in
Philadelphia, his mother
is now in New York City and
two brothers removed from
A — there that is all the
family three boys, one is
yet unmarried. We are now
boarding but shall go to
keeping house in the
summer sometime I guess
or at least in the fall.
and then Mate come and
live with us wont you
you must, and perhaps you
may find a Doctor too

he would come Saturday
and stay till Monday if
his business would permit

the more one gets acquainted
with him the better he will
like him you may think I am
over estimating his good qualities
but it is not so. He is college educated
and is a gentleman.

I have been cleaning door yard to
day & am quite tired and must
close give my love to Mrs Fuller
and tell her to write to me ^{very}
Regards to Mrs Sloan and all
longearing friends you may
refer this to all or the friends
if they wish to hear I vote to you
because I thought you might
answer it please write soon
tell Antoinette to write to me
I have written her last,

Marion is not a going to keep
house this summer they are
a going to board and she teaches
the Reedstown School.

Paulina Gill
Mary & Briggs

Kickapoo April 1860

Dear niece

I now take the opportunity
to advise a few lines to you
and let you know that we are
all well and doing well I enjoy
my self much better on some
accounts than I did in York State
although it would be pleasant to
live by friends yet I am satisfied
it is all for the best as it is
Alfred has reaped ten acres to Timothy
and clover this spring has got in six
acres of wheat is a logging off
six acres he has chopt this winter
is a going to put in ten acres
of corn we have made about
a hundred weight of sugar it has
been a poor sugar season we have
not had but six inches of snow
this winter it has been the most
pleasant winter I ever saw the

snow has been gone over two months
we have not had any rain and
but verry little snow the ground
has been settled and good going
for four weeks. Eugene has
gone to live with Cyrus Turner
for one year to be in the store
and as cheres he goes to school in
the winter Arthur is taller than
his Father he is a steady good boy
I believe it is as good a place to
bring up children as Strykersville
there is a considerable going on for
improvement of the young we have
debates and evenings schools we
had an Exhibition two weeks ago.

Marion was Married the 15 of
March we invited about twenty 5
and had a verry pleasant party
& how I wish you and some of
our friends could of been here
we had chicken pie in the
after noon and other good things

in the evening cake & candies
She left home a week ago last
Saturday she has got as fine
a Man as I ever was acquainted
with he is a Man of high
Morals & an excellent Physician
he performed a job of Surgery about
a year ago that almost immortalized
his name it was said in the
papers and Medical Journal
to be one of the most difficult
Cases ever performed I will not
attempt to describe it for it
would more than fill my sheet
he was in the hospitte at Albany
three years he has had a chance
to understand his business
My first acquaintance with him
was last Spring when I was
sick he never had paid any
particular attention to
Marion before that since he
has visited us frequently

East Greenwich June 18th 1860

Dear Mary

I seat myself after
a long silence, to answer your
letter, At present I am at home
having a nice time go when
and where I please for have
feet that will fill 16 1/4 shoes
pretty good foundations to go
a pursuing on,

I am making up
my mind upon having a globe

our times on Independence day the only one we have to
but do not know but Mary gets and you better believe
there are plenty beavers to be is most spoiled, was
petted and cary at our come pleased to hear from cousin
mends and why should not Henry but he said we
we poor girls have them at had never asked after
our commands.

him tell him if he was
But I do think only here next winter
that to court is better than I would pay for past
to marry by the apperence neglect by introducing all
of things about me though the agreeable girls for H &
having had no experience has many off them but not
in either it is not for very handsome. My love
me to judge but perhaps to Uncle Hunt, Henry and
you can tell. keep a bit for your self

Sister Sybil is and please answer this
at home with her husband tell me all the pleasant
and soon or child of a summer time you have your true
Flavin Latie

he is all the child I have
got. Dear Mary will you
be so kind as to send me
a copy of Williams miniature
I have always ~~been~~ wanted
one and he promised me
one but I never have had
one if you will I will pay
for it rather than not have
it be sure and write when
you receive this.

