

- ⁱ 1853 Jan. 16 – **Letter from Solomon Moore to his son Jacobⁱⁱ** - losing sleep worrying about Jacob – John Priceⁱⁱⁱ reported in a letter sent home by Claton that Stone and Claton sold out, bought a mule and are in California – Claton did not know about Jacob^{iv} and Henry^v - the city was burnt out and Claton lost everything – times bad there, a man working getting \$3 less than the cost of his board - Claton tending groceries for a man for \$100 a month and no board - Bridon^{vi} said Moore lost all his money, \$155, and Rinker put in for himself and Moore - Jacob and Henry may need to come home - harvested the 2 fields, one sown by Jacob and one by Sylvester^{vii} - harvested at the other place, got 150 bushels and hired out 3 or 4 days at half the cost of last season - stopped overnight at Alonsburg (Allanburg, Thorold) with mother - sold ponies to Isaac Orsbon^{viii} - Louks^{ix} has security and a year to pay - Simcoe^x (Chapman) paid for cattle and the money borrowed to buy oxen from Daniel Foss^{xi} paid back - paid \$100 towards the land - has \$100 and John Brown^{xii} still owes him - has 25 cattle – sold 9 cows last spring and have 7 left - let Sylvester have May - works Nel and the bay colt, both with “fold”- has 2 yoke of oxen and 1 for beef - heard Stone was working for board and he and Claton were in Sacramento City - Bridon returning when he gets enough money - paid Elihue Price^{xiii} \$100 and intends to pay this 100 - offered Minerva^{xiv} money but she didn’t want to sell - may go live on the other place.
- 1853, Jan. 25 Pelham- **Simpson Chapman^{xv} to dear one (Jacob Moore) in California** – has written to Henry (Rinker) so did not write sooner as Jacob would get the news from Henry – got the letter from Jacob and all family at Jacob’s father’s were relieved, some cried some laughed – Joseph, Benjamin and Christopher McAlpin^{xvi} and his son Michael started for Australia Sept. 21



on clipper ship Ascutna^{xvii} - all his friends at home safe and sound excepting three, two of which are sleeping their last sleep - Mary Jane Shaw^{xviii} and Delia Chapman^{xix} died – Debby Hill married William Bessy^{xx} – Alex wrote a letter – most of time dull except when Alick (Alex) was down - have a new foot of snow – waiting for the roads to be “broke” to have sleighing – Henry’s letter said you are well but are not together any more^{xxi} – don’t be ashamed to come home if things don’t work out – Amos^{xxii} is building a house soon – have not heard from Jo since he left New York – Robert Far^{xxiii} has consumption – Marion Ellsworth’s^{xxiv} husband dead of consumption – had gone south but died 1500 mile from home – debating school in schoolhouse every Friday night for amusement – have had sleighing for 3 weeks and the horses “look the worse of it” - girls as “thick as fiddlers in hell” and like to ride so

the horses are poorly and it keeps the boys busy – hope lots of gold there and picking up chunks the size of a peck measure (1/4 bushel) – has the watch Jacob traded to Ed McArde^{xxv} and will keep it a good while as a token of remembrance – long poem - tell Henry (Rinker) not to fall in love with any of the squaws there as he has a girl in Pelham waiting for him – Hannah gone to keep house for Alexander^{xxvi} and is sorry to lose her – Jessy Willson^{xxvii} has joined the sons (of Temperance) – Chloe looks as good natured as ever^{xxviii} - Sarah Jane^{xxix} has grown taller and a great sight better lookin – Sallyann Rinker^{xxx} may marry Mr. Doddy^{xxxi} - Emily, Miriam^{xxxii} fine – Kate Disher as fat and kissable as ever^{xxxiii} – Clark^{xxxiv} is just about the same – Peter a good boy like me and doesn't go out Sunday nights – George Shrigley^{xxxv} said to be out after the gals but can't be proven - Temperance soiree on 19th at the town hall which was crowded “slam jam up full” – tickets 25 cents - speakers Mr. McDougal, Mr. Rump^{xxxvi}, Mr. Griffin and Mr. Rhyerson^{xxxvii} – concert by Mohawk Indians on the 20th which gave general satisfaction – Kate's (Disher) quilten has gone off at last with 7 girls, 7 boys and married folks – quilted through dinner and had a huge supper – some went up to singing school at Fonthill afterwards with Mr. and Mrs. Disher

3. 1853 May 15, Norwich – **A.B. Moore to his brother** – Hannah and AB well – at home father talking of buying old Forester farm for \$4500 has \$600 – AB has 20 sheep (one had triplets), 11 lambs, 8 horses, 2 cows, 10 hogs, 2 calves and \$100 – would tell him who the bidder (of the females) for him (AB) is, but they seem to be afraid to bid because of opposition – woman, C.A., from 30 miles away came to visit him to see if AB suited her but her brother took her back home - she had wealthy parents and a good education and is a Baptist and there are only the 2 children in the family – AB got a good invitation from her to come and see them - the brother asked Miss Mary Ann Knobbs^{xxxviii} to come and see them and bring the boys – she gave AB an invitation - does not know where Joseph Chapman is – heard Mr. Briden is dead - Uncle Phillip Simmerman^{xxxix} thinks chances in California good after so much high water – some of his relations came back very sick. **From Hannah to her brother** – One year ago they were both home writing to Alex – got a letter from M. L. Fell that William is at Springville in the States going to school^{xl} – Emily's^{xli} letter said Catr D had her quiltain “that was on hand before you and Henry went away” – Emily was asked but did not go - were only old folks to it – here, Alex has stopped writing his letter and intended to go see the girls but gave up and went to sleep instead - last Sunday had 2 young ladies here to go home that night and Alex and the young man living with Alex and Hannah went over the fences, through the gate and into the house – Hannah to Baptist meeting in Otterville with Miss Smith. Alexander to Gilbert Moore's – Solomon Simmerman^{xlii}, Amanda Moore^{xliii} and a young lady visiting when they got back home – Little Richard can say “Jacob” - Hannah has been away from home for 5 months – Richard had a hard fit of sickness just after Jacob left but is hearty now – write when you can – we check your likeness very often.
4. 1853, June 18 - **from Simpson Chapman, Pelham, to Jacob Moore** – got letter written June 26 on Aug. 16 – received the newspaper he sent – about a month since he wrote to Henry with all he knew - those going to Australia arrived safely after 4 ½ months – can write to Joseph at Melbourne, Port Phillip, Victoria District, Australia – Archibald McAlpin at Marysville Post Office,

- California - enjoyed last letter about trip to mountains – glad has free time to ramble over the mountains– hard to believe trees as big as he describes- wants a cut off the tree for a hewing block – Uncle Simco wants some cuts for a truck to haul saw logs in the winter - Lavinia (Chapman) invites Jacob and Mr. Rinker to her wedding Sept. 10 at 8 o'clock to Mr. (Volney) McAlpin^{xliv} - Simpson and Jane Chapman^{xlv} are to “stand them up” - story of a few weeks ago when 3 men asleep in a boat attached to a scow that became unattached and went over the Falls, one man reached a log and spent 24 hours before being swept over – wheat 8/3 per bushel, oats 4 per bushel, potatoes poor crop - horses expensive and people by every day asking for some – wants \$150 each for his – 5 stolen in Bertie (Township) and Humberstone^{xlvi} by a circus travelling through Canada this summer – LONG POEM “The Days of our Childhood” – James Husband Sr. ^{xlvii}died Friday last of bilious fever – Mary Vanwyck sends greetings^{xlviii} – did they get letters from Sacramento? - have they heard of Jonquin the Calafornian Robber^{xlix} ? – accounts in paper say he robbed around Columbia – Simpson has to go bring up the cow for Sis
5. 1853 Sept. 9 at Dry Creek, Yuba County California¹ **from Archibald McAlpin to Jacob Moore** – heard from brother Volney that Jacob is at Columbia miningⁱⁱ– Archibald has not been doing first rate - man he is travelling with bought a ranch for \$3000 and saw mill and wants to sell shares with payments in lumber to the sawmill 3 miles from Hansonvilleⁱⁱⁱ, Page’s Mill – Jacob invited to come and buy a share – mill should pay for itself in one year – send a letter to Marysville.
 6. 1853 Oct. 12 Norwich – **to Jacob from A.B. Moore** – got letter dated Aug. 22 today - has a hurt on the finger of his right hand - Hannah has a bad “fellow” ^{liii}on her right forefinger– Father coming to break the 3 year old colts for a team – AB broke Jacob’s colt and rode against a \$100 horse in a race and won by some rods – it rides like Josiah Ward’s pony – was wrongly sued for \$10 but did not owe the man a cent – “non-suited” him so fast in the courtroom it made a great laugh – man has to pay the cost but says he will try again - Andrew Moore^{liv}, your cousin, storekeeping in Norwichville – enclosing Andrew’s card he had printed up and a long acrostic AB wrote - Thomas Hutchison,16, working for him for \$7 a month – trustees want AB to take the school again – he is asking \$20 a month - acrostic poem – Hannah likes Norwich as well as Pelham - Hannah has a beau^{lv} and went to Camp Meeting with him – when he visits AB makes fun of them – Alex took 3 gals with him to get even with her.
 7. 1853 Nov. 17 – Nov. 17 **from Solomon Moore** - Walter (Bradshaw, age 13) and James^{lvi} go to school every day – Jane Foster is the mistress there – Robert Hartsell a hired man for \$4 for 15 days – doing cider and timothy seed – sowed 4 bushels and 5 to go – built a cistern and one at old place for Kerkley^{lvii} at the barn – is 12’4” across 10’ deep – of bricks and stone no wood – 17th got his letter and Clark’s – thrashing all day for Denis Rice^{lviii} - built a straw stack by himself– sent a letter to Columbia, Tuloumne County to Jacob – has \$500 from the money draft and paid \$880 for the old Forister Place last month – has 200 to 300 dollars, 25 cattle and 12 horses – rode Charley east from George Shrigley’s to the town line and was in a swamp – horse can’t see out of left eye now and it looks white – what to do with Jacob’s colt – will use any money sent to him on his notes to stop simple and compound interest - will pay it back – will put it into the land and can pay back \$500 a year – sold 141 bushels of wheat at 9 shillings and 100 at 10

shillings per bushel – sowed 40 bushels and 60 on shares – may hire Robert for a year to plow more land and sow – could put 30 acres of wheat on his farm - has 200 acres to work – plans to clear 8 acres of bushy land – have enough work for a year with fences to be laid over and pond holes to chop out - will make shingles in the winter as the barn “wants a new ruff” and the wagon house – bought a new mowing machine and cut 7 acres in a day – had to mow the fence corners and around the stumps - How much can you saw in a day at the sawmill there - questions Jacob’s partnership with Henry (Rinker) as “partnership is a poor ship to sail in” but “a three fold cord is not easily broken” – wants to know details of the sawmill and logs they cut – do what is right not wrong “few people reaps drips when they sow clean wheat” - in a hurry to get to bed to thresh again tomorrow

