



Letter to Mrs. O. Johnson of Worthington, Oh from J.
[Joseph] Ridgway of Washington City, 3/5/1841

Subject: Reports on Orange & Mary attending President Harrison's
inauguration and taking them to the train station

[Handwritten note, script]

Washington City, Saturday Morning

six o'clock March 5, 1841

Dear Madam,

I have this moment returned from accompanying Mr. Johnson & Mary to the Railroad Depot. They go from here in company with Joseph Howard & Lady and Gen'l. Hinton & Lady. Mr. & Mrs. Howard will probably accompany them as far as Philadelphia—which they will probably reach this evening at an early hour.

Mr. Johnson & Mary are well. Since their arrival here, we have endeavored—as far as the bustle of business would permit to make their stay agreeable. Mary was some indisposed by fatigue - the two first days after her arrival, when she recovered & has since been enjoying the scenes which have attended the Inauguration of our worthy President. She with the company—just spoken of, visited the President last evening—at the White House, to bid him good-bye. Upon the whole I hope that Mary, as well as many other Ladies from the west will feel themselves compensated for the fatigues of a journey so distant, to the Capitol of their Country to witness the consumation [*sic*] of the event, which they, in common with thousands of the Fair have contributed so largely to bring about.

With my best regards

Believe me your friend

J. Ridgway

Mrs. O. Johnson

Worthington



[Address]

Free

J. Ridgway

M.C. [Member Congress]

Mrs. O. Johnson

Worthington

Franklin Co.

Ohio

[Joseph Ridgway, an Ohio congressman from Columbus, had worked with Orange Johnson for several years as officials of the Columbus & Sandusky Turnpike. They were his guests at the inauguration and White House reception on Mar. 4, 1841. Harrison would die from pneumonia a month later. Mary's letter indicates that she and her father planned to go on to Mansfield, CT -- obviously to visit relatives. Ridgway's concluding comment seems strange in an era when women were not allowed to vote.]