

John B. Chase Letter Collection – Orford Historical Society Organization & Notes by Art Pease, 2015

The letters referenced below were in the collection of diaries and account books given to the Orford Historical Society by Kathy McGovern. They have been put into clear sleeves and organized by the writer and the date sent [if listed], in the order of the entries below. All but a few were sent to John B. Chase, Orford, N.H., although the envelopes are addressed to Wentworth, as that would have been the nearest post office to John in the eastern part of Orford, in the hills west of Upper & Lower Baker Pond.

All or most of the letters were sent by family members and are more or less legible, except where they have faded. Some of the writers do have a very small hand and so are difficult to decipher. I have read them as best I can and made the following notes. These are likely typical letters among family members, telling of health, and other family events. It is comical to see how his sisters try to get him to write more often, from pleading to threatening. It is fun to think of John sputtering as he reads these entreaties.

The ones from Henry P. Chase do deal quite a bit with things he wants John to do. I think that Henry has either bought the home place or another farm in the vicinity and is having John fix it up over the years. In the 1850 Census, Simeon Chase is listed in Orford, farmer, with wife Nancy, daughter Hepsibeh, and son John B..

The following is as much of the family as I can piece together from the letters and information on FamilySearch.org.

Simeon and Nancy Chase	[East] Orford
•John B. Chase	[East Orford]
•Henry P.Chase [perhaps Pepin is middle name] Lucy E. [Fairley] and her mother	New York City
•George Chase Sarah M. [daughter]	Billerica, MA
•Adaline J. Chase [Ada] [Charley?] Harris [husband] Alice [daughter, named for sister]	Bellows Falls, VT, Claremont
•Alice Buckley William Buckley [husband] Lorinda or Corinda [daughter]	Springfield\Grafton VT
•Hepsibeh A. Chase [Hepsy]	NYC, S. Malden, MA, Orford
•Caroline William Johnson [husband] W.A. Johnson [son] Alfred [son]	South Malden, MA @ college [perhaps Tufts]
•Martha Henderson? Ivory? [husband] George [son, named for brother]	East Parsonfield, ME

To	From	Where Written	Date
Brother	Wm Buckley	Springfield, VT	10\31\53
“little John has soar throat the is the way he is always catches the croup and if you don’t put pork rind around his neck and give him onion + molasses he will die with the croup ring out warm flannels and put them on his throat and steam his throat and stomach thorally.”			
Brother	Wm Buckley	Springfield, VT	7\6\56
“I was elected Superintendent of the Universalist Society”; “I have sent by Express two Sythe Santhes” to Fairlee Depit			
Brother John	Wm & Alice Buckley	Ludlow, VT	8\23\66
they have received a letter from John that his mother [Nancy] has died			
<i>[Adaline seems to be working as a domestic, in a hotel and/or in a mill as various times.]</i>			
To	From	Where Written	Date
Brother	A J Chase	Bellows Falls, VT	1\28\53*
Brother	Ada	Bellows Falls, VT	11\28\53*
Brother	Sister Ada	Bellows Falls, VT	2\22\55
Brother	Ada	Walpole, NH	4\22\55*
“I shall be home the first of August . . . plant a good lot of Cucumbers + String beans and we will have a high old time” . . “everything very dear here hay is 20 dollars a ton flour 3 dollars a barrel” [includes a poem]			
Brother	A J Chase	Bellows Falls, VT	2\11\55*
“. . great pleasure to hear from you . . .had begun to think that I was forgotten by all my friends . . .”			
Brother	Adaline	Bellows Falls, VT	12\19\55*
Brother	Ada	Claremont, NH	6\22\56
“It has been nearly six months since I had one word from home”; “the people of Claremont are having a great time getting up a celebration for the 4 th . . .write soon and tell me if you think of coming to see the fourth here in Claremont.”			
Brother	A J Chase	Claremont, NH	7\16\56
Brother	A J Chase	Claremont, NH	10\28\56
she has 60 yards of cloth for him, will send it by “one of Jack Smith’s daughters”; “Won’t you send my long night gown by her I left it . . .”			
Brother\Uncle Addy & Lizzy		Claremont, NH	11\23\56
[2 letters to John, one from sister, one from niece]			
Brother – “I am going to send Hen Stevens a ball ticket and you give it to him and tell him to be sure and come.”; “would like to spend Thanksgiving with you but they can’t spare me + Lizzie.” [I expect this is Elizabeth Chase, daughter of George and niece of Adaline.]			

