

BROWN FAMILY LETTERS

Thomas And Nancy Brown's 1852 And 1854 Letters¹

Mexico² Aug the 21st 1852

well Mother brother and Sister³

I Sit down to answer your letter that I recieved from you knight before last which gave me much pleasure to here that you was all well and that you was a coming down this fall I have tried to get money to send to you but I could not. I have had to by every thing to by you no to keep house with and to eight and that 40 dollars I sent home together with all my business makes me short on it for money I have got as good a horse and waggon as this country afoards

now I will tel you how to worket Sell your oxen and graney catel are very cheape here on account of hays coming in so light you can by good cows for teen dollars a head and oxen in propor[s]ion⁴ and if you cant rais money enough to come with hire it til next Spring perhaps if Welcom Phileps⁵ is a coming down this fall he would let you have it and then we would pay him next Spring and perhaps when he gets here you see that I havent Sold eny thing that I have raise[d] yet so Jacob you see that cattle are very cheape here and next Spring thay will be very high and am a going to by cows by and by when I can get them for about 8 dollars a head and feed my hay out and in the Spring Sel my cows for a great price and make more than I would to Sel my hay:

tomorrow we are a going to Georges⁶ if alive and well to finish this letter so good knight pleasant dreames to you all tomorrow is Sunday

Well good morning the 23d monday

yesterday we went to georges they are all well George said that I could do the writing and when you got here he would do the talking he said he could talk more in one hour then he could write in a weak.

Jak he wants you to see Erven and see if you can make eny traid with for that noat and then he pay you perhaps you can get it less than the face of it if you have corn or oats or eny thing that you cant turn for money make some kind of traid with him if you can now about bringing wheat down here you had beter sell it there for forty five cts a bush[el] flour is only three dollars a barel and 7 shiling [three] dollars and 7 shilling abarel good winter wheat 75 cts a bu corn [9] and 6 penc a bu it would be well to fil what bags there is ther and bring for our own eating

bring all of our beding and washtub and board and dishes and and every thing tin pail s[t]raner little brass cetel bring every thing but the chairs them I would leave I have got a good set of nice chairs and 4 comon ones and a great boston rocking chair I would make two or 3 boxes and they will easear to handl and cost no more than one big one would that would hold them all

Jake I under stand that you [a]re married to Elen Hide⁷ well if you be you will have all the hide you want I guess Well Jake if you want to work the farm another year you may have it the saim as you do this year and if you dont want it I want you to send all the pork and if you stay there send me half of it now dont miss of sending me som pork

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now Jake put what you send a board of a [profel] or carrie your goods to Elkins for Shiping and he will Send them to [Mo]lison and Haisting at oswego and get the goods started before you come and then you take the cars at chicago and come to detroit and then take [the] steam boat to buffalo and then the cars to lueston then steam boat to oswego and you neadent be but three days a coming clear threw now Jake write to me just what you are a going to do as soon as you get this I will be redy to pay all trans portation when the goods arive

now if you dont want the place next year I want you to send my drag teath and hinges and pichforks Jake come if you rather we can [make] mo[ne]y here let papy have the plough and waggon if he wants it to use until I come up there that is if you dont want it tel him to keep them under shel[te]r and if you come if papy [wants] the place and the house to live in he can have it and find every thing and give me one third in the half bushel and about the piges if there is eny put them on and give me half the por and lave as meny on the plaice when he is do[ne] with it write what says about it there is a man here that wants it but if pape wants it he can have the preference

I want you to bring my log chain⁸ and neck youk make a box long enough to put my forks in with out cuting the stails tel papy and ma to keep up good courige for I am a making money and I shal come up there to see them next fall if a live and well I made up my mind to come up there next but Nan rather stay here She likes it beter than She dose there if herr foulkes was only some of them here now

I dont see eny thing to hinder Susan⁹ from coming down with you if E dont come home and if he dose tel Mother C to come with you and spend the winter with [u]s we will give her a big apple to eate and a glass of cider and I should like to have papy here to drink cider with us this winter

now Jake do up business the best you can if papy dont want the place sombod must have it it must not lay idel now Jak turn all my p[a]rt to Bromly if you can and pay him except what bags there is send them ful of wheat it will save bying flour [o] I wish you was all here now Jak you and [I] would make a hundred dollars this fall well come just as quick as you can

now remember and send the drag [teth] and hinges put them in the box and pich forks and chain and neck youk: and ax ho plo[u] and waggon bob sled shoes and all other couterments leave with pap untill I come up there the sooner you get here the beter

now you will see that this leter is wrote ass end fore most but you keep your eye¹⁰ peald and you will see that mine all hanges to gether only Nan has got a page tucked in betwene thats all you can tel her writing from my crow trakes so I guess you will find it out

Robert Scots father is dead I dont know as I have eny more to write and I guess you will think I have wrote enough what say Mothe bub and sis¹¹ has got a notion runing a way over to hiram's¹² cretia now you talk ratienal when you say you are coming here after you[r] man

So good by write emediatly Thomas C Brown¹³

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Dear friends

it is with pleasure I set down to write a few miserable lines to you.

well mothe we have got a good fire place to comfort our freezing feet this winter and tomas has got a great mess of roots to make a light it saves candles a great deal if you come here we will take pleasure in siting by it we will have the stove in to the we can keepe from freezing i guess.

