

Elijah Aguilar, Louis Choi, and Kevin W. Harper (editors)

*Keeping up with the Havens:
Letters on Midwestern Family Affairs (1850–1875)*

Shelfmark

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Haven Seed Company Records Collection.
LH-2014-01, Carton 1, Folder 28.
Haven Family Letters (1850–1875).
28 letters dated between June 6, 1850, and January 31, 1875 (numbered below).

Introduction

The 28 letters edited below (and their envelopes inasmuch as they exist) belong to the Haven Seed Company Records, which were gifted to the Orange County Historical Society (OCHS) between the years 1978 and 1981 by Randy Ema on behalf of his stepfather, Archibald B. Haven Jr. (1914–1986). University Archives and Special Collections (UA&SC) at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) purchased the collection from the OCHS in 2014. The materials vary in size, from 11.5 x 6.5 cm envelopes to 40.5 x 25 cm letters. Most letters are in relatively good condition; some have holes, stains, and stamp residue. The letters are primarily written in black ink, although writing in other colors of ink and pencil appears as well. All letters are written on paper, using either a half sheet fold or a single sheet format, and had been folded to fit into envelopes, many of which are damaged. The recipients' names are written on the envelopes, and many envelopes include stamped postmarks or stamps. Some envelopes were apparently subsequently used as scratch paper, as they include text unrelated to the respective letters.

The letters span the quarter century between June 6, 1850, and January 31, 1875. They are primarily addressed to George Washington Haven (1831–1906) and his wife Lucia Amanda, née Wilmot (1836–1899), or both; the two married on October 5, 1854. The majority of letters are from family members discussing daily life. Many letters were written by George's sister Sylvia (1838–1858). At the time of Sylvia's early letters, George had moved to North Eaton, Ohio, while most of his family remained in Shalersville, Ohio. After a brief residence in South Bend, Indiana, George returned to Ohio, but a few years into his marriage, he, his wife Lucia, and their children moved to Bloomington, Michigan. Sylvia provided her brother with news about family members, friends, and the family's farm. She frequently mentioned the various illnesses that affected the family, particularly George and Sylvia's parents—John Haven (1795–1883) and his wife Julia, née Sanford (1803–1858); from time to time, Sylvia wrote to George on their father John's behalf. George and Lucia also received letters from other family members, including their siblings, nieces, and a cousin. Notably, the majority of letters were

written by women, but – and this is a noteworthy exception – there are two letters by Lucia’s brother Silas Gilbert Wilmot (1821–1872), with one of them containing instructions on how to address Lucia’s health issues. George and Lucia also received a number of letters from their niece Alice Bell Haven (1847–1873), the daughter of George’s brother Raymond Haven (1823–1903). In addition to writing to her uncle and aunt, Alice included notes to her cousin, George’s and Lucia’s son Edwin “Eddie” Melancthon Haven (1855–1917). In some cases, separate letters addressed to multiple individuals in the same household were written on a single sheet of paper, or multiple writers from the same household wrote separate letters to the same recipient and sent them together.

These letters provide significant information about the day-to-day life of the Haven family in the nineteenth-century midwestern United States. They illustrate the significance of family relationships and the importance of letter writing as a way to maintain family ties. In addition, several letters provide information about the illnesses experienced by Americans at this time. The letters often reference farm work, including notes about items to buy for the farm along with prices, offering insight into the U.S. economy. Letters about the Haven family’s farm may provide helpful information for those interested in the history of farming and property in nineteenth-century America. Letters from the early 1860s also include brief mentions of the U.S. Civil War, giving some insight into Americans’ perceptions of the conflict. Overall, these are of interest to anyone studying nineteenth-century American history, particularly those interested in the experiences of rural Americans like the Haven family.

The letters have been edited in chronological order (which is not how they are preserved in UA&SC). The transcription below preserves the spelling, capitalization, and punctuation (or lack thereof) of the original documents. Any additions, including punctuation to enhance comprehension, are enclosed by square brackets. Identifiable individuals, locations, and technical terms have been referenced in the footnotes, usually only when they first appear.

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The primary-source edition published below originated in the “History and Editing” course offered by CSUF’s Department of History.

Shalersville Oct. 4th 1853

Mr Haven

Dear Sir

This is written to know if you have seen any thing from of one G. W. Haven, who left Shalersville about 3 weeks ago. If you have ^{or} should chance to, I would like, that you would tell him that the folks of Shalersville, or at least Uncle Johns folks would like to see him. But to the matter of fact of the affair we heard by William Smith that you were in Eaton and we have been looking for you or a letter from you since then, but have seen neither. Mother has been quite sick since you were so gone, but is much better now so that she is up about the house about as much as she was before. The fair was on Wednesday and a fair it was I assure you for about noon we had one of the hardest showers I ever saw

Figure 1: Letter 02/page 1: From Sylvia H[aven] in Shalersville, Ohio, to her brother G[eorge]. W[ashington]. Haven in [North] Eaton, Ohio, October 4, 1850, UA&SC, CSUF.

I am out of paper, or I would not send such a looking letter
so this

Washington,
May 10th, 1861

Sister Lucia,

I have received yours of April 26th, and should have answered it before now, but it is not always convenient for us to go or send to the office, it being seven miles from us, Carlos is in Chicago he went from here the last of March, Byron lives there, is working in the I. C. R. R. Machine Shop, Carlos thinks he has got a good wife, their boy was a year old last Dec, they call him Edgar Carlos, If Carlos should get into business there, which he thinks he shall do after the war excitement is over, I and the children shall go there too, then I hope a way will be opened for me to go to Ohio once more, I do very much want to see all of our friends and relatives in that part of the world, and there are your little boys I would like to see how they look and act, well, I suppose very much like other folks children, only a little bit smarter, just as every mother thinks,

I was glad to get a letter from you, I had often thought about writing to you and Betsy, but it is so seldom that I write to any one except Byron that I hardly know how to set myself about, if Lucia, we know something about Pioneer life in the west, its toil, its trials, its privations, and I have had my family sick around me without a cent in the house to purchase the common necessaries of life, but those dark days are past, we have struggled thro many hardships far from our childhoods home, among Strangers in a strange land, the Lord has tempered the wind to the shorn lamb, and we can now look

Figure 2: Letter 16/page 1 front: From Deborah Wilmot and her daughter Amelia in Washington, Iowa, to Deborah's sister-in-law and Amelia's aunt Lucia [Haven (née Wilmot)], May 10 and 7, 1861, UA&SC, CSUF.

La Poste August 17th

Dear Sister

Feeling anxious to hear how you get along & how you like Mich & Co I thought perhaps I might persuade you to write and let me know if I should give you notice of the fact it has been nearly one year since you and myself were in Mich on a visit for the first time I enjoyed myself first rate. I have had one letter from you since you moved to Mich and that is all that I answered soon after. do you like it as well as you expected & Co

Figure 3: Letter 17/page 1: From Bertrand N. Wilmot in Laporte, Ohio, to his sister Lucia Haven [née Wilmot] in Bloomingdale, Michigan, between February 12, 1858, and December 6, 1861, UA&SC, CSUF.

Rawsonville Ohio
Nov-6 1869

Geo. W. Haven }
Dear Sir } Yours was rec^d informing me
of Lucia's sickness &c. { I have mislaid the letter
and shall not be able to repl^y in full } If I remember
correctly, one of her lower limbs is troublesome, &c.

I am of the opinion that the time for using
Pulsatilla has passed by - Calcarea Carb 50. or the
200. potency - one or two doses a week. Rhus
topt the 250. also if there is much pain
on remaining quit - Give a dose of daffod
high - once in a week or two - I wish
you would write again on the receipt of this -
and let me know all you can, in relation
to her case I was called away the
next morning after I rec^d of your letter and
did not get home for 4 or 5 days and on
looking after the letter, I found that it was
lost some way and I have not been able
to find it - I am satisfied that she will
not recover rapidly, and again you will
find that the higher dilutions will work the
best with her - I could sight you to

Figure 4: Letter 26/page 1 front: From S[ilas]. G[ilbert]. Wilmot in Rawsonville, Ohio,
to his brother-in-law Geo[rge]. W[ashington]. Haven,
November 6, 1869,
UA&SC, CSUF.

Edition: Letter 01:

*From E[lecta]. Wilmot [née Stocking] in Kingsbury, Indiana,
to her sister-in-law Lucia Wilmot in Laporte, Ohio,
June 3, 1850.*

[page 1, half sheet fold, with the letter itself functioning as the envelope]

June the 3 1850

Dear Sister Lucia¹

I have thought much about you likely in particular the last week and I came to the conclusion that to day I could write to you but come what would, and you see I have done so, not that I have any thing of much importance to say, but when I think with what eagerness I open and read a letter from any of my friends, I think mine will be as source of pleasure to them. we all enjoy tolerable good health this spring, you can better think than I can tell the pleasure we felt on seeing Albert,² I did not know him and cannot now make it seem that he is that little boy we left sitting on the fence the morning & [?] we started for the west, he makes me think of silas³ especially when he laughfs, and one thing, sis you may depend upon that we shall keek [keep] him with us as long as we can. he is going west with us and if he likes you need not expect him back to Ohio⁴ any more to live, and we mean to get all the family we can to join us, and establish a Wilmot⁵ proviso (or settlement) somewhere in the west, and we calculate to have you there any how, Sleuford has gone to see his land will visit Carlos⁶ before he returns, Albert has hav a very sore hand for several days he blistered it planting corn and then took cole in it but it is gettin well fast now,

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I was glad to hear that you had been attending school fore a good education and a well cultivated mind is the true foundation on which our hopes to build in this world and when we come to die we can look back on a life well spent and have it said we have not lived in vain. the children talk a great deal about aunt Lucia and this [?] very thing you have sent them is kept as a sacred treasure I wish you could peak in sometime when they get their trinkets and seat them selves on the carpet and spread out their best treasures (to them at least,) even little Mary⁷ can tell which is her card that Aunt Lucia sent to her Mary ran alone when she was nine

¹ Lucia Amanda Wilmot (1836–1899), future wife of George Washington Haven. In the references to this edition, “Lucia” (unless otherwise specified) refers to this individual.

² Albert John Wilmot (1829–1913), brother of Lucia Wilmot.

³ Silas Gilbert Wilmot (1821–1872), brother of Lucia Wilmot.

⁴ State in the midwestern United States.

⁵ Family name. Lucia Wilmot had fifteen siblings.

⁶ Don Carlos Wilmot (1812–1878), brother of Lucia Wilmot.

⁷ Mary Wilmot (1849–?), daughter of Hubbard Wilmot (Lucia’s brother).

months old and we think she is a little the smartest one in thee family the boy⁸ not excepted and he is a pretty smart chance of a boy I can assure you, it takes him and Albert to do the choars they milk the cows feed the pigs and chop wood whereever Albert goes Lafayet⁹ is tight to his heals. Arvilla¹⁰ is stud[y]ing Geography this summer and learning to wright she says you m[a]y expect a letter from her about next winter She learns very fast. Adoline¹¹ will have to be the house maid as she seams to like nothing so well as washing dishes. Amand¹² is a smart little girl and is at the head of her class almost every night. tell Jannet¹³ to write to me I should like to see her very much, and hope I shall before many years she must think this letter written partly to her for I do not know when I shall find time to write again for if you could see under what sircumstances I attempt to write you would not wonder that I did not write oftener

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I will just give you a specimen of the transactions since I bega[n] this letter so that you can judge for yourself what it is every day, well in the first place I began writing as soon as I got my mornings work done, the children washed and dressed clean, and by the time I had seated myself they were all hungry well gave them a peace all aloud. and sat down again, pretty Soon Mary fell down stairs and hurt her head very bad. I sat down and hushed her to sleep to[o]k up my pen again then smash went some thing in the pantry jumped up to see, Arvilla had some how knocked the churn over and broken it and spilled the crem all over the floor well I cleared that away sat down again soon Amand came in crying she hard fell down and got her new apron all covered with cowdung she was provided with a clean one and just then Lafayet let the flatiron fall on his toes and he set up a yelping, and Adoline to put the nub on came in with her tattered sun bonnet in her hand she had lain it down on the grass and the pigs had torn it all to peacies, so do not wonder that I am tempted to slay dow[n] my pen and not try to write another letter but I shall finish this one now and shall expect half a dosin for it from some of you or all, to day is the warmest day we have had this season, it is very dry and dusty I see gentlemen and layes [ladies] riding by that look like negroes the dust is so black, now Luc[i]a do write me soon as you get this I shall

⁸ Reference to Lafayette Bertram Wilmot (1848–1905), son of Hubbard Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

⁹ Lafayette Bertram Wilmot (1848–1905), son of Hubbard Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹⁰ Arvilla Wilmot (1843–?), daughter of Hubbard Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹¹ Adeline Wilmot (1844–?) daughter of Hubbard Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹² Amanda Isabel Wilmot (1846–1921), daughter of Hubbard Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹³ Jennette C. Wilmot (1819–1897), sister of Lucia Wilmot.

not write one word to Betsy¹⁴ for I know she could send me a few lines if she were a mind to give my love to Mother¹⁵ and Father¹⁶ and Eliza, tell

[page 4, traces of a red wax seal; modern hand/pencil: looked over; modern hand/pencil: Some old letters; pencil/series of numbers/tallies: 49 14 / 35 1885 35 / 50]

Artimes¹⁷ and Franklin¹⁸ I shall expect to see them in the wes[t] [?] before long, Albert is a going to write to Norres¹⁹ soo[n] and I w[ill] try and make my mark in it give my love to Bertrand²⁰ & wife²¹ they must take good care of that boy,²² no[w] good by dear Ses your affectionat[e] Sister E[lecta]. Wilmot²³

Write me all the news [?] go and see Aloline tell her our folks are at well at present

Leucia Wilmot

5

Lucia, Wilmot

La Porte²⁴

Lorain Co[unty]

Ohio

Kingsbury²⁵ Ind[iana],²⁶

June 6th / [18]50

Edition: Letter 02:

From Sylvia H[aven] in Shalersville, Ohio, to her brother G[eorge]. W[ashington]. Haven in [North] Eaton, Ohio, October 4, 1850.

