



By the way, is Joseph Merrill keeping company with Harriet Thomas yet, you mentioned in your letter that Georgeanna Blanchard had a

beau but you did not say who it was
please tell me in your
letter Mother sends
her best respects
to you all

Clay Banks, Oceana Co, Sept 7th/55
My Dear Friend,

I received your letter dated
January the 14 a long while ago And I guess
you have begun to think that I have
forgot all about all my old friend and school-
mate, but you cannot think so dear
but

Persis. ^ You must excuse me this time for
being so neglectful and I will be more
prompt for the future. Oh how I wish
I could see you Only think it is most
you all

three years since I bid ^ ~~my old friends~~
good bye and came to the West, how
quick the time has passed away, and what
a variety of changes has taken place during
the time. Little did I think when I bid
you good bye that so soon I should be
a wife, would that the days of childhood
and youth had lasted longer, though I am
happy as happy can be, for I love my
Husband with all my heart, and he loves
me in return with his whole heart and
soul. But still when I think of my absent
friends so far away I cannot help
feeling sad for a few moments, although
I hope and trust that the time is not

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MMN #35715

Date: Sept. 7, 1855
Description: Letter to Persis Blanchard about youth and friends

far distant, when we shall meet again. But
it is not likely that I shall ever again
spend so many happy hours in your society
as I have done, but it is ever thus we
find friends but to part from them, be they
ever so near and dear. I wish you would
come out here and make us a good long
visit how glad I should be, I am still
at home, The folks are all well. By the by,
I like to have forgot to tell you that farther
has settled down on a Farm. He bought
240 acres of Land here to the Clay Banks
last Spring and built a House and we have
been living here ever since. It is a very
pleasant place and the best of farming
Land. It is about 12 miles from where we
lived on White River, It lays 7 miles
north, from the mouth of White River and half
a mile from Lake Michigan. We have plenty
of neighbors and settlers are coming in all of
the time, they have bought up all of the
Lands for miles, and miles, around, there is
a Post Office established half a mile from
here. And we get the mail regular once
a week. I think some of going to House
keeping this fall but have not decided yet.
But shall next Spring if not before, that is
if nothing happens, My Husband is repairing
a Steam Mill in White Lake now, And is

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absent all of the week until Saturday comes
And goes back again Sunday afternoon.
You cannot think how lonesome I am when
he is gone, it seems as though I could not
stand it, I shall be glad when I go to Housekeep
ing for then he will be at home all of the time
After I go to Housekeepin' you must certainly
come out and make me a visit, and see
what a charming little housekeeper I shall make
You had better come out and teach School
you could get first rate wages and I
would have you board with me, would it not
be charming, Where is Sarah Sweetser now, give
my love to her and tell her not to forget
me and that I want to see her very much
tell her I am agoing to write her a letter
in a few days, I received a letter from
her the same time that I got yours, and
hers was wrote last October, and yours in
January, Give my love to Mary F and ask her
if she has forgot me I wrote her a letter
some time last winter but have received no
answer to it, I expect she will be married
the next thing I hear, And by the way dear
Persis tell me wether any of the young
gentlemen have stole your heart away or not,
write and tell me all about it wether you
have found any one to love or not, I presume
you are still attending School. are you out,

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Give my love to Frank & Fred I suppose Frank
has got to be large enough to bean the girls
round by this time. but it is growing late so I
must bid you good night dearest friend, wishing
you pleasant dreams of friends and may I to have
a place in your dreams - Adieu for the present,
Monday P M Again I seat myself to pen a few
lines to you and shall try to finish my letter to night
so as to send to the office in the morning It is
a lovely afternoon and every thing thing looks green
and beautiful, Lizzie sends her love to you, you
would indeed be surpris'd to see how she has grown
And little Charlie to he has got to be as large
big, he calls me his Nelly, And nothing will make
him mad so quick as it does for Mr Collins
to tell him that I am his Nellie, and that he
is agoiny to take me off Give my best respects
to your Farther and mother. Aunt Lucy is
liveing on a Farm about six miles from here
her health is first rate, better than it has been
for six or seven years, I cannot think of any
thing more to write at present, Please write
immediatly and tell me all the news, for
I am anxious to hear from you. Please excuse
all errors and bad writing From your own
true and loving friend Lucy E Collins,
P.S. Give my love to all inquiring friends

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