



2 Letters to Mary Johnson of Worthington, Ohio
from Matilda E. Stern and Emeline Stern of Green
Springs, Ohio, 3/3/1845

Subject: Letter to Mary following a visit to Worthington by Matilda & Emeline Stern. Matilda is married to a Mr Stern and Emeline is her sister-in-law. Matilda is living at present in her father in law's house but will be "going to housekeeping soon in Tiffin, Ohio. They both hope Mary will come and visit and hope her mother can come too.

[Handwritten note, script, writing continues vertically when pages are full]

Green Springs Sabbath Evening

March 3d/45

Dear Mary,

It is with a great deal of reluctance that I commence my first epistle to a new friend with an apology, but in this instance I feel myself in duty bound to do so; but where shall I find my excuses for my apparent negligence? First at the head of the list (as I am a married woman) I will say that my domestic duties not having been cared for during my absence have required more attention than usual since my return and consequently occupied a great deal more of my time—Then the great difficulty we are all experience in commencing a new correspondence without having anything interesting or entertaining to communicate was to be overcome, to which I will add a natural disposition to be very little lazy and the least bit in the world careless and I think I have brought forward an all sufficient excuse, and if you are very kind good girl (and I don't doubt it in the least) you will excuse me—

Now, if a letter will be acceptable at this late date I will do my best at trying at all events. We did not fare as badly after leaving your little village as we expected to—we had but one "brek down" [*sic*] and that not a very bad one, it did not detain us more than half an hour—we reached home about ten o'clock at night after being out all night before so you may know the remaining portion of that night was spent in sweet slumber—

If it were not for the visit to my friend Clara and the many pleasing recollections that float o'er my memory of the short time I spent in your quiet little family I would think we were not repaid for all our fatigue & discomfort—but Dear Mary I will ever remember your kindness and attention and that of your worthy parents with the warmest feelings of gratitude and hope ere long to have the sincere pleasure of welcoming you to our little home and in a measure repaying you for your kindness. Sister Libby (of whom I have spoken to you) and myself are very comfortably seated by the kitchen fire, one on each side of a large breakfast table writing away as hard as we can, but we stop to talk so much that neither of us make much headway, it is now after eleven o'clock and Lib says time for us to retire, therefore good night sweet sleep and pleasant dreams attend you—

Monday Morning—I am now as you will see by the commencement of my letter at Green Springs, snugly quartered in Father Stern's family enjoying the society of kind brothers and sisters and have every thing around me to make me happy, and would be perfectly so if it were not that there is one vacant seat, one loved one missing, Mr Stern has gone home and left me it being court week and his presence being necessary there you must not therefore think strange my letter has a melancholy tone (although I must acknowledge it would be something marvelously strange) for I feel almost like putting on widow's weeds, for one short week at least—Sister Emeline and I spend some very pleasant moments in talking over the many little incidents of my trip, and we dwell long and pleasantly upon the few days we spent with you for there we all enjoyed ourselves well, and although strangers felt that degree of ease and familiarity that we felt no place else—We have not been to the spring since I have been here—Yesterday it rained quite hard but this is a bright sunny morning, and I think it will soon be dry enough to admit of our going—Next summer we hope to have many pleasant walks there with our friend Mary—you must not dissappoint [*sic*] us my Dear Girl for we anticipate a great deal of pleasure—We are going to housekeeping next month and hope to make your stay in Tiffin pleasant, and think we can do so, down here I know you will enjoy yourself for you are fond of walking and everything is pleasant round—do not fail to come if you have an opportunity Mathias (you know) said he would take you back if you would come, and if he don't I will—Give respects to your kind parents and say to them that I think of our short acquaintance with pleasure and hope ere long to renew it. Remember me to your Cousin William and all others who may enquire after us—I must stop for Emeline has promised to fill up the remaining space, and she is scolding bitterly therefore Good Bye but do not fail to write very soon for I have not heard a word from you since we left and am anxious to

Your Friend

Matilda E. Stern

Monday eve March 3rd 1845

Dear Mary you see sister Tilly has left me nothing more than a short P.S. when I was to have had one half the sheet [do] not think her selfish; I will commence next time myself, then see if she will cheat me so, did you ever see such a string as she has spun about her domestic duties: Now I verily believe I have a greater number of such duties to perform than she has though cannot offer the same apology (not



being married), how much the married folks have to attend to; I must leave you now a few moments Dear Mary to prepare some drink for my father.

Oh what a bright beautiful evening how much I wish you were here with us, or at the very furthest next month, and the month after, our forests will then be bright with gay fresh flowers, all thing will be clad in summer costume; will you not then dear Mary fulfill your half made promise to visit us? yes you must all things will make you welcome, then we will make our trip to see Mrs Durbin; how very lucky to have that visit to throw into the scale among other inducements, I will endeavor to make you enjoy yourself as much as we did ours with you, you will come won't you, you cannot withstand temptations can you oh dear! oh dear! what shall I do Mary my sleeves are so tight [in] the elbow that I cannot write I have not the free use of my hand, what shall I do. My love to your dear kind parents, tell them I hope our pleasant acquaintance will not be broken off thus abruptly, it was too pleasant to [be] soon forgotten, should be much pleased to have your mother come with you, I enjoyed her society much and hope I could make her visit pleasant; my compliments to your cousin William & all other inquirers, Oh Mary have you and Sarah Swindels become any better acquainted sine we left you? my compliments to her. have you made your visits to Newark & Springfield yet; you must not till I come to go with you, we will have a jolly time of it won't we? Will you not be a good girl and write soon? But do not write all to Matilda because she had filled two pages, you must take my good will for the deed, it was Tilly's fault that I did not write more. Mary if you get any news from our mutual friends in Columbus hand it over to me write soon and direct to Green Spring

I am you sinear [sic] friend

Emeline Stern

[Envelope] Miss Mary Johnson Worthington Ohio

[Stamp]Green Spring O March 4

Note: Green Spring is now called Green Springs. It is Seneca County.