

1850

Jamacia Queens County Longisland Aug 18

Dear niece I embrace this opportunity of writing a few lines to let you know that I am well at present hoping this will find you and all the rest the same, I received your letter in about ten days after it was wrote and I am ashamed to think that I have waited so long to answer it, I hope you will excuse me for being so slow about it I donot want you to patten after me I would like to hear from you often if I cannot see you, we have had a letter from your mother dated July the seventh which is the last we have heard from them they were all well then, she wrote that they expected to go west this fall, now I will tell you about my visit here I came here the 24 of may and have been here ever since, I cannot tell you much about the place as I have not seen but a small part of it, it is a by. place here but quite pleasant I have been twice to the beach the 6 and 8 of August, the sixth I went with a party of young folks we started early in the morning the party met at a public house and left their teams there and went several miles with a boat, we took victuals along and had our dinner and tea there we went to a house on the beach where they boiled the kettles for our tea and coffee and found the dishes to eat on, after dinner we went to the surf, there was three or four ladies went in the water and several gentlemen, the sea was very calm but we could not see much but water except a few vessels at a distance, the 8 of August I went with old folks there was ninetion of us children and all, then we took our dinner and tea out doors we had cold coffee for tea and dinner, we went a clamming that day I caught six if for my part the rest got more, you wanted me to eat some straw-berries for you I have not ate but verry few william did not raise any this year, I have writtin to Doughkepsie the second of July and enquired where our friends lived in mechigan but have received no answer so I cannot tell you where they live neither where mr Pearin lives I will try to find out and let you know, I think I will write soon after I go home, I had a letter from sarah I Jones dated 17 July 20th she was home then her mother had been sick a few days but was well then Stephen had been bit badly in the face with their dog so they had to have a doctor but I have not heard from him since

MAILED
AUG 21
N.Y.

Mrs
Margaret A Gale
Delta
Eaton County Michigan

Sarah I's time was out the second of July she has boarded to Timothy's this summer they were all well when we heard last, Coby Lons place is for sale it is in Carl Vanderbolts hands for sale Carl is guardian for Sarah I and Stephen, William and Rebecca went to New York yesterday to see about that dowery Mrs. Schol payed them eight hundred dollars wick is not all we expect there will be something like eleven hundred the surrogate advised them to put it in the bank till it was all paid so they put it in the Long Island bank in the City of Brooklyn, when ever it is all paid the heirs ^{can} have their money whenever they call for it as it cannot be sent to them, the property had to be administered on before we could get it, William and Rebecca had to get a letter of administration from the surrogate in Poughkeepsie and give ~~the~~ shuerty for double the amount the property, if Mother had been living we should not been to all this trouble it could have been paid to her without administration as it was willed to her, this is all I can tell you about it at present I ^{wanted} to hear about this or I should have written before I wanted to tell you all I could, when you write to Long Island William wants to know the average price of land and about the water so please give him a little description of your country, Mrs. Compton sends a great deal love to you and says she hopes you are doing well for your self in this world and that world wick is to come and George likewise, I cannot tell you much about our Dutchess County friends as I have not seen any of them since last May, now I will tell you a little about our flowers we have a nice little flower bed we have nothing new but what we have looks very nice my flowers I fetched from Connecticut lived and was in bloom when I left home,

Tuesday Aug: 20 As I have nothing of consequence to write I will now finish my letter, give my best respects to George and Mrs. Gale and family tell them I hope they are all well pleased with their new home and doing well, and you among the rest, I heard that you had caught a hedge hog and that there was plenty of game out there but I think it to far for me to come so you must not look for me, I would like to come and see you all and see the place where you live, write as of ten as you can, I expect to go home before long but have no time set, Now I will close by bidding you farewee, Ann Hicks

