



Letter to Achsa Johnson of Worthington, Ohio from
Mary Johnson in New York City, 09/01/1847

Subject -- Mary's honeymoon

[Handwritten, script]

New York, Sep. 1, 1847

My dear Mother,

By way of appology [*sic*] to Pa for addressing you exclusively I would say that I know he will have the benefit of all I may say the same as if addressed to both, & it seems more natural at any time to address you, but more particularly now when my heart is full even to oppresions [*sic*] - when I would open my heart free it of its weight - which by the way is a happy one - & were I at home should be a perfect child, but as it is (I think) I am remarkably composed & perhaps dignified. You my dear Mother can & will enter into my feelings & sympathies more than Pa, much as he does & may love his daughter & son.

My Mother, I am very happy a great deal more so than I had ever dared to anticipate or ever dreamed, for in my dreams my waking phantoms followed, not vouchsafing to me the flowery paths & golden scenes which pure true love shall bring. But I have it now & naught can rob me of my treasure, if the Almighty but will it - which is my constant prayer. One of the very best of husbands it has fallen to my lot to possess, & much as I loved him before marriage - as much so I thought it possible love waxes stronger & stonger every day. Acquaintance exalteth [*sic*] him above my standard, which it has always been my intention to keep high. Again & for more than the hundreth time let me assure he loves me, truly devotedly & surely more so, I know, than you knew my regard how I held him before marriage, Since - Oh, I can not tell you the half my regards for my Beloved Frank. We have traveled & been constantly together for a fortnight & not a lisp of anything unpleasant has escaped his lips. You may smile at this, saying it is not time yet for sour looks not indeed, nor never will be as long as I live, sincerely trust.

Saturday morn Sep. 4

A fine beautiful morning, just such as we have had since we left home with the exception of one half day as we were approaching Saratoga (from Whitehall, Champlain & Montreal) it commenced raining & during the night litterly [*sic*] poured down. Frank & I often speak of our being so highly favored

with fine weather as being indicative of something good (hopeful) & should our future be as happy as the past, earth within the domestic sphere would be a perfect Eden. Upon acquaintance we find our tastes & feelings very nearly the same. Only one thing has occurred [*sic*] to vex me as yet which is Mr. Sclocum disappointing us in his house. He wrote Frank that he was under obligations to Col. Minor previous to his engaging the house. His letter was a very singular one, bearing upon the face of it, a lack of honor with a consciousness of it. The reply of Frank's will help his feelings any if he has any sensitivity at all, will prove a severe rebuke. We have not purchased any furniture yet as we know not what we shall need. Frank has written to Horatio find a house & send word by Telegraph that we may know what to do. It is a disappointment & vexation as we knew what was wanted to furnish that house gently [*sic*] & comfortably but now must necessarily purchase at random.

I have not seen anyone from Ohio that I had previously known. Met Dr. Parsons at Saratoga, & last evening Mr. & Mrs. McKee from C. a Bride & Groom, they were married the next Tuesday after our wedding & between ourselves she (Miss Latham that was) is not as happy as I am. I don't wonder he is coarse & ungentelemanly. I have the modle [*sic*] of a husband.

Arrived at N. York Tuesday 31st & shall remain untill Monday perhaps, the first of the week at least when we visit Ct. & Mass. hope to be at home in two or 3 weeks from today. have fixed upon Saturday so that Frank can spend the Sabbath with me at home.

Perhaps you wonder how I spend my time here, I hardly know it passes by, & swiftly too. When we first arrived made some additions to my wardrobe visett [*sic*], silk dress with sundry little articles. There is another dress pattern like mine I think shall get for you if Frank does not think it too gay. I have not seen it yet, shall tomorrow. dress is so becoming to my mother. I want her to dress & enjoy life for the rest of her life I know that your daughter & son can & will if allowed, make you happy at least a part of the time in Columbus.

I have so much I would like to communicate that this my epistle I know will appear confused & incomplete, I write if for nothing else to quiet Frank who has constantly urged me to write but I know you will make all the allowances & accept this

from you ever affectionate daughter

Mary J. Sessions

Frank is not in but will take the liberty to send his love to family & remembrances to all, while I would be most affectionately encumbered to family & all friends with a great deal of love to my Father & Mother & Uncle Wright's family. We have not seen Uncle Jed, but conclude he has left home ere this & anxiously awaiting his arrival. I do so desire to see an old familiar face, even E. or Mr. Wetmor's face would be pleasing but do not expect the honor. Charles is in the City & George Smith but they have not called. We had George for a traveling companion to Buffalo. Just had a call from one of Frank's old flames with an invitation to tea this evening but I could not accept without first consulting with my husband. Me thinks I see the [omitted word] that forces itself upon your countenance at the last

expression but you may laugh as it would be preferred to a frown. But pardon this digression & in a postscript, too - which by this is rather lengthy as I find many things to say. You would laugh if you could see me making the acquaintances of the old friends & flames of my husband's. I must confess I felt embarrassed at first, Wednesday the next day after we arrived, the servant brought two cards, the Misses Cushman. I sent word Mr. Sessions was not in, but they wished to see Mrs. Sessions & Mrs. Sessions had to make her appearance. The servant pointed them out to me I presented myself. Since then I don't care. I go at the first call find out who & where or play the Yankey [*sic*] a little & get along finely. As yet have seen but two of his acquaintances I like one a cousin the other an old sweetheart. Mrs Perriman's dinner is ready you will excuse me. Pardoning the length of my postscript.

Adieu my parents

Your daughter

M.J.S.