



Letter to Mary Johnson of Worthington, Ohio from  
Damaris Solomon of Lockbourne, Ohio, 10/11/1843

Subject: Teaching at Locbourne; suggests Edwin Webster as possible  
suitor, asks about suitor "Mr. Joy"

[Handwritten note, script]

Plains of Orion, Oct. 11th, 1843

My Very dear Mary,

By some unhappy mismanagement our correspondence has ceased but which as you can see I am very anxious to renew and if agreeable to you it is a source from which I anticipate much pleasure.

I have not received a letter from you since my visit to Worthington however. I did hear that you had written. I saw Christopher Weaver in Columbus on the 4th of July, who told me that he had seen you a short time before, and you said had staid [sic] at [home] from church on purpose to write to me; but I never received your letter. I wrote two, to you, but know not what became of them. You don't know how Weaver's intelligence relieved me for I really began to think you had forgotten your old friend.

At this time, I have not one correspondent; it has never been so before since I could write. I feel as though I had lost all my friends. But I suppose the blame rests entirely upon the postmaster of Lockbourne. I want to think so at least. I want to believe that the friendship of my distant friends is permanent.

As this is rather a loansome [sic] neighborhood, no society except at a distance. I sometimes feel almost lost at such times, a correspondence with those I esteem would be a very pleasing diversion; and more than that I look upon it as a profitable exercise. But really I am stringing out a fine mess of complaints, but I do not pride myself in writing an interesting letter, nor do I pretend to observe a studied connection of grammatical words, sewed into sentences all fitted and dovetailed with exact precision; no: I had rather be made to weed in a cornfield than be compelled to write just such a good, smart letter once a month. I like to give the rein to the sportiveness of innocent of fancy; and be permitted to talk sense or nonsense; just as I please. It was never intended for me to act like a piece of clockwork: I never think before I move my little finger whether it will be right or wrong: nor do I regulate

my actions by the hair balance of propriety and good breeding. Perhaps it would be better if I did; I would show off to a greater advantage and not be subject to some carping criticisms.

I am still engaged in my old occupation of teaching the young how "to bang" and I am still boarding at Dr. Gards. I should like to spend the winter somewhere else that is if I can better my situation. I really did expect to have a visit from you before this time but I have been disappointed; however I have presumption enough to hope that you will yet come this fall, ain,t I presumptuous; [sic] but won't you come Mary; I would be glad to see you but hold!!! I had like forgot Dr Gard has a student and a bright eyed fellow he is I tell you just such a fellow as I imagine would suit you; but I am almost afraid to tell his name, as you have seen a brother of his. I heard you speak of a gentleman last winter who walked so exquisite that you tried to imitate him. Mr. Claudius Webster was the gentleman to whom you refered; [sic] it is his brother Mr. Edwin Webster that is studying medicine with Dr. Gard. But don't form your opinion from the brother you saw for I do not think Edwin can make as great a display of the use of his numerous muscles and joints as his brother; at all events I consider him a shrewd youth of twenty-one.

I believe I remarked in the beginning of my letter that I considered epistolary correspondence a profitable exercise: I think this letter carries out the assertion the topics are highly beneficial and I imagine they will prove to be "hinteresting," [sic] if they do not I have worn out an innocent goose quill for nothing: alas!! alas!!

But to be in earnest should this letter ever reach you; will you be kind enough to answer it by Lockbourne post office once more, they have better regulations now. If you only knew what pleasure it would give me to receive a letter from you; I think you would not hesitate to write. At least I shall expect an answer in about a week; now my dear Mary, don't disappoint me, but write and tell me you are coming to see me in a short time; in short write me a long letter if you please.

There was a young lady visiting here a few days ago from Columbus by the name of Miss Ann Smith who asked me if I was acquainted with Mary Johnson of Worthington. I replied in the affirmative. She then remarked that she had a cousin a "Mr. Joy" that was paying attentions to you. Hem!!! what a joyful creature you must be: it cannot be otherwise when you have a personal interview with joy itself.

But it is getting late and must close; give my very best regards to your Father and Mother, and remember me to Caroline. I was going to tell you to tell her to write to me but that would be useless. However do not fail to write yourself and you will greatly,

oblige your sincere friend

Damaris P. Solomon