Dear niece I will now write a few lines to let you know how I do, I am well except a sore hand, I have a boil on one of my fingers, I can only work with one hand, and that is not very smart, I have not much news, as Ann has wrote the particulars, we have got so far apart that we cannot see each other so we must write as often as we can, when you write you must write all the news you can, tell how far you go to market and the name of the place and the price of produce, tell us the soil of your land, and the face of your country, and how far you live from the lake where you crest, you said you had some turnips growing from the seed that John fetched from here, the time for sowing that kind of seed is the last of July and then you will have them for winter, I thought I would tell you how they do here and then you can do as you like, now if you can ^{find} Jane Roschouse or any of the rest of the friends, you must get together and write a smashing big letter, and if there is any thing that I have not asked you must tell it without asking for, so I can know the whole, I do not expect to come out there although I would ^{like} to come and see you, William wants to sell his place, but he thinks it to far to go to Michigan, he talks of going to Dutchess but I cannot tell where we will get yet perhaps we will stay here on the Island, if we make any change I will let you know where to come and see us, I have nothing more to write at present, so I will close with sending my love to you and your husband, and all the rest, Phibe said I must tell you that she has been to the beach, you must write soon, and then I will write again, so farewell,

this from your old Aunt, Rebecca Compton

Miss
Rebecca L. Shaw
Chapinville P.O.
Litchfield County Ct



Mrs M. A. Gale
Delta
Michigan

Handwritten scribbles and faint text, possibly a return address or additional notes.

Springfield July 14 1850

Dear Miss I take my pen in hand to inform you that we are all well we received
a letter from your mother yesterday she wrote you was waiting impatiently for a letter
which was no more than I expected so to day I thought I would write to you. the first
thing I am going to tell you is about my coming down here; I started from Caty
Janesis the twenty third of may after dinner and the next day I took dinner with
Mr & Mrs Compiton, Mr Everill came with me, we started from hampburgh ^{at} on the
after noon so we came part of the way by day light and saw many handsome sights,
I think it pleasanter traveling with the boat than with the railroad you can see so much
more, well we got to newyork sometime in the night, in the morning we took a carriage for
the south ferry and crossed over to brooklyn took breakfast in brooklyn and at nine o'clock
took the cars for Brushville and from there we came here in a waggonye got here
before twelve o'clock, I should have written before but I waited to hear about the
Deerery but I cannot tell you much yet the friends all want to hear but they must
have patience, the last we heard the property was not all sold so the business was
not settled, as soon as it is they will let you know, tell your folks not to be in
such a hurry to move to michigan as to go off without their devery or they will have
to come back for it, judge Fosdick says he will go with them to newyork when they
do their business and see that it is done right, but we donot know when that will
be, the judge told your aunt and uncle when they got the money they must
write to the heirs and they must come and get the money and give a receipt,
I cannot tell you much about the place as I have not seen much of it yet I have
not been to the beach yet but we talk of going after harvest is the time they generally
go, folks were in their harvest last week, yesterday william got his ^{share} in the
harvest and William Compiton are a couple of smart men they cut all william's
share except a few swaths in one day. besides cutting his share crop of grass and

and getting it in the barn, your mother wanted me to write when I was
coming home I don't know yet I want to go to the beach first and see something
I never have seen and then I think I will soon be ready to go home it would be
to bad to come here and go back without going to the beach, now I will tell
you a little about the weather it is very dry and windy we need rain, William has
a large patch of turnips his is going to market twice a week with them he gets from
three to four dollars a hundred bunches he can take four hundred bunches at a load
his peas are all gone, Markets are very good for vegetables this summer much better than it
was last William sold his peas from three shillings to one dollar per bushel he has
sold ninety nine dollars and seventy five cents worth of peas, Tuesday and Friday mornings
they hurry off to the field to pull a load of turnips they then trim them and wash
them for market which takes them nearly all day your aunt Beck has worked out
doors so much she is blacker than ever but never mind if she can get money
enough to buy a farm in dutches, she has got her eye on one there, Monday July 15
I will now try to finish my letter, I have not much more to say, when any of you
any of you writes to me again I want to know where William is this summer
and whether George talks I would like to see the little fellow very much I have not
had much time to write since I have been here we have been very busy sewing and
doing other things and we have not all done yet I want to get ready for a play day,
I have made two visits since I have been here, but I have not got fat yet,
Tell your mother I will write again and let her know when I am going home
as I cannot tell now I want to be there when your folks comes out, now I will
leave off and let your aunt Rebecca write a little give my best respects to all
folks and all enquiring friends, farewell,