Uncle - "they are going to have a ball here Wednesday knight . . "

To	From	Where Written	Date
Brother	Adaline	Claremont, NH	12\22\56
"I will try at this late date to answer your very welcome letter. I should have answered it before but it has been so cold my ink all froze up now I have just got a new bottle."; "I feel very sad to think that the young folks are all getting married up there you must be careful and not get married yourself			

Brother John A J Harris Box 389
"Your very welcome letter was finally rec'd last night I hardly know which was most pleased Annie Myself or Alice she sent one of them little pies to you + one to George but I could not write on the box very plain we did not send you the Muskmelon we intended to Charles got you a nice one of them but it did not come in season to put it in the box so I sent that Annie does not love them we are all well just now + was glad to see Annie I had done my work alone that day she come the first time she is well + seems to like I should keep her until she can get a good chance to do something I meant to come to Orford this month but shant now I have been sick so much __ __ __ __ won't you come down + see me __ __ come to see me this summer __ __ next Friday to come don't know how long she will stay do come down + see me then we'll all have a grand time I have been out with Annie some but it has rained a great deal there will be a Band Convention next Tuesday we shall go Georges folks are still here Sarah was up a few weeks ago and she is better yesterday Sarah is married to a fine man and is goin to keeping house next week I will write a few lines to George for Alice do try to come down here you could do real well + I want to see you I have one Lady boarder she + Annie have gone to bed + are having a good time she has just hollered + says tell John to write with a pen give my love to all and take a large share to yourself."

[This is definitely John's sister Adaline J., as the census of 1880 in Nashua shows her husband is Charles Harris. Their daughter, Alice, 17, would have been John's niece.]

[There are four letters from his brother George but it is very difficult to make out much.]

Brother	George Chase	[Quincy, MA]	10\5\54
"we are all well" ; he has a job for John at \$1.50 a day			
Brother	George Chase	[Quincy, MA]	11\22\54
"I sent you 14 [bags?] and I want you to send mee them full of potatoes . . .and send me your bill . . ."			

Brother	George Chase	[Quincy or Billerica, MA]	1\14\55
". . we are all well and in good health . ."			

Brother	George Chase		\16\56
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[There are quite a few letters from Henry P. Chase, who I am pretty sure is John's older brother. Henry seems to be living in New York City in the 1850s, as the letters are almost all from New York and one lists "96 Beekman St". He seems to have money to spend and as noted above, hires John to work for him in Orford through these years. The Census lists him as follows: 1860 – Orford, with wife Lucy, mother-in-law, likely 2 Irish servants, and John B; 1870 – Sherborn, MA farmer, with Lucy, mother-in-law, and one "Domestic Servant" from "Nova Scotia" and one farm laborer; 1880 – Wentworth farmer, with Lucy, mother-in-law, and one other. There are two

H. Chase's on Atwell Hill on Hurd's 1892 map and I think Great-Aunt Susan writes in her 1899 diary of a Henry Chase but I don't know if either of these are John's brother. The 1860 Orford map shows an H P Chase just west of the Wentworth line, about at the end of Lower Baker Pond. Perhaps this is the place John has been fixing up in the 1850s.

I wish we had some of John's letters to Henry. Henry is the older and better off brother and one wonders how John takes some of the suggestions\orders from Henry. How many times does John feel like telling him to lay off and let him [John] do the jobs Henry asks without nagging. On the other hand, Henry is putting up the money, so he wants to be sure the jobs are done and done correctly when he is not there.]

To	From	Where Written	Date
Brother	H P Chase	New York	8\15\52

Henry wants John to have a man for a month to help haul stone from the fields to have to make walls "higher it laid up by the rod." "The rest of the fall get out timber for the new barn. If possible, sell the colt and use the money for his [John's] wages + expenses."

Brother	H P Chase	New York	9\22\52
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"I saw Horris [Horace?] Eames here from Wentworth and he told me he saw you a few days ago."; "let me know about your building and how much stock you will have to winter and if you have hay enough . . ."; "have had several letters from Grafton [likely VT] they are all well." The Buckley's want to borrow money – H P has none to lend. "Lucy want to know if you bought the grindstone and how the colt is"; "John, do the best you can and you will be well paid."

Brother	H P Chase	New York	2\9\53
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Henry will send money to pay for hay. Box 'to come by the RRoad to Wentworth"; "if you are . . . going to be short of help in building the barn, do not fale to hier and put it forward as fast as possible"; "Try John Simpson and see what he will sell his place for."

Brother	H P Chase	New York	3\7\53
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". . if anything you want that you cannot reliably obtain you forward word to me with out fale and I will forward it with dispatch do not let anything hinder you from forward your work for the Spring is fast at hand and you will have to hier some help to assist on the Barn."

Brother	H P Chase	New York	6\1\53
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"I want you to write me as soon as you get this and tell me to what point you have arrived with your work on the barn and how your team is. . ."; "The nales will be in Wentworth at the time you ordered them they will be in full casks." Don't sell any extra – you'll need them for repairs. H P will be in Orford in July and wants to see the barn "on its legs and its boards on."; "tell Father that I have a pair Brogans for him and a pair of shoes for Mother"; "tell me how the colt gets along" Henry also notes that some of the family are in Parsonfield, ME. "John, I am quite anxious to have this work of improvement commenced on the place for it has been neglected so long that if it is not soon attended to it will never be accomplished as the is so much to be done."

