

Worthington, June 10, 1833

Doct Otis Boise

FIRST PAGE Spencer Clark to [son in law] Otis Boise [Note: some spelling corrections to allow for readability)

Dear Son [Otis Boise was married to Spencer Clark's oldest daughter, Elvira]. I ought to make an apology for not answering your letter before, but one reason was I wanted to know how your debt against the Estate of Capt Thayer would come out, but [I] am now able to do it. I heard the Commissioners [Hampshire County Commissioners?] were to sit for the last time the last Monday in May. I sent by Alonzo to know whether your a/c [account] was in. He wrote that it was in and Mr. Bancroft said that Mr. Cudworth told the commission that you told him that you should not lose much by Capt Thayer for he had nearly paid you or mostly paid you or something to that effect. [Alonzo] said I had better go over and carry the books which I did and presented the a/c which they said was a fair a/c and ought to be allowed if not paid but they found a charge of fixing a fine plow of between 4 & 5 dollars that was not on your books. What they have done with it [I] have not heard. I have received Mr. Clapp's a/c which is all that has yet been paid. I have written to nearly all that had notes due.

I wish you to ascertain what Calcutta upper leather will sell for by the hide or side or both, for there is a great difference in it. Mine will be of the Patna hides, a superior article to the common Calcutta. Also [tell me] what sole leather is worth, [and what] good coarse Boots and Shoes well-made will sell for.

Let us know whether you have made a pitch? Or whether you are yet upon the wing. Tell us all about it. Our Mr. Reed has sold his plow for \$1200. I was to have \$400 down. The man Mr. Puffer has come on and instead of 4[00 dollars] has paid 950 dollars down. Mr. Reed is now expecting to go to the State of Ohio and be a Merchant. I have this day heard that Mr. Goodrich, the man that bot [bought] Horace Knowls place, is on his way to see Mr. Knowls. He [Mr. Goodrich] says he [Mr. Knowles] has got 100 dollars more in money than he was to have and has taken away things that he [Mr. Goodrich] paid him for and has other things that are not his, in short he has shown himself to be a very dishonest man not only with him but with others. If he should come in your way you should do well to be on your guard.

You may have heard of the Death of Genl Hooker, the Register of Deeds in Northampton. We have also to say that Thomas Brown's wife is to be buried tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. She was much resigned. The weather has been for a number of days cold & very windy. Corn has risen within a few days to a dollar for bushel. The prospect is very dull now for Corn but we hope for a change of weather.

How does that Boy do [Spener's grandson and namesake]? I almost get him in my arms when my Imagination moves in dreams. I saw Capt Slade the other day. He said he had got Cutter Bottoms to pay our note and said there was one more note to be paid on work but [I] do not find the notes so

written. You said, if I am not mistaken, there was a wrench or something to screw the nuts to the waggon entrys. [I] have not been able to find it. If you can tell [me] where it is, [I] should be glad.

If you have got settled just tell us the town, county & also what kind of society, how far from a meeting house if there is any, how large the town, what the Population etc. Your Uncle Daniel Hubbard is in a poor way, partially deranged. It has been coming on for some time. He got an idea that he could not pay his debts and if any body [sic] came, it was after him. He got so at length that he could [not] be alone and fears were apprehended that he would do some mischief to himself or other. They finally induced him to come down with Edmond and he went with him to South Hadley, old Hadley, Goshen, Cummington, and home to Edmond's at Chester. When at Chester he boards at Shepherds and gives vent to his feelings. Edmond says he [Daniel] will get his head down and sit and groan. Ask him what is the matter, he says it is debility. Edmond took him some three weeks since and carried him to Cummington and come to our house and staid 3 or 4 hours. He was much better so that I did not suspect anything until he was gone. I afterwards saw Edmond & he told me about him. Soon after this he went home and is now down again and is much better. His idea that he cannot pay his debts is ideal [imaginary]. They say he can pay all his debts and save his house & ton-yard now. I think you will say my part of the sheet is finally full. Go and do likewise. Far[e]well. S. Clark [Spencer Clark]

SECOND PAGE:

Worthington, June 5, 1833

Lucretia Bardwell Clark to sister, Elvira Clark Boise

My Dear Sister,

Your letter of the 11th was received the 22nd, only three weeks after you left home. We are very happy [to] know [sic] that you had so prosperous a voyage and were so fortunate as to arrive before the great freshet by which so many were detained. There was quite a large company from Cummington on their way at that time, 10 or 12 families, we have heard, who were obliged to wait or procure carriages and go by land. We received a letter from Electa the morning after yours was received. She says she finds the cares of school are gradually calling off her mind from those that before tied it, and that the month of May 1833 is passing much more comfortably than she ever supposed it possible. She has a school of 18 schoolars [sic] which gives employment for 6 or 7 hours in a day and finds her feelings enlisted far more than is usual for her. Today (Wednesday) she commences the second week of the last half of the term. The school room is over D. Goodman's store, the back part of the building, in full view of the river and falls below. The river has not been so high for several years as in the last freshet. The water was so high that boats were sailing almost onto the roads. With regard to her school she was very much pleased and would have been content if it had cost 10 or ten and a half dollars.