From Ann Hicks, To Rebecca I show

Margret I received your letter and was glad to
hear from you and was glad that we had a nice time
the 4 I was home I can't write much for ~~the~~

Now here comes big black Book, I have but little to say
Ann has wrote all the news, but you said you had not heard
from me in a long time, but I have wrote last, but that makes
no difference if we only hear from each other, I want to see you all very
much, I will try to meet you at Hackensack this fall if I can, if I
don't you must come here before you go west, I think Ann might as well
stay here till she gets her money, if she does not get tired, William will
try to see Mr. Shott soon if he can, but he is not to be seen here eleven o'clock
so he will have to wait a half a day in the city, he saw his son and he told
him that the business was not settled yet, as soon as it is we will let you
know, I have received a letter from Charles Hicks, he is in Mobile City
he received Egbets letter, and one from his Father, Ann has received a
letter from Margaret A Gale since she came here and she wants to know
about the dowery and wants an answer right away,
I have nothing more to write at present, when we write again we will ^{give} you the
particulars, and when we will meet you at Hackensack,

This is the parchment Rebecca Compton
Net Mrs Buce gave to Mrs Gale

James is wotin for me

Springfield May 18th 1851

Dear friends I now sit down to write a few lines to answer your letter, and let you know that we are all well but the horse he is quite lame, I hope he will soon get over it, if he is lame as long as you have been sick in Michigan I would not give one dollar for him, when he is well we ask one hundred ^{and twenty five} for him you wrote you was making fine shirts for one dollar a piece, I am making some for three shillings a piece, now dont you think I had better come to Mich and have a dollar William think it too unhealthy there, he talks of going to Wisconsin, when he gets rich but that will not be very soon, if you stay where you are, when we go to Wis we will stop and see you, you want me to send you two ozs of snuff I dont know that I can weigh it, I will send all that I can get in the letter well, and you want to know what I charge for my services, I charge two visits, one to Mrs Dearins and one here to the Island, you must go to Mrs Dearins and tell them it is a visit for you self and me both and they must return both, if any of them are married they must write to me and tell me all about it, give my love to them, and all you see that new me, have you found Jane Rosekrance or any of the friends, I spose you have heard that John H Jones is dead, he died the 18 of March he was in Beckman teaching school he was taken with inflammation on the lungs and the pleurasy, and ended in hasty consumption he was sick three weeks, and Aunt Katy went there to take care of him, and she was taking sick but she was able to ride home when he died, after she got home she had the quinsy, she is well now, she has moved in Poughkeepsie and Aunt

... and then I can send you a large bundle or a half peck. no more at present, scarce room enough

to send my love, but that you will find in the snuff. Rebecca Compton
Ann lives with her, Seymour Hicks is very sick and perhaps
not living now. we heard from him last tuesday he was very low
then he was taken the 10 of March, I think some of the
Poughkeepsie friends will write to you soon and tell you the
particulars, Robert Cornwell died last monday they think
he took poison Mrs Diddle discharged him this spring and
he has been deranged since, Aunt Ann and Lydia Rosekrance
came to see me this spring they did not stay only three days
Ann had to be back by the first of May to see about her money
and to move, your Uncle William Hicks has been here and got
his money, they all have one hundred and twenty dollars this spring
there will be a little more after a while, I have had a letter from your
mother, and one from Egbert and ~~is~~ answered both of them, you
said I must answer yours as soon as I get it, but I could not
I had company and business to attend to that has kept me
busy, William sends his love to you and said I must tell you
his peas are in blossom, he has bot four acres more land this spring
now we have twenty seven acres, now George just come and see what
a nice little farm we have got, though the soil is not as good as
yours, it is a healthy country, and only 16 miles from New York
little Phoebe sends her love to you,

I have sent you all the snuff, that I could at present, we can
get the root any time, but this I had in the house and I could
not stand it to make any more at one time, it made me sneeze
so, you will see there is some bark in it, I thought I would not
sift it over, it wastes in sifting, if it is too coarse for your tongue
you can sift it, perhaps I can send you more another time, after the first
of July the rate of postage will be lower, letters will go any where for three cents...