To	From	Where Written	Date
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Brother H P Chase New York 12\1\53
 “sorry to hear that Hepsy was sick”; “Included you will find ten dollars which you will pass to my Cr. I shall send you more soon.”

Brother H P Chase New York 12\14\53
 Henry wants to know what nails John has left so that he can bring some if needed. “shall be home 2nd week in January”; “PS If I do any carpentering it will be to repair the house a little.” “Please give my love to all. Lucy”

Brother H P Chase New York 1\18\54

Brother H P Chase New York 3\20\54
 Henry writes that John may have the job of building the shed this summer. “I want the cellar under the whole of the barn and seven foot in the clear. The shed I want 30ft by 15, the upper corner to take the corner post of the barn.” “Enclosed find [?] ten dollars will pass to my Cr.”

Brother H P Chase New York 4\28\54
 Re: the barn “Now John I want you to try and do the best you can and make that barn as ___ as possible . . . if you can have the cellar under the whole of it without blowing rocks under the barn, do so, as it will be a fine place for cattle to be in stormy weather and to have a place to drink.”

Brother Henry P Chase New York 6\27\54
 “You do not say whether George bot the farm or not.” “Has Hepsy gone to B. Falls to do housework?” “You must look out for hard times do not make any debts for cash will be hard this fall.”

Brother H P Chase New York 8\11\54
 “You will find on Monday or Tuesday two cases of boots at Wentworth which I want you to sell. They cost \$2.25 pr pair I should think that you could get 2.75 or 3.00\$ for them easy as they are good boots. If they should sell, well I can send you as many as you want.” “John, I want you turn [trade?] the oxen for a pair of young ones as they are too old to winter And hurry up that shed and cellar as cold weather is close to hand.”

Brother H P New York 8\14\54
 “I want you to get Charles Stevens to white wash the Barn and Shed and the fence around the yard.” “Tell me how the boots are and if you can sell them I will send you more.”

Brother H P C New York 2\4\55
 Henry is now home in New York, via Malden, MA and Boston. Hepsy is with them. “I you can get some boards sutible for a floor and want to lay one on the kitchen and put down new wash boards and plaster up that corner I will pay you as soon as it is done.”

Brother H P Chase New York 2\12\56
 Henry, Lucy & Hepsy have arrived safe at home. “I want you to examine the books at Orford and see if our friend Bliss [likely Bliss Davis] or his father had ever mortgaged that lot of land and see if it is clear from all encumberances. Hurry Bliss up and get the leas as soon as possible for fear that he may back out of the bargain . . .” “You had better see John Cross

and find out what he will work for six or eight months, and we will have him on the Davis place when he and Father cannot agree he can cut wood and bushes and dig some stone for wall.”

To	From	Where Written	Date
Brother	H P Chase	New York	March 1856
“ . . .find that you have obtained the lease and as soon as I can get time to go to Boston, I shall send the money to you . . . care of Dole Depot Master Wentworth NH . . .”			

Brother	H P C	New York	6\11\56
John is to send the lease to Henry. Frank Savage’s folks are all well. “ . . .let me know if Sam Nichols has done anything to the house . . .”			

Brother	H P C	New York	1\9\57
Henry will be in Orford in two weeks with Lucy and Hepsy. Hepsy is not very well. Asks John to meet them in Wentworth [likely at RR station]			

Brother	H P Chase	New York 96 Beekman St	1\18\57
They have not left yet, as the weather is too bad for Hepsy to travel. “ . . .Frank Savage’s folks spent the day at our house Friday . . .tell Mother I have a mess of tea for her and a hat for Father . . . let me know if you have ever received the barrell we sent some time ago.”			

Brother	H P Chase	New York	3\23\57
“ . . .glad to hear that Hepsy was better . . . Lucy will be at the doctor . . . and will write what he says about her and what new medicines she will have to have . . .” Tell Uncle George Simpson that Henry saw his sister MRs John M Smart last week.			

Brother	H P Chase	New York	4\27\57
Henry wants to know how Hepsy is, as Adaline and John have given him different impressions “ . . .Tel her Adaline to stay at home and take care of Hepsy and I will pay her well for it . . .”			

Brother	H P Chase	New York	6\24\57?
Brother George has been there, Seth is there now. “Frank will be at Orford with wife and child next week. He will while at home help you on the barn I shall send you some money by him. Lucy is not very well just now. Please write me if you have received the nails . . .”			

Brother	H P Chase	Bellows Falls, VT	4\27 Postmark
“ . . . we are on the way home and would be glad to find you Monday night at the Fairlee Depot with horse and sleigh one that will [hold] me and Lucy and one trunk. We are stoping tonight with Adaline find her well Shall go to Grafton tomorrow left Hepsy in New York well			

[Hepsibeh’s writing is very small and somewhat faint.]

