

Newport Mar. 25 1851

Dear Uncle and Aunt Hill,

About 5 years ago I received a letter from you, and soon after receiving it I wrote you an answer and requested you to write to me again but I have not heard from you since. Several times I have thought of writing to you again but have neglected it until now. Today I set myself to work looking over some old letters and found yours dated "April 22nd 1850."

The reading of your letter has awakened in my bosom sensations of no ordinary kind. The fond recollection of a Mother (once the protector of my body and the joy of my heart but now in Heaven) comes up before me with a freshness in my recollection unusually vivid. I how often have I heard that Dear Mother speak of her sister Sally, and many a time I have thought some day I will go and see her but other cares and duties and various circumstances have seemed to prevent it. But I have concluded to write to you once more and I hope you will write to me without delay. I want to make several

enquiries. I want to know when and where Grand
Father and Grand Mother Kerr died. We have never
heard even whether they are living or not, but conclude
of course they are not living from what we know of
their age. Also I want to know something of Uncle
John Hewitt's family. (I am not sure I have spelt
Uncle John's name right for it is a long time since
I saw it spelt.) Also Uncle James Myers family.
The last we knew of those 2 families they lived
in Jefferson Co. near Black River. Mother and myself
visited them in the fall of 1835. At that time
Grandfather and Grandmother Kerr lived there
with them. Also I want to know something
about those friends who I believe lived the last I
heard of them in Seneca Co. N.Y. I mean Uncle
Brewer, Uncle John Gorham and Jacob Kerr, and
their families. Also I recollect ^{of hearing} something about
another brother of my Mother's. Also I think his
name was. And it seems to me Mother used to talk
about a brother Ira. ~~And all this family.~~ And of
course I want to know all about your own family.
There is your son Erastus now. When you wrote to me

He was in Madison Wisconsin. Is he there now?
and what is his occupation? My family are well
We have 3 children. 2 Sons and a Daughter. Mary
Amos and Alvin. are their names.

Father died in 1851. My Brother Ernest
lives in Litchfield Illinois. he was here last fall to see
us. I had a letter from him a short time ago. he was
well.

Our climate here in Southern Ohio is quite
different from yours in N.Y. I see by the papers
you have had a great deal of snow this past winter.

We have had but very little. None to make sleighing.
The farmers here commence plowing in February and the
ground was in good order for it. Some have made a little
putting in such as peas potatoes onions lettuce &c.
^{garden}

Please answer this without delay. I am anxious to
hear from you. But I must draw this letter to a close
And in doing so permit me to assure you of my
kind regards for you as friends and relatives. Whom
although I have never seen, yet I love and respect.

I remain your sincere friend and Nephew.

Esau H. Atkins.

P.S. Direct your letter to ^{Newport} Washington Co. Ohio