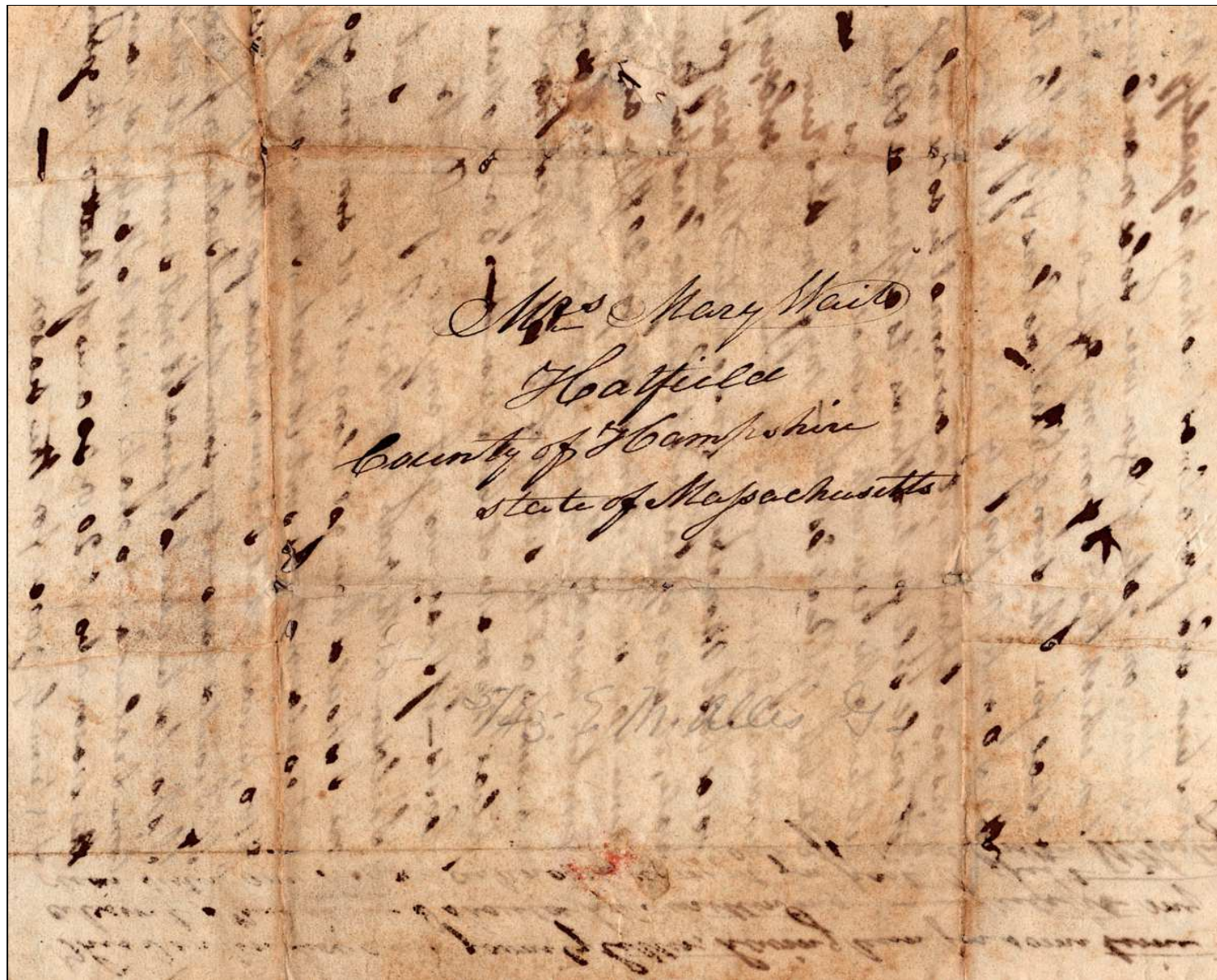


LETTER WRITTEN BY DR. WAITSTILL HASTINGS IN OHIO TO HIS SISTER WIDOW MARY WAIT – 1843



The three pages of the letter were so folded as to fashion an envelope tucked in and sealed with wax.

State of Ohio, Erie County, Oct^r 27th 43

Mrs Mary Wait

My dear Sister

I avail myself of the present opportunity of addressing you by Mr Seth Bardwell, who will probably start on his oriental Journey in his Journey to your County tomorrow morning or this Evening, I am however not certain but what he started this morning. I have seen him several times since his return, should have written before, but have just returned from the west, from the state of Michigan, in pursuit of a fugitive, who was indebted to me for medical services rendered his family, he made his escape from this County on Saturday, of last week, about 2 O'clock A.M. I started on Saturday after noon, overtook him in the City of Monroe, in the State of Michigan on the succeeding Monday, after riding on horse-back that day, & late at night, traveled 74 miles & overtook the fugitive & family, about 100 miles from my place of Residence, & fortunately succeeded in securing my demand without resorting to compulsory means, & paid me over \$10 besides, to defray my Expenses back. Pretty good operation—

My wife & family Respec[tfull]y join in sending their kind respects to you all—we have recently heard from our Son He's well. He is in Oregon Territory, a Lawyer by profession—

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Page 3 marginal lines:

