

Letter to Polly Pritchard written by Jacob Hall, Oct. 5, 1795

Landinburgh (Landsingburgh, N.Y.)

To Miss Polly Pritchard
Waterbury, Connetticutt

Dear Madam,

I with trembling heart once more address myself to my Dear, inquiring for your health in which I would be very happy to hear I am in health at present My Dear every month seems a year while in your absence O that I had wings like a dove, soon would I leave this place of sorrow and enjoy the homes of my love My Dear I find you to be a girl after my own heart I am constantly courting you when setting on the road to my daily labour My heart is locked up in your bosom O that I could clasp my arms around your slender waist my heart would leap for joy Dear Miss I should be very happy to receive a letter from you

I have spent many dark and lonesome hours since I heard from you I have hopes that you lead your life more contented than I do If I had not I would leave this state and return to my Dear All the recreation that I take is walking the fields and groves with my shop maits (Jacob was a tailor)

The ways and manners of young people in this place is so different from Connecticut that they appear very disagreeable if it was not for that I could pass my days while in this place to my mind I had the disagreeable pleasure to attend a ball I think I may well call it Disagreeable for there was nothing agreeable in the company

After I got into the company it caused me to reflect upon my conduct for I consider myself as a married man not that I thought I was wronging you but my own feelings for I find I cannot enjoy myself in any company but yours for that reason I had better be asleep my Dear excuse my writing though it is poor it is from a true friend my Dear remember that you have a true lover though my person be far distant my heart is with you and God grant that it always may be that the day may commence when we may join hands as we have heretofore our hearts and live in harmony and love and never more to part O may the Lord please to strengthen our affection toward one another and may that Day commence soon I am weary of living such a distance from my Dear therefore I shall strive to see you as soon as my business will allow of and therefore please to prepare yourself for housekeeping

As Drawing near the bottom of my paper I must conclude by subscribing myself your best friend and true lover

JACOB HALL

Please to remember me to the family but above all remember that I am your's

A few words concerning death.

A few days since Mr. Judson received a letter from Stratford informed him of the death of his sister who was courted by Davis Thomas marriage was intended but alas Death has cut the slender thread of life She is called home

and left him a broken-hearted lover to lament the loss My Dear friend let us take ourselves into consideration and if either of us is called to leave this troublesome world let us say the Lord's will be done Death must come sooner or later Death is constantly sounding in our ears we know not when we will be called but let us strive to be ready so my Dearest Polly I must delay writing or I fear I shall tire your patience trying to find it out

Mr Hotchiss best respects to you and Saley
When these lines you see think on me

JACOB HALL

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Later Letters

Apr the 8 (1828)

Dear children with a trembling hand I take my pen to inform you of our situation, Harriet Curtis is not more in this world she bid us a long farewell on the 2 day of April and fell asleep in the arms of her Caviour and left us a comfortable hope that our loss is her gain Harriet died with child bed fever we buried the child Saturday and the mother Friday following, my dear children let this news come to your hearts be ye also ready the preparation is in Christ and he now calls upon you to receive it in times of affliction Christ says learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart and you shall find rest to your souls in obedience to God we do find help in disobedience our sins will sink us to hell O my dear children fly to Christ by faith and repentance that if we are never permitted to meet again in this world that we may meet in the world of glory to part no more in this western reserve there is of late a refreshing show of divine grace poured out and some drops of mercy in Bruksville Delia Curtis has received a hope in Christ and we hope for better times in this vicinity that God will bless his one cause in building up his church here there is a number in this town now rejoicing in hope and we hope the work is now progressing O my children seek not for turrible riches that you glorify God and enjoy him forever is the prayer of your affectionate friend and father Jacob Hall I want to see you all but getting to be old and infirm and I want you to come and see me I am through the goodness of the Lord blessed with the comfort of life and it is better for me to be here my family is in health and send their love to all inquiring friends this from your affectionate father
Jacob Hall

Curtis Culven please to send these lines to James William Julia I do long to see you and Mary and converse with you and yours but God bless you all dear brothers and sisters in law although I have never seen you I feel willing to write to you a few lines your sister Harriet has left this world of sorrow and affliction I feel my loss is great she was a kind and obliging companion thus my friends she that was my partner and bosom friend is severed from me and while I am left to mourn her loss I do not have to mourn as those that mourn without hope but have reason to believe that my loss is her eternal gain from the evidence that she gave of her being willing to leave this world and her resignation to the will of God our Heavenly Father it is a loud call to me for repentance and reformation and I think that I can say the Lord gave and the Lord has taken away and blessed be the name of the Lord and I do believe that while her body lies mouldering in the grave her soul is with Christ in Paradise the text from which her funeral sermon was preached I feel is applicable to myself which is this He hath turned my ways aside He hath pulled me in pieces and I am left desolate if you should write to your Father and mother or sister as probably you will do not forget to write to me as I consider you my relation my health is tolerable good my love and respects to you all

Cephus Curtis

(Later letters cont'd)

Dear brothers and sisters I now take my pen in hand to inform you that I have not forgotten you the distance of six hundred miles does not make me unmindful of you I often think of you and want to see you very much I have found a fen (fawn) but it got (loose?) as soon as it got large I want that you should come out here we had peech trees in blom in March

EDWARD HALL

Ap the 8 (1828)

I want to see you all and want you should come out and see us Father is about to bild a frome barn and we got sixteen sheep eleven lambs and we got fifteen head of cattle

EDWIN HALL

My dear children I would inform you I am in the land of the living while some of our family are numbered among the dead the particulares is written respecting Harriett's death now my greatest anxiety is that we all as one may futilly lay it to heart and prepare to follow her my love to all inquireing friends

POLLY HALL

This is from your affectinate mother
The man is wayting and Tom in haste