

CALEB HANK TO ENOCH AND SUSANNAH EWING

Jackson County December the 17th 1864

Dear friends Enoch and Susannah Ewing

have taken my pen in hand write afew lines to you my much loved friends for though sepperated far a part distance I Still remember you and would be glad to See you though I never expect to enjoy the happiness we have the means of converseing by letter we are well this [day] I have only John & Caleb [and] Nancy and her Sweet little boy Hermeon is gone up the river to Steubenville on a visit. that Deer little babe of Henary & Nancyes head is coverd over with long black hare and Stands up in a roach upon its high forehead its Skin is vary fair with a beautifull deep blue eye it is agreat pet here. my health is vary good the boys is going to School the weather has bean pretty cold Some time back but now is wet and muddy it has bean raning for twodayes every thing is high with us wheat one dollar seventy five per bushel & one dollar per bushe[l] flower five d[o]llars ahundred poark thirteen per hundred wood cutting one dollar a cord oar [or] four dolars atun a furnace will be put in blast in Jackson town in the spring and the old dimond will be put in blast in the Spring old Jo Smith and several other pardners have bought the dimon furnace and going to put her in blast the[y] have found a larg bed of coal under Jackson town and Some are raiseing it in large quantitses others Sinking Saves [shafts] to raise the coall a company of men have come on into Viniton [Vinton] County and is going to Sink for oil the[y] Say the sign is good. Amidst the horrors of war men is going ahead in persuit of worldly gain a gain the Copperheads have gone to hale on that Score we have peaceable times here the County majority is for the younion the Neighbours are all well with few aceptions Give my respects to all my old friends and take to your Selves my love and respec your friend Caleb Hank

write to me and letme knowe how you are gitting along

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Note: This letter was written by grandfather Hank to grandfather and grandmother Ewing and must have been turned over to my mother by the latter as it was found in her private portfolio. I was just past five weeks old when the letter was written. I have always understood that a great friendship existed [between] the elder Hanks and the elder Ewings who, in fact, were close neighbors in Jackson Co. O. before the Ewings came to Michigan in 1853. Three of Enoch Ewing's sons—John, William and Henry, married three of Caleb Hank's daughters—Jane, Isabel and Nancy, repectively. Jane, however, had died prior to 1853. Grandfather Caleb Hank made a visit to Michigan once and I have reason to believe that it was shortly after the close of the war and that he made the trip with my mother when she returned to Michigan, for I have heard her tell that he insisted on holding me; that she entrusted me to his care while she took a nap; that upon awaking, she found grandfather also fast asleep, with me asleep in his arms, but with my feet up and my head down. Many the time that she laughingly related this incident.

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Note: Caleb Hank was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, in 1789 and died in Jackson, Ohio in 1869. Hermeon Wicks, a widow, was his third wife.

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