I like living
here very much it is very pleasant
here and I live up stairs so I
can see a great ways on all
sides of me I wish you were
here with me I think some of
going to my husbands fathers
next week if he does not return
home write soon My and my
husbands love to all of your
family tell Uncle we would like

Thursday Portsmouth N.H.
Aug the 23^d 1860

Dear Cousin Mary

I will write to you as I would
like to ^{hear} from Dear Uncle and
Aunt and all of the rest I never
of have corresponded with you
but I used to with Dear William
and Nancy I have been thinking
for some time of penning a
few lines to you so as to hear
direct from you all. O how I
wish I could see you once in
life if no more your Miniature
that you sent to Sister Lettler
looks very much as I used to
when I was 15 or 16 years old
but I have broken very much
now in looks and health since
then I have seen a great deal

of sickness since I was married
and the spring and summer
that my little girl died nearly
destroyed what life I had I
was sick from the time she
was born in March untill
her death in September there
was but a very little of the
time that I could sit up all
day at a time,

But I do not
murmur at the will of almighty
God for she is now an angel
in my fathers kingdom I expect
to meet her again.

My boy is
6 years old last May his name
is William I suppose Mary you
can tell who he is named after
I often when I look at him
think of your lost brother of
the pleasure I used to take in

perusing his letters to me
I have them all now every
one of them and often read
them over and shed the tears
of regret and love of one so
soon gone to rest.

I suppose Uncle
begins to look old by this time
for time spares none My beloved
Father and Mother begin to
show the effects of old age a
few more years or perhaps days
and they will be no more
My Fathers family are well
as usual My sisters Mary
and Latimer went from here
yesterday afternoon and I am
very lonesome for My husband
is at Greenport L.I. N.Y. a
fishing will be there untill
fall I suppose so little Willie
and me are alone

to see him down here once
more but I do not believe we
shall tell him that Aunt
Harriet hold he young looks
the best of the family although
the oldest of them My Mother
fails so does Aunt Mary and
Uncle Ambrose is the same
that he always was and I
expect always will be a
lover of ardent spirits he is
now at the town house in
East Greenwich Aunt Harriet
lives at Sponaug in the town
of Warwick Aunt Mary and
Wickford I will now stop
for you will think me tedious
enough I guess Direct yours to
(Dubil (Mrs Edwin Brown
(Brown) Portsmouth
(excuse mistakes) B. J.
and I shall get them

Reasstown Augth 23. 1860

Dear Cousin

After so long a delay I have taken up a pen to write you. I am so very busy that I have not a spare moment for anything, as I am in school, and house keeping too. With baking, washing, mending, sewing. But I do not know but you know the trials that befall a house keeper. My school is large, and rather unruly. I have to jump every minute I am out of school and then I dont have any time to sew, and knit. It is hard for me for you know I never was used for hard work, I teach five months, and took the school because I thought I should have nothing to do but found my self mistaken. We are not going to stay here long but are going to move where there is a little more going on. What are you doing? I want to see you so bad Mary what would I give if I could. Eliza was down to see me the other day just before she went East I should like to have gone with her very much. I wish you would come home with. if we go where we intend to there is an excellent high school, and we will board you

and you can find sewing enough too
do to send you to school. I am a going
to have a picknick at close of my school
and shall be very busy, for the next
month. The Doctor helps me a consider-
able, he did not want me to take the
school, but you know I never was good
to mind, he says he is lonesome when
I am gone, he always boarded where there
was a great bustle. How do all the folks
do. I wrote to Nettie last April and she
has not answered it yet. I want to hear
from her very-much. I suppose you
will all see Ebija, tell Aunt Klossy mother
sends her love and says to step in
and take tea with her would be a
pleasure highly appreciated. give my
love to all, and retain a share for your
self. Now do not wait so long before you
answer my letter, and I will try to
write sooner next time, excuse this
scrabbling, for I had to do it a noon
time. good bye.

from your Cousin
Minnie

Mary G Briggs

1866

Troy Centre Sept 23rd

Dear Cousin

It has been a long time since you have written to me. & now I am writing to you to find out what has become of you & the rest of your folks if you are still in the land of the living. I wish you would write and let me know your whereabouts, is your Father living if so where is he & family, we are well & still live in Troy Walworth County Wisconsin. The family are all dead but four of us Howard Mary Maria & my self so you will see that there is some change in our family since you last heard from us but William I have never heard from you since you wrote me from Bloomington Illinois. I wish if this reaches any one of the family you would write as soon as possible. It seems rather odd for our Cousins to give up all friendship for each other after being brought up together so long. Let us revive that tie that should bind our destinies together in this world. We all live in Wisconsin but Maria she lives in California! Write soon & much
Oblige your obedient servant