[page 1, half sheet fold]

¹⁴ Betsey E. Wilmot (1816–1891), sister of Lucia Wilmot.

¹⁵ Unknown. Chloe Jane Wilmot, née Hubbard (1793–1838), mother of Lucia Wilmot, was no longer alive. Perhaps a reference to a stepmother.

¹⁶ Silas Wilmot (1790–1855), father of Lucia Wilmot.

¹⁷ Artemas Wilmot (1831–1903), brother or sister of Lucia Wilmot.

¹⁸ Franklin Benjamin Wilmot (1834–?), brother of Lucia Wilmot.

¹⁹ Norris Tyler Wilmot (1838–1924), brother of Lucia Wilmot.

²⁰ Bertrand N. Wilmot (1823–1871), brother of Lucia Wilmot.

²¹ Cerepta M. Wilmot, née Terrill (1829–1897), wife of Bertrand N. Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

²² Unknown. Bertrand N. Wilmot's sons Dale and Donald were not yet born.

²³ Electa Wilmot, née Stocking (1820–1883), wife of Hubbard Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

²⁴ Neighborhood near Elyria, city in northeastern Ohio.

²⁵ Town in northwestern Indiana.

²⁶ State in the midwestern United States.

Shalersville²⁷ Oct[ober] 4th 1850

Mr Haven²⁸ Dear Sir

This is written to know if you have seen anything ~~from~~ of one G[eorge]. W[ashington]. Haven, who left Shaleresville about 3 weeks ago. If you have or ~~of~~ should chance to, I would like, that you would tell him that the folks of Shalersville, or at least Uncle Johns²⁹ folks would like to see him. But to the matter of fact of the affairs we heard by William Smith³⁰ that you were in Eaton³¹ and we have been looking for you or a letter from you since then, but have seen neither. Mother³² has been quite sick since you were ~~he~~ gone, but is much better now so that she is up about the house about as much as she was before. The Fair was on Wednesday and a fair it was I assure you for about noon we had one of the hardest showers I ever saw

[page 2]

but I happened to have a good shelter so that I did not get wet at all during the rain Mr Pickett took our horses and carriage and carried us, with his woman of course. Father³³ has dug potatoes now for a number of days and thinks he can nearly finish them tomorrow. he has got about 120, bus[hels] in the cellar. Elson³⁴ is going to school next week if nothing prevents. I wrote to George Sandford³⁵ a short time after you went away but could not send it as I did not know the name of the county. a day or two after I wrote it we received a letter from Anzi³⁶ reproving us strongly. I expect that set our wits to work for mother thought of it that night (though come to think of it she thought of the name of the county before we got the letter.) but the next night I wrote another letter and sent it. and I told as smooth a story as I could about ~~the~~ our delay and told nothing but the truth either. And George it was a pretty good letter too (better'n this) and it was wrote better too and really I felt kind of proud of it. But I want to know when you are a going to give us a call for we all would like to see Mr Heven if convenient to the wishes of all, if not so satisfy all, as well as yourself, and then start for home. I am almost

²⁷ Township in northeastern Ohio.

²⁸ George Washington Haven (1831–1906), future husband of Lucia Amanda Wilmot. In the references to this edition, “George” (unless otherwise specified) refers to this individual.

²⁹ Perhaps a reference to their father, who may have been known as “Uncle John” in the community: John Haven (1795–1883), father of George and Sylvia Haven.

³⁰ Perhaps William Smith (1833–1863).

³¹ Township in northeastern Ohio.

³² Julia Sanford (1803–1858), mother of George and Sylvia Haven.

³³ John Haven (1795–1883), father of George and Sylvia Haven.

³⁴ Perhaps Elson Goodell (1840–1912).

³⁵ Individual who appears repeatedly throughout these letters; his precise relationship to the family (if any) is unclear. Garry “George” Sanford (1798–1835), brother of Julia Haven, née Sanford (George’s mother), was no longer alive.

³⁶ Annis Haven (1822–1862), sister of George and Sylvia Haven.

ashamed to send this it looks so bad but I had a few minutes and so I wrote this and you must take it as it comes if you take it at all
Sylvia³⁷

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P.S. If you can spend time without interfering with other business I should like that you answer this. I should like to know how Raymonds³⁸ folks ~~get along~~ and all the rest of the good folks get along. Mother think you will thi[n]g I am reproving you too sharply but you need not think so as it was not intended for a reproof at all, but to let you know that we were alive and well as common still as soon as business will permit we should like to see you.

S[ylvia]. G. H[aven].

[page 4, blank]

Edition: Letter 03:

From Sylvia [Haven]

to her brother George [Washington] Haven in Shalersville, Ohio,

November 3, 1851.

[page 1 front, single sheet format; modern hand/pencil: From Sylvia]

Nov[ember] 3^{[r]d} 1851

Brother George

We received your two letters of the 25th & 26th to day and were very glad to hear from you father and mother were very anxious to hear ~~from you~~. We are all well and hope to find you e[n]joying the same privelege and we were very glad to hear that you were well and had got a school. Raymond came out to see us Saturday and staid with us over Sund[a]y and left this morning before five o clock. Hee would have been very glad to have seen you. Father took particular notice of that old man and I will remember him. We have had a pretty hard storm to day about half snow and about half rain and the ground is but just covered father says that it would have been about 8 inches deep if it had not melted. Father a has not sold old Bill yet. Pa says that you have had full as good luck [?] as he expected. and [?] ~~says~~ that if you can you had better look around and see if you cant get a writing school and perhaps more than one persevere as well as ~~well~~ you can ~~he could~~. We got a letter from New York³⁹ for you and should have sent it before but we did not know where to send it ~~to~~ to. This is the last week of our school and we are a going to have an examination saturday and we shall be arrayed before the tribunel and I wish that you could be there too. Mother want you to write how you fare and all

³⁷ Sylvia Haven (1838–1858), sister of George Haven. In the references to this edition, “Sylvia” (unless otherwise specified) refers to this individual.

³⁸ Raymond Haven (1823–1903), brother of George and Sylvia Haven.

³⁹ City on the Atlantic coast of the United States.

the particulars and write often. It is hard writing when you dont know what to write as it is the case now. Mother wants to know what kind of meetings you have there.

[page 1 back, modern hand/pencil: Sylvia]

Mr George Haven
Shalersville
Portage co[unty]
Ohio

Edition: Letter 04:

*From Augustus Haven in Shalersville, Ohio,
to his cousin George [Washington] Haven in South Bend, Indiana,
December 9, 1851.*

[page 1, half sheet fold]

Shalersville D[e]c[ember]. 9th 1851

Dear Cousin

This evening finds me at home attempting to answer your letter of the 30th which I received this morning, which will be done in a very awkward manner, but as you requested it I will make the attempt. I was as highly gratified at hearing from you as you could be from me, but should be happier far if I could see you. I wish that I could be with you this winter nothing would suit me better, but it is now to[o] late to talk of that, but still I should have been glad to have gone with you if I had known it in season, and I think that we could have spent the winter very pleasantly together. I think that I could contented myself out there this winter. although the red house is a very pleasant place I assure you and probably that other place is to you to which you refer. please be a little more pointed in your next that I may know where she lives if it is any body that I know I will ~~talk~~ take some pains to talk with her about it for you, As to James &C[etera]. &C[etera] I guess that they spend an evening rather pleasantly now and then and who blames them her large eyes are handsome aynt they? I say so

[page 2]

but there are others in town besides the one with large eyes Uncle Ezekel⁴⁰ has got a gal [girl] you know that is some company or at least I think so And what is betwixt you and me dont go any further you know And I will try to answer as many letters as you will write me. In my bungling manner, You had better guess that we have some lively times her[e] this winter, or at least I think so, the girls are as lively as ever and like to ride out about as well. last sunday evening was pleasant and I hope that you was enjoying yourself talking with some pretty girl

⁴⁰ Not everyone referred to as “uncle” or “aunt” in these letters was actually a relative. In cases where family members are clearly identifiable, this has been noted.

and be assured I was but I didn't stay long for I got home about 2, o, clock in the morning if there is a handsome girl in Indiana write me and I will come and get her, unless you get the start of me, but you may tell her what a cousin you have got to venture. As to my school it is in our own district the worst of all places to begin. but I have got along as well as I could wish. at any rate it has been said by some in the district that it is as good a school as ever was taught here. and by those that are as hard to please as any. they did not tell me but I heard of it. As to Mr Hanks he makes his brags that he jirked two the first week quite a recomend. As to Mr Way he evaporates by degrees as usual but makes a great fuss about it. I have 34 schollars and have not punished any yet and dont meant to if I can get along with out for I believe there is no [?] use in it.

[page 3]

But to our cousins as I wrote you before they had their tryal and was cleared but some not being satisfied (Hine Horr Silas Crocker M Crane Miller & others.) they were taken again on the 24 of Nov[ember] (Court being in session) and hearing that the jury had found a bill against them they got to gather and waited for the sherriff to come after them showing that they were not very guilty they had bail so that they did not have to go to ~~jail~~ prison. their tryal came on again on wednesday being 4 days and nights last, the 3: the tryal lasted untill saturday night: about sundown when the jury went out and did not come in untill next morning at 8 o clock being kept out by one juryman from midnight. they brout in a verdict of not guilty. and another time of rejoycing there was in old Shalersville. but evry thing that could be done was done to convict them honestly or disonestly there had been private meetings held in Horrs counting room for two weeks before the tryal came on but all did not convict them they sat there through the whole of the tryal unmoved and with out a tear from one of them they tryed to break down theyr testimony. called their witnesses purjured drunkerds and evry thing they could but to no effect it appeard that God was on their side and I hope that they may realise it. the boys had to pay their lawyers (Day and Burse) 300 dollars. pretty hard for poor boys and innocent at that

[page 4]

the whole cost is some where from twelve to fifteen hundred dollars which comes out of the state except the boys have to pay their own lawyers Royal started for Mishigan⁴¹ to day to work on his farm this winter. If the people out there are not as polite as they are here I pitty them. As to our meetings we are getting along slowly I believe that ~~that~~ they have all pulled in ~~they~~ their horns except Mr Eldridge⁴² but he is as surley as ever. Sutton Haydon⁴³ (your master) has an appointment here for one week from next sunday in the new house. We have all

⁴¹ State in the midwestern United States.

⁴² Perhaps James H. Eldridge (1819–1905) or Samuel Grant Eldridge, (1819–1895).

