Augusta N.Y.
April 30th 1831

Mr Benj Porter
at Mr Porter's
Orchard Farm
Boston
Mass

Dear Uncle

Augusta April 27

I am just set down to write you a few lines according to my father wish and I hope you exguse our not writing before as we thought we would stop to see the winter though before we wrote so that we could give you a littel account of the winter so I will begin with that first we had a fine fawl and the winter did not begin till Dec.r and when it did begin it come pruty sharp we have had snow over the top of fences some places and it as frost verry sharp father kep pruty close to the fier all the winter but this countary people love a plenty of snow that is the time they take there pleasure for that is good traveling then for heer is no wheels run hear in the winter it slays and cutters and I can tell you that is easy riding for I have had some rides in them it like a boy slayding now I will give you a littel account of the summer last summer was a weat one there was such rain as I ever see before and a great deal of thunder a lightening but we had a fine time for haying a harvesting and had a good crop of wheat and Oat and Barley but Indian Corn was short for that loves hot summers there was a few days very hot the spring is a just a coming on now and it is about the middel of Apr we are just getting leaves hear now So now I will give you a littel acount of what we are a doing Father as bought two farms one for me and one for John and William mine is a farme of 84 acres with a house and stables and hop house mine is about 32 acres cleared and 2 of wood and I am just now begin to work the land and I like the look of it I suppose you would not get such land in england for 50 per acre it low land and a fine stream of warter run throw it and the price of it was 17 dollars per acre and my brothers is farm of 40 acres about 10 wood with a house and barn and stables and therge was 15 dollars per acre a dollar is 8 shillings of this money and about 4..6 of enlish money they think as much of a dollar hear as you do of a sovereign hear is not so many rich people hear but all of one class more they do not think so much of there self as to be one a bove a nother the people seam very friendly and they do tolk better enlish then we do for they speak verry proper and they do have good learning

It was a year a go to day that we landed at New-York and we
was all glad enuf to see land again we had one or two days pretty
rough weather my brother dog over board and the captain they
wanted to kill him but thank god we did not for
no sooner a coming over some of us was very sea sick and father
could not smoke a pipe much on the passage but calm weather
he enjoys himself on deck hearty with hot and weather he keeps to
bunk but I must tell you he injoys himself now very much and
like this country very well and she lives with William and John
mostly and some times he will come and visit with me and we
works as he like for us so father as is living for what he plays
to do for us we have got two large meeting house in this town
one is a Baptist and one Presbyterian but I have not been to the
Presbyterian we have gone to the Baptist sense we have and we
like the preacher verey much he is a very good sort of a man I
live but now I am I move have about 4 miles from the meeting house
and the roads are often so bad I think I shall get to go much near
is a meeting near close by my house in a whole house were I
will be preaching every sabbath day we are a trying to get it so
I have heard any of my country people preach near to day the 16
of April and he preach a good sermon he come over last spring
and there is a nother one live just by me wich is a preacher
methodist preaching but I hope there is some good to be learnt from
it near is no english church nearer than 9 miles my master is a living
about 5 miles from us she as been a widow there ever sence we come
almost and she git from 300 to 400 dollars per year and says these the
best place she ever did for her servants hear about because
as there are children and Stephen come up the country with but did
stop long up hear but went back a boat 30 miles and rented to self
and a house for a twelmonth as promise he gives for 80 dollars
per year and is board and lodging and washing and he like is self
very well and he says there are very religous people father and
John as been to see him this winter and is so give him a good
character and he says the farmers want him to set up a grist is
so they have offered to build him a shop and find him iron but
Stephen will not do for is so we told him but he will expect to
have a good deal more wages if he stop another year they will be
stephen to show there house if you please father wishes you to give
to first respect to us uncle if he is a living and to say that we are
all quite comfortable situated are lik the country very well

father as been very fearey a making of sugar lately they have made
the quan of 10 weight of sugar William a father I have not now sugar
back on my place I can assure you that very good sugar we make on
veah and candles are this country people pretty much our thing they wand
for we they make there own cloth and spin there own linen they make
pretty much our thing they wear and grow pretty much all they want to
eat and drink now I must tell you what stock we have got I have got
1 yoke of oxen and 8 cows and 4 calfs and 6 steep and 9 hogs and 6 geese
and 19 chicken and 8 ducks and my brothers have got 2 horses and 1 cow
and 2 calfs and 19 geese and about 10 chicken and we have wood pigeons
here by thousand and lots of thrush and robins squirrels and black one
are red one we have now on about three acres of land but we have
some fine timber wich large and ~~not~~ not heat by the hand of
man but I expect there will be more search in 20 years
time where I am they do begin to be more scarce of wood now for
they do make a good deal of wood for fencing and a great
deal for burning father range your heads tools will not do for
this country for fear to some of the wood that will gap
the handtools all to nothing they never see such tools in this
country they make their axes quite different I like there axes
very well so we the with I hope these few lines will come safe
to hand and find you and your family and housekeeper quite
well I am happy to say that father is quite well and we
injoy is health quite well in this country and we do all the
rest of us except my youngest boy James he as been sick for
a bout 3 month and he is very poorly now I have administered
to him he and he inflamation fever first and then he dropsy
following my wife was sick for a bout fortnight but thank
god all the rest of us are quite well now father send a letter
to you and hope you will answer this letter and father would be
glad for you to give him a little account of his old country
for we hear bad news of it now but we hope it will be
settled with out war I suppose you have seen Arthur Jones
please to give father and all of his kind respect to your house
keeper and to your dear children and please to accept it
yourself from us all and give have respect to all enquiring
friends I hope you will excuse bad writing and the spelling or mistake
please to direct as follows on the Town of Otsego in the
County of Oneida in the State of New York North America
so now I will all conclude with best wishes to health and
happiness and good luck to all I hope to now more from your
affectionate friend James Hearn