8. 1854 Jan. 21 Norwich **from AB Moore to Jacob Moore** - futile to write as Jacob got none of the letters written in the summer - AB and Hannah well – let them know when returning- afraid Jacob will be naturalized to California - ice here so nice times slipping in fields and on road – 3 horses fell going to water – social party at Gilbert Moore’s night before last and protracted meeting at Otterville for 3 weeks – Hannah and Catherine think William Stover^{lix} is the best looking boy in the township – have as many as 3 parties in one night - David Stover^{lx} had a party but missed it due to “going a courting to Woodstock” to a jury summons – David married Rachel Ann Gainor^{lxi} – Phebe and young Spencer up on a visit and the party on their account^{lxii} – Andrew Moore’s^{lxiii} party the best with a big cake and small cakes around it plus fruit, preserves, candies raisins and “mottors” – 30-40 young people there – have not been to Father’s in a year - AB building a barn in the summer – railroad men at work at Otterville and plan to finish next fall - Great Western is finished and cars are loaded down with passengers – it leaves Detroit in the morning and can be at his place in the evening if you get off at Woodstock and 12 miles to Wm Simmerman’s, 13 to Gilbert Moore’s and 18 to AB’s place – can stop at a farm and they will bring him on or can get the mail stage – cars go on to St. Catharines and Queenston– took train to Detroit when Charley was stolen to look for him – did get him back when Father paid a reward – one colt got kicked by a horse and died – did not take the school this year though offered \$20 per month - write soon – come home to a party and a fine lot of young ladies and parties in the neighbourhood – got letter dated Dec. 11 - Hannah had a letter from Miss M. L. Fell which spoke of Jacob doing well and should since he went so far away – plan for barn 50 by 60 – wagon house 20x20, horse stable 12x24, entry 6x24, stable 12x12, grainery 12x12, thrashing floor 14x20, bay 22x20, open shed 20x40
9. 1854, Mar. 16 Thorold – from **James Moore to Jacob Moore** – school is out – how much was the gold worth he sent – got a Bible from Silvester (Bradshaw) and so did Richard – how is James’ writing improving - on back **part of a letter from Solomon** – yesterday David McAlpin offered \$50 per acre for the land on the north side of the road that goes past Denis Rice’s - is 7 acres of woods – paid \$25 – Jacob Taylor gave \$4500 and would not take \$1000 for his bargain – hopes to get \$10 000 in 5 years for Forester place – Volney McAlpine read Jacob’s last letter and threw it down as it had no news of Archibald in it – write and include news for everyone.

10. 1854, March 26 to **Jacob from A. B. Moore** – got letter last evening dated Jan. 27 - have been scanning the road for his return – Hannah asks him to come home – AB has not been home in a year – must stop at AB’s first when Jacob does come home - railway is to be half a mile from his place and the depot will be 2 miles away when finished this year – Detroit and Buffalo train stops at Woodstock and is cheap – do you like the mill business? - are 4 in partnership? – has been visiting a lot this winter and friends asking about him - Jacob Taylor^{lxiv} sold house in village and dissolved partnership with Cornell^{lxv} and bought 100 acres north of Father’s new place, the Forister farm for \$4500 – many in Otterville selling out and abler men moving in and increasing the value - farm should get double what they paid if it went on the market – barn will be expensive – visiting at Talbot Street and Yarmouth and Pt. Burwell – Sarah Minard (AB’s first cousin) came back with them and is visiting for a month, took her to Uncle Jacob’s^{lxvi} – Solomon Simmerman (AB’s first cousin) taking her home probably today - Simpson Chapman here visiting Hannah - he came up on the Cars – talked about Mr. Doane^{lxvii} going down to Mr. Fell’s and his possible marriage to Maria^{lxviii} - the expected month has passed and they are not married – you must not take it to heart if Thomas and I take a little liberty sometimes since others go quite as far – keep the wash gates open when you get this lest instead of tears that Great Fountain should break up or flow out and all the ladies come drifting in and break the dam – that would be worse than the balance wheel and shaft - Jacob must be brokenhearted missing all the girls
11. 1854 Apr. 9 Thorold **to Jacob from Solomon** – has written 3 or 4 letters and has not gotten one since last fall - Peter Rinker^{lxix} got a letter from Henry – none of Solomon’s letters have gotten to Jacob – last letter was about the draft – cashed the draft and used it and \$300 and paid \$880 for a total of \$1880 paid on the Forester place – owes \$528 for borrowed money – paying Robert Hartsel \$100 a year – has a hired girl – paid the mason \$9 for plastering then went to the County “ceit” and bought 26 lb nails and oil, paint, boards, pallings^{lxx} for \$15 - will cost \$50 to repair outbuildings in the spring - Jacob Taylor (from Otterville) bought lot north of the AB’s farm for \$4500 for 100 acres – land rising 1/5 in value since Jacob left - Sylvester (Bradshaw) sick and indoors for 3 months – Richard (age 4) can spell a little and wants to go to California to see Jacob – Samuel Rinker said Jacob talked of coming home next spring - last year went to see Alexander and Hannah - Charley was back after being stolen – Charley looking well – will take him round on “shairs” this year then sell him – Jacob should send home his money and no one will scheme to get it – Apr. 16 1854 - got his letter dated March 9 – David McAlpin read it but no mention of Archibald in it^{lxxi} – Sylvester very ill all winter and getting doctor from St. Catharines – day before yesterday boiled 40 lb of maple sugar and sugared it off in the woods before coming home – cut foot and sock curled and dried in the cut and stayed there for 2 days – laying the worm for a fence and put big stones for blocks as big as a yoke of oxen could “drough” – today gathering sap
12. 1854 Nov. 27 – **from Simpson Chapman to Jacob Moore** – got his letter dated Sept. 11 on Oct. 13, the first letter from Jacob he received – wrote 3 since then - wrote to Jo and thought Jacob would get the news from Jo - waited a while to write again waiting to hear from home – “I think you must have been in a rather complimentary mood when you wrote last by the way you put

on the soft soap" – "you thought me soft enough to swallow it all but it wouldn't go down without sticking" – Jacob had said not to run down the women and he liked some pretty well – Simpson gives his negative opinions on marriage and a mocking poem ends ..While the man that is married must weep and bewail Like a dog with a teakettle tied to his tail – glad to hear of Joseph's safe arrival – worried about Ben – last heard he wanted to sail to California in the Lady Jane^{lxxii} possibly some time in June – Lavinia here with her son^{lxxiii} – not as many apples bees this fall – girls started quilting and such nights for excitement – "time they have had is a caution to old folks, a horror to pious folks and death to the young folks quilting night after night till they were or some of them were tired of it, you may think it strange but it is none the less true" – as many as there has been I have not been to any – great sport with deer - 4 deer in woods escaping hunters across the creek – went last Monday and got in company with Sam Rinker and Pete^{lxxiv} – Sam and he roosted on fence and Pete chased it from the other side – deer came right at him within a few rods of the fence then blazed away and away went the deer – day after that after a fruitless (hunt) ran into a smashing big buck, took deadly aim at him and pulled the trigger – poem: deer left and "repaid me showing the end of his tail" - snow on Sunday a foot deep, slush under it ankle deep - Henry would take Nancy out sleighing and upset as "love was blind" and he was the driver, will drive with 2 on one side and gold on the other to balance the sleigh, Henry may never have cause to bewail marriage - sorrow if he gets his grit up "His eyes will flash fire like a raving mad bull As she combs out his hair with a three legged stool" "If when Henry sees my rhyme and doesn't much love it just tell him to lump it and take the best of it" it's half past eight and the folks are going to bed and he can't scratch another idea from his head, will write another day so you "shan't have it to say that I didn't fill out my sheet" – 30th – snowing – as the road has been broken up and frozen good prospect of sleighing - will draw logs for Mr. Hagar^{lxxv} for \$1.50 a day and board which is pretty good wages – Aunt Phebe^{lxxvi} moving away – several arrests since letter to Joseph supposed to be connected to the Townsend Gang^{lxxvii} – eluded their grasp - robberies at the stone bridge and Haldimand County – "infernal scoundrel" robbed a woman when her husband was away and they stabbed her, not mortally – robbers escaped although there were several persons working close by at noon – they defy Canada to take them

13. 1854 Thorold, Dec. 3 – **Solomon to Jacob** – is snowing very fast - come home and work for him in summer, he has no one hired and will be large summer work – was laying fence and sitting barposts in the snow yesterday- sleighing middling – have 2 spare of horses and 3 yoke of oxen- sold Charley to James Pearson^{lxxviii} for \$300 with 3 years to pay – people can nose out if you have money or not - if coming home go to a bank and pretend to or really do send all money home against the California robbers – write when coming and send a (money) draft and Solomon will write back before Jacob comes– **From Hannah to her brother** – have had many apple bees and more quiltains than anything else – Tim does not attend and is now almost as sober as Sally V-Alexander down for 3 weeks – went to Uncle John Kerr^{lxxix}s – while there Uncle James Brown^{lxxx} came – Aunt Mary (Mary Brown Kerr) did not know them at first – they went up to see Uncle John B.^{lxxxi} at the Grand River – Hellen, Hannah, Walter^{lxxxii} came up and while there George Hill

and his 3 girls^{lxxxiii} and Andrew Hill's girl^{lxxxiv} and Mary VanWyck were there – George's girls left at 3 and Walter and the girls stayed all night – Walter going to write – Mary has been sewing – expects Mary, Sally and Robert^{lxxxv} tonight- Mary (VanWyck) waiting patiently for Joseph's return – Henry (Rinkers) needs to worry as Peter^{lxxxvi} is paying attention to one of Robert Loree's girls^{lxxxvii} – Elizabeth Willson now as large as Sarah Jane^{lxxxviii} – has not seen Lavinia^{lxxxix} for 2 years and was quite changed last time – Maria Fell at Chappman's in the summer and wanted Hannah to visit but she did not get out there – Richard (Moore) grown and is mischievous – Rinkers have had 2 letters from Henry and Moores only got a short one since July – want a long letter – have not heard from Benjamin – last time to the Office got a letter from a second cousin Elizabeth Kennedy, her husband is dead^{xc}