⁴³ Perhaps Rev. Amos Sutton Hayden (1813–1880).

kinds of weather here about evry week Snow one day rain the next Sunshine the next and the next not any thing but muddy weather. but it is getting late near 11. O. Clock as I have been helping Father⁴⁴ husk corn this evening or I should have been done long ago, and as I expect to be out tomorrow Evening probably near all night on a kind of a mission I will close. But if you think shuch things as this worth reading please write me an answer I want you to pick out the nicest girl that there is in the state for me and write me about her for I begin to think seriously about them, for there is so many here that it is hard choosing and they dont care any more about me than I do about them but seeing I have wrote nothing but nonsense I will ~~tell~~ stop. our folks are all well as usual and your Fathers family is well I believe. I wish you to write the first opportunity, as it dont cost much and if you get tired of paying postage I hav got a few coppers left yet. I believe that Lucy⁴⁵ is well or at least I know she was sunday night, but our girl business to our selvs, twixt you and me. So good night Mr George Haven
Yours in sincere friendship Augustus Haven⁴⁶

[pages 2 and 3, across the top]

P.S. please be so kind as to forgive mistakes for I have not time to ~~look~~ correct them and dont know enough to any way

A[ugustus] H[aven]

[page 2, left margin]

N[ota]. B[ene].⁴⁷ don't be afraid of filling your letters to full or of writing to fine
A[ugustus]. H[aven]

[ENVELOPE, postage stamp, featuring a portrait of George Washington, red: U.S. POSTAGE / THREE CENTS; modern hand/pencil: A Haven; backside, blank]

Shalersville O[hio]

Dec[ember] 10.

Dec[ember] 18

Mr George Haven

South Bend St. Josephs County

Ohio⁴⁸

⁴⁴ Davis Haven (1807–1869), father of Augustus Haven (George's father's brother's son).

⁴⁵ Perhaps a reference to Lucia, if she and George were close acquaintances by then.

⁴⁶ Augustus Haven (1833–1912), son of Davis Haven (George's father's brother).

⁴⁷ Abbreviation for "nota bene," the equivalent of today's "by the way."

⁴⁸ The state here should be Indiana.

Edition: Letter 05:

From Sylwia [Haven] and her father John Haven in Shalersville, Ohio, to Sylwia's brother and John's son [George Washington Haven], January 22, 1852.

[page 1, half sheet fold]

Shalersville Jan 22nd 1852

Dear Brother

It is almost 20 / ~~minutes past~~ 7 and have just sit down to write a few words to brother. Justin⁴⁹ and Julia⁵⁰ and Plymon⁵¹ are in the other room and pa and Justin are talking over some of their matters and me and Julia also. Ma and pa and Elson Sophronia⁵² and I have had our likenesses taken and they look very natural. Julia says she guesses she wont write this time but wait and see if Justin wont write and if he dont she will tell you all when you come home Maria came down here to stay to night but Mr Trobridge came after her. The Mercury stood 20 degrees below zero Tuesday morning; it is exelent sleighing here and has been for a week past; many are the sleighrides. I have been a number of times and can go to Hiram⁵³ to morrow night if I want to to a lyceum but it is doubtful whether I go or not they have gone somewhere to night I dont know where. Ashley nor Bentley do not go to school Ashley went about half an hour the first day but something was the matter of his eye and has not been since. Bentley has not been much. Ed Ross boarded to Mrs Ieranes and is a going to work in sugaring with them he went to school awhile and stopped. Kollin does not go much because he has no coat. Frances has noy been half of the time this winter. I get along pretty well in Latin, but we had to go back and review for Girden Horr and another boy. That French sentence is "Our lady of the lake" I know enough about Latin to know that you made a mistake in the sentence "bonus puella" it had ought to be bona puella,⁵⁴ the adjective must agree with its noun in gender bonus

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is in the masculine gender bona the feminine bonum the neuter you must be a "bonus puer."⁵⁵ Aimez vous votre ecole I do not know whether you can translate it or not it is "Do you love your school." That sentence you wrote to me was spelled "Notre dame du lac."⁵⁶ Mother and Julia and Justin went up to uncle Darwin's this afternoon and they say they dont have a very good school but Mr Lisks folks like

⁴⁹ Dr. Justin Hayes (1825–1892), husband of Julia Hayes, née Haven (George's sister).

⁵⁰ Julia Ann Haven (1827–1903), sister of George Haven.

⁵¹ Plymmon Sanford Hayes (1850–1894), son of Julia Hayes, née Haven (George's sister).

⁵² Sophronia Haven (1841–1918), sister of George Haven.

⁵³ Village in northeastern Ohio.

⁵⁴ Latin for "good girl."

⁵⁵ Latin for "good boy."

⁵⁶ French for "our lady of the lake."

it I guess it is because he hired the teacher. Uncle Edwins⁵⁷ folks have ~~and~~ sent Lucia⁵⁸ but about a week and samuel⁵⁹ has not been much. Lucia is not well. I just found out that uncle Darwins folks were not at home but were to Mentor⁶⁰ ~~up to~~ [?] they went to uncle Edwins ~~there too~~. We have got a chain pump in our well and so have Justins folks. "Elson says write I have froze my ears twice" Elson has I have froze my heels twice and side of my feet once pa has ~~froze his froo[z]~~ the bottom of his feet ~~to~~ aussi (too). Le ney goes to school and dont act very pretty some of the time she considers herself as big as those 20 years old and she is talked about some. Mr Morrill the likeness taker⁶¹ is kind of a mean man he bought some oysters for Amelia Whelen and they had an oyster supper they made a goudeel [good deal] of fun about it she cuts around with the married men and wrote to one the other day, but it is 8 o clock and I must stop.
your sister S Sylvia

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Shalersville Jan[uary] 22nd 1852

Dear Son

It takes about me all of the time take care of the cattle and cut firewood I have drawed a few logs to the mill. Mr Hayden⁶² preached last Sunday and is aging to preach ½ of the time. Dr Belding⁶³ ~~preached last~~ will preach Saturday evening and Dr Belding and Mr Smith⁶⁴ Sunday. Joseph has got your letter so has James and Augustus.⁶⁵ Joseph boards to Justins and and goes to school. La Fayette gets along well in his school. Tuesday it was so cold that he did not have but 3 scholars. Sylvia writes for me while I make a last⁶⁶ for Elson boot. We have got a very good meeting house, two stoves 6 lamps and the rest you will see when you come. Mr Eldrige has not been to meeting for three or four Sundays. Royal Cort lives with uncle Davis⁶⁷ this winter. Mary Sanford is coming up here next week Friday going to stay over Sunday and we wish you could be here if it was convenient with your business. But I must stop and go to bed. I wish your good nights rest. Good evening

‡ John Haven

⁵⁷ Edwin Sanford (1817-1899), brother of Julia Haven, née Sanford (George's mother).

⁵⁸ Lucia Sanford (1842-1926), daughter of Edwin Sanford (George's mother's brother).

⁵⁹ Samuel S. Sanford (1844-1918), son of Edwin Sanford (George's mother's brother).

⁶⁰ City in northeastern Ohio.

⁶¹ Photographer or passepartouist.

⁶² Perhaps Rev. Amos Sutton Hayden (1813-1880).

⁶³ Perhaps Dr. Alvin Belding (1812-1880).

⁶⁴ Perhaps William Smith (1833-1863).

⁶⁵ Perhaps Augustus Haven (1833-1912), son of Davis Haven (George's father's brother).

⁶⁶ A form shaped like the human foot over which a shoe is shaped or repaired.

⁶⁷ Davis Haven (1807-1869), brother John Haven (George's father).

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Sunday Evening

Dear Brother

I must write a word or two and then go down and stay with Sarah Jane while he[r] folks are gone but I must write something of more consequence. Jame eat supper here to night and went up to meeting Mr. Leonky Mrs. Norway's father started of[f] for Calafornia⁶⁸ with a number of others last fall he had been gone awhile when the whole Company were taken sick he and another one of them died 1 month and 1 day after he left home. Ashley came down here just now and leather and harness and is I guess going to take a sleighride. Fred Beecher and Sary are up to Mrs Leranes and they are a going I guess Je ve votre un plaisant école demain (I wish you a pleasant school tomorrow) but I shall be too late if I do not close it now. It looks like rain. Pa is drawing lumber to fix the house with and I expect it will be commenced before you come home, an addition put on so that it will be out most to the well a cheeseroom where the little bedroom and &c[etera] I have no more time to write.

Your sister Sylvia

Edition: Letter 06:

*From Arvilla Wilmot in Kingsbury, Indiana,
to her aunt Lucia Wilmot in Laporte, Ohio,
August 22, 1852.*

[page 1 front, single sheet format, with the letter itself functioning as the envelope;
traces of a red wax seal]

August 22 [1852]⁶⁹

Dear Aunt

I take this opportunity to write a few lines to ~~our~~ you. And let you know that we were all well. I have got another little sister. We call it Martha Jane.⁷⁰ Aunt Adoline⁷¹ has got another little girl. give my love to all. I Would like to see you And Aunt Betsy and her little Emma.⁷² tell grandfather⁷³ and g[r]andmother⁷⁴ that I would like to see them very much. we shall look for you this summer. Adoline

⁶⁸ State on the Pacific coast of the United States.

⁶⁹ Year inferred from page 1 back, which notes "Aug 26 / [18]52."

⁷⁰ Martha Jane Wilmot (1852–1905), daughter of Hubbard Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

⁷¹ Adaline Dorothy Stocking (1826–1879), sister of Electa Wilmot, née Stocking (Lucia's brother Hubbard's wife).

⁷² Emma Oelpha Phillips (1848–1923), daughter of Betsey E. Phillips, née Wilmot (Lucia's sister).

⁷³ Silas Wilmot (1790–1855), father of Lucia Wilmot.

⁷⁴ Unknown. Chloe Jane Wilmot, née Hubbard (1793–1838), mother of Lucia Wilmot, was no longer alive. Perhaps a reference to a stepmother.

and Amanda says that they would like to see you. Bertrand⁷⁵ and Mary is as full of mischief as they can s-I be. it is very warm here by spells. they has not been much rain here. it was a very cold winter last winter. though we enjoyed it very much with pop corn we had no apples to eat.

Arvilla Wilmot

Leucia Wilmot

you must excuse poor writing for I will try to do better next time
write as soon as you receive this letter

[page 1 back, modern hand/pencil: Arvilla Wilmot]

5 Miss Lucia Wilmot.

Laporte, Lorain Co[ounty].

Ohio,

Kingsbury Ind.

Aug[ust] 26 / [18]52

Edition: Letter 07:

From Sylvia [Haven] in Shalersville, Ohio,

to her brother Geor[ge]. [Washington] Haven in South Bend, Indiana,

between November 3, 1851 and December 17, 1852.

[The missing letter that was sent in this surviving envelope was posted on November 18 in Shalersville, Ohio, and received on November 24 in South Bend, Indiana. Based on the other letters from this collection edited here George Washington Haven was still in Shalersville Ohio, on November 3, 1851; he then moved to South Bend, Indiana (where correspondence was addressed to him on December 9, 1851); and he was in North Eaton, Ohio, by December 17, 1852. Thus, it appears that the missing letter was posted either on November 18, 1851, or on November 18, 1852.]

[ENVELOPE, pencil/date received: Nov 24; modern hand/pencil: Sylvia; backside, blank]

Mr. Geo[rge]. Haven

South Bend

St. Josephs Co.

Ind[iana]

Shalersville Oh[io]

Nov. 18

⁷⁵ Perhaps Bertrand N. Wilmot (1823–1871), brother of Lucia Wilmot.

Edition: Letter 08:

*From Sylvia Haven in Shalersville, Ohio,
to her brother George Haven in North Eaton, Ohio,
December 17, 1852.*

[page 1 front, single sheet format]

Shalersville Dec[ember]. 17th 1852

Dear Brother

Received yours about 15 minutes ago and hastened to answer it. We are all well and Hannah doing well. Father says he supposed Raymonds could let him have ~~one~~ a pig as well as not by what he said when he was out here but he says you need not trouble yourselves about it he will get one here and all he cared about getting one there was for the stock. We want you~~r~~ to tell us how you get along with your school. We had three preachers to day. Dr Belding is a going to preach next Saturday and we are to have a meeting of several days commencing 1 week from next Friday. Mr Leanfear is to be ~~be~~ here or at least I think it is his name. Father says his Englishman ~~does so well~~ has got so big he cant Elson cant see him if he flops his tail against him and he fights the cows about right. Julia and little John⁷⁶ are about sick with a hard cold and that is a pretty general complaint about here. Father says he has not sold any horses yet. I suppose Hannah will go home in about a week and then we shall be most alone here. We write so often I cannot think of anything new to write.

