

Hallowell Sept 8 1845

My dear Brother

It becomes my painful task to inform you of the death of our Father, who departed this life Sept 4 after a short illness of a fortnight, taken with a shight-attack of Colera Morbus, from which he partially recovered kept his chamber however, but was not considered dangerous even by his physician, until the day before he died, I saw but little of him, although I heard from him every day almost, the last week Mr G or William went up to enquire after him, we felt very anxious about him being so very aged, I spent most of the Friday before he died with him, he appeared sick & kept his bed entirely, I was with ^{him} on Wednesday, he did not know me Mr Gardner watched with him, but the physician thought him no worse than the evening before, as Mothers was very much wearied with constant care, & watching I procured a nurse on Thursday, went to Augusta with her quite early, say between eight & nine & Father died about ten, as easy as a babe, no one supposed him dying only the nurse, being familiar in such scenes said to us he is going, as there was no struggle and no gasping I could scarcely believe it until he was gone, he did not speak after I went in, & had not conversed since Monday, when he set up in bed ~~had~~ & had family prayers, & the Doct told him he might ^{be} dressed & go below & Wednesday rise out if pleasant he did not incline to leave his bed for the day, had a bad night & grew gradually worse until he died he refused nourishment, of which he took but little or nothing during his sickness, Mr Tappan had some conversation

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him he remarked that he had not felt that this was
his last sickness, still it ^{might} be if so he was willing to have
it as God would have it, he should like to live a little longer
to see ^{none of} his offspring brought in, but said God will order
it all right, he was buried on Saturday uncle Jotham.
come the day he died to go with them to the board
meeting in Brooklyn ^{not ~~any~~ of his sickness}, the next day, Father & mother
intending to go, uncle stayed to the funeral, Susan
Homan lost her only son, a very promising boy he
was very lovely, ^{four} years & a half old of Scarlet Fever,
Quinsy suffered intensely after a weeks illness his name
was Charles Sewall for his Grandfather Charles feels his
death, as well as Fathers very much hope it may be sanc-
tified to him. The will was opened by Doct Tappan
after the funeral Doct Tappan & my husband being
executors, after they are qualified you & Abby will have
copy of the will, after ~~they are qualified~~ which will
take place after three weeks, I will give the items
of the will, as near as I can recollect, The house &
furniture & the buildings thereon, including the
garden as well as the lot to Mother during her life
time subject to rent or any other way she may
see fit, & one third of all the rest of the real and
personal estate, the remainder to be divided into
3 shares you & I having each a share the remaining
share to be divided between Charles & Abby the Cow &
farming utensials to Charles. William ^{Tappan} has never
given me any thing except twice ^{since I saw you} ten dollars each time.
I have sold one of my lots of land for one hundred dollars
& have been offered one hundred & twenty dollars for the other.
Notwithstanding all my toil & labor & 3 or four hundred
dollars spent of my earnings & devoted to the comfort of the

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I have sold one of my lots of land for one hundred dollars

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Notwithstanding, all my toil & labor & 3 or 4 hundred

dollars spent of my earnings & devoted to the comfort of the

family before my marriage, & I am sure I have
never been much expense to my father since 16 or
17 years old & by my extreme ~~extreme~~ ^{power} exersion was enabled
to keep the property together while the other two were
helped in every way for years. Father has had it in his
to give me something if he chose for I understood
he has received within a year or two from 15 to 18
hundred dollars, as back pay for the two offices he sustained
during the army, & one hundred dollars added to his year
ly pension, how he has disposed of the 15 hundred dollars
I know not & Father & Mother have never men
tioned it to me, but I believe it to be a fact I had it
from a source I can rely upon, so you see your
expectations cannot be much raised, as there is
not much for us. it grieves me much to think
of my fathers treating me so different from all the
I hope I shall try to feel right. You have been ~~missing~~ ^{ac-}
-quainted of the death of my dear only daughter O William
you can have very little idea of my loss she was very
promising, a child of fine intellect a first rate scholar
very companionable & helpful at home indeed she
was every thing to me & beloved by all who knew
her I have found it hard to be submissive she
was an idol amongst us William was very fond
of her & he is very lonely without her they
were devoted to each other.

Love to all & write soon & I will
endeavor to answer it.

Yours truly
J. J. Gardner

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SS Gardner



Mrs. S.S. Gardner
September 8. 1845

Mr. William Sewall
Panther Creek
Cass County
Illinois