J. H. Briggs

To William Briggs
or Thomas Briggs
or any one of the family

sinful mortals at the best I
often pray that we shall meet
there if not here give my love
to Uncle and Aunt and your
brother Henry my husband send
his to all of you when I can
I will have Willie's face
taken and send it to you
so you can see him he is
not handsome by any means
I must soon stop for it is
time to get tea come down
and I will give you my
husbands brother the widower
that boards with me or his
youngest one that is 23 years
old he is a school teacher

write soon as you get
this Goodbye Mary

Lylil Brown

Portsmouth P. I.

Novem the 6th 1860

Dearest Cousin

Mary I will write you again
I was very glad to hear from you
but I suppose you will hardly
believe it I have delayed writing
so long I calculated to have
written last Sabbath but I went
to Meeting in the afternoon and
evening the meeting did not break
up untill nine o'clock so I felt
very tired and did not write to
day is town Meeting and Willie
is here with me alone so I thought
I could write without interruption
I went over to my fathers after I
wrote to you and have only been
back three weeks tomorrow I had
a very good time indeed but got

tired all out going round so much
My health is very good other ways
So is the rest of my family.

Mary I often
think of absent friends and your
fathers family often yes very often
are before my minds eye yes I
think often of you all out there
and think why are friends so
widely separated here in this
world my Mothers brothers all
but one seemed to have a roving
mind went west to settle so their
families are widely separated
from their R I friends.

But what
could it not be so that we could
all that is in the land of the
living meet once together I wish
we could both old and young
all meet at one time and see

each other O Mary what a joy-
ful time we that is you and I
would have in meeting but then
we should have to part again
but Mary if we are but faithful
to Our God we shall meet in that
better land never to part I think
Mary we have little enough time
to fit and prepare ourselves for
that meeting there we shall meet
loved ones gone before us and
others will be coming to join
us I sometimes think I cannot
wait for to go on the other side
of the river to meet my loved ones
their their I hope and trust you
and I will meet beloved William
and Nancy yes I say meet them
with harps in their hands waiting
to welcome us O Mary what a
blissful thought this is to us poor

has for \$500. Tho' most of folks
thinks he has made a good
bargain. I tried hard to get
him not to buy but he was
bound not to leave the bill
Still I think he has made
a very good bargain.

Tell Sid that if he does
not answer my letter if I
ever see him again I will
choke him. (just a little bit)
Mate is well. She and I
are going to Blenheim
or visiting next Saturday
As I have been writing a
long letter to a dear friend
attending school in Charlottesville
and feeling rather dull I hope
you will excuse the shortness
of this letter if I promise to write
another as soon I receive your
answers to this. Love to Sid and
tell him to write

People this with but
of love any good
wishes from Jane

To Mate.

Leesville Sch. Co
W. Va. 26th Nov. 1863

My Dear Sister

I suppose since
Sid has returned you have had
so much to do that you do
not have time to write. But
as I wish to keep the mail
open between here and there
I will write again hoping
that by the time this reaches
you, you will have your work
done up so that you can
find time to answer it
Don't put it off thinking that

Sid will write because if there is any case about him it will be the hardest thing he can undertake to do. I always have to do all the writing when I am home and when I am away I guess they do not do any writing at all. At my rate I never could receive a letter from them. Am well with the exception of a severe cold but that is nothing unusual for this part of the country. Commenced teaching last week. Have a very pleasant school. Teach in the district adjoining the one I taught last year and have 10 or 12 of the same scholars.

Have had only 20 scholars yet and are all large ones and pretty well advanced. Have an old school house but a good district to board in would not teach the school if it was not for one thing and that is they are pretty well advanced and I thought I might profit myself some have a class of 13 in Grammar and as that is my favorite study I think I can enjoy myself at it. It is in Mackay Corners district and the most of the scholars are large girls. Father has sold his farm to George Leas for \$1800, and bought John