Your sister Sylvia Haven

[page 1 back, blank]

[ENVELOPE, modern hand/pencil: Sylvia; backside, blank]

Mr. George Haven

North Eaton

Lorain co[unty]

Ohio

Edition: Letter 09:

*From Sylvia [Haven] in Shalersville, Ohio,
to her brother George W[ashington]. Haven in North Eaton, Ohio,
November 18, 1853.*

[page 1 front, single sheet format]

Shalersville Nov[ember]. 18 1853

Dear Brother,

We are all well except Mother who father thinks is some better now but does not know whether she will remain so. Justin says her fever has left her, and there is

⁷⁶ John M. Hayes (1852–1919), son of Julia Hayes, née Haven (George's sister).

scarcely any coat on her tongue, and I think she is consadirable better than she was when you left, she is very weak but Justin says it is because she has no fever. Our horses had a runaway escape last Tuesday. Father went down to Mrs. Bunnell's⁷⁷ to get the rags and warp the warp was so coarse that we concluded I not to have the carpet wove. he had hitched the horses and had gone into the Store Mr Porter was to the old Store unloading cheese his horses not hitched. Bill Heines colts were in the road. they ran and scar[e]t Mr Porters horses which run across the road. (and father came out of the store just then to get the warp.) father stepped back and one horse jumped on to Jim. and hurt considerable breaking his halter, and untying the colts. scaring them they ran to the south (stringing the rags finely) as far as Bill Hines where they ran against a stumpe and left the wagon. they ran to Mr. Nelsons where they were stopped Rhodes being pretty well tuckered. Ira Burroughs⁷⁸ saw them and sent Sidney⁷⁹ after them. Henry Perane went with Sidney and the[y] got them, and took back. The buggy was broken pretty bad but we are having it fixed.

[page 1 back]

I I guess you think I have strung a yarn but I thought you would like to hear something about it and so of course I must tell it all. I wrote a letter to George Sanford Tuesday. and I wish you would write to him too. We have got your stockings most done and will send them when we have a chance. I want you to write as soon as you get this if you have not written before.

Yours, Sylvia.

[ENVELOPE, postmark, red: Paid / 3; postmark, red: SHALERSVILLE OHIO / NOV 19; modern hand/pencil: Sylvia; backside, blank]

Mr. George W[ashington]. Haven
North Eaton
Lorain co[unty]
Ohio

*Edition: Letter 10:
From Sylvia [Haven]
to [George Washington Haven],
before October 5, 1854.*

[Because of this letter's contents, its most likely addressee is George Washington Haven. Since his wife is not mentioned, the letter was most likely written some time before his wedding to Lucia Amanda Wilmot on October 5, 1854].

[page 1 front, single sheet format]

⁷⁷ Perhaps Nancy E. Bonnell (1815–1878).

⁷⁸ Perhaps Ira Burroughs (1811–1894).

⁷⁹ Perhaps James Sidney Tull (1838–1926).

Monday Morning, Pa wants me to write a little for him. He says what he has sold from the cows comes to over 36 dollars apiece. He thinks you had not better be in any hurry about selling your place and if you do sell it have the most if not the whole paid down. He says he wants you to write all the particulars about what you are calculating to do, Mr Horr⁸⁰ is pretty sick with the Typhoid fever, and George Daily⁸¹ also with the Erysipelas.⁸² Ma wants you to let Raymond read Fronias⁸³ letter, she sends her love to all, (you and yours and Raymonds folks) we did not get ~~the~~ your letter till Saturday night (the 5th). Write soon
Sylvia,

[page 1 back, modern hand/pencil: Sylvia]

Edition: Letter 11:

*From Sylvia [Haven] in Shalersville, Ohio,
to her brother George W[ashington]. Haven
and his wife Lucia [née Wilmot] in North Eaton, Ohio,
August 3, 1855.*

[page 1, half sheet fold]

Shalersville Aug[ust]. 3rd 1855.

Dear Brother & Sister.

I received your letter Wednesday night and was very glad to hear the news,⁸⁴ ~~though~~ and I must confess they were none of them very stale to us. Mother says she would be very glad to see the — baby⁸⁵ — you know what, and says she thinks if she was well enough they should come out and see you. but she says she don't think she shall see you & baby until you come out here. Cannot say what pa does think about it. but think he is pleased. Sophronia is wonderfully elated and the news spreads like wildfire where she is. she wants to behold the "little one" very much

[page 2]

and is very sure that it is pretty. As for me of course I am pleased. how could I be any thing else. And sure enough George is father, and Lucia mother, yes and I am "aunty" again, too. Your town too is a very growing enterprising and flourishing, one. Father is drawing wheat to day and intends to finish to day. has a good crop.

⁸⁰ Perhaps Adam Veddar Horr (1819–1856).

⁸¹ Perhaps George Daily (1830–1862).

⁸² Skin infection.

⁸³ Sophronia Haven (1841–1918), sister of George Haven.

⁸⁴ Reference to the birth of Edwin Melancthon Haven (1855–1917), son of George and Lucia, on July 11, 1855.

⁸⁵ Edwin Melancthon Haven (1855–1917), son of George and Lucia. The word "baby" appears in small subscript.

enough to fill the east barn. loses little by growing. Mr Lamb (lives in Black House) works for him some. Mr Kent, also, he has a mowing and machine and intends cutting his grass with it. It has been very wet here until this week. I have taught 3 months. have vacation 1½ weeks. commence next Monday. 1 month longer. A man by the name of Howard was killed in Mantua⁸⁶ last Sunday⁸⁷ by lightning and 4 others shocked who recovered. The Friday night before Mr Stearns had a horse killed by the same cause.

[page 3]

Justin's folks are as well as usual I beleive. some sickness, though not much hard sickness. You may expect to see some of us out there this fall. Annis I think intends to. Julia wants to. and so do we very much. and we want you to be sure and come and see us. Mother wants to see that baby. 'Fronia' intends to write soon, when there is any news to tell, Be sure and write soon. good bye.
Sylvia.

P.S. I intend now to write to G. K. Sanford

[page 4, blank]

[ENVELOPE, postmark, black: SHALERSVILLE OHIO / AUG 4; modern hand/pencil: Sylvia Haven; backside, blank]

Mr George W[ashington]. Haven
North Eaton
Lorain co[unty]
Ohio

Edition: Letter 12:

*From Sylvia [Haven] in Shalersville, Ohio,
to her brother George W[ashington]. Haven
and his wife [Lucia (née Wilmot)] in North Eaton, Ohio,
April 5, 1856.*

[page 1, half sheet fold]

Shalersville April 5th 1856

Dear Brother and Sister,

Saturday evening and I have been to Ravenna⁸⁸ all day almost, to an examination, and think I shall without doubt get a certificate, though mine lasts a year yet, so I shall not be found wanting if I fail. What is in the head is written first you know. Well our folks are all well I believe. Elson and "Fronia" have gone to singing school.

⁸⁶ Village in northeastern Ohio.

⁸⁷ The words "last Sunday" are inserted in pencil.

⁸⁸ City in northeastern Ohio.

pa is going to caucus⁸⁹ and mother and I stay at home. Justin's folks moved last Tuesday. Bro Sala's folks moved into the Justin's house. Joseph and Maria intend to live in the two front rooms of the same house, with a bedroom or two. George Daily

[page 2]

and Harriet moved into the house which bro Sala left. Dr. Crafts⁹⁰ has moved into the house with Bill De Pue. Quite a moving time. Father says he didn't want you to feel bad about his getting out that timber for he done it when he could do nothing else. But George I don't like to have him do such work any too well. Grandpa Crane is dead, he died Tuesday night. Funeral to-morrow. Ashley is having the yellow house fixed over, and intend to live there. There has been no less than 17 or 18 weddings in town since last fall I believe, Russel Ross lives in the black house. One week ago to night I returned from Franklin,⁹¹ after attending an Institute there for two weeks. We had a very pleasant time indeed. Mr Sherman Blake⁹² acting as chairman and quite an efficient body of teachers, among whom was his brother "J. Blake" our teacher in Geography. I became acquainted with a Miss. Churchill of Randolph, sister of Julius Churchill, (you remember him I presume, attended school at Hiram when you did.) He is in the west part

[page 3]

of this state now. I think a clerk in a store. George Daily and Mark are keeping store at the center under the name of "Streator, Daily. & Co," Henry Beecher I suppose owns a share in it. Aunt Harriet Streator's health is very poor though they think she is a little better than she was a while ago. James has bought him a farm in the north west part of this town of about 110 acres. Old Mr Marvin⁹³ died about three weeks ago. Fayette has hired widow Thomson's farm for this summer. he is not married yet. and I do not [know] whether he intends to be this spring or not. I do not know that you know where Justin lives. He and Mr Sulezey [?]changed ~~farms~~ places. Justin giving \$200.00. We have heard that you intended to come out here this spring and really hope 'tis so. will you inform us on the subject? Frederic Wilmott has failed and is in debt a good deal, but Mr Converse with whom he was in company talks as though he would pay the debts. I believe I have scattered the news along in, and now won't you write us a good long letter. both of you write. We hope to hear that you are coming out this spring.

Yours, Sylvia

[page 4, blank]

⁸⁹ Meeting where local constituents register their preference for candidates running for office.

⁹⁰ Perhaps Dr. Ambrose Spencer Crafts (1819-1879).

⁹¹ City in southeastern Ohio.

⁹² Perhaps Sherman Blake (1831-1884).

⁹³ Perhaps Leland Marvin, (1789-1856).

[ENVELOPE, postage stamp, featuring a portrait of George Washington, red: U.S. POSTA[GE] / THREE CENTS; postmark, black: SHALERSVILLE OHIO / APR 9; modern hand/pencil: Sylvia; backside, blank]

Mr. George W[ashington]. Haven.
North Eaton.
Lorain Co[unty].
Ohio.

Edition: Letter 13:

*From Sylvia [Haven] in Shalersville, Ohio,
to her brother G[eorge]. W[ashington]. Haven
and his wife [Lucia (née Wilmot)] in North Eaton, Ohio,
September 9, 1856.*

[page 1, half sheet fold]

Shalersville. Sept[ember]. 16th 1856.

Dear Brother and Sister

It is Tuesday morning. a very pleasant morning though a little cool just now. Father and Olson are milking, Lucinda⁹⁴ getting breakfast. Fronia has not yet made her appearances and you can imagine the rest. Father is a good deal better. he thinks he feels better than he had for some time before with the exception of his head which is much better. almost well I guess.

[page 2]

Mother too is getting better. she was at home Sunday and staid all night. Justin's folks are as well as common I think, and Frank's folks for ought we know. We have had rain since you left but not as much as most folks would have been glad of. We thought last night that we were going to have rain but the shower went somewhere else but still we hope for rain soon. If you know when Raymond's folks are coming out I wish you to write that we may know when to expect them. Father has been cutting the tops off the corn for a few days past, and yesterday he was at work around the barn. Francis has been quite sick since you left but is getting some

[page 3]

better now though she is quite sick yet. Several are sick now. I found your bosom pin on this curtin in your room a few days after you left. I will try and send it at the first opportunity. How is little Edwin.⁹⁵ it would be quite a treat to see him here. You must give him two or three ~~you~~ kisses for us, for if he were here he

⁹⁴ Lucinda Catherine Haven, née Scouton (1828–1915), wife of Raymond Haven (George's brother).

⁹⁵ Edwin Melancthon Haven (1855–1917), son of George and Lucia. The word "baby" appears in small subscript.

would be apt to get a good many times that many. I do not know but I have written all the news. Maybe you would like to know how "Frank"⁹⁶ is. he is well I guess. We received your letter last week Thursday. Write soon as convenient and write a long letter.

Yours Sylvia

[page 4, blank]

[ENVELOPE, modern hand/pencil: Sylvia; backside, blank]

Mr. G[eorge] W[ashington]. Haven
North Eaton
Lorain co[unty].
Ohio.

Edition: Letter 14:

*From Sylvia [Haven] in Shalersville, Ohio,
to her brother [George Washington Haven],
November 29, 1857.*

[page 1, half sheet fold]

Shalersville Nov[ember]. 29th / [18]57.

My Dear Brother.