well cretia hurry and get ready make the old rubbers fly you must get a word to Ed to set up with you so you can keep a wake be careful and not tare your dress oh cretia i feel so mad at di[l]la if i ever can get hold of her i will tare her dress here i thought there would be nothing to hinder her coming only think of it what a shame it is. whats done cant be helped but it is to bad to disapoint me so well i will leave the subject beter luck next time. I cant wait till some of you come you and your¹⁴ mother must come anyhow you tell susan if E dont come she can come or if he does come tell Mother she can come now cretia get one of them to come now it is to bad if they dont. here this miserable poor lettle runt. 10 thousand around me poor [soul] all alone.

well mother they all want to see you miss springer¹⁵ in particular I expect Miss aunt Rhody and Miss ant hannah slater¹⁶ and Laura and her Mother here next wea[k] I have got a quilt on and a going to quilt it my self and have got to more cretia you hurry and come and I will have a quilting oh dear I think dill had better come down her not but what [Jeff] is good enough for her but I never was thinking of such a thing now days any way

well I have made bub [a c]ap to day he says min nin nin they are very well indeed. well good night the bell has rung for nine

Well what on arth shall I say now. hurah boy[d] well Isac is on the canal his health is better than it was when he was here. [wel] Jake tom haint told you all yet he wants his ½ bushel. you must be shure and not bring any wisconsin mony here for it will not go here we will send that 2 dolars that Lucretia sent to Ike.

well mother you and susan get what things belongs to you you may keepe them old tin things and and tin tepot her peper box and I want the dishes put in so any of them wont brake because I shall be choice of them to remember aunt [sus]an¹⁷ by I need my towels very much.

tell Jane¹⁸ I have made a cap for bub and it is a geting to small him and she may have it tell her i have got the bonet yet sis and bub and hellen and Roxys¹⁹ baby out growed it she has got one of the best young ons that there is in this quarter and mother and cretia if you dont say albert is one of the boys you will be mistaken he is a dreadful roage he wears briches and she came up here and put some white ones on and he wet on em and then roled over in the road and he made [all] laugh

well Jake carl²⁰ lives to george and dresses like a [l]ady she wrote a chapter in the bible [i forgot] what psalm it was but is a going to put it in the office for bill Brown.²¹ well Jak if you are maried or a going to be you ~~shall~~ will shurely have a wife

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cretia you an mother hurry and come we have ripe Aples now the grass hoper[s] are a eating our corn up they never was seen so thick as they are now they trim [ev]ry thing the [po]taters tops and elders every leaf off [a]most.

well now what to say but a well composed letter tell Jane to write to me now if you all will do as well as we have I am shure you cant better it much

N Brown

Hebron Jan the 16th 1854²²

Beloved Mother Sisters and brothers

it is through the mercys of an all wise redeamer that I am blessed with an oportunity of once more writing a few lines to you and to say we that yet survive the pail nations of the dead are in good health and hope this dul [w]jay of communication will find you injoying the saim blessing

well George I recieved your letter December the 18th and was glad to here that your family was well and to here that Mother was on the gain

o Mother it does not seame as though we could do with out your com[pney] untill springe all though time flies so fast it seames as though were you and cretia and Ike here it would parshly make up our loss²³ but as for cretia and Ike I know but little a bout them you wrote about them nuthing and they write nuthing about them selves they seam to have forgotten me though they are ever preasent with me in thought.

I keep Ike[s] old cap hung up over the south window and C[re]tias old wolin dress and Mothers red scirt hung up stairs where we can look at them and it is a greate consolation to look at them I havevent heard from cretia since hank Waid got here he braught me aletter from her she lashed me of prety harde for not writing to her but I have writen two to one since I got home she and Ike and Gust²⁴ and Johney²⁵ wrote me a good longe compeny leter when they was in Oswego and I got rite down and answered it and it seames they never got it I directed it Capt F [A]²⁶Stewart

now one and all when I write a letter it includes all all of you though it is directed to but one now when you all of you get to gether and write a good longe letter all write and there will be but little for each to write now I have delaid writing just to show you how I feal when [~~whe~~] I am alooking anxious and runing 3 or 4 times a week to the office for a letter

now Ike I want to say a word to you that if you heed it. it will do you good now be prudent and saving and lay up all the chink you can and preserve your health better spende your time in the capacity of a little prayer meating then to spend your money in paing the fidler and come home in the springe as earley as you can and we will by the Mug lot to gether and if times keepe as good as they are now we can pay for it with two croses after we get it broke up then Ike we can keepe our selves in tobacco of the best kind and not fret and then I want Geo to come and by the Mike Ahle lot and then it seames as though we mite have a paridice below all most

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now Geo I will discrib this lot to you There is [~~40-20~~] 120 acres 40 acres under the plough and a good fence on 3 sides of it so by building 80 rodes of fence you have 40 acres the plough field inclosed and it is a good farm a plenty of good wauter on it and one handsom little grove of timber it is good for grain and stock there is a plenty of good [farm] lnd as ever the sun shone on and a plenty of good meddow and pasture land and lays on a prety good road the Geneva road Mother you can tel him abut it they [th]ave got a good road betwene Judsons²⁷ and this lot and Sper[y]s²⁸ woodes is laid out into 5 acre lots so[w] you can get good timber within a mild I beleve the price of this lot is 700 dollar

now I suppose you would like to here a bout the weather we have averey pleasent fall and winter so far dry plesent and sun shiney but averey few days that has been uncomfotable cold I husked my corn on the hi[h] 6 acres in december good time to I hade and what I²⁹ cut up I haveen husked yet but to day is rather harey it snowes and blows like fun it lookes a little as though I would get a chance to draw a load or 2 of wood on my old sled