Springfield Oct 22th 1852

Dear niece I now sit down to answer your letter it is some time since I had heard from you and was glad to hear you are all well, I had a letter from Poughkeepsie and one from Mrs and yours all in one week they were all well then except your Uncle Mrs I dont know what was the complaint you said you had written to Ann and got no answer I cant tell any thing about it, she went from here the 24 of Nov- last she is in Poughkeepsie she has been sick this winter, when you write direct Poughkeepsie, I think you will get an answer, I have no thing in particulars to write, I ^{hope} you would like to know what we are doing here we dont get rich very fast, Mr sold nearly four hundred dollars worth of his place last year he has not quite 28 acres and four he lot last spring has never been tilled and some has wood on but we dont have wood as you do I cant build on a big fire and lie back as you said you would do when you got in Mich- yet we keep comfortable, we burn some wood and some coal we have had sever cold weather this winter and more snow than ^{on} comm I have had three letters from Charles Hicks this winter he has not been well this this winter he is better now, you did not say you got the snuff I sent, if you did I think you had a fine time sneezing you did not say you had seen Mr Dearin's folks nor Jane Rosekrance nor any one that went from Dutchess, if you know any thing about any one of them let me know in your next letter, there is no one ^{here} that you know for me to write about I can tell more about Dutchess Phoebe Overitt is dead she died with Consumpsion and Joseph Cope is Married

to a miss Orchard I expect they will have fruit plenty
and John Henry Robinson is married to a miss Mason
now I do not know what more to tell you I will say that folks are
buying and selling, land is very high, farms sell for one hundred
dollars per acre and some more the nearer you go to the City the
higher the land, it is from six to eight hundred dollars per acre
now dont you think we had ^{better} sell and live on the interest of
the money, that would be better than pulling turnips and
carry them to market, Mr said I must tell how to raise
those turnips you must sow them in drills the last of
July, as soon as they get big enough you must hoe them
and keep them clean they will grow to weigh from three
to five pounds a piece, let them stand in the ground till
frost comes, not till the cattle comes and eat them up
I did not weigh the seed I had nothing to weigh with
I have nothing more at present, Mr sends his respects to
you all and said he would like to come and see you and
have you come and see us, little Phebe sends her love to
you, and I will send my love in big letters so
you can ^{have} a great deal of it, you must write often as
you can make it convenient.

yours respectfully

Rebecca Compton

Springfield July, 3. 1857.

Dear Niece with pleasure I now sit down to write you a few lines I suppose you have heard of my safe arrival here as I wrote the next day after I got home and directed to your father, I have had a letter from your mother since I came home they had not got my letter then, she wrote that they were going to start the next week, I also received a letter from Phelie Gude the 20th of June which I think to answer be fore long, by the way Phelie's letter read I took it that John Lyons and Egbert were on the farm that John Shaw and Egbert worked last year. I feel very anxious to hear from your Fathers folks if they have had as much rain there as we have here they have had a tedious time, we have had a cold and wet summer so far and this week it has rained every day and to day has been the most rainy of all but there seems to be a prospect of clear weather now, half past one o'clock, P.M. and rainy yet, it makes ^{bad} times for cracked men they go all kinds of weather William and Samuel Compton went to New York last night and a rainy time they had of it, they had 36 bushels of peas and 4 hundred and 80 bunches of turnips three dollars and 75 cents a hundred bunches, peas 75 per bushel, the highest price that our folks have had is one dollar twelve and a half cents but some have sold for more, they are done picking their first patch and expect to begin another next week I dont know as I can tell you much news as the folks here are all strangers to you Aunt Rebecca Simonson has died since I came home she was buried the 13th of May, our Poughkeepsie friends were well as usual when we heard last. Rebecca says that she has got 36 yards of rag carpeting very pretty but we have so much rainy weather we dont get it on the floor I suppose that you have yours made and on the floor before this time, well now I want to know how the little ones are how is Edward, Mary and,

Charley is he any better than he was when I left wisconsin tell Edward and Mary to remember Aunt Ann, give my respects to Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins when you see them and any one that thinks enough of me to enquire after me tell John Lyons folks I have not forgotten them this leaves us well, write soon for I want to hear from you very much,
no more at present,