Brother	Hepsy	New York	\22\1853
She stoped at their cousin’s in Nashua, then went through Worcester to Norwalk [CT?], from where they took the boat to NYC. She asks John to send Henry a box and send them a cheese and 3 or 4 chickens [dead, I assume.]			

To	From	Where Written	Date
Brother	Hepsy	New York	11\19\54
<p>She wants to hear from John. She has been to “. . Cry___ Palace and had a very good time . .” Henry is coming home in January “. . so John you fly around and get the things all done and see if you can get some paper like that on the bedroom and I will send you the money to get it with . .” and again, she asks John to write.</p>			
Brother	Hepsy	South Malden	3\2\55
<p>“as it has been some length of time since I wrote you and having not heard from you . . my health is very good . .” She will be home the first week of August. The letter as others is mostly about family and friends, their health and where they are.</p>			
Brother	H A Chase	South Malden	6\8\56
<p>“I got to the depot about 6 oclock and found William waiting for me. I found Caroline pretty miserable in health . . she never slept last night she coughed so hard. . . William went to Boston yesterday and said those account books were 2 dollars each as you wanted I will get one and send . . or bring it up when I come.” Caroline wants a bushel of potatoes “if you can spare them – send to Malden.”</p>			
Brother	Hepsy	South Malden	7\31\56
<p>She has had time to write as “. . we have had company every day for three weeks Sunday and all . . I never suffered with the heat so in all my life . . Lucy and Henry came on yesterday. He went back to NY last night. . .” At the end is a short note in another hand: “To my uncle John Enclosed you will find a Programme of our late Exhibition; a few days ago I sent grand-mother a paper containing an account of it. . . has Grandmother began to make cheese yet. W.A. Johnson”</p>			
Brother	H A Chase	New York	12\11\56
<p>“. . I have a pretty bad coald and with all the rest quite sick . . Lucy has sent you all a barrel and you must go to the Depot as soon as Saturday . . Lucy says tell Mother I have sent her a pie . . you can have a piece too . . Henry has gone to Boston tonight . . [William Johnson is at college.] “Henry and Lucy will come home in January and myself if nothing happens . . “</p>			
Brother	Hepsy A Chase	New York	1\6\57
<p>“. . not learning whether you received the barrel we sent - not we but Lucy . .” She had a letter from William [Johnson] “. . having quite a time with their housekeeper she was going all the time and half the time his father has to cook his own victuals. They wanted me to come and stay with them but I can’t never go there again. I done all for Caroline I could never thinking it was killing myself, and done for the rest of them and William thought that I should stay there always or as long as he wanted. Henry said he guessed he [William] could afford to hire somebody now . . now don’t let anyone see this for all the come.” <i>[See letter below from WA Johnson telling of his mother’s [Caroline, William’s wife] death.]</i> </p>			
Sister[Hepsy]	L.E. Chase [Lucy, Henry’s wife]	New York	6\1\56
<p>“. . You wish me to give you an account of our moving. I think I could hardly picture the scene vividly enough; to begin, we moved a part of our things on Tuesday, the remained on Thursday – May Day. Then came the fun, first Carpenters, then Gasfitters, then Carpenters again, paperers, painters, plumbers besides our Landlord who was here all the</p>			

time for three weeks, and is what one should call a Jack of all Trades. It was one continual sweep, sweep, sweep the whole time but I forgot two very important branches of business – Chimney Sweeps and white washers. We have been in Confusion until today which find us pretty nearly to rights. . . Our neighbors over the way don't admire the house as much as we do, of course not, how could they? There is not another house fit to live in but 94 in New York. Mrs. P. says gas is very injurious to the eyes. . . How I do wish I could see you and your mother. If we all live I intend to have her make us a visit before many years. I think she would enjoy it very much. . . Mother [Lucy's mother, who lives with them] says she shall have her picture taken for you as you wanted it and wants to know if she shall have it in the format you made her. . .” *[Almost the entire letter]*

To	From	Where Written	Date
Hepsy	Lucy E. Chase	New York	4\9\57

“We have just received a letter from John . . wrote me your pills were out and I went to the Apothecaries and had them prepared, put them in a letter and sent them to you as the Dr. desired that you should continue them. That was nearly two weeks ago. Then I sent you a box by Express the same as you had for your cough and for inhaling so if you have not received them, you had better have John sent to Wentworth and see if they are not there . . The Dr. has been here today to see you. Take up courage, the Dr. says and he thinks the summer air will benefit you . . “