Well I have paid a little over 250 dollars in cash since I got home and yet I have a little more to pay I havent been a sleepe much of the time I havent sold eny grain yet save 20 bushel ears of corn I got 28 cts for 3 half bushels of ears I made up my mind I shouldent sell eny more at that rate I rased five hundred bushel corn and I am a g[o]ing 50 cts per bushel for it it will bringe it before anouther harvest

I have no newes to write when I get I will try and help you a little well George I have hade a prety hard row since I have got home a paing for ded oxon dont set a fellow a head [much] with all my bad luck and sickness I coulde get my threshing dun to send you eny wheat it was not becaus I dident wanto by no means now goerg looke at it carful and then you wount feel harde I come home peneyless what could I do well I dun the best I could and who could do better

well now George to save trouble and trasportation just pack up in the spring and come rite along and I will garentee that you first years living shanht cost you a farthing O George your letter that you wrote dated Sept the 4th dun me the most good of all the leters you ever sent and that one word next spring [tis] coming I have the old letter before me now it lookes like the gentle dove that braught glad tidings from afar now write as soon as you get this and let me know as soon as you can so I can make calculations and keep a good supply of the main stafe of life now answer this letter emediatly if you never do another you know it dont take you long when you get nicely at it you shuve the old quill with such rapidity let it Slide

wheate springe was worth last weeake to the lake one dollar 7 cts per bushel winter 1 dollar 15 cts pork acording to quality from \$3.50 to \$5 per hundred

I got a little of my time in dating this letter today is the 13³⁰

¹This letter was closely written in ink, now brown, on thick, cream-colored, faintly lined paper. The paper has a vertical fold to produce, with front and back of each leaf, four pages, each about 7 3/4 by 10 1/2 inches. Nancy wrote her letter on the third page; Thomas filled the other three pages. The letter then continues on another, unattached sheet the size of the other pages. Thomas filled one side and Nancy, the other.

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²Thomas and Nancy wrote from Mexico, Oswego County, New York, to family members located, most likely, in the Hebron, Illinois, area. Members of the family appear to have moved back and forth between Oswego County and the Linn, Wisconsin, Hebron, Illinois, area before settling for several decades in the Linn-Hebron area.

³Thomas' family of birth is given below. Material in plain style is from the family Bible, and material in italic style is from descendants of Thomas' sister, Lucretia, and her husband, Frederick Augustus Stewart. [In Thomas Brown's first letter, when he writes to Lucretia about "her man," Frederick Augustus Stewart was the man, and they were married in 1854.]

George E. Brown was married to A[f]ema Seamans on December 12, 1816, in the 21st year of his age, A[f]ema in the 18th year of her age.

George C. born January 8, 1821. *Married Roxie Stewart, sister of Frederick Augustus Stewart.*

Edmond [S. or H.] born December [18], 1824. *Died at age 21, weight-lifting.* [While he did die young, it may not have been related to weight-lifting, for the same story was applied to another young man when family stories were told and written down several generations later.]

Thomas [C.] born October [14 or 24], 1828. *Married Nancy Currier; lived in Mexico, New York, in 1852 and Hebron, Illinois, in 1854. Thomas died at St. Paul, Nebraska.* [From a letter written by Nancy in 1902 (now in the family archives), Tom and Nancy were living in Colorado Springs in 1902. Where and when they died is unknown, though Colorado seems likely. We family members who looked for their graves in Elmwood Cemetery, St. Paul, Nebraska, and the nearby area did not find them.]

Isaac and Jacob (twins) born March [20], 1831, *in New York. Jacob married Ivy Moses on October 18, 1884, at St. Paul, Nebraska. He died in 1903.*

Isaac married Belle _____. [Isaac married Isabella Elizabeth Brown on Dec. 22, 1861, in Linn, Walworth Co., WI (Edmund West, compiler, "Gene Pool Individual Records," Ancestry.com subscription database online, (Provo, UT: Ancestry.com, <<http://www.ancestry.com>>, 2000). The 1860 census provides, most likely, her family of birth (Federal Census for Linn, Walworth Co., WI, Page 432, Image 442). Isaac H. Brown and his mother were listed as Household 544, and Household 546 was the George Brown, Jr., family. He was 48, born in New York, his wife, Jamima, 38, was born in Ireland. The eldest child in the family was Isabelle, 18, born in Wisconsin. Her age and birthplace match those of Isaac's wife as listed in the 1870 census.]

Lucretia Ann born June 26, 1834, *in Clay, Oswego County, New York. Married Frederick Augustus Stewart in Pulaski, New York, March 30, 1854. Died August 4, 1920, at St. Paul, Nebraska.*

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Also in the Brown Family Bible was a clipping of an elegy published in memory of Mr. Henry Brown who died July 29, 1833. At the bottom was printed North Scituate, Glenford Village, Rhode Island, May 17, 1835. From the clipping, this additional information was available: Henry's wife was Marie, his mother was still alive, and he had a child. Henry's relationship to George E. Brown is unknown.

A Jacob Horace Brown bought land in Lot 111 in the Town of Richland, Oswego County, New York, and is listed in the Oswego County Land Records as being from Frankfort, New York. (Included in a May 14, 1979, note from researcher Beulah S. Schroeder, Oswego, New York.) According to the family, Jacob's middle initial was "O." Perhaps the "O." stood for "Oris" as in the name of Jacob Brown's nephew, Jacob Oris Stewart, son of Frederick and Lucretia. Elsewhere in informal family papers, Jacob Brown's middle name is given as "Horace."

1860 U.S. pop. sch., Walworth Co., Wisconsin, Town of Linn, Post Office Geneva, National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy 653, Roll 1434, Vol. 18 (1 - 753):Dwell. 544, Fam. 68. Isaac H. Brown, born in New York, age 29; and Aphema, born in Vermont, age 60.