Ann Hicks

July 12 Dear niece I will write a few lines in Anns letter, I did not want her to finish this letter I would have a little more to put in, I thought I was getting a cancer I went to New York and had Doctor Miller, to operate on me, now I think it is going away, I want one more operation, I have no more news to write, it is very busy times with market folks, and this week will be harvest, I do not think of any thing more to write, give my love to your husband and children and all my friends that are there, and reserve a good share for your self, write soon and often, no more.

this from your old dark Aunt,

Rebecca Compton

July 13, to George

I thought I would say a few more words I wish you to write and let us know how you are getting along in the world I hope you do not have to work as hard as men do here now would you like to work from sunrise till four or five o'clock in the afternoon and then start off with your load for market and be gone all night and perhaps till afternoon the next day without any place to sleep but your waggon it is a hard life while it lasts dont you think so well now I shall have to stop for my pack is about full, so farewell for this time, Ann Hicks

we have very fine weather this fall, it is so warm
we do not have fire in the room, and some nights
sit with the door open, no frost yet, to hurt the
tenderest plant, you will laugh when I tell you
I have got flowers in the house, they have been in
bloom all summer, I have the red and white
petunia, a fish geranium, a Jerusalem cherry tree
November, 1, you see how long it takes
to write one letter, I have had three chances
to send it to the office and for got it, and I
did not know whether letters would or not
until I inquired, so I thought I scribble
of a few more lines, this leaves us all well
but my sister inlaw, she has got the lip
disorder, she went out the other day, and
did not lock the front door, and I went
away after ward and lock'd the door, she
got home before I did, but I was in sight
coming home, she hollard out so the neig-
hbour's could all hear, for me to hurry home
and unlock the door, she was not a going to
be lock'd out by me, if I did it again she
would break the door down if it cost her
fifty dollars, how would you like to live
with such a woman three years, she is a ^{big}
wo-man, she threatens cutting her husband
thru out no more, my love to all the friends write soon
this from your old Aunt Rebecca Compton

Spring field Oct- 13 th 1861

Dear niece, once more I sit down
to pen a few lines to you, to let you know
that I have not forgotten you, I hear you
complain of my neglect to you, I know it
is a long time since I have directed a letter
to you, I think I have written last to you
I have not received any from you, since
you left Michigan, yet I hear from you
by your Mothers letters, I am not particular
who writes, if I could hear often, I have often
wondered why you did not write, now pleas
excuse me and write as often as you can, and
I will try to do better, if you lived where I could
come and see you I would come, but you would
not know me, I have change very much in
looks, I am not your Mothers handsome
sister any more, yet I am your old black
Aunt, again, I received your Mothers letter
in nine days after it was mailed, and was

glad to hear from you all, now I want
to hear again about the boys that has gone
to war, I hope they will put ^{their} trust in god and
look to him for help, and if we never meet
on earth I hope we will meet in heaven,
I want to say a little to your mother
she asked in her letter do I live alone,
no John works for W^m and lives in the
house with us, this is the third year, I
expect this will be the last year he will
stay, I am tired living so, and besides it is
more wages than we can give these hard
times, 180, dollars in money, find him
a house nine months wood and all his
sauce, aint that big wages for us to
pay, and then live with one of the worst
of woman, we would like to have john to
stay with us a while but we do not want
his wife, we have never had any ungerly
words, but I have been imposed on very
often, I have got off of the course, I will come

back, now the dowery I have not got it yet
nor donot know when I will, Mr Fosdick
said he would see to it, if we go to law it will
cost more than it comes to, I will let you know
more when I know more my self,
Sunday 20, John and his wife have been
to Poughkeepsie visiting, Ann had a bad cold,
and Mary had been sick but was better when
they left, the rest were all well, Stephen Jones
listed for the war, the Doctor examined him and
said his lungs was too weak, they did not want
him, he was quite disappointed, he dont have any
work, and his mother has very little not enough
to live on, and Cates money is most gone,
they live in the house with Sarah Jane, up stairs
pay 42 dollars rent, now I come home again,
your mother writes about the wild fruit, it is
so nice, I wish I could have some, I do not
have any wild or tame of our one, and if we
should have any it would have to go to york
for the best of every thing must go there to market

