

Fryeburg, May, 30th 1817

My Dear Brother?

Would you know the cause of my long silence, you must attribute it to nothing but a depression of spirits, and the consciousness that I could write nothing interesting. I had almost determined never to write another letter; but your kindness, and a request from you that I would write quite overcame me and I yield to my feelings, to that impulse, which tells me that my heart is still trembling - ly alive to the sweet emotions of fraternal affection! Do not misunderstand me, I ^{never} ceased for one moment to love you with the tenderest love: But I sometimes feel as Pope did when he wrote these lines. "Let me live unseen unknown, and unlamented let me die. Steal from the world, and not a stone tell where I lie. You kindly enquire concerning my welfare, and present Situation,? I will begin with the pleasantest part, I was received and am still treated by my friends here with the greatest cordiality; you will ask then if I am not happy? Could I answer in the affirmative I would. But could you be happy Josiah if on leaving the home of the Father, you loved and revered, he had told you he was glad you were going? The recollection of this poisons

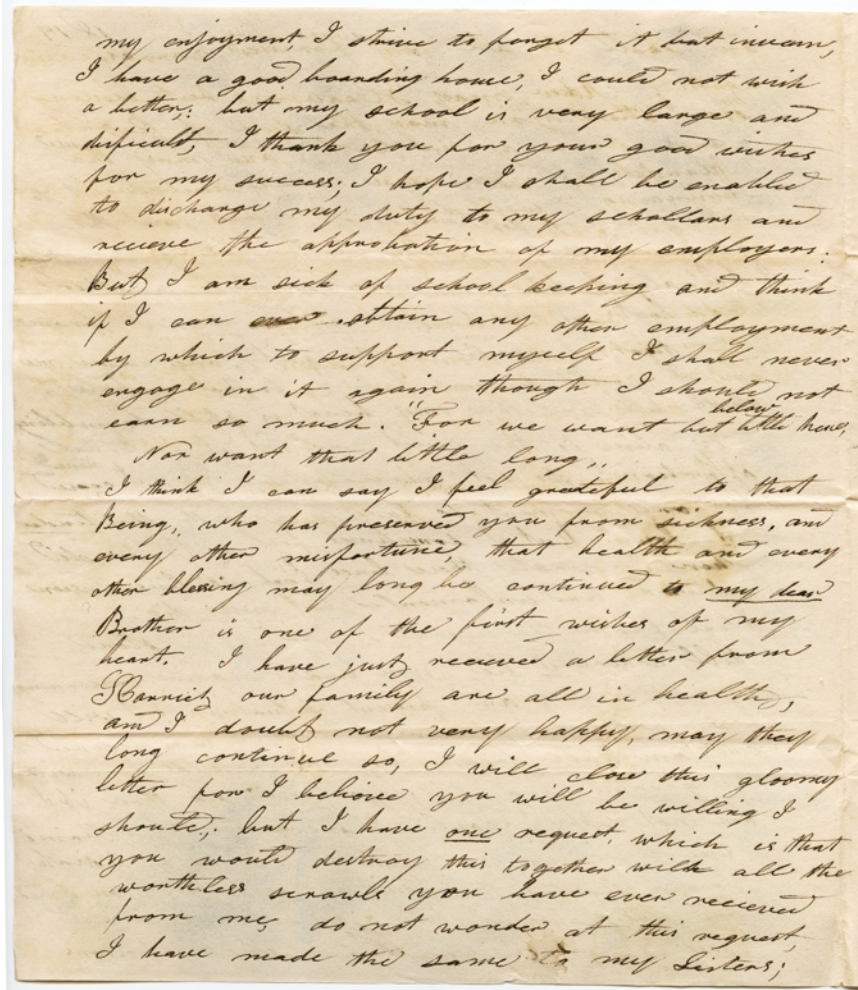
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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through
Maine Historical Society
Date: May 30, 1817
Description: Hannah Pierce to brother, Josiah



my enjoyment, I strive to forget it but in vain,
I have a good boarding house, I could not wish
a better; but my school is very large and
difficult, I thank you for your good wishes
for my success. I hope I shall be enabled
to discharge my duty to my scholars and
recieve the approbation of my employers.
But I am sick of school keeping and think
if I can ~~ever~~ obtain any other employment
by which to support myself I shall never
engage in it again though I should not
earn so much. "For we want but ^{below} little have,
Nor want that little long."
I think I can say I feel grateful to that
Being, who has preserved you from sickness, and
every other misfortune, that health and every
other blessing may long be continued to my dear
Brother is one of the first wishes of my
heart. I have just recieved a letter from
Pannick our family are all in health,
and I doubt not very happy, may they
long continue so, I will close this gloomy
letter for I believe you will be willing I
should, but I have one request, which is that
you would destroy this together with all the
worthless scrawls you have ever recieved
from me, do not wonder at this request,
I have made the same to my Sisters;

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and shall to all my former correspond
=ents. Adieu may Heaven's best blessings
ever attend you, may the Sun of Righteou
=ness illumine your faith, and may the
plaudits of your own conscience ever pro
=nounce "well done good and faithful
Servant," cheer you through life, and give
consolation at the hour of death. I thought
I had done, but you must forgive me for
adding these few lines. I most sincerely thank
you for all your goodness to me, and beg
you would forgive me for all the pain
I have ever given you. Hannah.

Give my best love to Brother Seba; and
compliments to Mr Emery.

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