⁴Spelling, capital letters, and punctuation are from each writer's own hand. However, individual letters, capitals, and punctuation were sometimes questionable. As a result, they are open to interpretation. Brackets enclose words or parts of words about which there is some question.

⁵In the 1829 Herkimer County Index of Deeds, a Welcome Phillips is listed as a grantee (from a photocopy of the manuscript page). [The Herkimer County grantee would not have been the individual mentioned in the letter. The "Welcom Phileps" of the letter would likely be the one listed in the 1850 Federal Census of Hebron, McHenry Co., IL, (page 461) in the household of Nathan W. King, near the household of Leonard Seamans (Apema's brother). Besides his wife and children, Nathan's household contained Wilcom Phillips, 23, and Charlotte Wade, 19. Most likely, Charlotte and "Wilcom" were first cousins to each other and to Lucretia Brown and her brothers. John Julian Lawton, *The Seamans Family in America*, states that among Leonard Seaman's siblings were Patience, who married a Mr. Phillips, Zilpha, who married Nathan King, and Trophena, who married a Mr. Wade. From the 1850 census, the page following that with Nathan King's listing, Mr. Wade would be Jared. Among the young people in his household was a 15-year-old Henry Wade, who might be the "hank Waid" of Thomas Brown's letter.]

⁶Most likely refers to Thomas' brother George and his wife Roxie.

1860 U.S. pop. sch., Walworth Co., Wisconsin, Town of Linn, Post Office Geneva, National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy 653, Roll 1434, Vol. 18 (1 - 753): Dwell. 535, Fam. 60. George and Roxie Brown with Albert, age 10; Frederick A., age 8; [P. Ida], age 6; and Harriet A., 9 months. Also in the household was Alzina, age 25, whose last name was written as ditto for Brown. Whether this was an error or whether she married a Brown, it seems likely that this Alzina was the daughter of John Stewart Jr. [The census taker erred in using ditto. Alzina's surname was Stewart, and she married Leonard B. Seamans, son of Leonard and Lydia (Breed) Seamans (*History of McHenry County, Illinois*, 1885, p. 721). And Jacob O. Stewart's diary demonstrates that she was most likely the aunt whose nickname was "Dine."]

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Roxie's family of birth:

John Stewart Jr. and his wife Rebecca (most likely Russell). Their children: [Rebecca Russell confirmed as John's wife (James Russell Stewart Family Bible owned by G.A. Stewart III).]

Chauncey, 1819-1909; married Mary Ann Southworth on December 18, 1850, in Mexico, New York.

Frederick Augustus, 1827-1903, born in Frankfort, New York, married Lucretia Ann Brown in Pulaski, New York, on March 30, 1854; moved to Wisconsin in 1854, years later to Rock Island County, Illinois, and in 1881 to Howard County, Nebraska.

Roxie, married George Brown, brother of Frederick Stewart's wife, Lucretia Ann Brown.

Liddy (See Endnote 12 for, probably, this Liddy Stewart.) [Liddy Stewart's family of origin is unknown; she is not listed among the children in the JRS Family Bible.]

Jane (But see Endnote 18; Jane may have been a Currier rather than a Stewart.) [Jane, indeed, was a Currier, not a Stewart (*History of McHenry County, Illinois*, 1885, p. 721).]

Dine married Len _____ and/or Zeke _____ [Dine, a nickname for Alzina, most likely. She married Leonard Seamans (*History of McHenry County, Illinois*, 1885, p. 721).]

The above information on Roxie's siblings and their mother's maiden name is from the descendants of F.A Stewart and Lucretia Brown Stewart. The family felt there may have been other children in addition to these six, and the family did not know the given names of the children's parents.

Censuses provided more information: [and the JRS Family Bible listed the parents and additional children: Lorenzo Dow, James, Hiltie (about whom we know nothing), Sylvia, Caroline, and Sally. The family data in the Bible, some of it, was added after events had taken place, for the events occurred before the publishing date of the Bible. The last three daughters listed above had their married surnames recorded, but not the husbands' given names.

Caroline Stewart Boothe (sic) may have married Isaac Booth based on the 1855 State Census for Richland, Oswego Co., NY, which listed a young Isaac with wife Caroline, whose age in the census correlates with Caroline Stewart's birth entry in the JRS Family Bible.

Sally Stewart Hungerford's husband was no doubt Levi Hungerford. A search at Thomas M. Triniski's Old Fulton NY Post Cards site revealed the obituary of Levi Hungerford, with family information that included his marriage to a Sally Stewart (*The Mexico Independent*, no date on the page. File: Newspaper Mexico Independant (sic) 1892-1894, PDF No. 250). I had been searching for Lucius Hungerford, one of the executors of the last will and testament of Hiram Pond (see below), and had found his name in his father's obituary. The identity of Levi as husband of this Sally Stewart is strengthened by the obituary's placing his son Lucius in St. Paul, Nebraska, in 1893, the town near where Sally's brother Frederick Augustus Stewart had settled about a decade earlier.]