It is Sunday even. Sheldon Streator has just left here. He told us that Lucia was so that she could not walk. we are very sorry indeed to hear such news from you. How do you get along and do the work, take care of your cows, &c[etera]. Father has quite a hard cold but we hope he will be better in a few days. Mother is not as well, near. She sits up about half of the day. Justin does not think she can live long. he says she may not live three months and that she may live six months

[page 2]

or more. he cannot tell I am teaching come home a good deal. Francis is at home doing the work with my help. Elson goes to school at the center. Mother says she feels uneasy about Lucia's hip. and that she wants you to have all done for it you can. We did intend to go out to see you this fall. but father had so much to do he did not know how to spare Elson or the time to go. Mother wanted to have father go but he will not leave her. And he probably will not come at present. Justin's folks are about as well as usual. they have been fixing the inside of their house over for about ten weeks, I think. He has got the office which he used to have moved over to that place. between the house and barn. Tell Raymond's folks if they can come out here we should be very glad to have them come.

[page 3]

⁹⁶ Perhaps Benjamin Franklin Pardy (1818-1884), husband of Annis Haven (George's sister); or perhaps Franklin Benjamin Wilmot (1834-?), brother of Lucia Haven, née Wilmot.

We hope they will come if they can this Winter. Father says that Harvey Sage (I do not know but you are acquainted with him. an old clerk in the store) says that he would not sell the cheese this fall at the price it is bringing that if kept in a good place it will pay to keep it during the winter. Mother says she wants you to write as often as you can and tell us how Lucia is. It has got so dark I cannot tell whether I write on the line or not. Tell us how you and Raymond's folks get along. We send this by Sheldon.⁹⁷ Mother wants you to remember and write.

Yours from. Sylvia

[page 4, blank]

Edition: Letter 15:

*From Sylvia [Haven] in Shalersville, Ohio,
to her brother G[eorge]. W[ashington]. Haven in North Eaton, Ohio,
February 12, 1858.*

[page 1 front, single sheet format]

Shalersville Feb[ruary] 12th / [18]58

My Dear Brother,

Your welcome letter was received last week. We need not tell you that we were happy to hear from you, we always are. We had thoughts of writing before ~~we received~~ we received yours but mother getting no worse we had neglected to write. I have been very busy this winter. In school five days and on Saturday's washing and doing other work. I have now three weeks of school. I expect Fronia will go to Hiram to attend school the week after the close of my school. she intends to have a room and board herself. I am to remain at home and we intend to have a girl about the middle of March. We were very glad to hear that Lucia was some better and hope she may not get worse again. Do you have a girl now or do the work yourselves.

[page 1 back]

Mother's health is about the same that it has been for sometime. she sits up about half of the day. ~~Her~~ She coughs some. Father says in regard to your leads. that if you have not and can you had better get the Mood to be beholden to Mr Cenwell instead of you being the one. He thinks you had better do it now if you can. I am so tired to night that I think I must stop writing soon and retire. Bro Newcomb has been holding a meeting here. we have a good meeting though there has been but four conversions. Justin's and Frank's folks are as well as usual I believe. Write as soon as convenient. Our love to Raymond's folks with yours of course Not forgetting our little Eddie.⁹⁸

Truly, Sylvia

⁹⁷ Sheldon Streator, mentioned earlier in this letter.

⁹⁸ Reference to Edwin Melancthon Haven (1855–1917), son of George and Lucia.

P. S. He is married, was married some eleven weeks ago I think. 'All's well.'

[ENVELOPE, postmark, black: SHALE[RSVILLE] / OH[IO]; backside, blank]

Mr. G[eorge]. W[ashington]. Haven.
North Eaton.
Lorain Co[unty].
Ohio.

Edition: Letter 16:

*From Deborah Wilmot and her daughter Amelia in Washington, Iowa,
to Deborah's sister-in-law and Amelia's aunt Lucia [Haven (née Wilmot)],
May 10 and 7, 1861.*

[page 1 front, single sheet format; upside-down text at the top of this page belongs to the end of the letter and is inserted there]

Washington⁹⁹

May 10th, '[18]61

Sister Lucia,

I have received yours of April 23^d, and should have answered it before now, but its not always convenient for us to go or send to the Office, it being seven miles from us, Carlos is in Chicago¹⁰⁰ he went from here the last of March, Byron¹⁰¹ lives there, is working in the I, C, R R,¹⁰² Machine Shop, Carlos thinks he has got a good wife,¹⁰³ their boy was a year old last Dec[ember], they call him Edgar Carlos,¹⁰⁴ If Carlos should get into business there, which he thinks he shall do after the war¹⁰⁵ excitement is over, I and the children shall go there too, then I hope a way will be opened for me to go to Ohio once more, I do very much want to see all of our friends and relatives in that part of the world, and there are your little boys I would like to see how they look and act, well, I suppose very much like other folks children, only a little bit smarter, just as every mother thinks. I was glad to get a letter from you. I had often tho[ugh]t about writing to you and Betsey, but it is so seldom that I write to any one except Byron that I hardly know how to set myself about it Lucia, we know something about Pioneer life in the west, its toil, its trials, its privations, and I have had my family sick around me without a cent in the house to purchase the common necessaries of life, but those dark days are past, we

⁹⁹ City in eastern Iowa.

¹⁰⁰ City on Lake Michigan in Illinois.

¹⁰¹ Byron Eugene Wilmot (1834–1906), son of Don Carlos Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹⁰² Illinois Central Railroad, a company established 1851.

¹⁰³ Reference to Margaret Wilmot, née Sullivan (1838–1884), wife of Byron Eugene Wilmot (Lucia's brother Don Carlos's son).

¹⁰⁴ Edgar Carland Wilmot (1854–1924), son of Byron Eugene Wilmot (Lucia's brother Don Carlos's son).

¹⁰⁵ American Civil War (1861–1865).

have struggled thro' many hardships far from our childhoods home, among strangers in a strange land, the Lord has tempered the wind to the shorn lamb,¹⁰⁶ and we can now look

[page 1 back]

forward to a brighter prospect in the future, but I must not anticipate, I must not hope to much, for bitter disappointments has been my lot for a few years past, this part of Iowa¹⁰⁷ has great reason to rejoice, for the last year bro[ugh]t an abundance to those who had long waited for the earth to yield something in return for their privations and hard labor, this year is the first that we have had wheat enough for our own use, and some to sell besides, It brings only 40, c[en]ts a bushel, corn 15, c[en]ts, store pay at that. Our place was rented for three years, one is past, we were obliged to let it, for for Carlos has not been able to labor any for most two years, and Edgar¹⁰⁸ is not stout enough to work hard, he has been sick as great deal. My health is pretty good. Amelia¹⁰⁹ is a big girl, I want to go where I can send her to school, she can write better than this, but we are troubled with the old complaint, 'poor ink, poor pen' Savila¹¹⁰ lives in town they have rented their farm, and bo[ugh]t village property, he works at his trade, (tailoring) she has two boys, give my love to all the brothers and sisters, tell Jenelle¹¹¹ I am coming to see her, you and Betsey write
Deborah¹¹²

[page 1 back, different hand]

Washington

May 7th [18]61 Iowa

Dear Aunt,

This is the first time I have ever wrote to Ohio, only to Aunt Mary,¹¹³ I were all glad to here from you, I would like very much to see all of the folks thare I used to know I would like Iowa very well if I could go to school I have not been since we came here, thare is a school home two miles from here, but Ed¹¹⁴ has not yet gone,

¹⁰⁶ The quote appears in *Doctor Thorne* (1858), a novel by Anthony Trollope (1815–1882), but it is probably older.

¹⁰⁷ State in the midwestern United States.

¹⁰⁸ Edgar E. Wilmot (1843–1901), son of Don Carlos Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹⁰⁹ Amelia Wilmot (1848–?), daughter of Don Carlos Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹¹⁰ Savilla W. Phillips (1827–1894), sister of Deborah Ann Wilmot, née Phillips (Lucia's brother Don Carlos's wife).

¹¹¹ Perhaps Jennette C. Wilmot (1819–1897), sister of Lucia Haven, née Wilmot.

¹¹² Deborah Ann Wilmot, née Phillips (1811–1880), wife of Don Carlos Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹¹³ Mary Jane Phillips (1820–1892), sister of Deborah Ann Wilmot, née Phillips (Lucia's brother Don Carlos's wife).

¹¹⁴ Reference to Edgar E. Wilmot (1843–1901), son of Don Carlos Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

and I thought it to[o] far to go alone, so all I have ~~larned~~ lerar[n]ed since I came here I have lerar[n]ed at home, tell Emma. I would like to see her, I se send my love to her and Aunt Betsy and all the rest, I send one of Byrons likeness taken a year ago, soon after he was marr[i]ed. I send my love to the little boys ~~and~~. Amelia. Wilmot.

[page 1 front, upside-down text]

I am out of paper, or I would not send such a looping letter as this

Edition: Letter 17:

*From Bertrand N. Wilmot in Laporte, Ohio,
to his sister Lucia Haven [née Wilmot] in Bloomingdale, Michigan,
between February 12, 1858, and December 6, 1861.*

[Based on this letter's contents, it was written after Lucia Haven, her husband George, and their son Edwin had moved from Ohio to Michigan, which, based on the other letters from this collection edited here, occurred some time between February 12, 1858 and December 6, 1861.]

[page 1, half sheet fold]

La Porte August 17th

Dear Sister

Feeling ancious to hear how you get along & how you like Mich[igan] &c[eter]a I thought porhapse I mihte persuade you to write and let me know if I should give you notice of the fact it has been nearly one year since you and myself wer in Mich[igan] on a visit for the first time I enjoyed myself first-rate. I have had one Letter from you since you mooved to Mich[igan] and that is all that I answered soon after. do you like it as well as you expected &c[eter]a

[page 2]

Father Abraham has called for us again and we are trying to find men that are wiling to gow for money Eaton is offering six hundred dollars for men & they may offer one thousand dollars & then they will not get them they are not to be had the thing comes rite home now every man for himself. We shall see what we shall see. We are doing a verry good buisness in La Porte have done much better than I expected our trade has been good so far it has everaged about one hundred dollars per day we pay cash for all kinds of Produce Cheese is worth 17 c[ents] per pound Butter 40 c[ents] per pound & every thing in purportion Mr. Wait starts for Mich[igan] next

[page 3]

tuesday will be there I prosume before you recive this we are are all well the Boys gow to School they are growing like ~~weads~~ weeds W[illia]^m H Lucke is on the track for the recordirs offic[e] I think he well get it. the folks are all well. the crops are

very good. how do you get along with the draft in Bloom[in]gdale.¹¹⁵ tell George to write to me once tell Edwin what I wish he would write to me & then I will write to him Johny how do you do have you been a fishing yet. I suppose you are buisey helping your mother when you are not fishing I suppose. My Respects to all the folks. Write Soon

yours B[ertrand] N Wilmot¹¹⁶

[page 4]

Dale¹¹⁷ & Don¹¹⁸ wants I should say to Edwin & John¹¹⁹ that they would like to see you & Aunt Lucia. Write as soon as you get this and then it will be along time gow the rounds your they mails once a weak

[ENVELOPE, a second name, presumably added later; modern hand/pencil: Bert Wilmot; backside, ink: 9978 88; pencil: com[mencing] in the cen[ter] highway at the N[orth] E[ast]. cor[ner] of N[orth]. W[est]. quar[ter] of the S[outh]. W[est]. q[uar]ter of sec[tion] 16. Town 1^s rang[e] [?] W[est]. thence south 4 chains thence west 5 ch[ains], thence N[orth]. parall[el] with east line to the cen[ter] of Highway 4 ch[ains] thence east 5 ch[ains] to the place of begin[ning] contain[ing] two acres of land]

Mrs. Lucia Haven
Bloom[ing]dale
Van Buren Co[unty] Michigan

Mrs. Martha
Doane

Edition: Letter 18:

*From Alice Haven and her sister Ellen in North Eaton, Ohio,
to their aunt Lucia, their cousin Edwin,
and their uncle [George Washington] Haven in Bloom[ing]dale, Michigan,
December 6, 1861.*

[page 1, half sheet fold]

Eaton Dec 6th 1861

Dear Aunt

we received your letter last Friday and was glad to hear from you we are all well we was glad to hear you were enjoying yourself yourselves so well it is now Sundy Morning and I havent much time to write but seeing I had time to write a little I thought I would you said that letter that ~~both~~ I wrote was the first one you had got since you had been there I sposed you had heard from Eaton before that time as I

¹¹⁵ Village in southwestern Michigan.

¹¹⁶ Bertrand N. Wilmot (1823–1871), brother of Lucia Haven, née Wilmot.

¹¹⁷ Dale Dowe Dall Wilmot (1854–1903), son of Bertrand N. Wilmot (Lucia’s brother).