Brother, F, & M	Martha	[East Parsonfield, ME]	1\14\55
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“ . . arrived home on Sunday. . . Ivory [?] went after the schoolteacher the next morning and she bodes with us . . George has a sight to tell about his uncle John and Grandmother and Grandfather Chase. Oh, John, how is your had I thought a good many time of it I hope it is better now. . .Ivory [?] hurt his eye very bad soon after he got home he was leading one of the oxen out of the barn and he threw up his head and the point of his horn went writ in under it we thought at first it was tourn out it was not quit so bad on Examination but it is bad enough . .I think I shall come up to Orford and buy Lile Davis Place I don't like down East one bit can't help it . . “

Brother	Martha Henderson?	East Parsonfield, Me	\11\26
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“I thought I should like to know if you was dead or alive so I thought I would write to you and see if I could get answer from you. I have thought I should come to N H as soon as the sleighing is good. And I want you to write to me if you get this and let me know what the fare is to Buckley's for I think that I shall go and see them and I and I want you to writ back and let me know if I can go to see them in one day from Orford. I want to go very much and I think I shall if nothing Prevents. I should like to leave the horse with you if you will keep it. We shall stay four or five days with them and I want you to writ to me what the fare is from Orford so I can make my arrangements about goin. I want to go in the course of four or five weeks or less if the snow comes. Now John do writ and let me know all about it and tell Hepsy that I answered her letter and when I come I want her to come home with me and I want you to writ where Adaline is I have not herd from them this long time if you are at home remember me Thanksgiving I will you remember me to Farther and Mother and to Hepsy in particular now John do writ and tell all the rest [to me] in a hurry.” *[This is the entire letter.]*

To	From	Where Written	Date
Uncle John	Lorinda\Corinda [Buckley]	Springfield, VT	6\12\

“ . . We are having a singing convention here and such a time you never say. I went last evening and Mrs. L---- from Boston sang loud enough . . How does Great Grandmother do and is she alive or not. Mother has tried to have Adaline come home but she won't so let her go it. . . I want to know if you have danced any since that night . . How like the old Harry you did act. You don't have anybody to give you doughnuts now . . Does Mary Simpson come up to see you very often . . I say now she is one of the pretty girls. . .”

Uncle John Lorinda\Corinda [Buckley] Springfield, VT 10\13\

“I have written you several times and as I did not get any answer I thought I would write again. How is the state of your mind at the present I thought you was coming here this fall to make us a visit but we have not seen anything of you yet . . Father and Mother went to Claremont and saw Adaline she is at work in the Sullivan House. . . those rags were all moth eaten and they were not fit to weave into carpets, it will not look fit to be seen after Mother has tried her best but it will ___ ___ keep the cold out. If you have got any potatoes Mother wants you to send her a barrel as we have not had potatoes fit to eat this fall everything here is all alike we can't get ___ ___ to eat except is as ___ ___ swill and not fit to eat neither.

Uncle Elizabeth Chase Lowell, MA 10\16\56

“I haven't received any letter from you since I wrote and since I come home so I thought I would write again you spoke about that place up on the hill I talk to father about it and he said he would not take the gift of it and I told him I thought it would be a good home for us all the children would have to go in the factory as soon as they are big enough to is they stayed here and then take all we could earn to live hear in the city and I told Aunt Matilda about it and she said if they would go up there she would come right up with me when I went to Claremont and buy it and take a deed of it in her name and we might go there and live as long as we wanted to and take care of Grandmother and Father has concluded to go she don't want the children to be brought up in Lowell I want you to write whether he has sold it or would sell it she says she would pay the money write down every cent of it any time I will go up with her I have not done a days work since I come back I have had a letter from Adaline and she don't want me to come under a week or ___ and I can come up that way if you will meet us to the depot next Wednesday or Thursday you write first and it we can't get it there will be of every use of her going up I will wait till week after next if you think best they will move up in the spring she will go any time I say the word I am ready I told her I had got to write to you and then you back to me and then me write to her and we could not get ready so soon you set the day next week or week of and give me time to write to her and we will meet you to Wentworth . . we are expecting to move nearer the mill and I don't know but we shall . . direct the letters to Aunt Mandy No 13 Spring Street. . “

Grandmother & Grandfather Sarah M. Chase Billerica, MA 4\14\55

“I now seat myself to write you a few lines to let you know that we are all well and hope you the same it has been a great while since we have heard from you so I thought I would write to let you know that we have moved from Quincy we have moved to Billerica on a farm Mother is not at home now she is down to Braintree taking care of Grandmother Flanders she is very sick now she has had a shock of the Palsy and I don't think she will ever get over it she is staying with Aunt Paulina Father wants John to send down them bags full of potatoes and some seed corn enough to plant 2 acres of land he sent them up a good while ago and he never herd wether you got them or not [see letter from George Chase, 11\22\54] . . Send your potatoes to Billerica Mills and direct your letters there to.”

To	From	Where Written	Date
Uncle John	Wm. A Jackson	South Malden	11\6\56

“As Mrs. Edmester is going to N H tomorrow morning, I thought best to write. We sent a letter by Express, Monday, but did not write but a few lines.