24. My wife and family Respec[tfull]y join in sending their kind

25. Respects to you all—we have recently heard from our Son

26. He's well. He is in Oregon Territory. A Lawyer by profes[sion]~

We are at present enjoying comfortable health, one of our neighbors
 a man by the name of Eliphalet Taping died before my return from
 the west, which was sudden & unexpected not withstanding we
 hope that he is enjoying now that peace, consolation & rest, which
 remains to the people of God, he has been apparently seeking for
 an inheritance incorruptible, a portion which faith not ours,
 but reserved in Heaven for the followers of the Lamb. He has
 very lately taken a very interesting part in the all important
 subject of Religion, & is now in the hands of an all wise and
 just God, who will do right & justice to all his Creatures.
 It is now getting late in the evening, & do not know but what
 Mr. Bardwell started this morning, which circumstance will
 naturally deter me from writing very lengthy at this time—
 My son Lyman was at Capt. Whites yesterday, but did not
 see Mr. Bardwell, understood that he talked of starting to
 day, if the weather was clear & fair, had some snow to day,
 but fair weather this evening, have a number of law suits
 to attend to this evening &c, & I was in hopes when he
 came to arrange his business respecting the transfer
 of the farm, he would be able to assist me that I might
 therefore be relieved from my difficulties, found he
 however was not able at this time, under the present
 existing circumstances, being exceedingly difficult at
 the present pressure of time to meet pecuniary demands
 I have issued a number of Executions when property

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24. the present pressure [sic] of time to meet pecuniary demands
25. ~~~~ I have issued a number of Executions when property

clear Sister my kind acknowledgments for past Respect
 has been sold for almost nothing, to qualify that
 a portion, one yoke of Oxen were sold on an Execu-
 tion which issued from my Office & under my hand
 & seal for the sum of Three dollars & fifty Cents
 \$3.50 only, the property taken in that Instance
 was not appraised, it now cannot be sold unless
 it will sell for two thirds its appraised Value.
 it being the case with personal property as in the
 case of Real Estate—my farm has been
 under an Execution for sum time, & not yet sold, unless
 sold last Monday, it was advertised that day for
 sale, it was appraised at thirty dollars per acre,
 hence you see that it must sell for 20\$ per ac[re] or
 remain unsold, which is however a poor way of doing
 Business, at the sitting of the Court of common
 pleas, they make at each session then 6, or 8 dollars
 Costs—if I had ever got any thing of Doctr
 Sheldon on the order that Brother Ephraim sent
 me I should have got along with it sometime ago,
 but could not. I sent it back, I am now behind
 \$100, besides what I have on hand for that purpose.
 If I could borrow it of some of my Brothers or friends
 I should be able to refund it next summer, at which
 time I calculate to make a visit to Hatfield, having
 this season about 20, or 30 acres of wheat on the ground
 & extremely good for the season —

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 absent, other[wise]—I should have written more—[---] my
 dear Sister my kind acknowledgments for past Respect—
 Your affectionate Brother W Hastings

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2. absent, other[wise]—I should have written more—[---] my
3. dear Sister my kind acknowledgments for past Respect—
4. Your affectionate Brother W Hastings

Notes:

MARY⁶ HASTINGS (*JOHN*⁵, *WAITSTILL*⁴, *DR. THOMAS*³, *DR. THOMAS*², *THOMAS*¹), born 01 Jan 1769 in Hatfield, one of the ten children of John Content (Little) Hastings. She married 10 Jan 1805 Daniel⁵ Wait (*ELISHA*⁴, *JOHN*³, *BENJAMIN*² WAIT(E), *THOMAS*¹) he was born 05 Aug 1766, and died 19 Apr 1833. Mary died 14 Sep 1852 in Hatfield, aged 83 years. Daniel Wait is a great grandson of Benjamin and Martha (Leonard) Waite, famous for their role in the Hatfield Raid of 1677. Mary and Daniel had only one child of record: Mary Wait, born 27 Jun 1806, married 18 Nov 1824 in Springfield Dexter Allis, born 07 Feb 1797, son of William & Sophia (Smith) Allis.

Mary (Hastings) Wait had five brothers, one of which was her junior by two years, Waitstill Hastings.

Dr. Waitstill Hastings, born 14 May 1771 in Hatfield, married about 1796 Lucinda Wood in German Flatts, Herkimer Co., NY, daughter of Nathan & Jane (Strong) Wood, and he died 1860 in Parkertown, OH. Waitstill and Lucinda had eight sons:

- i. Waitstill Hastings, Jr. m. Permillia Carr;
- ii. John Hastings, died 1812 aged 12;

- iii. Ephraim Hastings m. Sarah Parker;
- iv. Samuel Hastings m. Lois Crippin ;
- v. Joel "Joe" Hastings m. 1) Eleanor McCord;
2) Sarah Elton; 3) Elizabeth Warren
- vi. James Hastings;
- vii. Lyman Hastings m. Emeline Stebbins;
- viii. Lansford Warren Hastings

Lansford Warren Hastings was lawyer and had an involved and interesting life. He authored *The Emigrants' Guide to Oregon and California*, published 1845 by G. Conclin in Cincinnati, [<https://archive.org/stream/emigrantsguideto04hast#page/n5/mode/2up>] containing scenes and accounts of a party of Oregon emigrants, a description of Oregon, scenes and accounts of a party of California emigrants, and a description of California. It also described the different routes to those districts and all necessary information relative to the equipment, supplies, and methods of travel. It was in this very book that the "Hastings' Cutoff" was also described, which, L. W. Hastings, himself, had not attempted, but which would contribute to the horrific demise of the renowned "Donner Party".

Mr. Seth Bardwell was most probably the Seth Bardwell, born 1784, son of Seth, married to Ann Warner of Williamsburg. He died in 1866.

As to the "E M Allis" penciled on the outer exposure of the letter as folded and sealed. It is reasonably believed that this Elisha Allis, brother of Mary's son-in-law, Dexter Allis, was a possible contact in making delivery of the article.

Values today compared to those of 1843: a one-dollar commodity in 1843 would today have a \$217 labor value or a \$581 income value of.