¹¹⁸ Donald Bertrand “Don” Wilmot (1856–1914), son of Bertrand N. Wilmot (Lucia’s brother).

¹¹⁹ John Mason Haven (1859–1923), son of George and Lucia.

should have written before then our School commences next week Tuesday William Tuches is going to teach he is going to have \$25 a month we think it is a pretty big price but then ~~they say~~ Father¹²⁰ ses he would rather have him and pay little more and have a good school. there has been some ~~sichenes~~ sickness around here Beeds folks have all had the Diphtheria¹²¹ Marshall died with it and they didnt think Sarah for a long time ~~they didnt think~~ would live but they say they are all getting better now Clara Bannington has had the Dephtheria and she ~~was being to long~~ is getting better now, you wanted to [k]no[w] ~~when Brother that~~ if William Allen[s] wife was coming back yes she has come back I dont [k]no[w] where bouts she is living we are expecting to be a grand time Christmas night our class altogether ~~have~~ I are going to throw in enough to get Miss Vanourmes a present and I do wish you could be here we are going to have such a nice time and Edwin & Johny¹²² would enjoy it so much. you wanted to know how little Hattie¹²³ got a long she is well and sets a lone and has got t[w]o teeth and Father ses she is a very smart baby our folks went to Elyria¹²⁴ last Wednesday and got their Photograph took we have not got them yet or we would send

[page 2]

them in this letter we shall write again before long and send them we took Newton¹²⁵ ~~dowan~~ down and got his picture took tell Johny that Newty¹²⁶ has got burnt ~~right~~ last week when I was dipping candles I went to fill up the kittle and he was around a playing and Just as I was a going to pour the watter in the kittle he hit the dipper and spilt the watter all on the back of his neck and burnt it in some places to a blister and the watter was scalding hot and it burnt his ear pretty bad but it is getting better I must bring my letter to a close for Father wants to write little and I have got another letter to write Evaline Tucker is here a spinning and she sends her respects to you Ellen¹²⁷ has been writting to ~~She~~ Sarah Parda ~~girls~~ and Julia has been writing to Wallace & Evaline is a writing to Wallace and Father is writing Uncle Frank and we are haveing a regular writting bee to night I hav[e] made a good many blunders and you must read this the best way you can give my love to all Enquiring friends tell Edwin he must write write soon

¹²⁰ Raymond Haven (1823–1903), brother of George Haven.

¹²¹ Infection of the nose and throat.

¹²² Reference to John Mason Haven (1859–1923), son of George and Lucia.

¹²³ Perhaps a reference to a daughter (who did not survive infancy) of Raymond Haven (George's brother). Hattie L. Haven (1863–1890), daughter of Raymond Haven, had not yet been born at this time. It was not unusual for parents to re-use the name of a child who had died for a sibling born later.

¹²⁴ City in northeastern Ohio.

¹²⁵ Isaac Newton Haven (1860–1937), son of Raymond Haven (George's brother).

¹²⁶ Reference to Isaac Newton Haven (1860–1937), son of Raymond Haven (George's brother).

¹²⁷ Ellen Sophronia Haven (1846–1920), daughter of Raymond Haven (George's brother).

From Alice¹²⁸ Haven

Dear Cousin Edwin

I thought I wouldnt write any more but I have got little more time to write George¹²⁹ and Frank¹³⁰ have gone to bed I went to Elyria the other day and Just before I was going to go home they was a great big brindel dog following me around and I couldnt get red of ð him and so ð he followed me home and the boys had great times with him I don't think of much more to write this time I and perhaps the next time I will write more you must write and tell all the news. so good night.

From Cousin Alice

[page 3]

Eaton Dec[ember] the 6 1861

Dear Uncle

I wrote that Father was going to write but now I have left room for him to write he ses he has written to Uncle Frank and he hant in a writting mood to night Father is going to tell me what to write he ses he wants to [k]no[w] how much land you have got and how many cows you are keeping and what you are doing he ses he hant herd much only Just you have got a farm Father has hirerd Smith Gillet for a bout half a month Father has carried of[f] [a]bout the last of his Cheese the last 23 he took of[f] come to \$160. he has killed 9 of his hogs and took them to Cleveland¹³¹ and got 6 c[en]ts a pound there is going to be a wood bee down where you lived we went to Meeting to day and had a real good Meeting our ~~sundy~~ sund[a]y school is out it is getting late and Father ses he dont think of any more this time but the next time we write I shall try and make him write if I can I should a good [d]eal rather he would have written this time but then I couldnt get him to Father sends his best respects to you all and wants you to write soon please excuse all the bad writting

Yours Truely Alice Haven

[page 4, different hand]

Dear Uncle

as all the rest were writing I thought I would writ[e] a few lines we were real glad to hear from you and am glad you are happy and contented for if a person is not content he does not get a long very well I wish I were up there just to see how things look but not to live I think it must be very pleasant to be up there amongst

¹²⁸ Alice Bell Haven (1847-1873), daughter of Raymond Haven (George's brother). In the references to this edition, "Alice" (unless otherwise specified) refers to this individual.

¹²⁹ George W. Haven (1852-1865), son of Raymond Haven (George's brother).

¹³⁰ Franklin Haven (1855-1923), son of Raymond Haven (George's brother).

¹³¹ City in northeastern Ohio.

those he the lakes woods I havent got time to write any more fore I must writ[e] to
Wallace writ[e] soon
ever your friend Ellen Haven¹³²

[ENVELOPE, modern hand/pencil: Ellen Haven; backside, blank]

No[rth] Eaton
Dec[ember] 7

Mrs Lucia Haven
Bloomingdale
Van Buren Co[unty]
Mich[igan]

Answered

Edition: Letter 19:

*From Alice Haven in North Eaton, Ohio,
to her uncle G[eorge]. W[ashington]. Haven
and his wife Lucia [née Wilmot] in Bloomingdale, Michigan,
November 11, 1863.*

[page 1 front, single sheet format; first word at the top, different hand]

Answered
Eaton Nov[ember] 1th 1863
Dear Unckle & Aunt

I now take the opportunity of writing you a few lines we are all well and hop[e] this will find you the same you wrote to father and expected he would answer it but he kept putting it off and finally wanted me to write in his place we went to meeting to day and expected that they would be preaching but something happened that he wasent there but after all we had a good meeting we had the last of them exercises to day for this year sunday school is going to last t[w]o more weeks and I dont [k]no[w] how much longer the bible class will last but I hope it will last all this winter. Mr Krellin takes your place in teaching the bible class. our fall school keeps t[w]o weeks longer and I think I have learnt a considerable I expect if George Piercegets a Certificate he will teach our school this winter. Mr Masons folks have Children have got the black tongue the worst kind of soar throat they had five Children[n] and they is t[w]o out of the five living Ellen Mason was buried to day. Wallace started week ago to morrow morning and I spose you have got up there and got s[e]ttled down Newty ses tell

[page 1 back]

¹³² Ellen Sophronia Haven (1846–1920), daughter of Raymond Haven (George's brother).

Johny he has got a new pare off boots Father took of his Cheese here last week and got 11 ½ c[en]ts for it he is making Cheese to night we herd that Martha¹³³ had got homesick and was coming back where you are I hope you wont get homesick as quick as she has I spose you have heard that John Alwales is Married. William Chapman has got back and he was to our meeting to day William Allen has enlisted.¹³⁴ Father has got me to ~~wr~~ write and I asked him what to write and he ses write bout all the things it is getting to be almost bedtime and I must close ~~are~~ we all send our love to you

Your Affectionate Nease Alice Haven

excuse the bad writing and misspelt words

P. S[.] write

[ENVELOPE, modern hand/pencil: Alice Haven, rec[eive]d; backside: answered]

No[rth] Eaton O[hio]

Nov[ember] 2

Mr G[eorge] W[ashington] Haven

Bloomingtondale

Vanburen Co[unty]

Mich[igan]

Bentron

Alice

Bentron

answered

Bloomingtondale

Edition: Letter 20:

*From Addie Mill [née Adeline Wilmot] in Union Mills, Indiana,
to her aunt [Lucia Haven (née Wilmot)],*

March 3, 1864.

[page 1, half sheet fold; modern hand/pencil: Addie mills]

Union Mills¹³⁵ March 3rd 1864

Much loved Aunt

Your long looked for letter was received last evening and was very glad to hear from you and more I am well and enjoying myself fineley Aunt to tell the truth I think I have one of the best men¹³⁶ this County Affords, he is just my size And real

¹³³ Perhaps Martha Jane Wilmot (1852–1905), daughter of Hubbard Wilmot (Lucia’s brother).

¹³⁴ Reference to the American Civil War (1861–1865).

¹³⁵ Township in northwestern Indiana.

¹³⁶ Perhaps a reference to the letter’s author’s husband.

good looking (I think) and more than that he is mighty good well I guess it will hardley do to let him see this so I will finish before he comes home, as he has gone off on business Father Mill¹³⁷ went East this winter

[page 2]

on the roads there was exposed to the small pox has been quite sick with it has been gone I seven weekes did not expect to be gone more then two when he left home, he started the Monday before we were married was not at the weding—I saw Ma¹³⁸ yesterday she said Arvilla¹³⁹ was quite sick Ma has been sick I believe the rest are all well there is a great deal of sickness in this part of the Country and a great many deatnes Wes Mill¹⁴⁰ Artess brother¹⁴¹ has just come home from Stillwell¹⁴² he said there was two sick withe small pox one case not far from me. I am so fraid our folkes will get it, if they should what would they do. There is so many coming home from the army who could expect anything els.¹⁴³ how much I should like to see you and Edwin and Johny and Unkle

[page 3]

I am very sorry you could not have come out and made ous a visite for I want to see you all so much yes I well know you can get along with a small house if any body can that so I real[l]y think you did not gouse me just right about the Photographes as long as you had mine you might have sent me yours. I am almost mad and have a good notion not to send you one of Petes's,¹⁴⁴ but guess I will for I want you to see him if the sleighing had not left us so quick we would have been out and made you a visite, but the roads are so bad we canot get there now. when I get to house keeping then you must shurely come and see me and you can have the best the house affords quite an indusement I imagine you will not tarry long

[page 4, different hand: Bentron]

does Aunt Betsey think of moving up into Michigan Ema¹⁴⁵ does not answer my letters any more what she is mad at is more than I can tell she is very peculiar any way I think. well I am expressing my mind very freely any way about my cousin but cant help it, I think so give my love to Ms Cowleys People also to Unkle

¹³⁷ Perhaps a reference to the letter's author's father-in-law.

¹³⁸ Electa Wilmot, née Stocking (1820–1883), wife of Hubbard Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹³⁹ Arvilla Wilmot (1843–?), daughter of Hubbard Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹⁴⁰ Perhaps a reference to the letter's author's husband's brother.

¹⁴¹ Perhaps a reference to the letter's author's husband.

¹⁴² Township in northwestern Indiana.

¹⁴³ Filling flourishes complete this line

¹⁴⁴ Perhaps a reference to the letter's author's son.

¹⁴⁵ Perhaps Emma Oelpha Phillips (1848–1923), daughter of Betsey E. Phillips, née Wilmot (Lucia's sister).

Norry¹⁴⁶ and wife¹⁴⁷ dont fail to come and see ous just as soon as you can, I just know you will like ~~Pd~~ Petes it seams to me you cant help it we are living with Fathers¹⁴⁸ folks now we want to go to house keeping this spring if can we are going to La Porte tomorow if nothing Prevents. I cant think of anything more this time write soon Petes joins with me in sending love to you and Unkle and Cousins
From Your Niece Addie Mill¹⁴⁹

Edition: Letter 21:

*From Alice Haven in Mt. Vernon, Ohio,
her uncle [George Washington Haven]
and his wife Lucia [née Wilmot] in Bloomingdale, Michigan,
February 18–19, 1865.*

[page 1, half sheet fold]

Mt Vernon¹⁵⁰ Feb 18 / [18]65

Dear Uncle and Aunt

Here I am trying to improve my time in writing you a few lines I am well and hope this will find you the same. I am in Mt Vernon going to school¹⁵¹ I like it first trate and think now I have a chance to improve my time in studdying if I ever did Warinda Streetes [?] ~~and I am~~ is going to Father thought it wasent best for me to go at first but I fina[l]y teased him up to let me go. They have three teachers in the school they is two of the teacher well aquainted with Hattie Drake their names are Miss Willet & Miss Bartlet and they seemed to talk as if they was very intimate friends of hers. The School room and boarding rooms are all in one house. our room is about as large as a good sized bed room the furniture in it is one small table and a wardrobe wash stand two chairs and bed and they is one window

[page 2]

Sundy Feb 19

It is two weeks yesterday since we came here it is the longest I was ever away from home I expected I should be awful homesick before this time but I havent been homesick but a very little School is going to keep till next June five months school and I dont know as I shall go home till at is out I expect I shall get a little bit homesick before that time but I guess I shall stand it I must tell you what a time us

¹⁴⁶ Perhaps Norris Tyler Wilmot (1838–1924), brother of Lucia Wilmot.