Mother died Sunday night, 25 minutes before 8 o’clock. Hepsy and Ellen were with her. We were all at home. Thursday, Mother was quite smart & when I came home from Medford Saturday, I found he very sick; all day Sunday, she was very sick and did not talk much: a great many came in to see her. Our minister Mr. Brooks came to see her in the afternoon. She was glad to see them all but could not talk much. The Funeral was Yesterday P.M. Uncle Perin and Lucy was here and also a great many of Father’s Family.

Sunday P.M. Mother called you by name. We expected you down to the Funeral. And also Grand-father and Grand-mother but knew you could not come unless you received our letter the day it was sent. Aunt Martha was not here; she went home a few weeks ago.

Uncle Perin is coming here tomorrow from Salem and he wants Hepsy to go to New York with him and stay a short time, although she thinks she ought to go home, now. Uncle Perin is going up to see you in January and if Hepsy goes to N. Y. she will come home then, I suppose. Father is going to keep house at present and I am going to the College Monday. Alfred is to keep at school as usual.

Mrs. Kendrick’s family are well. Ellen Savage and Warren are here and will stay a few days.

Give our love to Grand-father and Grand-mother and to friends and relatives.

Write to us immediately and let us know how all are. I shall write again, and write more, we shall expect to hear from you, soon.”

[John]	Baxter D. Higgins	Newton L. Falls, MA	1\25\55
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“ I take of righting to you to lett you know that I had not forgot Aunt Chase yet. it has bin some time since I herd from you folks so I thought I wold write a line to you to let you know that I had not forgot Davis Town yet. the folks are all well I think they was the last I herd from them. I should like to see Beng. and see if he wold hold in writing endsements to come and teach our school. I have not got much to right for I have not herd from you so long. We have not had but two days slaying this winter and then we improved it. I must draw to a close for it is getting most night. Give my love to all the folks pleas rite soon and tell H that I am redy when she is to go Beachsitting?”

[John]	Baxter D. Higgins	Watertown [MA]	12\8\56
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“I take this spare moment to write line to lett you know that I had not forgot you. Hed [you] me, which I think you have not. Mr Allen told me that you was coming down to the fare but I have not seen you but John I should like to see you. You can come down this Winter and we will have a sleigh ride and I will introduse you my wife and do it with pleasure. . . . I have not got much to rite this time but I will rite more next time. pleas rite soon for I have bin putting off this for a long time waiting for you to have you come down. this is from your friend B D Higgins pleas direct your letter to South Natick.”

To	From	Where Written	Date
Friend [John]	Nancy Jane Philbrick	Plymouth	10\12\56

“according to your request I thought I would wright and let you know how we are getting along we are all well. father is a little better he can sit up about half an hour to time we carried Elizabeth to the cars Monday at one o clock we could not make her stay any longer I want you to bring Grandma Chase down here as soon as you can we should be verry happy to se you both I will send this letter to Bliss Davis I cant stop to write any more now I want you to write to us”

John Chase	M Braggole\CR Merrill	Boston	8\11\54
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“Sir: We sent you today two cases boot, by your Brother Henry’s Instructions, at New York, Bill will be sent from New York.
Above directed to you ‘Wentworth, N.H. by Boston, Concord & Montreal RIRd.
Sent to Road the 11th.” [See letter from H P Chase 8\11\54.]

J.B. Chase	G.R. Merrill	Boston	4\17\56
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“Sir: I sent you this day by ___ __ Sixty five Dollars \$65 directed to you, care of Dole, Depot Master. Henry P. Chase, by C.R. Merrill, No 55 D___ St. At G.S. Davsons Store. N.B. your Brother was her the 16th from New York and left the above for you. P.S. Please acknowledge the recpt. of above.”[See HP Chase letter of March, 1856.]

Dear Sir:	Fletcher & Co.	New York	8\22\65
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[On printed letterhead ‘Office of Fletcher &Co., Licensed by U.S. Government.’, with eagle and shield symbol.] [

“From what we can learn of public sentiment in your State, we are satisfied that there exists a strong feeling against Lotteries, and as we are fully determined to remove that prejudice, by sending a handsome prize to some one who will make it known, we offer you for \$10 the chance of a splendid Fortune in a full Managers Certificate of Sixteenths Tickets in the ‘Royal Havana or Cuba Plan Lottery’, to be drawn on the 30th day of September, 1865, (see the enclosed Official Scheme of this truly Magnificent Lottery.) The Kentucky Lotteries are drawn by the Laws of the State, and under the supervision of commissioners appointed for the purpose. We mention this fact to convince you that we are sincere in this communication. Now we frankly say to you, that our sole object is to increase our business in your neighborhood by having you or someone else, draw a large Prize at our Office, and to accomplish this, we offer you the above described Certificate, with the understanding that after we have sent you the money it draws, should you be successful, you are to make it Public, and inform your friends and acquaintances that we sold you the Prize. If you will agree to do that, we will truly bind ourselves, that if the Certificate does not draw you at least \$5,000 Prize we will send you another Certificate in one of our Extra lotteries for nothing.