babys but a little white dog weighs six
pounds his name is pink, he lives with me
but he belongs to Phebers husband, and I am
grandmother, they live in the house with us
they have had two children and lost them
both, do you ^{have} any meeting of any kind out there
and ^{you} think settled is it out there, is there any
one settled around you but your ~~own~~ friends
I cannot think of any thing more to write,
when you write let us know if your Mother
got the letters with them likenesses in
let the friends all hear from us that live
near you and give my love to all and
reserve a good share for yourselfs, now do
not wait so long before you write again,

this from your Aunt to
Margaret Ann Gale,

Rebecca Compton

Springfield, May, 2 1867.

My Dear

Niece, I received your verry
welcome letter the last day of April and am now going
to answer it but cannot find as much to write about
as you did but will do the best I can, we are all well
I am alone now as I like to be when I write there is go-
ing to be a surprize party in the neighbourhood next Thursday
and she has gone to see some of the folks and make some
arrangements, we have a backward spring A cold winter
and a great deal of snow, grass is verry short yet but the
rye looks fine, we have no mud here now but have had the
worst roads between here and new york this winter and spring
that ever was known the farmers could hardly get their
produce carried away, William is having picket fence
around his yard now we have two men here to work at it,
I will send you some flower seed such as we have we have
not planted any yet its either stormy or cold and windy
so that it is not fit to work out doors,

Brother Timothy lives across the way from us he is growing
old as well as myself he has been here to work to day has just
gone home Mary has had a bad turn of rheumatism in
her arm it was very bad ~~and~~ she could not move it but is
so that she can do her work except washing or some hard work
Uncle Stephen Hicks is failing very fast he is like a child
he will go out and wander away from the house and cant
get back then they have to go and look for him and
fetch him back he says they have moved and he wants
to go home, we have not heard from Poughkeepsie in sometime
so I shall not be able to tell you how they are there,

May. 3 we have had quite a snow since I commenced
my letter it was snowing quite fast this morning when I got
up but did not snow long it is almost gone now but the sun
has not come out yet 9 o'clock, now I will close my letter
yours was a good one I heard from all wick I had not in
some time I received a letter from Rebecca written in
February she told how Stephen was then I should ~~not~~
have been surprised to have heard of his ^{death} in the next letter,
Mr. Gills family I feel sorry for them give my love to
Jane Ann ~~and~~ all the rest, my love to your another

and the rest of the family and reserve a share for your selves

tell every I am much obliged for her letter, and
that little pet of yours it looks like you I wish I could see
her and all the rest of you, how is Alfred is he married
if not he must be an old bachelor by this time, now I
must stop and ~~have~~ have a space for Rebecca,

this leave me well

Ann Hicks to

Mr. A. Gale Nels. Ter;

Ann has left room for me to write, and I
do not know what to say that will interest
you, for I am so dum, I feel as if I could not
write, but I will try and say something if it's
not quite so smart, if I could see you I could
talk about old times, and new ones too, I do
not know your husband nor your children
but I would like to see you all, I could soon
get acquainted with them, if I live to get rich
I will come and see you, does any one out there
ever talk of coming East again, I wish you
was here now, I have nothing to brag of, no

Sunday the 3^d. I want to finish this before I go to Peekskill, perhaps Phebe will write when we get there, Lawrence watts had Paralytic stroke the other day he is very bad, Aunt Sally, and, Aunt Kate Mills both very sick, the weather is very pleasant now, we have had some light frost Charles Spragg has ^{got} Aaron Furmans wife away from him and lives with her, Aaron does not go home, his wife has got badly but not Aaron's Charles's wife lives with Mrs spragg she has got five children, what do you think of that, Ann will understand this and give you an explanation, he has spent all Esier's money about two thousand dollars now I will bring my letter to a close, this letter is for all the friends William joins in sending love to all, tell all to write and not wait for me.

Rebecca Compton

Sept-
Springfield 19th 1875.