¹⁴⁷ Perhaps Arvilla Wilmot, née Reichard (1839–1908), wife of Norris Tyler Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹⁴⁸ Reference to the family of the letter author's father, Hubbard Wilmot (1818–1858), brother of Lucia Haven, née Wilmot.

¹⁴⁹ Adeline "Addie" Mill, née Wilmot (1844–?), daughter of Hubbard Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹⁵⁰ City in central Ohio.

¹⁵¹ The Young Ladies Seminary, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, established September 1, 1856, closed after the Civil War.

girls had last night after supper Mrs Slone (she is the principal of the school) she invited us girls all to her room and treated us with ice cream cake apples pop corn and I tell you us girls had some high times. Mr. Slones folks have got two daughters the oldest one teaches music lessons she is about 22 years old I think she looks Very much like Emaline Haskin but dont appear much like as she does I think her ways are some like hers she carries her head about as Emmaline does. I think they are pritty strict here they have just twenty rules that we musent break not to say anything about school rules so you see we have to carry our

[page 3]

selves pritty strait I have been went to Bible class this morning and after Bible class went to meeting Mr. Morsfert preached we had a very good meeting I received a letter from our folks last night they were all well but Hattie and she had been very sick with the lung fever but was getting better, they write that Uncle C. Oliver was pretty bad of and they didnt think he would ever be any better well I must draw this to a close my love to all enquiring friends ~~our~~ if there be any such please write soon

From Alice Haven

PS Direct ~~east~~
Ladies Seminary
Mt Vernon Ohio

[page 4, blank]

[ENVELOPE, postmark, blue: MOUNTVERNON / FEB 20 / 0; postage stamp, featuring a portrait of George Washington, red: 3 U.S. 3 / POSTAGE / U - THREE S / CENTS; modern hand/pencil: Alice Haven, rec[eive]d; backside, blank]

Mrs. Lucia Haven
Bloomingdale Vanburen Co[unty]
~~Ohio~~
MI Michigan

*Edition: Letter 22:
From Amelia Wilmot in Adel, Iowa,
to her aunt Lucia Haven (née Wilmot) in Bloomingdale, Michigan,
March 19, 1865.*

[page 1, half sheet fold; upside-down text at the top of this page belongs to the end of the letter and is inserted there]

Adel¹⁵² Dallas Co Iowa
March 19th 1865.
My Dear Aunt.

¹⁵² City in central Iowa.

You may be surprised to [hear] from me, as you remember me as a little girl. the last time you saw me, but you know time will not let us stay little, even if we want to. and I have not escaped a touch of his finger, so you see I am no longer the little girl I once was, but belong to the large folks, and am pretty tall at that. But as you have never received a letter from this part of Iowa. I thought I would write and let you know that we are still in this part of Iowa where folks are still living. we are all well as usual are haveing very pretty spring weather. it will not be long before farmers will put in their crops, if the weather continues as pleasant. I realy hope it will, for I am tyred of winter. have had a very severe winter for Iowa. I got a letter from Emma not long go, and mother got one from Aunt Catherine.¹⁵³ I persume you have heard the news about Aunt Mary.¹⁵⁴ I don't wish Jhon Bursell¹⁵⁵

[page 2]

a moments peace or his wife eather. I think he has shown what he is by moving again. but I hope Aunt Mary is better off without him. I remember what good times I used to have [at] Grandpas¹⁵⁶ when we were back to Ohio. I should like so well to see all the folks back there once more. I hope it will ~~not~~ be so that I can before long. I suppose you know that Byrons folks have been out here to see us. they were here last October but they only stayed two weeks, which you know was not half long enough. for he had not been at home before in seven years. Ma and I had not seen him in all that time. it is no wonder he seemed like a stranger to us. but he got to be By before he left. I like his wife¹⁵⁷ very much. and the little boy¹⁵⁸ is the prettest nephew I have got if he is the only one. he is on the Chicago and Northwestern R[ail] R[oad]¹⁵⁹ now. he runs from Chicago to Nevada Iowa, which is fourty miles from here, he is going to move there, so you see they will be where we can go and see them. Edgar¹⁶⁰ is at home, has been every since he left the army. dont this war¹⁶¹ make lone some times for the ones that have to stay at home. no [?] at least it does here, but it is some better than it was, for there has a good many to veterans come home around here.

¹⁵³ Catherine Philips (1813–1868), sister of Deborah Ann Wilmot, née Phillips (Lucia's brother Don Carlos's wife).

¹⁵⁴ Mary Jane Phillips (1820–1892), sister of Deborah Ann Wilmot, née Phillips (Lucia's brother Don Carlos's wife).

¹⁵⁵ Perhaps John William Burrell (1816–1890), the ex-husband of Mary Jane Philips, sister of Deborah Ann Wilmot, née Phillips (Lucia's brother Don Carlos's wife).

¹⁵⁶ Silas Wilmot (1790–1855), father of Lucia Wilmot.

¹⁵⁷ Reference to Margaret Wilmot, née Sullivan (1838–1884), wife of Byron Eugene Wilmot (Lucia's brother Don Carlos's son).

¹⁵⁸ Reference to Edgar Carland Wilmot (1854–1924), son of Byron Eugene Wilmot (Lucia's brother Don Carlos's son).

¹⁵⁹ Chicago and North Western Transportation Company, established 1859.

¹⁶⁰ Probably Edgar E. Wilmot (1843–1901), son of Don Carlos Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹⁶¹ American Civil War (1861–1865).

[page 3]

but we ought not complain of our lot if it is a lonely one for we can stay at home, while the poor sholdiers are denied that privlage. Oh how I do want this war to stop. that is I want Grant¹⁶² to hurry and whip the rebles, it is awful to think how many are being killed, all the time to cary on this expensive war. but as I am not much used to talking on the war question for fear I will make some blunder I will stop, but I do think we young ladys will have a good time when the boys come home. seeing I have told you about the rest of the folks, I will tell you little some thing about myself. and how I have spent my time lately. Well I have been going to s[c]hool in Adel the county seat. this winter, where Aunt Savila¹⁶³ lives. school was out four weeks ago, have been at home since, expect to see teach our school here at home this summer. I have never taught any. will write and let you know how I get along. these little Cousins of mine. kiss them for Amelia. and tell them they have got a Cousin in Iowa. will slose [close]. for I guess by the time you have read all I have scribbled on this big fools cap you will feel like takeing a cup of tea & resting.

Your Affectionately Amelia Wilmot¹⁶⁴

you see I have not let the name Wilmot go yet. I like it very well. it is about as well as I can do till the war is over.

[page 1, upside-down text]

our family send their love to all of you. Give my love to Uncle.¹⁶⁵ write soon and let us know how you all get along. as ever Amelia. Our health is very good.

[page 4, pencil]

Uncle Carlos
Daughter

[ENVELOPE, postmark, black: ADE[L] / MAR 25 / [?]; postage stamp, featuring a portrait of George Washington, red: 3 U.S. 3 / POSTAGE / U - THREE S / CENTS; modern hand/pencil: Amelia Wilmot, Iowa 1865; backside, blank]

Mrs. Lucia Haven
Bloomingdale.
Vanburen Co[unty].
Mich[igan].

¹⁶² Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885), Union Army general, later president of the United States (1869-1877).

¹⁶³ Savilla W. Phillips (1827-1894), sister of Deborah Ann Wilmot, née Phillips (Lucia's brother Don Carlos's wife).

¹⁶⁴ Amelia Wilmot (1848-?), daughter of Don Carlos Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹⁶⁵ Reference to George Haven (Lucia's husband).

Edition: Letter 23:

*From Alice [Haven] in [North] Eaton, Ohio,
to her aunt [Lucia Haven (née Wilmot)] in Bloomingdale, Michigan,
April 30, 1865.*

[page 1 front, single sheet format]

Eaton Apr[il] 30th / [18]65

Dear Aunt

I have just writen to Grandpas¹⁶⁶ folks and have been trying to get Father¹⁶⁷ to write to you but hopes for me to write. O aunt Lucia it seems so hard George¹⁶⁸ is gone he died this morning half past eleven it seems as if we I could not give him up he has been sick nearly nine weeks Mother¹⁶⁹ is just about worn out, He is to be burried tuesday they is nothing of him but skin and bone he dosent look natural at all, Ellen¹⁷⁰ is sick with a feever but is getting better

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she wont be ~~able~~ able to go to the funeral our hierd man went ~~some~~ of[f] sick last week he is better than he was I have got such a head ache I cant hardly write I will write more about it the next time I would write more this time but it seemed as if I couldnt write as much as I have write soon my love to all

From Alice

[ENVELOPE, modern hand/pencil: Alice Haven; backside, blank]

Mrs. G[eorge] W[ashington] Haven
Bloomingdale
Vanburen Co[unty]
Mich[igan]

Edition: Letter 24:

*From Julia Hoskin in North Eaton, Ohio,
to her sibilings "in hope" Geo[rge]. W[ashington]. Haven
and his wife [Lucia (née Wilmot)] in Bloomingdale, Michigan,
July 28, 1865.*

¹⁶⁶ Reference to John Haven (1795–1883), father of George Haven (Lucia’s husband) and Raymond Haven (Alice’s father).

¹⁶⁷ Reference to Raymond Haven (1823–1903), brother of George Haven (Lucia’s husband) and father of Alice Haven.

¹⁶⁸ George W. Haven (1852–1865), son of Raymond Haven (George’s brother) and brother of Alice Haven.

¹⁶⁹ Reference to Lucinda Catherine Haven, née Scouton (1828–1915), wife of Raymond Haven (George’s brother) and mother of Alice Haven.

¹⁷⁰ Ellen Soporonia Haven, (1846–1920), daughter of Raymond Haven (George’s brother) and sister of Alice Haven.

[page 1, half sheet fold]

Home¹⁷¹ July 28th [18]65

Dear Brother & Sister¹⁷²

For the first time since you left Ohio I am going to write to you I cannot frame any excuse for not writing before but am going to try and make up lost time we are very busy haying and harvesting but shall finish next week I expect you have heard ere this of the death of Sister Joann Nichols¹⁷³ there is a place in that family that can never be filled the children all but Arthur¹⁷⁴ did not mind much about it but he cried as

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if his heart was broken poor children they will soon forget her. she died a very hard death but she has gone to God and there is no sickness in Heaven Mr Nichols¹⁷⁵ is very sad and does not seem like himself. Mary Mead¹⁷⁶ is staying with him now. all the family were at the funeral Merritt had just returned from the army¹⁷⁷ had been at home only a week when she died. Mr Nichols Mother is very sick he is going to see her this week they do not think she ~~g~~ will get well. I have been to school this summer and it will be out in three weeks from today and the next Monday morning Henry Allens school commences and I am going to him this fall and next spring I am going to Elyria so I shant get much vacation but as Mr Allen says I shant forget what I have learned this summer he has got 25 schollars

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To commence with and will have more after a while Sarah Wight¹⁷⁸ is teaching school this summer on the Island¹⁷⁹ Emma took the school in Mr Durkee's district I expect Emma is on the road to Mich[igan] she hasent got there already the 103rd reg[imen]t¹⁸⁰ have all got home and they help to fill the Bible classes so they look ~~g~~ quite decent it seems good to see them all here again all I said but there are several that will never come home and Cephas for one his Mother felt pretty bad when she saw all the boys but hers she has got his picture painted and it looks very natural but it is not any harder for her to lose her boy than for us to lose our Grandma and dear little sister it does not seem like home since they were called

¹⁷¹ Reference to North Eaton, Ohio.

¹⁷² The author of this letter ("Julia Hoskin") refers to herself as a "sister in hope," i.e., a fellow practicing Christian, not a family member.

¹⁷³ Perhaps Joann Nicols, née Mead (1829–1865), wife of Mason Elisah Nicols.

