



Letter to Mary Johnson of Worthington, Ohio from E.
Bailey, of North Fork, Kentucky, 2/12/1844

Subject: Prospective Suitor Hopes of Begin a Correspondence

[Handwritten note, script]

Feb 12th 1844

Respected Miss

The reception of this will probably be altogether unexpected to you and may perhaps cause you some surprise but I apprehend that you will readily forgive my boldness in presuming, if indeed such it can be called, when you learn that previous to last winter I had had but little or no acquaintance with you and that the acquaintance formed during my last visit to your place last winter made a very favourable and permanent impression upon my mind, and has since often caused you to be the subject of my thoughts. Probably I should have attempted during that visit to cultivate a further acquaintance with you had it not been for two circumstances, the one was that my attention at that time was partially directed to another quarter by the advise of a friend in Kentucky, and the other was that I was aware that another young gentleman was desirous of paying his addresses to you, and I was unwilling to assume the appearance of being in his way as he was a friend of mine. But these circumstances so far as I know have entirely passed away, and I have often thought of addressing a line to you requesting the favor of a correspondence, but fearing its reaction might be incongenial [sic] with your feelings and views I have delayed it to the present time. Upon mature reflection, however, I have at length arived [sic] at the conclusion that no harm can result from making the request. I hope therefore that you will excuse this intrusion upon your attentions and deign to inform me whether a correspondence with me would be agreeable to your feelings or not. The request is made with the purest of motives, and should a compliance with it not be agreeable to your views, you have only to say so, and you may rest assured that I shall always entertain toward you those feelings of friendship and respect ever due to real merit.

Should you hesitate on the ground of not knowing my standing in society, I can afford you ample evidence on that subject from some of the most prominent and influential men in the state, from whom I could procure certificates if you should desire it. I can also refer you for any information you may wish on that subject to Dr. J. R. Paddock late of Worthington, who is now with me in the practice of medicine and has been since the middle of November last.



Please let me hear from you as soon as convenient.

Sincerely and truly yours

E. Bailey

Miss Mary Johnson

[Jonathan Roberts Paddock was a graduate of the Worthington Medical College and a member of the faculty when it closed in 1840. He married Julia Bristol, daughter of Adna and Lura Buttles Bristol, a contemporary of Mary Johnson and probably a classmate at the Worthington Female Seminary]