14. 1855 July 23, Pelham – **from Joseph H. Chapman to Henry and Jacob**– left San Francisco June 16^{xc} and landed New York July 8 – natives on the isthmus very sickly – no passengers died until they got on the steamer on this side – 4 died the first day out and 2 the next and 1 a day or two after and several very bad when they landed – were 2 days crossing the isthmus but delayed at Virgin Bay about 12 hours – steamer took them to the ocean steamer – took steerage passage as was \$115 or \$45 cheaper than second cabin – was hard living on the other side but good on this side – if you come do it a month earlier due to the sickness - visited your family and your folks wished you had come back too – James and Sally Ann^{xcii} there – Jacob's folks well and all your acquaintances– raining for 4 days – beginning hay , it is cut but too wet – wheat is poor – was 20 shillings a bushel but down to 12 now - spring grain looks good – will tell Peter (Rinker) to send their likenesses - gave the gold to Jacob's mother to give to Sally Ann – Benjamin in Chasta Co. and has received no letters - write to horse town Post Office Chasta County^{xciii}– Moriah Fell living at Moses' and A. C. Oriely (O'Reilly) visits often and "he has some notion of taking to himself a wife"^{xciv} – Jacob's father has sent 11 of the papers asked for - PS: keep his knowledge of the means Joseph took to get home secret
15. 1855 Aug. 14 –Thorold from **James? Moore** (age 11) **to his brother, Jacob** – today is Jacob's birthday, age 24 – Mary Vanwyck^{xcv}, Betsy and Lydia Willson^{xcvi} visiting – Mary wants the golves with the gold stripes on the back – asked Emily (Rinker) to get a likeness taken with him – would at the circus in St. Catharines in 1 week – but Emily did not show up but had said if they went down they would stop for him– he got it taken alone – met Emily & Benjamin^{xcvii}, P & L, M & Jerry^{xcviii} after the circus – they had gotten theirs taken - will send likeness with the letter but Jacob should come home to look at the "original" – going to bed "though we are separated, our hearts are united" - meeting at Chriss (Christian) Rinker's^{xcix}– went with Sylvester to Cummers and stopped Nancy (Cummer) and Simeon^c from going to meeting but the old folks went – then Monday night Nancy and Simeon came and they went to meeting here at the Cross Roads^{ci} – gave AB Moore the piece of gold you sent to him, he could not wait till he came home (to Pelham) on Sept. 20 – father wrote all his brothers and sisters to come here for Sept. 25 and bring Grandmother to see all her children - surprised that Joseph came home alone leaving you and Henry and Benjamin – has only seen him once since he got home – Maria Fell to marry Chapman Riely (Amos Chapman O'Reilly) - Nancy is still waiting for Henry - Father has 2 hands

helping him with haying and harvest which is very late – rainy so some wheat a total failure with bad insects, then the rain with some heads sprouted more than an inch - Elizabeth Kennedy^{cii} went home to Norwich after staying all summer and James is lonely now – Emily Rinker and Benjamin Loree^{ciii} may marry – but maybe not – Jacob needs to go see the good looking girls in Norwich – they are not so much for getting married as the ones down here – Joseph reported that Jacob had not gotten any of the newspapers sent – have been sending them for 3 or 4 months – Walter Kerr^{civ} has not written – Hellen (Kerr McIntyre) very sick^{cv} – she and Hannah came up to Denis Rice's but Hellen was too tired from riding to go further so Hannah and Sally Ann came afoot – I went back and stayed the night – **Aug. 15 Solomon to Jacob** – so tired from cradling oats went to bed at supper and up at sundown to write – feels he's getting old fast – took Joseph home as he came to Solomon's first (when he returned from California) – expecting Jacob to step in the house and surprise them - Simcoe Chapman farm for sale for 6500 as advertised by the bankers – he is dead and his wife and family moved away^{cvi} - will offer 4000 for Jacob – home place worth \$8000 and has 2 hired hands

16. 1856 Jan. 8 – from **Joseph H. Chapman to Jacob Moore in Marysville, California** – on Jan. 2 received his letter written Oct. 28, first one since he returned home - was at Solomon's last Sunday evening and Alexander and Jacob's grandmother came – Alexander had a letter from Jacob and is anxious for Jacob to come home in the spring - New Year's Eve Hannah Chapman^{cvi} married Richard Foster, a blacksmith – 40 attended - Moirah Fell married A. C. Orilley Dec. 5th - Walter Shrigley married his first wife's sister on Christmas day^{cvi} – possible weddings Abraham Swesy and Elizabeth Shaw^{cix}, John McAlpin and Sarah Jane Willson^{cx} - God help her, they were down to the Aquiduct (Aqueduct, a town in Welland) to a New Year's ball - Henry needs to hurry home or Pete and William^{cx} will beat him getting married – young folks they used to associate with are nearly all married - Betty Farr^{cxii} has consumption – first snow was Christmas Eve, 6 inches and have been sleighing ever since - **Jan. 27** – now have 3 feet of snow that fell 2 weeks ago last night - Alexander, Hannah and cousin Sarah Minard down to division – stayed overnight – started home in afternoon and only got as far as Jesse's – next night to Jehu Willson's (see endnote on Jehu Willson family) - next day to Levi's – Simpson's family expecting a baby in a month or two^{cxiii} – tell Henry that Nancy is waiting patiently for him – is thrashing clover seed – no thaw in 5 weeks
17. 1857 or 1859 Jan. 25 **from Henry Rinker at Dry Creek^{cxiv} to Jacob** – have not had any letters from home since Jacob left - got a letter for Jacob from Hannah and opened it – down to see Mc – did first rate this summer - he sent home \$1000 – Henry has not collected much from yankee flat^{cxv} – last Sunday sold house for \$75 to Ross with \$40 down and \$35 the first of May – need not come up before spring due to money matters – “ran a narrow chance” when the boiler blew up out the end of the mill and burnt and nearly killed Fuller – PS get the \$75 from AC
18. 1856 Feb. 12 – **Pelham from Sim(pson?)** – “Look out - for ?eahers I'm down on you like lightning on a June bug” – you lazy scamp - why no letter – keep a chap looking his eyes out until he needs spectacles - “have you fell over a gold nugget and broke your everlasten ugly neck” – I am well lock stock and barrel - cold here – one day since Christmas warm enough to soften the

snow – on night of Jan. 12 got 3 feet of snow – has snowed or blowed every day since – all the girls are married – “stay in California and save yourself the mortification”- no shadow of a virgin left here now, poor old Bach(elor) - oh how I pity you – Henry has one all picked out and he has spoke to her not necessarily spoken for her, a good plan to be on the safe side – hasn’t heard from Henry since his poetical effusion, hope it didn’t kill him “I guess I’d like to see him some” – has not heard from Ben – write “to tell us some awful long yarn truth or fiction” - has been doing a lot of nothing this winter due to the deep snow and it is hard work – Jo and Mary (Chapman) have a little kitchen at the north end of the new house and are as happy as kings – Jo telling yarns of California and the chap whose pick struck a lump of gold but he could’t find it - it was found next year - when Jo told the story to the gals he said by mistake the chap stuck his prick in and couldn’t find it – find 10 or \$12000 and come home – so cold thinking of emigrating to California in the spring bag and baggage - the family should come out there and come into Mines – Jacob would look as wild as he did when he woke up on the steamboat and found his money missing – wouldn’t want to be the thief or may aquire an air hole to let the daylight shine through – **Feb. 14** - Alexander, Hannah and Miss Minard here the night of the big snowstorm – looked out rather wishful in the morning and saw the snow too deep - started home Sunday and did not get there till Tuesday night – Hannah and Miss Minard joined the division of the Sons of Temperance - division doing well since the ladies joined - George Shrigley^{cxvi} joined - George has a notion to join himself to Lotty House^{cxvii} who lived at Dirk’s – she was at “Lootses” (Lutz) on a visit with some family and took a notion to George or his farm – she stayed after her family left and George took her to a soiree and he didn’t faint – suppose he told her to fix and come along as Mahola (his sister) had to come anyway– took her all the way to Bertie through the snow – that’s his business – talking of sleigh riding brings fond memories of old time and borrowing old buffalo robes thanks to the old man and SC – if Henry was here he would uptip just to be able to pick up Nancy – ask Henry if he remembers coming home from meeting in Fonthill and the old man upsetting and setting the girls in the snow head first with their “behinders sticken” out – did you laugh any, old boy – tell Henry an answer to the letter he wrote last summer is needed if he isn’t too mad to write - wants them home and Archibald and Benjamin too, would make him feel 5 years younger to have them back around the old kitchen fire – long poem about missing them – a fellow here has tales of California of killing grizzlies at a single shot and raising 2 crops of wheat from one sowing etc. – come home – he probably could get a girl or two if he returned

19. 1856 Feb. 20 from **Sarah Minard, Yarmouth** Kind Friend: I have waited a week to find something good to write but I cannot find anything better than that little boy of yours that lives here is well and daily grown. I stayed at Norwich one week on my way home. I had a good time there during my stay. When I came home I found them all well. It was a very cold day that we started. I was very cold but I lived. It was almost as cold as it was that day we took that little sleigh ride and could not speak _____. I have not forgotten our _____ cutter ride we had to Hills’. Take good care of our horse. We may want another sleigh ride. Tell Hills’ girls that I send my respects to them and would like to hear from them. I am going to school next week. Give my foolish words a good

meaning for I am very cold and must close my letter by wishing you to answer this only write a longer one than mine. I am as ever S. G. Minard. Direct your letters to Yarmouth, Sparta.

