

From Florella Brown Adair to Samuel Lyle Adair and Emma Adair

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Dear Husband & Daughter

After mailing my last letter I went to Martha Davis house & washed[,] ironed & made every preparation for starting for Hudson on the next morning[,] but long before morning it rained & continued to rain all day[,] which broke up all our arrangements for that week. On Friday the next day we all went back to the station in company with Martha & we stayed over Sabbath 23 of Sept[.] I went to church with Marian & Adison. Heard Mr[.] Hall from [MS. illegible] preach. his text was "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ." it was a good sermon, but badly delivered[,] he seems to have no energy or

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life in speaking. During [MS. illegible] he & Mr[.] Brigs & brother minister was at Marians & took dinner[,] we had some very pleasant conversation & some that was sad.

I made some enquiries about Lucy Hall his sister. he said she was lost to them all & worse than dead. they do not even know where she is[,] but suppose she is somewhere in South America[,] he says she & her Spiritual Husband have run a most dreadful race[.]

Abigale Botsford is some where in Minisota or Wisconsin & living and getting along about as they used to here in this state. In the afternoon M[.] was not well & did not go meeting[,] but I went with the young folks[,] he preached in the afternoon from his text "He will magnify the law & make it honorable[.]" it was excellent discourse[,] but with the

same fault as in the morning[.]

Marian has a Gentleman here boarding from Hartford Con. who seems to be greatly interested in Ka[.] & often spends an evening making enquiries about matters & things that have transpired in Kansas. he is a Congregationalist & a very good man Marian thinks. I often think if we could have such men in Osawatomie[,] how much they might do to establish good society & morals there.

Monday 24 [MS. illegible] We all went back to Marthas[,] found her quite unwell. she had something like pleurasy[,] Saturday night & [sunday?][.] I went to washing soon after I got there[,] & Charles helped dig potatoes all day in the evening & till eleven o'clock[.] I ironed M[.] & my clothes & got ready to start early in the morning for [Akron?][.]

in the morning I got up with a hard headach, but we soon got our breakfast & started in a two horse buggy eight

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of us all[,] Martha[,] Stephen & three children and [MS. illegible] we went through Liverpool[,] [York?][.] Medina &c. we went to Wadsworth intending to make a call & spend a few hours & go on to Akron that day, but after stopping [MS. illegible] horses & getting dinner at Levis Blakesly they would not let us go on so we spent the night[,] had an excellent visit with Mrs. B[.], Levis daughter who lives in [MS. illegible], Mr[.]

Hobart[,] her husband & Owen Blakesly

who had just returned from Illinois. The house was full but we had a good time. All wanted to hear more about Kansas[.]

Levi has almost lost his mind & is distressing to see & I think how far gon he is. he has suffered much for sevral years with pain in his head & back. now he hardly knows his own children & friends. he asked me a number of times where I lived now & if you did not go to Kansas & if we lived [MS. illegible] now. In the morning he did not [see?] me at first, but was enquiring where I was & if he had not better go up stares & see if we were all safe. he would not be contented till he see us all & then hoped we would not go away till after breakfast. It made me weep to see

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how far he was lost to himself & his family & friend. he is not capibl [capable] of doing any business & his son Owen has taken the place & carries on the work.

Wednesday 26[.]

we left Levies[.] went to the center where the people were holding a town fair. saw many nice cattle[,] sheep & pigs. a great many spendid cariages[,] [MS. illegible] pumps &c &c.

from there we came on to Jasons. got here about two. found all well. Ellen has been having the fever & ague but is about & able to work now[.] Jason had gon to Hudson thinking he should find us there, but returned in the evening.

all express much joy in meeting us again. we have had a fine time all around[.] so far nothing to mar our enjoyment, but the fact that you & Emma are so far off & in so different sircumstances. It seems to me now that you can hardly be enjoying any comforts in K[.] except the thought of doing something

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to keep others there & helping to keep [them?].

I feel sometimes like sending for you both to come to Ohio & spend the winter or for Emma if you will not[.] I know we all can stay here so much more comfortably than we can there & at a much less expense. But I suppose you would not even think of it if you could. Our friends all express great sympathy for you & wish you were here to spend the winter[,] or till times become better[.]

27[.]

Ellen & I have spent more of the day in pearing & caning up peaches[.] I have nearly a bushel caned & sealed ready to carry or send to you. Jason has a great variety of Grapes & many of the vines are loaded with large clusters. one he brought back from K[.] has the largest clusters I ever have seen & he hopes to get the premium next week at the fair on this kind of grapes. I hope he will for he has a right to be praised for his

care and skill in fruit growing. he has a nice assortment of evergreens and fruit trees he [designs?] for us & the master Cimetry[.] some I shall have sent on this fall & some next spring[.] I hope you will have a good place prepared for fruit trees & vines this

fall if you can[.] I see no good reason why we cannot have as good grapes & as many[.] with care[.] as our friends here have. every where I have yet been, the houses[.] barns & frames are covered with vines & loaded with fruit. Jason has some choice roses & running roses[.] creeping vines and flowers he is keeping to send to Emma[.]

We are expecting John & wife & there brother from Ashtubula here next week & J[.]R[.] & wife will be here to take us to Hudson[.] Next week most of it will be spent at the fair which is to be held in Akron at the fair grounds. I expect to see many of my old acquaintances there. The day before we left Stephen[.]

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I received a letter from your sister Martha enquiring when we would be there[.] she said that Adison would meet us at Columbus if we would write & let him know when to be there[.] she had been quite sick & was but just able to walk about & Eliza was there quite sick[.] she thought that E[.] had over done taking care of her while she was sick & the baby[.]

I received your last letter the same day. you seem to feel hard because I do not write oftener & longer letters. I have thought I was doing very well for me. it has been hurry[.] hurry most of the time since I came home & I hardly know how to do much more than I do from day to day. I have not got over half of the visits I wish to make & do not know when I shall go south, but will try to keep you informed where I am from time to time. as soon

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as I get to Hudson I will write again[.] Ellen sends love to Emma[.]

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[P.S.] Charles is very well. has grown fatter by two pounds a week since he came from home[.] My health is tolerable good.

[P.S.] Ada has a very bad cough[.] I sometimes think she has taken hooping cough[.]

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[P.S.] Marian has given me a nice traveling dress & cape & Ada has a number of presents & a shaker with blue cape & strings[.]

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[P.S.] Ada is as contented as ever[.] she hardly ever says any thing about home[.] some times says Emma would like to have such nice things as the others have[.]

[written upside down at the bottom of page 6]

[P.S.]

Akron

Sept[.] 30

all well[.] love to Emma & much to your self[.] Ada sends a kiss to Emma & one to Pa[.]

your affectionate wife & mother
F[.]B[.] Adair