



Lincolnton, Nov. 9-1851

My Dear Son-

May be, you are to day, reading my last letter to you. In yours of 29th Sept. you ask me if I can tell you about your Uncles and Aunts, where they are and how they are. Your aunt Olive Manning is in Boston with her Daughter Angelica, who is married there, your aunt has not lived with her husband for several years, your aunt Deborah Boggs lives at the foot of the pond, so called, Boggs has tended the grist mill there for ~~several years~~ many years. Aunt Martha Hassen lives in Rockland - what once was East Thomaston, Her family have gone to the four winds. Aunt Ruth is dead. Old Josiah and all his children but 2 went off with the Mormons. He and the children are dead. The writer of this is the next of the family. Uncle David lives in Frankfort, I have seen him but once since I saw you, he has some children married. Uncle Isaac lives in Monmouth, west of the Kennebec, he has a second wife. His eldest son married your sister Phoebe, his next is a schoolmaster, his next learnt his trade at, and now works in, the great scythe factory at North Wayne, he has his board and 500 dollars per year. Uncle Amos is as he ever was - the father of many children, some of them, married, and live, in Rockland. Aunt Mary lives in Rockland, her eldest son, Jeremiah, is a fine man and an excellent seaman, has the highest wages, and a high office, has bought him 2 house lots, they come high in Rockland and no mistake. Uncle Gideon lives in Belmont, has but 2 or 3 children, and some of them married, his wife once had 3 at one birth, but they all died within a year after. Uncle Stephen lives in Rockland, he has his third wife, she was Lewis Dean's daughter Cordelia, a little girl when you left L-ville. Stephen is doing well, he is first rate for stone work, such as wall laying, stoning cellars, building lime kilns, granite work, he has a bill of the miles of stone wall he laid in Lincolnton the few last years he was in town, it is almost incredible and yet true, he has two sons, young men, his daughter is married to one of Abner Milliken's sons. Uncle James lives where Isaac Richards did at the time you cut your foot. Isaac's wife dragged him off among the Mormons, since, she has left him, and become spiritual wife to a hell bound priest.- James has some smart boys, 2 oldest, young men, have one stout young woman in the family. James is always uneasy, wants to go to California, Jeremiah Wadsworth that went there about 25 or 26 months ago, got home last thursday, was 36 days from California to Camden, passage fare 292 doll. 50 cents. He has been one of the unlucky ones, he is in a bad fix, having taken the fever and ague on the rout home. Your aunt Lois Farnham, married, her husband left her after cruelly abusing her, She is quite a cripple, is a town pauper, taken care of by the town of Seersmont, she has a daughter married. But----- I will say that Amos has one son that goes to sea a fine young man, he is mate of a large vessel.

Now for a go back-----I have been told by my ancestors, that three Brothers by the name of Richards came over to this country from Europe. I do not know as all three came at once, but one of them if no more landed at Plymouth, his Christian name I have lost, he settled in what now is Massachusetts or New Hampshire. How many sons he had I am not told, but certain it is he had one by the name of James, ( it seems that James must have been the son of his old age). This James first lived in

Dorchester, Massachusetts, or Dover, New Hampshire. Many of the nephews of this James, that is, sons of his Brothers, were killed by the Indians, 8 at one time, while about their farming. It is said by some that all of that name, Richards, in this country, are the descendants of those three. This James had three sons, Dodipher, James and Joseph, they lived a while at what is now called Damariscotta, after that they went Dodipher and James to Camden, then called Megunticook and Joseph to Canaan (Lincolnton). Dodipher had four sons, Joseph, Jonathan, Jesse, Benjamin. His wife's name was Sarah Pearl. Mark, this Dodipher was my grandfather, his son Joseph my father. My father was born in Damariscotta or Camden May 1764, died Feb. 11th 1831. My mother's name was Young. Her father's name Gideon Young, he died in Camden Feb. 7th, 1802, his widow lived till about 1821 or 1822, was about 83 years old. Before marriage her name was Jemima Cilley.- Mother was born in Damarriscotta, 1761 Nov 14th, died January 21, 1844. Her posterity at her death had been 12 children, 7lg. child. 24 great g. children, total 127. N.B. Old Mr. James Richards same to Camden and died at his son Dodiphers. My grandfather Dodipher died about 1808 or 9, his widow several years after. I and your mother were both born in Camden. N. B. It does seem as though there must have been another generation between the landing at Plymouth and the first James I have spoken of -- other statements are correct. I send another list soon.

We are all well - hope this will find you and family so.

Yours ever

Nehemiah Richards.

Your mothers father born Apr. 14, 1763  
died January 28, 1830  
Nancy Wadsworth his wife, born Apr. 13, 1761  
died October 11, 1827.

N. R.

11/9/51  
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