20. 1856 April 6 **Thorold – Solomon Moore to Jacob** – has a laim knee about a week and hips just getting sore – walked to meeting today and then to Jacob Gainer’s then Denis Rice’s and home – roads bad with snow in tracks 3 feet deep for a quarter then some mud – crossed my 20 acre field of wheat – had some bare spots some 3 feet of snow – no thaw in 3 months – coldest winter in 30 years - bought a yearling French colt for Jacob for \$70 – can get another for \$60 – may as only have team horses and colts together - Peter Price^{cxxviii} has 4 sisters and they own 50A cornering to Solomon’s east 100A – Harmon Price^{cxxix} has the 50 joining Solomon’s and the sisters own the south 50 – can get for \$1600 – has a house and 25A cleared and a nice orchard – cheap as not far from Merritsville^{cxix} – two lots east 30A sold for \$2000 bought by Adam Spencer - has 50A cornering it for \$1500 with all timber cut into cord wood except the rail timber and possiblity of wheat there in the fall – write and let him know if that’s where the money should go – **Apr. 6 from sister Hannah** – last letter was 3 months ago – wants one every 2 weeks – Alexander wrote asking for news of him – Elizabeth Kennedy(father’s first cousin) wants to see him before 3 months if he gets home – 2 weeks ago visit from Uncle Alex Brown’s Mary^{cxixi}, a Miss Simmerman and Alexander Henderson^{cxxii} just when ready to go to meeting so Hannah went with them instead – to Uncle David’s^{cxxiii} for dinner then to see Lalina^{cxxiv} - then Jacob Henderson and stayed all night – next day home to dinner and roads so bad went to Uncle Kerr’s - stayed a week or so – Joseph and Mary^{cxxv} stayed the night a while ago – **FROM James** – going to school to Egerton R. Kellems on the Quaker road^{cxxvi} - on examination day has to speak a piece – prize to one with most tickets in spelling class – has 2, the most – Richard getting big, so big – Silvester at Jacob Gainer’s and going to school – send another Miner’s Progress^{cxxvii} as this got all tore to pieces– has to go do chores – Father hired a man for 6 months to save him many steps
21. 1857 Sept. 16 **from Henry Rinker at Marysville** (to Jacob Moore)– at Marysville a witness for Boney - “him and Page is lawing” – has a letter for Jacob and took the outside envelop off – to Yankee Flats and got \$20 from Ross with \$15 more to be paid– George Hancock only worked at Mc’s (Archibald McAlpin’s) for 6 or 7 days and got sick and came back to the flat – will get his money to come home
22. 1858 or 1859 Jan. 17 from **R. McAlpin at Bangor to Mary** his cousin^{cxxviii} – waiting to write to her as “Mrs. Moore”, send cake when that happens or keep it for him– feels so well that if home he could go down to “sour crout Boughk’s where you and Hannah stopt for a drink” – is past bedtime - wishes all here would go home as his once intended father-in-law said one Sunday night – may leave in spring in 3 months time – got her letter – tell John Cohoe to answer his last letter – tell Hannah to tell Hannah Jennings^{cxxix} “my heart’s content” that he sends his best respects^{cxix} – perhaps Miss Smith will be jealous and Miss Hopkins^{cxixi} “I think that I will get them all after awhile” – “Darn my old hat I got it on no wonder I have not got my senses. Darn smashed potatoes I like to of forgot Lib this is a minor’s life” – also Miss Burger^{cxixii} and Miss E. (Emily)Willson - Alvira has married so he lost her^{cxixiii} – are many more he is thinking of but they are too numerous to mention - tell the girls to forgive him for puttin in the 2 Miss Willsons

amongst them and them at the bottom – putting the letter in the (post) office for it closes tomorrow – no room on the paper to apologize

23. 1859 Oct. 3 – from **Hannah to Jacob and Mary Moore** - Dear Brother and Sister, It is with feelings of the deepest interest in your welfare that I now proceed to write to you hoping that as there is two of you instead of one alone that you will answer this immediately and I will then hear of your health and prosperity. I want you to write when you will be here. I want to let some of your friends know. If the roads are bad just jump on the cars at Welland and come to Woodstock and we will be there if it is tomorrow or any other day that you will name. Now do not disappoint us for we will look for you in earnest. Now remember and do as I tell you. We arrived home safe about 4 o'clock Friday afternoon. We stayed all night. The night we left you about 15 miles west of Cayuga at a little place called Hagersville. We had the best hotel in town^{cxxxiv}, for there is only one, but it was not much like French's. We had a good supper and breakfast as I could want. We found everything alright at home, and I was almost, yes, quite sorry that you were not along. Gilbert (Moore) wonders if Jacob will answer his letter. Now Olivia (Hall)^{cxxxv} was here and stayed all night since we came home. I gave her a piece of the cake. And she wished she could have seen the bride elect, the chosen fair one. Alex was here... ago and had a young... her name is... a school Marm.. girl indeed I heard...riding horse back in the ... they were to be married.. they say we have to buy... silk stockings and he has the... already to dance in. Mary do write and ... about camp meeting and if you got wet that day. We did not. We saw you turn around and follow Walt and Maria^{cxxxvi} and tell me what you have been doing ever since etc. etc. etc. Tomorrow the county fair is held in Woodstock and Saturday the township fair is in Norwichville. .. writing for... and it makes... steady I would .. of Hatty Oh so... it getting so dark... have to stop scribbling.. bye sweet sister mine... forget to write soon.. us when you are coming... they have the whooping cough all around here. I expect I will get it and be barking all winter. I remain as ever Hannah to Jacob and Mary.
24. 1859 March 4 to **Mary from Hannah (Moore Sutton)** her friend^{cxxxvii} – has been thinking of her for 3 weeks and missed her, her true friend – move to Norwich to live with Hannah – her father will be lonely now – Sarah (Minard) still visting but today is the first day that has passed that Hannah has not seen her – went to Otterville to get group portrait of the 6 of them^{cxxxviii} to send home with Jacob – a very dull, stormy day evoking loneliness – are not keeping house yet but John has picked out a room for her, “Mary’s room” – expects her in 1 or 2 months around May – John wants to see her too - is upstairs in a warm, comfortable room writing
25. 1859 Mar. 24 from **Hannah Moore Sutton in Norwich to Jacob Moore**– moved over on Friday after Jacob left – on Sunday surprise visit to Alex (her brother) only announced by barking of Jack – stayed till sundown and promised to come within a week – when home Gilbert (Moore, her first cousin) took them to his place where some young folks wanted to see them – had some warm sugar and a real sport of it – home at 11 and the young folks came to their place for an hour – Olivia (Hall) afraid J. A. Cohoe^{cxxxix} will tell Jacob’s girl (Mary Catherine Cohoe) that Olivia went out riding with Jacob – if his girl “gives him the mit” Livy will take her place even though she feels a bit ill able to fill the place of one whom she has heard so highly spoken of – Old Billy

says she is the best countenanced girl he has seen in this part of the country – all my little bees are gone and a handful of dead ones are in the hive – they flew around well but Hannah missed them on the last warm day – John will buy more – Hannah wanted no part of it least they have the same fate as the last ones but John says they will be hers - write and tell how Helen Kerr and the rest of the friends are and poor Mary (Cohoe) – how George Carroll and Jacob got along and has he seen Harriet, Henry and Nancy^{cxl}, Mr. Canneff's folks – if Mary Mc^{cxli} talked to him – James and Richard (Moore, her brothers) need to convince Father and Mother when they want to come – James should come and stay for a while to be away from home before he goes to California – “How is the man with the little Anger?” - Walter (Bradshaw?) needs to write and visit in the summer – send love to Walter's Maria – Walter had better marry or come and see Mary Ann Nobbs^{cxlii} again^{cxliii} – I have heard her say so – we are all anxious to hear from Jacob – Alex as anxious as Hannah to see Jacob – Jacob's Lis^{cxliiv} must have been lonesome too – come and live up here – will tell about that farm in the next letter - John taking the letter to the office – write soon – love to Father and the boys - PS John sends his love to all who ask after him and awaits a letter too (Hannah B Sutton Norwichville to John E. Cohoe^{cxlv} Fonthill, Welland)

26. 1859 June 20 - **Sarah Minard to J. Moore.** I suppose you are thinking at this moment that your humble coz is not going to write again to you but o dear cousin how could I have written before this. I have written to Uncle Thorn^{cxlvi} and to Toronto and to Hannah loved cousin of mine and now I will write to you my coz. I have been in St. Thomas going to school more than a week. I like the school very much. How I should like to go and stop with Hannah a while but I cannot yet go. AB and Kate^{cxlvii} was to Father Minard's a few weeks ago and I was gone from home. I regretted it much but I am always unfortunate. May I have the good fortune of seeing you this summer. I trust I shall. You must come soon for I am getting very wild going to school and as you spoke of that gate opens you owe me, it is deep. You think I could get a supply from the sources that was more worthy to give than you. Certainly you are quite mis.... There. I wish I had of been there to slapped your mouth when you were writing that for I cannot resent myself on paper but cousin don't say it again and I will forgive what you did say for who could I think more worthy than my own noble cousin, none. The shades of evening has gathered her dark mantle around my room and Luna's with her glorious trim have veiled their luminous form with the thickening clouds that are fast gathering around and the old clocks keep warning me to retire so wonder not at this hurried written letter if it may be called a letter. I have quite a number of studies to prepare for school tomorrow so the fun to run a race tonight I am sure you will think my intellect run ashore therefor I must drop my pen for I cannot see coz Moore (more) I remain as ever only worse Yours Sarah SO write again and direct to St. Thomas Sarah

