



PRIMARY SOURCE ACTIVITY

[To:] Oliver Hooker Esq.

Southbridge, Worcester [County], Mass.

Parma, Cuyahoga County Ohio Aug. 19, 1844

Dear Brother and Sister

I embrace this opportunity to write because Mr. G. Strong a neighbor of mine has kindly informed us that he expects to start for Sturbridge in a few days. He is a cousin of Warren Plimpton's wife & will visit there. He is a man of an excellent moral character & I believe has many relations in Stafford & its Vicinity.

I often reflect upon the kindness we received from our friends in Sturbridge & Southbridge during our recent visit among them & especially from your family; & nothing would give me greater satisfaction than to have my friends visit me here & give us an opportunity to return those kindnesses. I often think of you Brother & Sister. I see you laboring incessantly day after day & month after month for the benefit of your children. I hope you will be able soon if not now to lay aside your hard work. Perhaps you have before now. If not, it may be your duty to do so, & I think your circumstances a.re not so straitened but you might do it; but you can certainly Judge best as to the expediency of it. I am not without hopes that you may visit us should our lives & health be continued another year. It seems to me you might make arrangements so as to leave home in August & return in the latter part of September. Our children would rejoice to see uncle & aunt Hooker here. The Journey would be a pleasant one by rail road to Albany which would take you 7 hours. Then by the canal to Buffaloe. By the Packet boat it would be about 3 days, by a line boat about 7 days. Then by steam boat to Cleveland from 18 to 22 hours. Cleveland is 7 miles from our house.

The expenses when we came home were as follows for one person.

From Charlton to Albany	\$4.00
From Albany to Buffaloe by line boat & boarded -	5.00
From Buffaloe to Cleveland deck passage on a Steam boat -	2.50

\$11.50

Miss Weld who came with us said when she had got to Cleveland, that she thought she was well paid for the expence of the Journey by what she had seen. The Journey would be very interesting to you & Museum Education | 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road | 508-347-0287| osv.org | ©Old Sturbridge Village

the country here would not be less so. Everything here is so different from N.E. Instead of the crooked roads of Southbridge & Sturbridge you would see here roads on a straight line for miles. Instead of the dwarf trees of your country I could shew you white oak trees 5 feet in diameter & Hickory trees 120 feet high. I should like to shew you white wood trees from which we usually cut 5 logs 12 feet long without a limb. I would shew you some im-portant flouring mills & saw mills far superior to any I saw in Mass. I could shew you some small woolen factories, but not cotton.

Yours affectionately, Sam'l Freeman

Source

Excerpted from the Freeman Family Correspondence by Museum Education. Old Sturbridge Village Research Library. Edited by Old Sturbridge Village.