

Gorham July 4. 1849~
Dear Sister,
I received with pleasure, your letter by D.T. Pierce Jr. I was not at home, when D came but I returned to Gorham last eve to spend Independant day in my office, where I have a great mass of writing to do, but I must go back to Court tomorrow & expect to be engaged there till the middle of next week. My haying in the mean time has come on - & I am needed at home. The week after next I hold a Court at Brunswick. I truly desired to visit Baldwin but could not - The Insurance office requires full half my time - & increasing Probate business the other half - In addition I have engaged to write & deliver a historal Address, for the Annual Exhibition week - at Gorham July 25. & I have scarcely begun it yet. My six weeks confinement has put me back in business matters greatly. I am now pretty well. My neck has to be dressed twice a day yet. I am sorry to hear of sister Sarah's illness, your letter gave me the first intelligence of it. I hope she is well by this time. Mr Longfellow is very feeble, he has not left his bed since last Friday. Evelina - Nancy, & George - are in Portland to witness the show of today & this evening - Lewis is there also - Yesterday the Rail-Road cars first run

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through
Maine Historical Society
Date: July 4, 1849
Description: Letter to Hannah Pierce about selling properties

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from Brunswick to Portland. & brought many of the Bowdoin scholars, free of charge. Lewis came away then & last evening I took him home, he passed the night with us & left at 6 o'clock this morning; he returns to Brunswick to night in the steam boat.

On Monday eve. we received a very long (& to us) interesting letter from Josiah, dated on his birth day (June 14th). at Kennilworth Castle - about 160 miles from London. He was walking over England, having bought him a knapsack in London & set off on foot. the better to see things & to save expense. He says he is often taken for a pedler, or patent doctor. The letter is now at Portland but I shall send it to you - He says "give my love to Aunt Hannah & tell her that her valuable loan, often reminds me of her." Josiah sent Nancy an oak leaf picked from Lord Byron's Oak, which he planted at Newstead Abbey. & a flower picked in the garden - of Shakespeare.

And now about your Westbrook houses. I hardly know what to advise. except I will say, that if you can get \$1000- or even \$800- for the Murch House I would ^{advise to} sell it. I know the Whitney house is sorely out of repair & has been for some years. I think one of the chimnies must be taken down. If you design to keep the house. it might be well to alter & repair the whole thoroughly - & build another porch & fit it for 2 families

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But if you should sell it within a few years
you would lose a great deal, if you lay out \$500,
or \$600. on it - as you never could sell it for enough
sum to pay for the alterations - Perhaps \$150. or
\$200. might be advantageously expended, even
if you should soon sell. Indeed, the house will
not be tenatable, unless something is soon done
to it - I think \$150. or \$200. would put it in
decent repair, in its present form - but Daniel
ought to know better than I, as he has had much
more experience in building. Before I paid \$500. for
the repairs I should want to look a little
farther & see if some other Carpenter would
not engage to do it for a less sum.
I am called away & must close
abruptly. Yours affectionately,
J. Pierce
Wife desired me to convey her love.

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