27. 1859 July 30 Yarmouth to cousin **Jacob from Sarah**^{cxlviii} – have you really spread the sails of love and launched into the deep for the Isle of Matrimony? – The Isle has a bitter and a sweet - the bitter grows on the hill and spreads its branches to an indefinite height to mingle with the clouds of discontentment – the sweet grows in the valley of pure undying love – few seek this valley – branches are clothed with raiment of happiness – it springs from fountain of religion and mounts to the towering heights of constancy, hope and everlasting peace – may you seek

that valley, sup of that fountain and breathe the balmy air of those towering heights – it binds two hearts in union unseparable – don't laugh because I didn't when you requested – I opened my eyes and said just like him for I could not help that you told me too - you said I should come down with HLS and AB and I could say all I had a mind to – I would say a big lot – they have not been to see me yet– I want to see Hannah so much – will look to see Jacob's family this summer with cousin Hannah and John with Jacob – don't disappoint – at home for 2 weeks on vacation and for half year's meeting Aug. 20 – "I will stop to home till after then" - If I had a way I would go now to see Hannah – I haven't seen Kate yet but AB and her were down but I was not home - but I had the pleasure of seeing C. Disher at St. Thomas – father (Samuel G. Minard) would have written but he was waiting for Jacob's money that he had prospects of getting – will send in 2 weeks – waiting till Byron Doan came from Wochester – Byron going to Uncle William Thorns(?)^{cxlix} and Sarah said Byron must go and see Jacob - will send letter with Byron to Jacob so he will have an excuse – I suppose you have heard of Samuel Junior and Grandma's death- dear grandma we will miss her much^{cl} – love to uncle, aunt and cousins

28. 1859 Dec. 3 Norwich to **Jacob and Mary Cohoe Moore from H(annah) B S(utton)** – "can't afford to buy a five cent stamp no money Paid if the thing sticks - was waiting for your letter – you were waiting for me to write but I thought it was understood you were to write telling how you got home and if you got frosted – could you pick a worse time to come ? - I doubt it – did the block of wood keep warm all day? – a mustard plaster on the head is a genuine Yankee invention – I've nothing sensible to write except that Olivia Hall preparing to marry – she is stopping at Gilbert's and sews for Anna, or so Gilbert says but we can think about it what we like – AB here Tuesday last and supposed to be here tonight to stay all night but it is past 8 o'clock "I conclude she won't hardly let him come" - she is either Mary Ann (Nobbs) or Kate or Miss Stephenson^{cli} – John Moore's settled nicely here and AB goes there every little while and took us out to see him once – AB paid \$25 for one sheep last week –have a great notion to give you a great lecture "you must think I have not much human nature about me if I can go far far from my near and dear friends without longing to hear from them once in a while" - Father only sent one letter since I have been up here – I almost fancy I have no friends down there – I hope you don't carry a little anger in your heart - Cousin Andrew Moore gone to Norwichville keeping store again – hope Mary's health was not impared from too much exposure while she was here – write as I want badly to hear all - putting up a quilt tomorrow – you need to come and help - quilted a quilt all alone – did not ask Lib's opinion – John is writing to his uncle and I heard he just finished – are expecting John's uncle from Michigan next week – George C has not come up yet – he wrote to borrow \$200 and will be after Jan. 1 – I need to stop as my writing is crooked – Alex was fined \$5 and they let him off and he had to take his witness home to boot – I guess Sarah will come out at Christmas
29. Undated ca 1855^{clii} from **Hannah to Jacob Moore** (pages missing) - After all my hurry and scribbling and blotting, Father went without it. I cannot tell you much about our old associates for I have not seen near all of them since I came home. Father says on the other leaf that Deborah^{cliii} and I have gone to see Sally Ann^{cliv}. That was a week last Sunday. We heard that she

and James (Dawdy) were to be home that day. Debby thought she would like to see her. While they were gone to the other place after cherries, we went to Henry's father's (Rinker) but Sally Ann was not at home. While we were there, Jerry Dawdy^{clv} came. He had been up to where Sally Ann and James live. He said they had intended to be down that day for there was Meeting at Chris's (Rinker). James was getting ready to come but before he was quite ready he commenced to shake so he had to give up on coming. We did not stay long for Debby left her little boy here with Mary^{clvi} and she was afraid he would be troublesome. Volney (McAlpine) was here last week and he gave me an invitation to come and he would give me an introduction to his son. Don't you think Pelham must seem much like it did when you were here? Henry Disher's people have moved up in Malahide and there is a family living there by the name of Keniff and Sweezy Hopkins^{clvii} is our neighbour now. Sarah Jane Willson is about to have quilting soon so she told me the last time I saw her. The last time I heard from Joseph and Ben, Jo was about starting for California. I suppose he has had time to get there before this time. You remember Amanda Ward, I suppose, don't you. Her father was here almost all(?) last week helping Father fix his barn ready to put his hay and grain in. Amanda's husband is in California. He wrote to her to know where you were and she wrote and told him that we directed our letters to Marysville. Father has got his haying all done but he has about 30 acres of wheat to cut. His hand is so sore that he cannot cradle himself at all. He has 2 boys hired. Robert Hartsell, John Cusick^{clviii}. They have been cutting some today. I have not seen any of Uncle John Ker's since I came home. I think they will be up before long. They live in Drummondville^{clix} now. Josiah Ward^{clx} is working down near the suspension bridge. The cholera is raging there now. ? of ?? men died with it. Well I do not know what else to write for I think you would be so tired of it before this that you would be glad to have me stop but I must tell you before I close that Mr. Hilliker said that Alex had that barn that he sent you the plan of all finished off. One of your cousins in Norwich, Amanda Moore, Uncle Jacob's daughter, is married^{clxi}. I don't know if you remember her but she does you as I have ofttern heard her speak of you. Alex is coming home in September. You will have to hurry if you get there to come along with him. I think it is high time you and Henry were coming home if you want so many of those girls for I don't know as there are 11 around here. Mary VanWyck is not married yet. Sim^{clxii} says she is waiting for someone. He doesn't know wether it is Jo or not^{clxiii}. Sally and Nancy^{clxiv} were here the next day after I came home. It did seem rather odd at first for I never was in the house till I came from Norwich they bought and moved after I went away. But I must close my letter for the fire's on. With my love and best wishes for you and Henry. Yours as ever. Write often for we are glad to hear from you both. PS excuse the poor writing for my hand trembles. Hannah Moore

ⁱ The letters were collected and preserved by members of the Moore family. Some facts about the people involved were collected from genealogical reseachers with proper documentation. Others have been collected from family websites so may not be accurate.

At the time of these letters, father Solomon Moore is living in Welland County in the Pelham area. His oldest son, Alexander Brown Moore or AB, is farming around Otterville, Ontario. Jacob Moore

has gone with his friend Henry Rinker to California for the gold rush. Hannah Moore moves to Otterville to keep house for AB and later to live there as the wife of John Sutton. Brothers James and Richard are at home. Joseph Chapman joins his friends in California. Archibald McAlpin is in California with shares in a lumber mill. There is also another friend, Ben, who is lost to his friends for a while but ends up in Chasta County, California. He may be Benjamin Shrigley who appears as a laborer in South Norwich in the 1851 census or he may be a Chapman or McAlpin. In Pelham, Solomon's first wife, Martha Brown, dies in 29 Oct 1850, 9 days after the birth of Richard. In 22 May 1851, Solomon marries Mary Foss. She had previously been married to David Bradshaw and brings her child, Walter, to the family. As well, the family stays in touch with David Bradshaw's children by his first wife, Mary Damude. Solomon's father, Jacob Moore, had received Crown Land Grants: 1797 - Con. 8 Lot 5, Con. 11, Lot 10. 1802 - Con. 6 Lot 7, 8. 1809 - Con. 9 Lot 1, 2, 3, 4. Jacob's father was Jeremiah Moore. In Pennsylvania, Jeremiah was accused of giving shelter to Tory sympathizers, particularly the Doanes. Soldiers carried off all his silverware, dishes and even the cup the baby drank her milk from. They drove off all his livestock. Jeremiah migrated to Canada from Sadsbury Twp, Lancaster Co., PA at age 43 with Solomon, 22, Jacob, 20, Ann, 17, James, Jeremiah, 7, Andrew, 4, Mercy, 2 and Elizabeth 6 months. Mary was born 6 months after their arrival in Canada. They travelled with one horse, which the mother, Mary Wildman Moore, rode, carrying the younger children by turn. They left Oct. 1788 and arrived Nov. 3.

ⁱⁱ Story in Ed Moore family history binder: In 1849, grandfather Jacob Moore was 18 years old and gold was discovered in California. In 1852, Jacob Moore and Henry Rinker, both aged 21, left Welland in search of gold in California. They travelled via St. Louis and took 4 months to get from that city to Sacramento. In crossing the Little Platte River, which was in flood, they lost all their belongings except the covered wagon and team of oxen. Their money was either lost crossing the Platte or stolen afterwards.

One night they stayed in a cheap room and were kept awake most of the night by bed bugs. There was no light in the room so the next night they made sure the area was clear of bugs and just before dark took a pitcher of molasses, made a circle on the floor around the bed and slept soundly.

From the time they first saw Pike's Peak it took them one week to arrive at the base of it.

On the way to Salt Lake City, they ran out of food and money. They rented their wagons and oxen to a man in exchange for food. Then they walked on faster than the oxen and got a job working for Brigham Young. By cradling grain until the oxen arrived, they had money to buy provisions and push on.

The young men walked 14 miles out of their way to see a giant tree fall. Four men had been working on a giant redwood for 4 months on a scaffold 15 feet above the ground, boring holes into it. It was 32 feet through. They waited a few days but still did not see it fall. Later a dancehall had been built around the stump.

Wild Buffalo Bill Cody was putting on a show at or near Sacramento. Jacob and Henry had no money but they went to take a look. A man came up to them and invited them in to see the show. They said they had no money but were invited in anyway. They went in and on asking who the man was were told it was the boss, Buffalo Bill.

When they were panning for gold they had to walk 9 miles for provisions. They could not get enough gold dust at one time to buy food for both of them for a week so they took turns taking what gold they had, walking in to town every few days to buy food. One always worked. Eggs cost \$4 each.

