



## Letter to Mary Johnson of Worthington, Ohio from William Johnson, Her Brother, of Milan, Ohio, 1/3/1839

Subjects: William's adventures to find good food at school and general  
information about his studies.

[Handwritten note, script]

Milan, Jan. 3, 1839

Miss Mary,

Being rather more at leisure than usual I am disposed to answer a thing in the form of a letter which I received with your initials dated 23d but was so poorly written [*sic*] that (as is said sometimes) I could scarcely make head or tail of it—but I perceived at the commencement that the expressions used were rather satiric in their meaning therefore I have no notion to complain of this but shall expect all future communications to be written [*sic*] in a more elibible [*sic*] hand I have enjoyed very good health since I came to Milan but as there is a reason for every thing else there is a reason for this—I cannot get hold of any thing to make me sick—I am a perfect stranger to cakes- pies and even to warm biscuits—It is rather a tough case barely to eat to live all the time and never live to eat—we (meaning those who board at the boarding house) never get any apples or anything of that kind except when some friend gives through pity and I assure you that is but seldom—But a couple of us being invited to watch with a [illegible word] (which we accepted [*sic*])—took advantage of the time—being left alone—we commenced our operations [*sic*] on a pile of bread and butter pie and apples sufficient to make a meal for a half a dozen men if they would not eat to [*sic*] much—we began upon the apples and soon devoured them—without making the least impression towards appeasing our appetites—but rather invigorated them to call for more we there fore [*sic*] commenced upon the pie—(we went upon the principle of having the best [of] all times as the man did his pork) and soon dispatched [*sic*] that not yet was our ravenous appetites satisfied we then had recourse to the bread—which after toasting and buttering well, we eat and finally cleared the plate—But we were blest with a coming appetite so that before morning our hunger became so intense as to be beyond endurance—therefore as one would naturally suppose we began to look for something to eat—one going to the cellar the other to the cupboard & pantry but to our disappointment found nothing, but knowing that we could not stand it till

morning my comrade started off for something—and I began to rummage about one place and another [*sic*] and accidentally found tea sugar and milk in abundance—my mate soon returned with a fine pie and some cakes—then our materials being collected we proceeded [*sic*] to buisness [*sic*] and passed the balance of the night in a conviviality of the first order—This being the first scrape that I have been in—I have not lost but little time from my studies—I have had invitations to two balls one at Huron, the other here at Milan—and also invitations to several evening visits—The school is [in] a prosperous condition it contains between sevenety [*sic*] and eighty pupils about twenty young men and about as many young ladies and [the] ballance [*sic*] children—I have examined—my former studies—and am now attending to Algebra- Astronomy and Bookkeeping I expect to take up Surveying next term if there is a class—I should like to know if Pa will support me here next term if I should wish [to] stay—Give my respects to all inquirers.

Wm Johnson

PS I should like to have my best black handkerchief brought out to Lyme and left at the Seymour's  
[Evelope] Miss Mary Johnson Worthington Franklin County Ohio