¹⁷⁴ Perhaps Arthur William Nichols (1854–1886).

¹⁷⁵ Perhaps Mason Elisah Nicols (1829–1883).

¹⁷⁶ Perhaps Mary M. Mead (1839–1901) or Mary B. Mead (1844–1883).

¹⁷⁷ Reference to the American Civil War (1861–1865).

¹⁷⁸ Perhaps Sarah Ann Wright (1814–1888).

¹⁷⁹ Perhaps an island in Lake Erie.

¹⁸⁰ 103rd Infantry Regiment (United States).

home away but we try not to murmur for they are better off than any of us although it was hard to part with them. we have got a grave stone for Cybelia and

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are going to have one for Grandma before long Cybelias was \$51 it is very pretty. Well I think I have written all the news for this time please excuse all mistakes and spelling for my class spells next and I havent looked at the lesson and I am at the head too. all join me in sending love to all kiss Johnnie¹⁸¹ and Edwin for me all well

Your Sister in Hope Julia Hoskin

please write on the receipt of this

[ENVELOPE, postage stamp, featuring a portrait of George Washington, red: U.S. POSTAGE / THREE CENTS; modern hand/pencil: Julia Hoskin 1865; pencil, series of numbers/tallies: 25 7 / 175 6 / 169 5 / 174; 5.30 3.72 / 1.58 .75 / .73; backside: pencil, list, crossed out: 1¼ lbs Sal Soda, 4 oz Borax, 2 [oz] lime, 1 Salt of Tartar, ¾ Liq Amin [?], cards, 25 Fence mails, 7 / 1.75 ten pen Do, 5, 1.80 Brooms Do, twine, Ves / 120 Spit, 15, End, past End]]

No[rth] Eaton O[hio]

July 31

Mr Geo[rge]. W[ashington]. Haven.

Bloomington

Van Buren County

Mich[igan]

¹⁸¹ Reference to John Mason Haven (1859–1923), son of George and Lucia.

Edition: Letter 25:

*From S[ilas]. G[ilbert]. Wilmot in Rawsonville, Ohio,
to his brother-in-law George W[ashington]. Haven in Bloomingdale, Michigan,
December 27, 1866.*

[page 1 front, single sheet format]

Rawsonville¹⁸² Ohio

Dec[ember] 27-1866

Mr G[eorge]. W[ashington]. Haven

My Dear Sir

Some week ago I rec[eive]^d your friendly letter and we all were very glad to hear from you, and family, And that you were all contented and enjoying comfortable health, and were happy, Three of the gratest blessing that a kind provedance can bestow upon on any one, I have learned one thing, and that is this, to be contented with my lot though it may seam to be hard. It is not so hard but that it might be worse. Therefore all that I can do ð is to submit and thank God that it is no worse. I wrote Albert¹⁸³ and Sarah¹⁸⁴ a long letter and, and told Albert that the next letter belong to you. Lysander¹⁸⁵ & Betsey¹⁸⁶ were here last week, and we intended to have spent Christmas with them but the weather was so bad that we did not go down there. Consequently we stop[p]ed at home and had a very pleasent time all alone. We are having snow and very cold weather which shuts me up. And I do not much expect to get out much before spring. My health is much better than it was one year ago. I feal quite comfortable most of the time, And this trouble about the chest appears to be weaning off slowley. I have no cough now

[page 1 back]

unless I have a cold. But I have more or less pain about my chest with a great deal of lameness and soreness, which make me rather short winded as a backwoods man would say. Is Norris¹⁸⁷ going to sell out and come back to Ohio I have been told so, tell him to write. If he was here now I could give him employment for a while. I pass off my time by reading and writing and do a small office business. time passes off quite as pleasantly as could be expected. Priscilla¹⁸⁸ health is good & She does all the chorse at the barn, takes care of the old horse &c[etera]. The

¹⁸² Today's township of Belden in northeastern Ohio.

¹⁸³ Albert John Wilmot (1829-1913), brother of Lucia Haven, née Wilmot.

¹⁸⁴ Perhaps Sarah L. Wilmot, née Johnson (1826-?), wife of Lucius J. Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹⁸⁵ Jacob Lysander Tucker (1822-1890), husband of Betsey E. Wilmot (Lucia's sister).

¹⁸⁶ Betsey E. Wilmot (1816-1891), sister of Lucia Haven, née Wilmot.

¹⁸⁷ Norris Tyler Wilmot (1838-1924), brother of Lucia Haven, née Wilmot.

¹⁸⁸ Priscilla Randall Wilmot, née Cragin (1825-1904), wife of Silas Gilbert Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

Girls go to School every day. we can not call them little girls any longer Nettie,¹⁸⁹ is almost as tall as her mother Nellie¹⁹⁰ is more chunked. They sometimes do house worke, as all girls should. The girls I suppose would like to see those boys of yours. They often talk about them. We should be glad to hear from you again soon, and shall expect a letter little oftener then three or four years. We all join in send our best regards to you all, the boys in particular

With much regard I am Yours Truly S[ilas] G[ilbert] Wilmot¹⁹¹

[ENVELOPE, postmark, black: RAWSONVILLE / DEC 27 / 0; modern hand/pencil: S. G. Wilmot; backside: pencil, series of numbers/tallies: 371 480E 63 475 86 484 64 461 Recipe; pencil: Edwin You can get Supplies]

George. W[ashington]. Haven Esq[uires]
 Bloomingdale
 Van Buren Co[unty].
 Michigan

Edition: Letter 26:

From S[ilas]. G[ilbert]. Wilmot in Rawsonville, Ohio, to his brother-in-law Geo[rge]. W[ashington]. Haven, November 6, 1869.

[page 1 front, single sheet format; written in purple ink]

Rawsonville Ohio
 Nov[ember] 6 1869
 Geo[rge]. W[ashington]. Haven
Dear Sir

Yours was rec[eiv]ed informing me of Lucia's Sickness & C[etera] – (I have mislaid the letter and shall not be able to reply in full) If I remember correctly one of her lower limbs is troublesome, & c[etera] I am of the opinion that the time for using Pulsatille¹⁹² has passed by – Calcava Carb 500 or the 200. potency – one or two doses a week. Rhus tox the 270 – also if there is much pain on remaining quit – give a dose of Salpho high – once in a week or two – I wish you would write again on the receipt of this – and let me know all you can, in relation to her case / I was called away the next morning after I rec[eiv]ed your letter and did not get home for 4 or 5 days and on looking after the letter. I found that it was lost some were and I have not been able to find it – I am satisfied that she will not recover rappidly, and again you will find that the higher dilutions will work the best with her – I could sight [cite] you to[o]

¹⁸⁹ Lucia Jeanette "Nettie" Wilmot (1853–1921), daughter of Silas Gilbert Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹⁹⁰ Nellie Edith Wilmot (1856–1923), daughter of Silas Gilbert Wilmot (Lucia's brother).

¹⁹¹ Silas Gilbert Wilmot (1821–1872), brother of Lucia Haven, née Wilmot.

¹⁹² This letter lists a number of medicinal remedies.

[page 1 back]

Many cases that had been treated for month with the proper remedies – in the low dilutions – without one particle of benefeet which would soon get well when treated with the high dilution – of the same medicine – Let me hear from you again. My family are well – and the friend generally – It is very cold and freezing to day – with snow on the ground
Very truly S[ilas]. G[ilbert]. Wilmot

Edition: Letter 27:

*From R[aymond]. Haven in [North] Eaton, Ohio,
to his brother G[eorge]. W[ashington]. Haven in Bloomingdale, Michigan,
January 1, 1875.*

[page 1, half sheet fold]

Eaton Jan[uary] the 31 / [18]75

Dear Brother

I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines we are well and kicking around Henry Dye Came and got that check a day or to after I got it and end[o]rsed it on the note Mason Nichols¹⁹³ has been q[u]ite sick but is some better had congestion of the lungs he thinks he will be arond in a few days Delonson Scoutten¹⁹⁴ is dead he died about the middle of Decem[ber] he was sick some two mo[n]ths he Died with

[page 2]

Canser on his back inside they said it crowded his stomach so he could not eat any thing they said he was blind for about two weeks before died had property so he gave his mother and all of the brothers and sisters about 3.000 dollars each his wife he gave about 6.000 dollars there was a man by the name of herick died in Ridgeville¹⁹⁵ last weak he d[i]ed with the lung feaver he left a wife and three small children Stanly parmily had two little girls they went to Sullivan a visiting and both of thee children was taken sick

[page 3]

wit[h] the scarlet feaver¹⁹⁶ and one died the other on[e] was very sick I belive they think that they can save the other. Julia¹⁹⁷ & O[sacr] Durkee¹⁹⁸ have been out to

¹⁹³ Perhaps Philander M. Nichols, (1850-?).

¹⁹⁴ Perhaps a member of the family of Lucinda Catherine Haven, née Scouton (1828-1915), wife of Raymond Haven (George's brother).

¹⁹⁵ Township in northeastern Ohio.

¹⁹⁶ Bacterial illness.

¹⁹⁷ Julia A. Haven (1850-1932), daughter of Raymond Haven (George's brother).

¹⁹⁸ Oscar Alfred Durkee (1849-1910), husband of Julia A. Haven (George's brother Raymond's daughter).

port[a]ge County¹⁹⁹ they went to Franks they were well young Frank went over to fathers they said father loocked real old and health q[u]ite poo[r] but they said he enjoyed himself in tell ing tel[l]ing how he use to drive team and log and mow and bradle I think I will go and see him somoure time before long we had very mild weather till about the Christmas since that it has been

[page 4]

that it, has bee[n] cold enough it is terable icy now not much snow now we have got our wo[o]ld sawed and hall [hauled] up to house the boyes are going to school this winter hear at home we have a vary good school we are wintering about fifty five head of cattle on both farms we have thirty too sheep we have four horses and two colts

R[aymond] Haven

write soon and tell all the news

two weeks [a]go to night Bev Marsh was out to m[e]eting and slip[p]ed and fell and broke her [w]rist or arm

[ENVELOPE, postmark, black: NORTH EATON / FEB 2; postage stamp, featuring a portrait of George Washington, green: U.S. POSTAGE / THREE 3 CENTS; modern hand/pencil: Raymond Haven; backside: pencil, to-do list: authengating peach, boxtable, bottom barn, down fastenings, split wood, grape vines, setting trees, taking out potatoes, spreading manure, Hauling manure, every days, repairing fence, picking up, setting cabbage, grafting peer, [grafting] apple]

Mr. G[eorge] W[ashington] Haven

Bloomindale

Vanburen Co[unty]

Mich[igan]

Edition: Letter 28:

*From [George Norris Haven in Bloomindale, Michigan]
to one or both of his older brothers [either Edwin Melancthon Haven
or John Haven or both],
before January 31, 1875.*

[Based on the other letters from this collection edited here, the only “Georgie” who could have written (or have someone else – in this case his father – writing this letter on his behalf to one or both of his older brothers) would appear to have been George Norris Haven (1871–1933). The older brother(s) in question would then be either Edwin Melancthon Haven (1855–1917) or John Haven (1859–1923) or both; as the letter suggests, the older brother(s) seem(s) to have been away from the family home in Bloomindale, Michigan, at this time. The father (“pa”) would then be George Washington Haven, the “ma” would be the latter’s wife Lucia, née Wilmot, and the “baby” would be Ralph Haven (1874–1932), the latest addition to the family. As for

¹⁹⁹ County in northeastern Ohio.

this letter's date, a possible "terminus ante quem" would then be the youngest letter in this collection (which dates to January 31, 1875).]

[page 1 front, single sheet format; pencil]

It Snows – I am well – So is baby.²⁰⁰ Baby grows, laughs out loud. I am writing to you my pa²⁰¹ holds my hand and I hold the pencil I send you some candy and some sugar, shirts in the box too. I am going to send you my picture if I can get it. I have got a little wagon about a foot long, cousin Marline made it for me. It snows real hard. I want to see you real bad. My ma²⁰² has put a lot of things in this box for you isnt she real good. I am tired now. so good by[e].
I am your²⁰³ little brother Georgie²⁰⁴

[page 1 back, blank]

²⁰⁰ Ralph Haven (1874–1932), son of George and Lucia,

²⁰¹ George Haven.

²⁰² Lucia Haven, née Wimot.

²⁰³ Reference to George's and Lucia's sons Edwin Melancthon Haven (1855–1917) and John Haven (1859–1923).

²⁰⁴ George Norris Haven (1871–1933), son of George and Lucia.