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Sylvia Stewart Southworth's husband has not been determined. Joel Southworth seems like a possibility, but family trees on the Web have his wife as Sylvia Barnes, and she had different birth and death dates than Sylvia Stewart's. However, an intriguing puzzle remains. In the 1850 census for Fulton, Oswego Co., NY, Family 1048, the older of Joel and Sylvia's children was Frederick, age five. In the 1855 census, Frederick H. Southworth, age 11, was in the household of Amos Hungerford in Palermo, Oswego Co., NY, Family 24, where he had been for three months, and a Joel Southworth was in Fulton City, Volney, Oswego Co., NY, Family 565, with wife Frances A. and a one-year-old, Charles W. Southworth. Sylvia (Stewart) Southworth is recorded in the JRS Family Bible as having died four years later, in 1859. Joel Southworth's relationship, if any, to Mary Ann Southworth, wife of Chauncey Stewart, is unknown. It would seem that Frederick Southworth was at Amos Hungerford's residence because Frederick had a connection to the Hungerfords through their Stewart cousins, either through Mary Ann (Southworth) Stewart's possible relationship to Joel Southworth or through Frederick's mother being Sylvia Stewart. Amos Hungerford's mother, Sally (Stewart) Hungerford, and Sylvia (Stewart) Southworth's father, John Stewart, were siblings (Amos' parents from L. Schlater, Hungerford Family Group Records and Pedigree Charts, annotated prints Jan. 31, 1999, Ames, IA). But though these two possibilities occur to me, perhaps there is some other explanation for Frederick's presence in the Hungerford household.]

1850 U.S. census, pop. sch., Oswego County, New York, Town of Richland, National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy 432, Roll 578: Dwell. 178, Fam. 178. John, age 63, and Rebecca Stewart, age 56, with Chauncey, age 31, Caroline, age 21; James, age 18; and Alsina, age 16.

Town of Richland 1855 Census, p. 89; data was included in a March 24, 1979, letter from researcher Beulah S. Schroeder, Oswego, New York, who transcribed John's age as 62 in 1855. On the basis of the 1850 and 1860 censuses, the 1855 census, or her transcription of it, appears to be wrong. This source also listed John Jr. as Chauncey's father, but does not mention Rebecca.

From a Sept. 12, 1991, letter by Terry M. Prior, Oswego County Historical Society, Oswego, New York, comes the following information. Buried in the South Richland (Willis) Cemetery is Rebecca, wife of John Stewart, died June 9, 1852, aged 57 years, 7 months, and 19 days.

1860 U.S. pop. sch., Walworth Co., Wisconsin, Town of Linn, Post Office Geneva, National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy 653, Roll 1434, Vol. 18 (1 - 753): Dwell. 534, Fam. 59. Chauncey and Mary Ann Stewart with children and with John Stewart, born in Connecticut, age 74; also with James R. Stewart, age 28, born in New York. Also in this household were listed these P[earce]s: John, age 27; Ellen, age 28; and Lyman, age 24.

1870 U.S. census, pop. sch., Walworth County, Wisconsin, Town of Bloomfield, National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy 593, Roll 1741, Vol 24 (1 - 342A): Dwell. 37, Fam. 37. Chauncey Stewart's household. John Jr. was no longer with them. Perhaps his grave is in the Hebron cemetery, the John Stewart who died November 6, 1869, at the age of 82 years and 5 months, a veteran of the War of 1812. Buried next to this John Stewart are members of the Hyde family, including David Hyde, apparently another veteran of the War of 1812 (Obenchain, Elaine

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and McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society, McHENRY COUNTY ILLINOIS CEMETERIES, Vol. I, Northwest Townships, published by the Society, 1990: 217).

⁷In the 1860 census for McHenry County, Illinois, a Newton Hyde family was listed immediately following the F.A. Stewart household (McHENRY COUNTY ILLINOIS 1860 FEDERAL CENSUS, published by the McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society, 1986: 130). The same source, page 129, lists the Zenas Pease household as the second entry before F.A Stewart. Names and ages of Zenas and Emma suggest that they are the Zenos Purce (Pierce) and wife Emma listed in Obenchain, Vol. I, page 213. Zenos, from his cemetery data, was another veteran of the War of 1812.

See Endnote 6 for John and Ellen Pierce in the Chauncey Stewart household. The following cemetery data suggest that the Ellen Hide mentioned in this letter married John Pierce rather than Jacob Brown: Pierce, John 1833-12/3/1884; Pierce, Ellen Hyde 1832-1922 (Obenchain, Vol. I: 213).

⁸Thomas, instead of writing "chain," drew a series of connected circles with a hook at the end.

⁹1860 U.S. pop. sch., Walworth Co., Wisconsin, Town of Linn, Post Office Geneva, National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy 653, Roll 1434, Vol. 18 (1 - 753): Dwell. 562, Fam. 86. Ezekial Hopkins, age 40, and Susan, age 36, with Esther, age 16, and [Rinalds], age 12. Zeke and Susan are buried in the Elmwood Cemetery, St. Paul, Nebraska, and Zeke's obituary (n.d. and source not recorded, but from the local St. Paul press) stated that Susan's maiden name was Currier. Family memory holds that she was Nancy Currier Brown's sister. [The 1885 McHenry County, Illinois History, p. 721, also provides this fact and states that another sister, Phidelia, married Thomas J. Seamans, whom Nancy wrote about in the 1852 letter as Dill and Jeff.]

An Ezekial Hopkins, Revolutionary War veteran, died in 1842, and his pension record states that he was born in Scituate, Rhode Island (White, Virgil D., GENEALOGICAL ABSTRACTS OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION FILES, The National Historical Publishing Co., Waynesboro, Tennessee, 1992: 1702). It is but speculation that the Zeke who married Susan Currier was a descendant, but note that the veteran was born in Scituate, Rhode Island, and that North Scituate was the location printed after the elegy for Henry Brown. [For this Ezekiel Hopkins, see Find A Grave Memorial No. 21147699. For the Ezekiel who married Susan Currier, see the "Eaton" section in appendix.]