Dear friends one and all I now sit down to write after so long waiting for a chance, I have not forgotten you, but I have had company all summer, first Harriet Van came, in three days after Phebe Gordon and her little girl came, they staid three weeks then Mrs Johnston came Mrs Roeckel mother she stayed ten days, before she went away John Moonfort his wife Susie and Sylvanis came, they left on thursday, the next tuesday Phebe Hicks and her son in law came, Edwin N^o Scofield they live in Stamford Conn- he he staid only one night, Phebe went home last wednesday, Phebe Ellen has got a baby three months old they call it Abnera, & Catharine Mills is very sick she had a cancer cut out and now she has got the consumpsion, Lawrence watts has a cancer on his lip, and it spreads, it is a rose cancer

it covers half of his cheek. his under lip is gone
so he can hardly eat, his food all runs out of his
mouth, it is the worst looking sight I ever saw
when Phoebe was here she told me a cure for cancer
I will send it to you, a quart ~~boil~~ heap full of
skunk cabbage root put one gallon of water
boil down to half gallon then put in half poun^d
loaf sugar, half pint brandy, wine glass^d three
times a day, this is an Indian cure, now about
the weather, it is raining so we cant go to church
the first of the summer was dry, then we had a
wet spell, and then dry again, no grasshoppers but
plenty of potatoes bugs, grass crops is light. but
other crops is good, but markets dull, I have been
to the beach three times this summer, Harriet wanted
to go I went with her, when the Phillips was here I
went with them, when Phoebe came I went with
her, and now if all hands of you will come I
will go with you, I have not seen that Lady
friend that Almyra wrote about ^{a lady} was coming here
after us, I begin to think I will never get there

do the boys any of them ever talk of
coming out here, Egbert has no woman, why cant
he come, or is he like the Irishman got one clipped
on the wing, how I would like to see all my
friends out there that I have never seen

October. 1 I will try again, first Mary recid
your letter in due time, was glad to hear from
you all, we have been to jersey to James
Compton's they are a happy family they all got
Religion last winter and joined the Methodist
Church, we are going to Peekskill next week to
James Gordon, now what is the matter with
Emily, Hannah, and Rebecca Jane, they have
never written to me since they have lived there
I had some little present for each one if I had
come last winter, the nicest was for Rebecca Jane
if she will come and see me she can have it
yet. I am quilting for Mrs Johnston, a very pretty
quilt, can't you come and help me, yes.
I will send a piece of my new dress in this
that W^m gave me, how do you like it

Springfield Jan- 7th 1776

Dear friends one and all after a long time I have
got ready to write, in answer to your letters I
have had company all summer the last one
went away last Friday, I have been to see Hannah
Hicks that was, she lives in New Jersey she is
very sick with consumption the Doctor say she
cant live, Margaret Chinn wrote to me about
Chinn's money I can speak for myself, I do not
want any of it, it would rather it would all
stay there, Timothy said he thought it best to
keep it there, but if any of the money come here he
would want his part, we are the two nearest and if
we are willing you should keep it there, I would say
nothing about it, I can speak for myself only, I dont
want it, if you feel disposed to make Tim a small
present you can do so, he is old and cannot work
much, but he is smart for a man, 77 years old
his friends will not see him suffer, we are having a
mild winter here, and that is good for the poor, it has

it has been a dull season and but little work
there is a great many men got family and nothing
to do, Jan- 23 I will try to finish this, I was waiting
for more news but I have nothing of any account, the
folks here are all strangers to you, there is quite a
revival of religion in the Methodist ^{church} in this place
but not in our church, there is revivals all around us,
I was glad to here that Abun died so happy, I will
the Lord help us to live Christians so we can meet
him in Heaven. Feb- 3 now I will finish my
letter, I have been waiting for more news, but I
have none, I want to hear from you again I
think the boys would write, have they forgot
how to write, tell Rebecca I I have got a present
for her but I cannot send it she must come after it
I would like to make all the girls presents if they
could get them, will you come, it is very cold to day
we have had a very warm winter, with a few cold
days now and then. now I will close with love to
all, this leaves us all well as usual, write soon

Rebecca Compton