All Prizes drawn at our Agency are promptly paid at our Office No 80 Nassau Street in New York City, by Draft or otherwise as the purchaser may direct. Send us \$10 by return Mail, and give us the name of your nearest Bank, so that there may be no delay in forwarding you a Draft as soon as the Drawing is over.

Use the enclosed envelope in making your remittance. The Official Drawing is sent to all Purchasers; it is also published in the New York Herald.

Yours Truly, Fletcher & Co.”

[This is a great example of what is likely a scam, which the folks in Nigeria could learn from! ;- Both envelopes and the printed enclosure advertising the lottery are included.]

To	From	Where Written	Date
Dear Friend John	Annie Flanders	Nashua	9\6\68

“I was thinking today it is just one week from today since I walk out with you it seems a long time to me I presume it does not to you but Oh, John can it be true and possible that what I have heard be true or not how shall I ever know but the time will come when I shall see your face once more + I can tell you all that is all I want to live for is just to see you some half day I thought of you every day that has past over my head may God be with you if I can’t + when you lie down to sleep all I hope is that everything you promise me will be fresh in mind you know you have said things that never will be forgotten on earth + you have kept me from day to day now say I don’t love you if I could keep tears from coming in my eyes I have shed more tears since last Friday at 7 o'clock but what good does it do I hope you will not think any less of me when you read this than you ever did for I have the same love + respect for you as I ever did I should be so pleas to get a leter from you I wrote a leter to you last Tuesday I went to the Office last night in hopes to get a leter from you I wish you would write + tell us if you got your box + how you like it Charley mother sent down word today to have Addie + I Oh Crikey I have had a ___ time Addie has taken me all around I like hear first rate only if my Darling John was with me how happy I should be + how well you know it when Addie was getting the box ready she told them hear that I kept house for you + she wanted me to stay a spell + so she was a goin to send you some things I want you should come down as soon as you can you can get good pay to have enough to eat + have it in season you will come down + stay with me because you have said your would stay with me + never leave me I will finish this by by Charley said today I want Annie to stay down hear so we can get John down he ask me if I did not like I told him I did + then he said you will stay untill he comes Friday afternoon

Well Crikey don’t you belive I was glad when I got your leter I bet I was to hear you was well every night when I go to bed I think oh dear whare is John tonight + does he think of me I want to see you very much I was real sora to see Charley he felt real disappointed to think you did not say anything about coming down I wish you would tell us in your next leter just as you mean are you coming down or not + when will you come you will see by this that I am hear but I don’t no how much longer I shall stay you must try to answer this leter as soon as you get it + tell me all the news + you look out for the school marm + Mrs Hewes you no me I think of all these things Little Addie was pleas with her leter she goes to school every day she speaks of you + said I want to see Uncle John What do they say up there about me tell me when you write have you ben over to Mr Goodells yet don’t you stay all night when you go will you you must be real good while I am gone for I shall be at home some day and make you a good long visit you get me a Place to stay + a little calf you may pick me out one be sure + keep watch of Henry Nichols so as to get your things does hat no whear I am you tell me all + be sure + write + don’t send a leter by anyone that you think would not be carefull about putting it in I wrote to Sarah tell he you want to read it I will bid you good by with much love + respect now write as soon as you get this + not fail from Annie Direct Box 439 don’t you want to see me you no what I shall think if you don’t write don’t be mad when you read the ___ of this leter Annie E Flanders Direct Box 439 Nashua NH now be sure to write.”

[An honest to goodness love letter from the 1860s! John was almost 20 years older than Annie and she outlived him by 27 years. Their oldest son, John W., born in 1876 but I don’t know just when they were married. Annie must be working in Nashua at this time. In the 1880 census for Nashua is a Charles Harris, wife Addie, and daughter Alice. This must be where Annie is living in 1868.]

[A 'contract' regarding squirrel hunting.]

11\3\56

"We all here agree to bind ourselves to gather as a party to hunt for squirrels + there being two sides that have chosen for the said hunt which is to be Friday the seventh of the same month if fair or the next Friday in the month the sides are called John B. Chase side and Samuel Blod side + the side that is beat is to pay for the suppers for the said hunters. N.B. the game that is to be brought in is to be killed on the same day that it is brought in if any is killed on any other day it forfeits the all the hunter brings in."

[The last four items are hand-written copies of song lyrics or poems. They are in at least two and probably three different hands. One seems to be written by John's sister Hepsy and two by his sister Addie. There are no dates on any of them.]

