

Married in Lincolnville December 2^d 1845

By Francis Fletcher & Mr Richard Maddocks
To Mary Richards

The initials are pretty fairly transposed
and if that means good luck I think they will have it
with Richards

Lincolnville December 1845

Dear Brother & Sister
I take my pen to inform ^{you} that I am
well (that is, I am ~~more~~ much better than I was when father
wrote you, or than I have been for four years)
and hope these lines will find you and my nephews well.
My health has been such for the four years past first
that sometimes my bodily strength has almost failed
me, for one year I have been able to work but little,
this summer I went to Ferrisston thinking to work there,
I stayed about five weeks, part of the time with my
Brother Ferrisham & wife, and apart with my uncle
David Ferrisham's family, but my health being poor
I had to return home, my complaint has been
palpitation of heart, Erysipelas in the head, and Dropsy
the three first weeks of November I suffered much -
never did I experience so much pain in so short
time, I have been using Brandt's pills, and Mr. Alister's
all healing ointment or the worlds salve, for about
two weeks, and I have so far (and fast) recovered my health
that I feel almost ready to exclaim; I am well!

Now I will commence another subject - I feel
truly thankful to god that he ever changed my heart from
nature to grace; I would say to you, religion is that we all
need to fit us to live in this life, and prepare us for life
everlasting. We have had some blessed good meetings here
within three years, there have been many souls converted to
god in Lincolnville; but few of them are living Christians
at this time; I do feel to mourn over the fallen state of the
church, she has fallen and is not aware of it, the Lord help.

Phebe & Van Buren
Richards

Dec 1845

Lincolnville
Dec 6th

Mr. Alonzo S. Richards

Fort Fairfield

Maine

There is nothing feigned in what Phebe has written in
this letter she is just that she appears to be, she has lived a
Christian ever since she first professed to believe
in christ, I wish all my children were living ~~the~~
life that Phebe is, many that started with her, have
gone back - I hope you will answer this soon, it will
please them much - direct to one of them
Your father

12/2/45

I will give you the names of my advent brethren in young town (so called) Calvin Dean & Wife, Jeremiah Wadsworth & Wife, John Porter, Samuel Wadsworth, Joseph R Young, John W. Young, Father, and Myself, belong to that little band, we are looking for the appearing of the great god and our saviour Jesus Christ. Wilder starts he that has been so much abused by a wicked world and an ungodly church: I speak the things I know) Daniel, and Brown Mansfield and wife (she that was Angelina Bogs) Frances & Augusta Bogs, (the oldest daughter of that family lives in Pennsylvania) John Gilkey & wife, George McKenny & wife, James Pottle & sister, and a Brother Cables, I name those Brethren & sisters because I love them; We have had many happy seasons together when we have met for the worship of god. I hope you are enjoying the comforts of religion. If not, let me advise you to give your hearts to the Lord while it is a time of salvation. My prayer to god is that we may be prepared for the burning day - that if we meet no more on earth, we may meet in Heaven, no more to part, - I feel determined (the Lord help^{ing} me) to gain eternal life. I praise god for what I feel in my soul while I write, I have a hope that I shall gain that happy Land where there will be no more curse, - where the Lord will be the light of his people. Dear brother I often think of the last Sabbath you was here with us, I should be glad to see you, but as I can't, I do, and shall endeavour to pray for you and hope to have your prayers in return. I wrote this letter, but my writing was such I did not know as you could read it, and I have got father to copy it off for me. Good bye Dear Brother & sister I remain your most affectionate sister Phoebe Richards

12/45
2/12

Lincolnvill Dec: 4 - 1845

My Dear Brother

I take this opportunity to inform you that I and the rest of our fathers family are well, and I hope this may find you and Sis and little Henry in good health. Father received your letter, we were glad to hear that you were all well, Almon, I should be very happy to see you, I often think of the distance that separates us from each other, and I know not as we shall ever see each other again, but hope we may, if life and health are ours, I have wished that I was with you, if I should live to be able to come I think I shall one day see the arrostook; in one of your letters you said something about coming to Lincolnvill next Spring, I hope you will, if you do I will tell you the whole story, should time continue I think Father would like to come to your place was it not so expensive an under taking, but I know not what may be, Father's lot is a hard one, Mother & her love and best respects to you and Sis, She says you run a kiss little Henry for her, this is the first of my scribbling to send abroad, I hope you will excuse my poor writing, Phoebe and I want you to answer this as soon as you receive it, be sure to do so, so good bye Dear Brother for the present, I remain your little, and loving brother,

Vern Buren Richards

Farnham came into this place 2 or 3 weeks since - engaged a team to move his family to Lincolnvill in 2 days his mind was to return to Thomaston and remain there, and he went. I have heard that his mind has turned him round again and that he is coming back here to winter. I was told he earned 140 dollars what time he worked and it is all gone again, he barely knew me when here he had some stock - he sold for a song when he was here

Richards