¹⁰Thomas, rather than writing "eye," drew an eye (circle with a dot in the center).

¹¹Thomas apparently referred to his children as bub and sis. His sister, Lucretia Brown Stewart, used the same terms when writing about her children in notes she wrote on a calendar in 1861. From cemetery records, these are most likely the children: Brown, Sarah A., d/o Thos. & Nancy 10/12/53 4y; Brown, George W. s/o Thos. & Nancy 10/10/53 2y (Obenchain, Vol. I: 236).

¹²1850 U.S. census, pop. sch., Oswego County, New York, Town of Richland, National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy 432, Roll 578: Dwell. 544, Fam. 544. Hiram Brown, born in New York, age 42, and Pallis, age 39. Among the other individuals in the household was Lydia

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Stewart, age 15. [Lydia Stewart's family of origin remains unknown. "Hiram" might instead refer to Hiram Pond, whose wife was Philinda Brown, daughter of Hosanna, or to Hiram Allen (see below).]

¹³Thomas' closing and signature were written upside down in the top margin of his last page.

¹⁴This word looks like "your," but the loop of the "y" appears to be crossed out.

¹⁵The loop of the "g" appears to be crossed out. Among the Springers in the Richland 1850 census were Vincent and Lucy Springer, who were listed in the census close to the John Stewart household (1850 U.S. census, pop. sch., Oswego County, New York, Town of Richland, National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy 432, Roll 578: Dwell. 171, Fam. 171).

¹⁶1850 U.S. census, pop. sch., Oswego County, New York, Town of Richland, National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy 432, Roll 578: Dwell. 170, Fam. 170. Hannah Slater, age 51 or 56, in a household with Albert Slater, age 28, and William Slater, age 22. As suggested by Hannah's age and her birth in Rhode Island, like the Brown's below, was she a sister to George Brown Sr.? [Aunt Hannah was most likely Hannah (Merrithew) Slater, wife of Elisha Slater (Rev. Edmund A. Slafter, *Memorial of John Slafter*) and Elisha's mother was a Hopkins descendant and cousin of the Brown siblings' mother, Apema Seamans Brown. From Slafter's *Memorial*, Rhoda Hopkins, wife of Elisha Slater's brother Daniel, is probably the "Aunt Rhody" of this letter. Laura might be Laura Smith, wife of Abner C. Seamans, who was the son of Isaac, Apema's brother. (*The Seamans Family in America*).]

Because the 1835 elegy for Henry Brown, included as a clipping in the Brown family Bible, gave a location, North Sitate, Glenford Village, Rhode Island, where presumably the elegy was composed, it seems likely that the Browns came to New York from Rhode Island. The following Browns, all born in Rhode Island and close in age, are likely relatives:

[1850 Federal Census, Richland, Oswego Co, NY; Roll 578, Book 1; Page 237a.]

Dwell. 228, Fam. 228. Stephen Brown, age 54 or 57, and Laura, age 56.

Dwell. 233. Fam. 233. James Brown, age 59, and Lydia, age 56.

(Dwell. 234, Fam. 234, was the household of George Brown and Roxie Stewart Brown, of the younger generation.)

Dwell. 236, Fam. 236. Ho[sanna] Brown, age 56, and Clarissa, age 51 or 57.

¹⁷1850 U.S. census, pop. sch., Oswego County, New York, Town of Richland, National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy 432, Roll 578: Dwell. 169, Fam. 169. Jacob Ru[s]sell, age 63, from (Maine?) and Susan, age 62, with young Charles and Lydia.

Descendants wondered if F.A. and Chauncey Stewart had an Aunt Susan. The 1855 Richland census, p. 89 (data included in a March 24, 1979, letter from researcher Beulah S. Schroeder, Oswego, New York) indicated that Jacob and Susan had been in town for 22 years, which was,

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from the same census, about the same length of time that John Stewart Jr. had been there. However, Nancy Brown's reference here suggests an Aunt Susan on the Brown or Currier side of the family. [No relationship to Jacob and Susan Russell has been established and no clues have surfaced to suggest one.]

¹⁸Chauncey and Mary Ann's son Chauncey (Chant) Stewart wrote in an undated letter, probably mid-1950's to mid-1960's, from Parkside Homes, Grand Island, Nebraska, to Mary Evelyn (Eva) Stewart Kiechel, granddaughter of F.A. and Lucretia, that the Jane who married George Seaman was F.A. and Chauncey's sister. However, cemetery data suggest otherwise: Seaman, George W. father 1824-1923; Seaman, Jane Currier w/o Geo. W. mother 1832-1914 RNA; followed by six younger Seamans (Obenchain, Vol. I: 236).

Might Jane have married George Seaman as a widow, Jane Stewart Currier? Eva Stewart Kiechel's father, Jacob Oris Stewart, kept a diary from 1876 through 1880, and he, too, referred to Uncle George Seaman and Aunt Jane. (He also referred to Zeke Hopkins as "uncle.") [This speculation was of no merit. Jane Currier married George Seaman, and her sister Susan married Ezekiel Hopkins (*History of McHenry County, Illinois*, 1885, p. 721).]

¹⁹Family memory holds that George and Roxie had nine children, but only one of them survived to reach adulthood. [Roxie's obituary has Albert Brown as her one surviving child (*The Mexico Independent*, in Thomas M. Triniski's Old Fulton NY Post Cards site, Newspaper Mexico Independant (sic) 1906-1907, PDF No. 170).]

²⁰Caroline Stewart? Living with George and Roxie would have been appropriate for a sister of Roxie's.

