



Letter to William M. Johnson of Milan, Ohio from Mary Johnson of Worthington, Ohio, 12/29/1838

Subject: Mary relates to her brother, at school, pranks being played around town especially around the Johnson home and also she is sarcastic about his not answering her letters. While telling her brother about the pranks she provides some fascinating details about everyday life at the Johnson home including her Pa reading politics with other men.

[Handwritten note, script]

Worthington Dec 29, 1838

Sir,

Seeing that you manifest [*sic*] so much indifference to those lines that I directed to your majesty I thought that I would try it again and see what can be gained by this. But stop perhaps I [am] accusing [*sic*] you without cause It probably may be that you did not receive my last letter If that be the case may you look over those lines that are intended for a reprimand and be to you a lesson that is to be prompt and ready for action.

This town and the people in it remain the same unruly [*sic*] set of folks that they were and if any thing has taken place it is just to the contrary the young men (that is if that can be so called) are getting very bold so much so that they can do most any thing they pleased [*sic*] [to] us & a trick on us one night the first was to let the fattening hogs out into the yard and then Pa thinks that climbed over the fence there by the pen and over the fence into the street and thus some tallow that Ma had set out at the door to cool it was the next day after we had butchered the old cow: and they went to the beehive that sat on the east side of the bower and found that there was no honey in the hive and brought it and set it on the door step. But they were not [stifled] they went to the others and took the only one and tore off one side and we think that they took out what they wanted at the present time and left the rest or brought that up to the door also and then left us

That evening we had a leights [*sic*] in both rooms and Pa was in the kicten [*sic*] as well [as] some other men reading politics while the rest part of the family were engaged in pareing appels [*sic*] so that all were engaged and they had a good chance. the tallow was not cold so [because] it ran it was saved. This was all done in the fore part of the evening between 7 and 8 o'clock. Last Saturday Mr. Horn from Bucyrus stayed over night at [*sic*] tavern and stayed until Tuesday morning he had a large wagon [*sic*]



and these horses that we see and Sunday night one of his wheels were [sic] taken off and carried away some distance but were found. No more. Hope that you will answer this directly in haste all well you must excuse this scrawl for it is so late that I am very sleepy I have a great deal more to tell you but will put it off until I answer your letter.

Your Sister Mary Johnson

[Envelope Mr William M. Johnson Millan [sic] Huron County Ohio

Note: William Johnson attended the Huron Institute in Milan Ohio