I sent her the copy of your letter by the next Monday's mail as she said she could ill endure one hours delay after she knows a letter had been received at home. Alonzo was home about three weeks since he came from Peru Sabbath morning about ten o'clock and went directly to church and the next day left us before noon, took dinner at Colonel Wards and that afternoon went to Northampton to

attend his chum Hubbard's wedding. He did not tell us certainly whether he should be at home again this summer. He had employment for four or five hours in a day. Two hours in Mrs. Smiths school, 2 or 2-1/2 on another & 1-1/2 with two young ladies at their home. He had had the misfortune to lose his trunk. He delivered it to the cartman to carry to the boat and when he enquired for it, found it was not there. He had in it a new suit of clothes that he had purchased for the wedding and other things for the occasion, besides one or more old ones. He thought perhaps he should find it again.

We had an opportunity to send to Lima yesterday by Dr. Asa Spaulding who will go through New York. Uncle Joseph called [called?] here Thursday, 23 of last month on his way to the Springs. He was alone, will stay 3 or four weeks. His health is about the same, is bloated considerably (END OF SHEET)

WRITTEN UPSIDE DOWN AT THE TOP OF THE ABOVE SHEET: You must not think to satisfy us only saying that Spencer [Spencer Boise, nephew] is well, but you must tell us all about him, how fast he can run, how many words he can speak, how many bears he has encountered, in short everything. They tell me that the next time I see [him] he will be carrying the saddle bags, but I am sure he will not be able to carry them so soon as a year and a half. Perhaps you will see us out there. END OF UPSIDE-DOWN SECTION

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Thursday after. Dear E. I have been detained from finishing your letter by the unexpected return of Uncle J. from the springs. He was in Saratoga about ten days but thought he received no benefit from the water but rather grown worse. The physician advised him to come from there, and go to the salt water – his appetite has been very good until he went to the springs, but now it is poor, he eats but little and that generally distresses him, much. He was bloated some of time so much that he could not wear his boots although they were quite large. He has just left us for home somewhat discouraged I should think.

You inquire for our friend, Dr. W[heeler]?. I can give you an example of his hobby, surgery. Old Mr. Cottrell (Gershom's) father has had a swelling on his arm for two or three months. Dr. Wheeler saw it and pronounced, a "nose cancer" and said it must be cut out immediately which he undertook "to perform" And he commenced cutting just as we should cut out a piece from an apple on on kind of ? and went on in that way (without paying the least attention to nerve or arteries or anything of the kind) until he took out the "nose cancer" about the size of a hens egg. Mr. Cotrell is now very sick and it is thought he will not recover. And our old physicians, Drs. Starkweather, Dr. Daniels and Partredge say that it is all in consequence of such savage cutting, & that it is not a nose cancer. He [Dr. Wheeler] has not much employment, was called to Deacon Parsons last Saturday night. Georg Searls fell and dislocated his hip. Dr. Wheeler was called and sat by him until Sabbath noon when [paper torn, unreadable]. . .from Northampton came without attempting to put the bone [unreadable] in place, though he must have been in very great distress. With regard to Mr. [Sharps?] certificate, [Pierce?] showed it to him, he said "he should have that thing cleared up." He was again chosen Superintendent of the Sabbath School although he has not been at Church more than one or two Sabbaths since you left home.

We are very much obliged to you for writing so soon after you arrived, it is not afforded consolation to us only, but has also relieved the anxiety of Mr. Bartlett's friends, as four or five of the family have called to know what was [?] had heard nothing before since he left home, are expecting a letter this week. We have heard from your Father Boise by Mrs. Hiram Parish She says he is very lonely, indeed his only comfort is Isabella. He is very anxious to hear from his children. Widow Hard?, I believe has not been in town to stay. She went to Albany last week with Sarah and Fordice drove her horse back alone. It was expected that she would be in Worthington last Saturday. Mrs. Marshall sends love. Utley left town immediately after the funeral of Deacon Mr. Child. Mr. Huntington is with us now and gives satisfaction generally. He takes charge of our Sabbath School class. Miss Susan Rice was married two weeks ago last Wednesday at half past nine in the morning, in the afternoon started to Boston from Albany "via" New York. Mr. McClure presented her with an elegant gold watch the last time he came down. Miss Laura Clapp was [missing some words here, married?] last Tuesday week at nine in the morning, and Mr. Luther Granger was wedded to Miss Perces Smith of Chester, daughter of Screaming [sic] John Smith yesterday at ten o'clock. Father say tell Elvira to put three lines in her next letter where she put one in this and we will gladly put on our spectacles and study it out if it is necessary, only write thick. Saphrona Smith will probably be in that part of the country in September, perhaps not until October. Her health now is very poor. Father will fill the first page. Love from all. Tell Spencer Una-i-ga sends a kiss. LBC. [Lucretia Bardwell Clark]

END OF PAGE

WRITTEN UPSIDE DOWN AT TOP OF PAGE 3

I shall send you that lock of Mrs. H. Browns hair which he promised because he requested me to (before that time if we can get Mothers consent).

Addressed to Doctr. Otis Boise, Chagrine, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. 25 is written in the upper right hand corner.

Letter from Spencer Clark and daughter Lucretia to Otis Boise and wife, Electra Clark Boise.