²¹The 1850 U.S. census, pop. sch., Oswego County, New York, Town of Richland, National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy 432, Roll 578: Both Hiram and Stephen Brown had young Williams in their households. No doubt the Bill Brown mentioned in the letter was a cousin. Hiram's William was listed as a cordwinder, age 15. Stephen's William was 23 years old.

²²This letter is a sheet of blue paper folded like the preceding letter to make four pages about 8 by 10 inches. The ink is now dark brown. The letter is not signed, but the handwriting matches that of Thomas in the preceding letter.

²³See Endnote 10 for the loss of Thomas and Nancy's two children in October 1853. Thomas' father, George, is not mentioned in this letter either. When and where George and Afema Brown died and are buried is unknown. [The place and date of George E. Brown's death are still unknown, but an Apema Brown, most likely our ancestor based on her unusual name and her correct age, has a record at Find A Grave, Memorial No. 18713497. Concerning her given name, more confusion exists, mostly on my part, than there should have been. In the Brown Family Bible, the name was written twice, both times as "Apema" with just a "p." In my transcription, I had written "(f?)" above the "p" in its first occurrence because that is what I expected to see, for the family remembered a "Phemie," and Mother had taken notes from the first Marriage Record Book of Howard County, Nebraska, page 176, recording that Jacob O. Brown's mother was "Efemie Simmans." Her name was spelled several ways in censuses, though not as "Apema." However, the

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gravestone, very likely hers, has "Apema," so whatever her nickname was, the Bible's spelling supported by the gravestone leaves no doubt about her name.]

²⁴Frederick Augustus Stewart, who married Lucretia Brown in 1854.

²⁵Perhaps refers to Gust's father, John Stewart. See Endnote 6 for John Stewart Jr.

²⁶Careful comparison of Thomas' "A's" leads to the conclusion that this is "F.A." rather than "Fct.," as some descendants reading the letter thought might be the case. Why F.A. Stewart would have been addressed as "Capt." is unknown.

²⁷The 1860 U.S. pop. sch., Walworth Co., Wisconsin, National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy 653, Roll 1434, Vol. 18 (1 - 753) shows a John Judson household, Dwell. 536, Fam. 61, next to George and Roxie Brown in the Town of Linn.

²⁸Sperys Woodes? Or Spergs Woodes?

²⁹ Thomas, rather than writing "I," drew an eye (a circle with a dot in the middle).

³⁰ This line was written at the top of the third page of Thomas' four-page letter.

Transcript and notes finished July 21, 1998, by Dorinda Partsch.

Reformatted in Microsoft Word, Dorinda Partsch, September 1999.

New notes (in blue) and the following appendix, 2013.

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APPENDIX

MAY 5, 2013

I have left the transcription and notes above as they were in 1999 except to divide the text into paragraphs for easier reading and to add, in blue, some additional notes and corrections.

In addition to the notes in this document, information on the Stewart and Currier families, as well as a report on the descendants of the Ezekiel Hopkins who was the ancestor of many whose names appear in these pages, can be found in the appendices of my transcription of Jacob O. Stewart's diary, available as a PDF from my Website:

freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~partsch/. The diary's footnotes and appendices, however, are not up to date. In terms of up-to-date information, this appendix and the notes above in blue supersede the diary in instances where new information was available. Please note that I've used sources of varying quality, the least satisfactory of them being no more than undocumented Web sites. I welcome questions, comments, and corrections on all content herein, and at your request, I can provide more detailed citations than I used in this document.

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One item from Jacob's diary can be updated here, and that is Jacob's referring to a Charles Allen. I had speculated that Charles might be a cousin, a descendant of Ebenezer and Huldah (Stewart) Allen. Support for this idea can be found in the 1860 Federal Census for Schroepel, Oswego, New York, Page 264A, Household 168. Hulda (sic) Allen, age 85, was in the household of Hiram Allen, and the household also contained a 17-year-old Charles Allen.

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A NEW DIRECTION IN THE SEARCH FOR GEORGE E. BROWN'S ANCESTORS

I have long searched for the ancestors of George E. Brown. New information suggests that he might be a grandson of Isaiah and Margaret (Herlihy) Brown of Killingly, CT, which borders Foster, RI. George E. Brown kept an elegy in his Bible, a memorial to Henry Brown who is buried in the Brown Lot, No. FR001, on Jerimoth Hill, Foster, RI. Most of the graves in this small cemetery are for Browns; probably all the interred were related. Several family trees at Ancestry.com give the parents of Jerimoth Brown, who is buried there, as Isaiah and Margaret (Herlihy) Brown of Killingly. It seems likely that George E. Brown could be the son of the eldest man interred in the cemetery, John Brown, because John was of an appropriate age, and John's first wife was named Lucretia. John and Jerimoth were likely brothers.

Based on his age and his uncommon name, the Hosanna Brown who is listed in the 1850 census in Richland, Oswego Co., NY, is likely the one listed in the 1820 census for Locke, Cuyahoga Co., NY, Page 146. Listed above Hosanna with just one name between them is a Patrick Brown, and below Hosanna, the next name is Nehemiah Phillips. "Virtual Cemetery info" at Nehemiah Phillips' grave record, Find A Grave Memorial No. 50994531, gives Nehemiah's wife as Phoebe Rhoba Hopkins. A public tree at Ancestry.com, "Gail Remington Family Tree," gives Phoebe

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Rhoba as daughter of Stephen Hopkins (who would be a grandson of the Ezekiel Hopkins who died in 1762) and Lydia Brown. Stephen and Lydia Hopkins' marriage is documented in the RI Vital Records, Foster, RI, 1762, where Stephen is recorded as “of Nicholas, of Foster,” and Lydia is recorded as the daughter of Isiah (sic) Brown of Killingly, CT.