Kitty Glide ['from Addie to __']

Oh, who has not seen Kitty Glide
She lives at the foot of the hill.
In a sly little nook by the babbling brook
That carries her father's old mill.

Oh, who does not love Kitty Glide,
That sunny eye'd rosy cheek'd lass,
With a sweet dimpled chin that looks rougish as sin
With always a smile as you pass.

Sweet Kitty, Dear Kitty,
My own sweet Kitty Glide

In as shy little nook by the babbling brook
I miss my own sweet Kitty Glide.

With a basket to put in her fish,
Every morning with a line and a hook,
This sweet little lass, through the tall heavy grass,
Starts along by the clear running brook

She throws her line into the stream
And trips it along the brookside
And how I do wish that I was a fish
To be caught by sweet Kitty Glide, sweet Kitty Glide.

How I wish that I was a Bee
I'd not gather honey from flowers
But would steal a dear sip from Kitty's sweet lip
And make my own hive in her bowers

Oh, if I were some little bird
I would not build nests in the air,
But keep close by the side of sweet Kitty Glide
And sleep in her soft silken hair.

Willie On The Dark Sea [From Adaline]

My Willie's on the dark blue sea
He is gone far ore the main
And sad and lonely will pass the hours
Ere he will return again

Then blow gentle winds ore the dark blue sea
Bid the Storm King stay his hand
And bring my Willie back to me
To his own dear native land.

I love my Willie best of all
He was ever kind to me
But sad and lonely pass the hours
Since he has been at sea.

Then blow gentle winds ore the dark blue sea, etc.

There's dangers on the waters now
I hear the sea birds cry
And warning voices seem to speak
From out the Stormy sky.

Then blow gentle winds ore the dark blue sea, etc.

I see the vivid lightning flash,
I hear the thunder roar,
Oh, father, save my Willie
From the Storm King's mighty power

Then blow gentle winds ore the dark blue sea, etc.

But while she spoke the lightning ceased,
Hushed was the thunder's roar.
And Willie clasped her in his arms,
To road the sea no more.

Then blow gentle winds ore the dark blue sea
No more will I stay thy hand
Since Willie is safe home with me
In his own dear native land."

[Following on the same sheet of paper is a letter to 'Miss Hepsy Ann Chase, Orford, NH In the footsteps of Zekil Worthing', from her sister Adaline]

"Hepsy I paid half a dollar for that piece of musick and the painting that went with it and I thought it would be too bad to jam it in that little bundle so I have wrote it off and you writ back as soon as you get this and tell me all about John Stetson's folks give him my best respects if you see him Alice [their sister Alice Buckley] let me have the flower to her old purple dress to put my Star quilt together with it will do just as new and she has took the skirt for her and her buff

and red dress and then we shall have quilts alike I will send you some money next month and you fix mother up and let he come here with you give my love to all that inquire after me Tom sends his love to you

I must close for now send me some aples by John for I shant have any here only what I by and send my purple dress if he comes any time before cold weather please write soon Adaline Oh I am going to learn to paint and then I will paint your Minature and send it Aunt Lucy [?] wants to see Hepsy real bad she said today. Oh, Hepsy give Samuel his letter and Hen Stevens his jewelry and letter be sure and give it with our own hand and tell him that I sent them and send your ___ book to me with my ___ ___ in it for I want them next ___.”

The Soldier Boy [written in a larger hand with excellent penmanship]

“Mamma’s little soldier boy

Is very fond of play;

He likes to be a General

Upon Memorial Day.

Tis then he takes his little sword

And musters his big gun

And tries to be like soldiers

Who’ve many a battle won

He listens very carefully

To all we have to say,

For he likes to hear the stories

When battles held full sway.

Then does he think he’d like to be

Like soldiers brave and true

Who gave up all so willingly

For that ‘Red, White, and Blue’”

[No title or name but it looks like Adaline’s hand.]

“Are almost there said a dying girl as she drew ner her house

Are these our poplar trees that rear their forms so high gainst the heaven’s blew dome

Then she talked of her flowers and she thought of the well where the fresh water came

Are the large white stones and through it soothe like a farry spell could she drink of that fount
when he fever was on

While yet so young and her bloom grew less

They had born her away to kindler clime

For she would not tell them twas only distress

That had gathered life’s roses in its sweet spring time

And she had looked where they had bade her look

At many a river and many a shrine

At the sculpters rich and the shady nook

And watched from high places the sun’s decline

And in secret she sighed for a quiet spot

Where she oft had played in her childhood hour

Though shrub as flowered marked it not

It was dearer to her than the gayest bower

And oft did she ask are almost there
Till her voice grew faint and her flushed cheeks pale
And they strove to cheer her with useless care
As her sighs escaped on the evening gale
Then swiftly more swiftly they bore her on
But their anxious hearts felt a chill despair
For when the light of that eye was gone
And the quick pulse stoped
She was almost there.”