They also worked in a saw mill sawing redwoods. There was no saw that could handle logs more than 6 feet through, so acreage with the very largest redwoods was being offered for sale at \$4 per acre with no takers. While at the saw mill, a new man was hired who was riding the logs in the water and shoving them to the mill. He could not swim and the only man near him was a big black man who could

swim. The Black man stood there watching the man drown when the boss arrived on the scene, pulled a gun and said, "You get him out or I'll get you." The Black man fished him out.

Jacob came home in 1858 because he had promised his sister Hannah that he would. Otherwise he would have stayed there and gone into the lumbering business. He returned with many tales of his experiences and a gold nugget.

ⁱⁱⁱ From Welland Tribune: 1812: Welshman, David Price, considered Welland's first settler, acquired two hundred acres of land bordering the Welland River. David Price, who married Margaret Gonder/Gaunder at Niagara, was Indian Interpreter at Niagara who had survived an Indian massacre in the Mohawk Valley and was held captive by Indians for 7 years. The People's Press of March 23 1860 tells of a search for 3 missing sons of Stephen and Sarah "Sally" Merrit Farr in 1826. A search party goes out but David, the tracker, sets out on his own and returns with the boys. He was buried in the Gonder graveyard. "In memory of David Price of the township of Crowland, died 26th Feb., 1841, aged 91" . David had a son, John.

^{iv} Jacob Moore, second son born to Solomon, 14 Aug 1831

^v Henry Rinker, son of Samuel and Elizabeth Wyers/Wiers Rinker. Born 07 May 1830

^{vi} 1851 census Thorold Township: Bryden, Thomas Druggist b. Scotland Baptist age 50 ; Eunice b. Nova Scotia Baptist age 51 ; Esther b. Nova Scotia Baptist 24 ; Freeman, James J. b. Nova Scotia Baptist age 29. This is the only Bridon/Bryden/Briden family in Welland Co. in the 1851 census. The only IGI file on Thomas has him born 1799 in Liverpool, Queens, Nova Scotia and Eunice born about 1803 Liverpool, Queens, Nova Scotia. They were married about 1830 in Nova Scotia.

^{vii} Sylvester Bradshaw age 23 Quaker farmer and Walter Bradshaw age 13 living with Solomon Moore and wife Mary and family in 1851 census. Solomon's first wife, Martha Brown Moore, died 29 Oct 1850. Solomon then married on 22 May 1851, Mary Foss. Mary had a son Walter from her previous marriage to David Bradshaw. The Bradshaw family history lists Sylvester as son of Mary Damude, David Bradshaw's first wife. Walter was the child of Mary Foss Bradshaw and David Bradshaw. David, son of Joel and Mary Gainer Bradshaw, died 03 May 1845 so Sylvester is Mary's step-son and Walter her son by David Bradshaw. David's first daughter with Mary Damude marries Elihu Price. Three of Mary Gainer's sisters have connections to Norwich Township.

^{viii} 1851 Pelham Census : all born Canada, all Methodist New Connection: Isaac Osborn Farmer 28 ; Almira Seamstress 22 ; Elizabeth J. Spinster 2 ; Leonard Labourer 5

^{ix} 1851 Pelham census: Jacob Lutz Farmer 25 married to Jenette McApline 11 Feb 1834. Jenette daughter of Richard and sister of David married to Deborah Cohoe. Her uncles were Archibald and Christopher McAlpin

^x Simcoe Chapman son of Simcoe and Phebe Park Chapman from Chester Co., Pennsylvania. Simcoe b. Abt. 1839

^{xi} 1851 Pelham census: all born Canada, Presbyterian; Daniel Foss, Farmer 43 ; Margaret Seamstress 37 ; Anna M. Spinster 14 ; Abraham Labourer 16 ; William Labourer 10 – online is incorrectly transcribed as Fox. Margaret is Margaret Brown b. 16 Dec 1815 (Lundy Family history). Margaret was the daughter of Christian and Magdalene Bowman Brown. Christian is the son on John/Johannes Brown, but the *Butler's Rangers* John Brown from Schoharie. Daniel is the brother of Solomon Moore's second and current wife at the time of these letters, Mary Foss Moore.

^{xii} John Brown is Solomon's brother-in-law, born 26 Mar 1817, son of Alexander and Hannah Palmer Brown. It could also be his brother-in-law's wife's brother (Daniel Foss married to Margaret Brown with a brother John Brown) It could be Solomon's wife's uncle John Brown

^{xiii} Elihu Price, Farmer b. Canada Quaker 38 ; Luisa b. Canada Quaker 29, Thorold Township. Luisa is the daughter of Solomon's second wife's first husband. In Bradshaw family history she is listed as Lucetta.

^{xiv} It probably refers to Minerva Bradshaw Hoover, child of Solomon's second wife's first husband, David Bradshaw. Minerva b. 25 Apr 1829 married about 1849 to Elias Hoover. In the 1851 they are in Lincoln County, Gainsborough Township. All Mennonist: Hoover, Elias 29 Labourer; Manerva 23 ; Isable 2.

^{xv} Simpson Chapman friend of Jacob Moore and Henry Rinker. Simpson b. 16 May 1833 son of William and Lavinia Eunice Chapman from Bucks Co., Pennsylvania. According to the records of Volney McAlpine, Chapmans arrived in Niagara around 1800. Here, in 1820, William married Lavina Eunice Hill and was a Quaker. The second oldest son, Joseph Hill Chapman marries one of the VanWyck girls mentioned in the letters. Simpson b. 16 May 1833 is the third son. He is a first cousin of Simcoe Chapman. Simpson married Julia McAlpine, 16 Apr 1856

^{xvi} Christopher will be Simpson's father-in-law. 16 Apr 1856 Simpson marries Julia McAlpine. As the letter states, Christopher and his son, Michael, are reportedly travelling to Australia. June 18 a letter reports that Joseph is in Australia. Who is this Joseph in Australia? In the May 15 letter, Joseph Chapman is mentioned and he turns up in California and joins Jacob and Henry. In several letters people are worried about not knowing the whereabouts of Ben. In the letter dated 1855 July 23, Ben is reported to be in Chasta (Shasta) County, California. In the 1856 Feb. 12 letter he is mentioned with Archibald so Ben may be a McAlpine. Archibald was Christopher's son born 03 Oct 1827.

^{xvii} Christopher McAlpine dies in Australia 30 Sept. 1858. Michael, his son, born 05 Feb. 1833, returns home to marry Elizabeth Pearson 10 Nov. 1869 (assuming he actually went to Australia with his father)

^{xviii} Mary Jane Shaw seamstress age 17 with Bickfords in 1851 census. Born Canada, Methodist Episcopal Church. She is the only Shaw in Pelham in the census. In Thorold, all born Canada, all Methodist Episcopal Church : George Shaw, Blacksmith 42 ; Elizabeth 30 ; William 14 ; Samuel 11 ; Abraham 7 ; Margara A. 5 ; Lydia 2

^{xix} Delia daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth O'Reilly Chapman, born 09 Aug 1832, school teacher in 1851 census. Simpson's first cousin

^{xx} Deborah Hill daughter of Joseph and Betsey Overholt Hill b. Feb. 3 1830 married 09 Jul 1857 to William Bessy. Debby's grandfather, Benjamin Hill from Bucks Co., PA married to Ann Moore 1790 in Bucks Co. Simpson's mother's Hill family also from Bucks Co.

^{xxi} Jacob Moore, Henry Rinker off to California to make their fortune. Joseph Chapman was also gone for 2 years but left separately from the other 2 friends and returned before them in 1855. Benjamin (?) and Archibald McAlpine also went to California.

^{xxii} Amos Chapman b. 24 May 1821 to William and Eunice Hill Chapman. Amos married Margaret Sophronia Fell and has 2 children at this time. Amos is Simpson's brother.

^{xxiii} 1851 census Pelham reports the death of a 15 year old son of Ira and Margery Farr. Other children are Walter 13, Mary 11 and Eliza 5. Ira was the youngest son of Stephen Millage and Sarah Merrit Farr.

^{xxiv} Jacob Moore, son of Jacob and Rachel Wildman Moore married 09 Jan 1852 Betsey Ellsworth. Marion may be Marion Ellsworth b: 01 Oct 1832 Bertie Twp., ON. Daughter of David and Permilia Ellsworth. David b: 10 Nov 1802 Bertie Twp., ON. + Permilia Edsall b: 19 Oct 1800 Bertie Twp., ON.

^{xxv} Possibly Ed McCardle in 1881 census. St. Catherines, Lincoln, Ontario, all Catholic : Catherine MCSTOY Irish 55 born Ontario ; James A MCSTOY Irish 25 born Ontario Baker ; Hugh E MCSTOY Irish 24 b. Ontario Baker ; Edward MCCARDLE Irish 50 b. abt 1831 Ontario Retired ; Bernard KING Irish 62 b. Ireland Retired ; Ellen O NIEL Irish 30 b. Ireland

^{xxvi} Alexander Brown Moore came to Otterville around 1849 and farmed 119 acres at Lot 12 Concession 7. Hannah is his sister and also Jacob's sister. In the 1876 atlas he is listed as settling in Otterville in 1851.

^{xxvii} Quaker farmer age 46, Jesse Willson

^{xxviii} Probably Chloe Martin Willson, wife of Jesse Jr. Chloe born Lyons, N. Y., daughter of Benjamin Percy Martin and his wife Lenora Parks. Age 35 in 1851 census.

^{xxix} Jesse Willson b. Canada, Quaker, 46 ; Cloe b. York State, Quaker, 35 ; Benjamin Labourer b. Canada 19; Sarah J b. York State , Quaker, 14 ; Elizabeth b. Canada, Quaker, 11 ; Levi b. Canada, Quaker, 9 ; Minerva A b. Canada , Quaker, 6

^{xxx} d/o Samuel and Elizabeth Wyers/Wiers/ Weir Rinker, Quakers. Sally age 25 born Canada

^{xxxi} 1851 census Pelham: James H. Dawdy 24 with Israel Dawdy 21 and Jane H Dawdy 22, possibly all older children of James and Mary Osborne Dawdy.