So I think that this couple, Isaiah and Margaret, and/or brothers or cousins of Isaiah, are likely candidates for parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents of the associated Brown families who originated in Rhode Island and lived in Richland, NY, in the middle of the 19th century, as demonstrated by George E. Brown's association with one of the interred in the cemetery where Isaiah's children and grandchildren are buried and by Hosanna's being listed next to a granddaughter of Isaiah in the 1820 census. Because Isaiah Brown had descendants named Hopkins and born to Hopkins cousins of Apema, she had cousins of Brown descent. Likewise, George E. Brown, if descended from Isaiah, would have had the same Hopkins cousins.

This newspaper notice shows the association of several descendants of Isaiah and Margaret Brown and several Hopkins, likely cousins of Apema (Seamans) Brown:

Providence Patriot; April 11, 1821; Volume: 3; Issue: 29; Page: [3]; Providence, Rhode Island; a notice about a deceased Zebedee Hopkins' lands to be auctioned (See Find a Grave Memorial No. 21161363. Though he died more than twenty years before, his sale may have been held later because his widow survived until 1828. This grave record, however, could instead be for another Zebedee Hopkins.) He had various parcels, and their descriptions included the names of neighboring landowners. A parcel in Foster was bordered by parcels belonging to Peleg Williams, Simon Hopkins (see Find A Grave No. 21147715 for Olive Brown Hopkins, who, according to “Virtual Cemetery info” on this record, was the daughter of Isaiah and Peggy Hurley Brown, and who had a son Simon, likely this Simon), Richard Steere, **Jerimoth Brown**, and William Burges. A parcel in Scituate was bounded on the north by **Henry Brown** and Job Steere. Administrators whose names appeared at the bottom of the auction notice were Mary Hopkins, Samuel Steere, and Oliver Cornell.

George C. Brown, son of George E. and Apema, was one of the executors of the will of Hiram Pond (whose wife was Philinda Brown, daughter of Hosanna; see Find A Grave Memorial No. 16476913 for her record) in 1877 in Oswego Co., NY:

County Court - County of Oswego - Edward Ha[lse]y, executor of the last will and testament of [Mal[th]y Hal[se]y, [deceased], plaintiff, ag[st] Lucius Hungerford, Delia Hungerford, George C. Brown, Roxana Brown, William Knight, Jacob Ackerman, James A. Skinner, Jacob Cr[ouse], John J. Cr[ouse], Daniel Cro[us]e, Cortland Hu[sted], and William J. Menter and Daniel Pond as executors of the last will and testament of Hiram Pond, deceased, defendants...[Land in the town of Parish to be auctioned; its description.] Dated [Ma 3_], 1877.

Perhaps further research can determine whether this theory is correct, i.e. whether George E. Brown, indeed, belonged to the Isaiah Brown family and what his relationship was to the associated Browns in Richland, NY.

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## BROWN FAMILY LETTERS

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### EVENTS IN EATON, MADISON CO., NEW YORK

According to his obituary (undated clipping, published in a paper of the St. Paul, Howard Co., NE, locality, probably the *Republican*, with his death in 1893), the Ezekiel Hopkins who married Susan Currier was born in Eaton, NY, in 1818. Possible parents, buried in Eaton and of the right ages, would be descendants of the Ezekiel Hopkins who died in 1762, William Hopkins (RI Vital Records, born to Nicholas and Martha) and his wife Patience (Find A Grave Memorial No. 41015815). In the 1830 census, Eaton, Madison Co. NY, Page 251, William Hopkins' household included a male in the age category of 10-14, so William's household gains a point in possibility for Ezekiel's family.

William and Stephen Hopkins, who married Lydia Brown, daughter of Isaiah, were brothers. George E. Brown and Apema Seamans were married on Dec. 12, 1816, most likely in Eaton, and I had wondered how George E. Brown would happen to be in Eaton with no familiar Browns in the area. Seamans (as "Simmons," 1820 Census, Roll 73, Book 1, p. 61) and Hopkins families were there, including William Hopkins (1820 Census, Roll 73, Book 1, p. 62), who would be a brother-in-law of Lydia (Brown) Hopkins, so George E. Brown, if descended from Isaiah, did most likely have family connections in Eaton by 1816.

Apema Seamans' parents, John Seamans and Sarah Westcott, died in Eaton, he in 1838 and she in 1840 (*Seamans Family in America*). After not finding them in the census of 1830, I realized that at their ages, they might be with one of their children. They are likely to be the man and woman in the age category 70-79 in the household of their son, Isaac (1830 US Census; Eaton, Madison, New York; Page 251). Their place of burial is unknown. It seems likely that they would have been buried in the Old West Eaton Cemetery with relatives, but, if so, no gravestones remain. Gravestones potentially would have answered questions by providing more exact ages at death for John and Sarah. Sarah's age, in particular, would perhaps help identify her parents. She is currently identified by online sources referring to Edna J. Lewis' *The Westcott Family Tree*, as the daughter of George Westcott and Elizabeth Braley. But Elizabeth Braley is assigned a birth year of 1697, which would make her more than 50 years old (53, at minimum, based on Sarah's age bracket, 70-79, in the census) when Sarah was born. Unlike the question of George E. Brown's ancestry, where puzzle pieces seem to be falling into place tidily, Sarah's parentage is a puzzle with the only pieces, so far, failing to fit.

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