^{xxxii} Rinker, Henry's older sisters

^{xxxiii} Henry and Mary Disher have a daughter Sarah C who would be 19. Henry Disher's will 1865 in Malahide lists a daughter Sarah Catherine. Dishers are in Malahide by 1864 as Kate witnesses a wedding there. According to these letters, Dishers moved around 1855. From records of A. C. Griffith & J. R. Phillips, Ministers of the Malahide Circuit, Methodist Episcopal Church: July 13, 1865, John SYMONS, 39, Malahide, England, s/o Joseph Symons & Jane Phillips married Catharine DISHER, 30, Malahide, Pelham, d/o Henry Disher & Mary Clark. Witness: Jane REED of Beachville.

^{xxxiv} Possibly John C(lark) Disher born 1833 son of Henry and Mary/Mercy Clark Disher. He may be the one in the 1864 diary entry of Nicholas Carter Brown in Malahide: 1864 May 18 – Wed. - To C. Dishers Funeral Age 28 (This is Dr. John Clark DISHER M.D. who died 18 May 1864 and is buried at the Dunboyne Cemetery)

^{xxxv} Probably George Hansel Shrigley born 1831 Oldwick, New Jersey from IGI source or Canada from census. Son of George Shrigley and Anna Hansel Weir, both of Pelham, married in Pelham, February 7th, 1827. 1851 census just before Solomon Moore family: Ann Shrigley, Spinster born N. Jersey Methodist Episcopal Church age 66 (George's mother) ; George Farmer b. Canada Methodist Episcopal Church age 22 ; Mahala Spinster b. Canada Methodist Episcopal Church 18 . George marries Charlotte House daughter of John HOWSE (HOUSE) and Mary Jane LUTZ. John Howse was probably a Palatine and Loyalist connected to the Mohawk Valley Haus/Howse/House family. George Sr's first wife was Mary Ann Wallace. George and Charlotte lived in Ridgeway, Ontario.

^{xxxvi} Possibly Thomas Rump, minister of the Canadian Wesleyan Methodist New Connection. He was the minister at Norwich Methodist 1854-5 (Cyclopedia of Methodism). Rev. Egerton Ryerson, D.D., founder of the Ontario educational system. Dr. Ryerson was the first Methodist minister stationed at Thorold

^{xxxvii} In 1853, there was a grand temperance soiree in the Temperance Hall of the Sons and Daughters of Temperance, and the Temperance Cadets took part. The instrumental music was presided over by Mr. Harkness, the bandmaster of the Royal Canadian Rifles. - HISTORY OF NIAGARA, 1914

^{xxxviii} William and brother Robert Nobbs had emigrated to Canada from East Anglia, Norfolk, England in 1833. Mary Ann's mother, Sarah, died on the passage (or before sailing). Mary Anne and sister Elizabeth were both Robert's daughters, born in England. The two families lived together on a farm bought by William in North Norwich Township, 2 ¼ miles west and 1 mile south of Norwich. William died about 1838. Robert was killed in 1843 in a barn raising on the Furlong farm, 6 ½ miles from Norwich. Mary Ann grew up in the household of her aunt, who remarried, and it became a large household. She was William's wife, Elizabeth Tudman Nobbs, who married 2nd Miles Pennington in 1841. Children of William: William b 1829 (married Sarah Ann Parson), Robert b. 1831, Elizabeth b. 1832, Matilda b. 1835, Phebe

Ann b. 1837. Children of Elizabeth and Miles Pennington: Thomas John, 1842; Charles, 1844; Henry, 1846 and Miles Joseph, 1848. These would be the "boys" mentioned in the letter. 1851 census: Mary Ann (incorrectly transcribed online as Nabs) with Glibert Moore family along with a Mary Wetheral. Elizabeth, d/o Robert, married Charles Hall. Charles' half sister, Phebe Hall, married Henry Sutton. Mary Ann married Jefferson Snell in 1859 and moved to Michigan.

^{xxxix} Phillip Zimmerman married Mary Moore, AB's father's older sister.

^{xl} William Fell b. 23 Oct 1839 in Chippawa, brother of Maria Louisa Fell. His father's sister, Margaret, married Amos Chapman.

^{xli} Emily Disher, age 17 daughter of William and Sarah Disher. Kate is the daughter of Henry and Mary Disher. Or possibly it refers to Emily Rinker

^{xlii} b. 15 Mar 1830 son of Phillip Zimmerman and Mary Moore. Mary is Hannah's father's sister

^{xliii} daughter of Jacob and Phebe Bacon Moore

^{xliv} son of Christopher. Christopher has gone to Australia

^{xlv} Probably Jane M. Chapman, Simpson's first cousin

^{xlvi} 30 km south east of Pelham

^{xlvii} James Husband, Weaver b. Ireland Quaker 54 ; Hannah Spinster b. Ireland Quaker 47 ; Children all Quaker born Canada: Henry P. , Farmer 22 ; Eliza, Spinster 19 ; James Jr., Farmer 17 ; George, Farmer 15 ; Joseph A., Farmer 13 ; Robert, Farmer 10 ; Sarah A., Farmer 8 ; Charles 6

^{xlviii} b.1831 sister of Maria who married James, brother of AB Moore. Mary married Joseph Hill Chapman, Simpson's older brother

^{xlix} Joaquin Murrieta (1829–ca. 1853), also called the Mexican or Chilean Robin Hood or the Robin Hood of El Dorado, was a semi-legendary figure in California during the California Gold Rush of the 1850s. He was either an infamous bandit or a Mexican patriot, depending on one's point of view. Murrieta was partly the inspiration for the fictional character of Zorro. Historically, Murrieta is said to have become the leader of an outlaw gang called The Five Joaquins. Between 1850 and 1853, the gang, joined by Murrieta's right hand man, "Three-Fingered Jack" (Manuel Garcia), were said to have been responsible for most of the cattle rustling, robberies, and murders committed in the Mother Lode area of the Sierra Nevadas. They are credited with stealing more than \$100,000 in gold and over 100 horses, killing 19 people, and having outrun three posses and killed three lawmen.

^l 70 miles north east of Scaramento

ⁱⁱ Columbia, Tuolumne, California, 131 miles east of San Francisco

ⁱⁱⁱ Rackerby is located 35 miles north of Marysville on the original Marysville-La Porte road. It was first settled in 1851 and the Post Office was established December 17, 1856, by James H. Hanson after whom the town was named Hansonville. A number of miners began to work along the creek in the spring of 1851. R.M. Johnson settled with Hanson and together they built a house in which they kept the first store, hotel and Post Office. By 1852 there were 7 stores, 8 hotels and a population of 1000 people. 72 miles north east of Sacramento

^{liii} A felon is an infection of the fingertip located in the fingertip pad and soft tissue associated with it.

^{liiv} probably Andrew born 1830 son of Jeremiah and Margaret Flack Moore. Andrew married Margaret Stover 18 Apr. 1855

^{liv} Hannah marries John Sutton in 1859

^{lvi} James Moore, brother of AB, Jacob, Hannah and Richard. Born Aug. 4, 1844. Hannah is 7 years older than James and Jacob is 13 years older. Youngest brother, Richard, born Oct. 20, 1850

^{lvii} George Kirkely age 47 and his Quaker wife Ann age 46

^{lviii} Dennis Rice, Farmer b. Canada 32 ; Mary b. Canada Quaker, 31 ; Abigail b. United States Quaker, 67 ; children all Quakers: Narcissa, 7 ; Ralph, 5 ; Arabel, 2 ; Joseph, 14 ;also Jane Foster, Single, Teacher b. Canada, Wesleyan Methodist, 23. 1852 - 54 Councillor Dennis Rice (from History of Thorold).

^{lix} William Jacob Stover 1836 – 1921 son of William Stover and Catherine Tompkins

^{lx} David Stover 1827-1896. David built the Stover-Kniffen house in 1854, at Rock's Mills, near the site of his grist and saw mills. David born Norwich, Ontario, the son of Gilbert Stover.

^{lxi} Rachael Ann Gainer. Born 28 Feb. 1826 Thorold Township, Welland Co. ONT. Died 29 Jan. 1903 Norwalk Township, Huron Co. OH. Buried New Road Cemetery, South Norwich Twp. Spouse David Stover 1827-1896, married 3 Nov. 1853 , Pelham Township, Welland Co. Only Stover in 1851 census is Anna age 58 with Seth and Lydia Willson. In 1881 census David, Rachel, Milton, 20, Jacob, 15 in South Norwich Township, all Quakers. David buried New Road Cemetery

^{lxii} probably Phebe Gainer b. Jan. 1 , 1822 sister of Rachel. Phebe married William S. Palmer, March 2nd, 1843. Spencer could be Jacob Gainer Spencer son of Catherine, Phebe's sister, and Adam Spencer. Jacob born 9 Oct. 1835. Adam Spencer was born in 1811 in Pelham, Welland Co., Ontario, Canada. He died on 23 Aug. 1889 in Norwich, Ontario, Canada

^{lxiii} Probably Andrew Moore, son of Jeremiah and Margaret Flack Moore. Born Feb. 5, 1830. Married Apr. 18, 1855 to Margaret B. Stover.

^{lxiv} Jacob Taylor b. 1828 son of John and Mary M. Cornell Taylor. Mary born about 1798. 1851 census South Norwich: Jacob b. Canada West, Quaker, merchant, 27 and Nancy (Harris) 22 with William Treffry 25 clerk. In the same census R(ober) B Cromwell, Quaker age 41 with wife Anna (Jane Cornell b. 1810). John Cromwell, clerk age 44 married Eliza M. Cornell b. 1815. Mary, Anna and Eliza are all daughters of Elisha b. 22 Feb 1773 and Anna Green Cornell. Elisha Cornell, son of Quinby & Hannah of Clinton, Dutchess Co. and Anne Green, daughter of Zophar & Mary, (dec'd) of Washington married, 1. 26. 1797, at Ninepartners. Elisha settled Lot 11 Concession 8. Another sister, Hannah, married Benjamin Lossing.

^{lxv} Possibly William Cornell b. 1820 who married Emmaline Cornell, Jacob's aunt. William was a merchant in Otterville.

^{lxvi} Jacob Moore b. 1802 married second wife Betsy Ellsworth in 1852 and living in Norwich.

^{lxvii} Possibly Byron J. Doan married 09 June 1859 to Anna Minard. Byron son of Joshua Gillam and Fanny Minard Doan. Byron mentioned in a later letter. Anna daughter of Samuel and Rebecca Moore Minard. Anna 10 years younger than Sarah who writes some of the letters.

^{lxviii} 1851 census has Maria L(ouisa) Fell in town of Chippawa. Age 20 in 1854

^{lxix} Henry Rinker's younger brother b. 1831

^{lxx} Pointed sticks used in making fences

^{lxxi} Probably David's first cousin b. Oct. 3 1827 son of Christopher and Sarah

^{lxxii} January 1855 California Daily Southern Cross reports from journals in its possession that in October 1854 the Lady Jane was shipping to Honolulu. Included were old pistols, cutlasses and a band of "Fillibusters".

^{lxxiii} Lavinia Chapman McAlpine and her son Archie born July 1854

^{lxxiv} Samuel Rinker, father of Henry in California. Peter born 2 years after Henry.

^{lxxv} Either Robert Ward Hagar b. 21 Oct. 1819 Lewiston NY, all children born Thorold Twp. (1820-3) or his son Robert b. 13 Apr. 1821 (all his children born Thorold 1842-68).

^{lxxvi} Probably Phebe Park Chapman married to Simcoe Chapman who died about 1854. Phoebe moved to Michigan and died around 1864 in Spring Arbor, Jackson Co.

^{lxxvii} The Townsend gang was made up of eight men. They spent much of their time, drinking, carousing and frequently finding ways to secure funds from unsuspecting citizens. Townsend, the leader, was from Canfield. The others were King, Blowes, Bryson, Patterson, Weaver, Lettice and Brown. Townsend was a

popular frequenter of taverns where he could mimic anyone to perfection. He had a twin sister and often dressed in her clothes to elude authorities. On an evening in 1856, the gang was on the way back from the London Fall Fair where they had taken part in a minstrel show. It hadn't been as profitable as they had expected, so they hoped to increase their "take" at John Nelles' store at Nelles Corners. (On Indian Line Road and Talbot Road, 12 km south east of Hagersville, Ontario). In the robbery, Nelles, 26, was shot and killed and the gang escaped. The gang walked to Gibson's tavern in Cayuga. Discovering who they were, Gibson gladly drove them to Canfield to catch a train to be rid of them. It's believed that they went to Buffalo and scattered. Public indignation was quickly aroused in the county and a large reward, £250, was posted for the capture of the gang. King, Blowes, Bryson and Brown were caught and brought to Cayuga for trial. George King and John Blowes were sentenced to death and hanged; Bryson, because of his youth, and Brown, because he turned Queen's evidence, were each sentenced to life imprisonment. In 1856, a man was found ransacking a house near Niagara and during the course of the pursuit he was shot. He turned out to be Lettice. Patterson was not with the gang at the time of the murder was not tried and Weaver died of tuberculosis. Townsend was not heard of for a month after the murder, but one evening he was recognized in a tavern in Port Colburne. When the policeman tried to arrest Townsend, Townsend shot him and jumped into the Welland Canal and then made for Canfield on a stolen horse. At Canfield, he found his sister-in-law had died and the house was full of friends and neighbours. His family dressed him in his twin sister's clothes and put him in bed as if ill. Townsend remained concealed by his family for weeks and hid in his brother-in-law's haystack. After the excitement calmed down, the family succeeded in getting Townsend away and he was never seen in the district again. Through the years there were frequent sightings on numerous occasions. Townsend was never captured and tried for the murder.

^{lxxviii} Pearson, James L. , age 23 Farmer b. England, Church of England; Elizabeth age 70 b. United States Church of England ; Johnson, Melissa age 3 b Canada, Church of England (residence in Caster, Upper Canada, not family member)

^{lxxix} In 1832 land for a Methodist Church in Thorold was purchased. Those mentioned in church records as trustees include James Brown, Township of Thorold and John Ker, Township of Grantham. John Ker married Mary Brown 20 Feb 1833. Mary Brown was Hannah's mother's sister.

^{lxxx} James is the brother of Agnes Brown Moore married to Andrew, Solomon's brother. James is also the brother of Martha, Solomon's wife. In 1854 he is married with 7 children.

^{lxxxii} Possibly John Brown, Martha's brother

^{lxxxiii} If these are all children, they are first cousins and Hellen may be Helen McIntyre, d/o Thomas and Hellen Ker McIntyre b. 1848. Helen Ker McIntyre is John Ker's sister. Walter and Hannah are John and Mary Brown Ker's children, first cousins of Hannah Moore. John Ker moved to Stamford in 1853 and bought 160 acres near Drummondville, now Niagara Falls South. He was a contractor on the Welland Canal and Justice of the Peace. Hellen may also be Hellen Ker McIntyre who is the aunt of Walter and Hannah Ker.

^{lxxxiv} 1851 census Thorold: all Quakers; George **Hill** Farmer b. Canada, 39 ; Anna b. Canada, 37 ; Mary Ann, 19 ; Hannah, 16 ; Jane, 14 ; George A. , 7 ; Eliza, 4 . George HILL b. 29 NOV 1812 son of John and Elizabeth and Anna VANALSTINE married 7 FEB 1832.

^{lxxxv} Possibly Margaret W. Hill b. 15 Feb 1839. Daughter of Andrew and Anna Webster Hill. Andrew's grandfather was Benjamin who married Ann Moore. Hannah Moore is Ann's grand niece.

^{lxxxvi} **VanWyck**. Children of John and Jane Shaw VanWyck. **Mary** b. 1830, **Robert** b. 1831, Sarah b. 1833

^{lxxxvii} 1851 census Pelham, children all born Canada; Samuel, Elizabeth, Sally, Quakers rest Methodist Episcopal Church : Samuel **Rinker** Farmer b. Canada 45 ; Elizabeth Seamstress b. New Jersey 42 ; **Sally A.**

Spinster 23 ; Emily Spinster 18 ; Miram 15 ; Henry Labourer 21 ; Peter Labourer 20 ; Rolson 13 ; Harmon 2

^{lxxxvii} 1851 Census Pelham all born Canada: **Loree**, Robert Farmer , Methodist New Conn. 44 ; Rhoda Seamstress 40 ; Benjamin Labourer 21 ; Derias W. School Teacher 19 ; John W. Labourer 3 ; Lucinda L. Spinster 17 ; Rebecca Spinster 14

^{lxxxviii} 1851 census Thorold, children all born Canada: **Willson**, Robert Farmer b. Canada Methodist Episcopal Church 48 ; Mary b. Ireland Methodist Episcopal Church 43 ; Andrew Farmer 24 ; William Farmer 22 ; Mary Jane 21 ; Sarah Ann 19 ; John 16 ; **Elizabeth** 14 ; Maria 12 ; Catherine 10 ; Robert Jr. 4

^{lxxxix} Probably Lavinia Chapman McAlpine who married Volney in 1853. Volney was a dentist who moved to London, Ontario then back to Welland in 1864. He then practiced in the US.

^{xc} Elizabeth b. Feb. 13, 1824 daughter of Jeremiah and Sarah Pound Moore married Peter Kennedy 21 Oct 1844. He died 27 Jun 1850. She is Solomon's first cousin.

^{xcj} Hayward's United States Gazetteer 1853 - Routes to California and Oregon: NICARAGUA ROUTE From New York to San Juan del Norte, at the mouth of the San Juan River, otherwise called Greytown, is 2000 miles. From New Orleans the distance is about 1400 miles. There is a good pier at Greytown, at which passengers can land without trouble, or they can pass directly into the river steamers, which ascend 52 miles to the Castillian Rapids. Here is a short portage of about 300 yards, the rapids not admitting the passage of steamers. Above the rapids to San Carlos, at the head of the river, is 27 miles. Thence across Lake Nicaragua to Virgin Bay is 42 miles. From Virgin Bay to San Juan del Sud. On the Pacific Ocean, is a land journey of 13 miles, to facilitate which a plank road has been constructed. The Transit Company have now on the river and lake seven small steamers, and others building, and the passage of the Isthmus, 135 miles in the whole, is accomplished in about 40 hours,--a time which will be considerably diminished when the new boats are ready. From San Juan del Sud to San Francisco is about 2800 miles, making the whole distance from New York about 5000 miles. This is accomplished in from 22 to 28 days, being the shortest and most expeditious route to California. Steamers by this route leave New York, New Orleans, and San Francisco once a fortnight, on the 1st and 15th of each month.

Cornelius Vanderbilt's involvement: During the Gold Rush, Vanderbilt reduced the travel time to California by establishing a new route through Nicaragua. Although many said the route was not navigable, he personally piloted a small steamboat up the San Juan River to test the route. Vanderbilt's Nicaragua route was cheaper than Panama - he immediately slashed the prevailing fair of \$600 to \$400. By one recent estimate Vanderbilt's route was 600 miles and 2 days shorter to California than through Panama, though another contemporary account related that while the Nicaragua route had the advantage, in distance, over the Panama route, of about one thousand miles; the passage from San Francisco to New York was accomplished in the shortest time by way of Panama.

The distance from San Juan to Realejo is about three hundred miles. Passengers going the Nicaragua route took a steamboat at San Juan, which runs up to the Castilian Rapids; then, after a portage of half a mile, another steamboat took them up the river to San Carlos; thence across Lake Nicaragua to Virgin Bay. Then by pack-mules they were taken to San Juan del Sud, on the Pacific. The distances on the river and lake were about equal, being about 75 miles each, and from 12 to 15 miles by land. There was every facility for crossing, there being several steamboats on the river and lake. Steamships entered the mouth of the San Juan River, and the river boats come along side, consequently passengers incurred no expense in the transfer, and were not obliged to land, as the small steamboats took them immediately up the river.

^{xcii} probably James and Sarah (Sally) Ann Rinker Dawdy.

- ^{xciii} Horsetown, Chasta County, California. Beside Clear Creek west of Redding, 1849. It is now Shasta County.
- ^{xciv} Maria Fell did marry Amos Chapman O'Reilly
- ^{xcv} James Moore marries Maria VanWyck, Sept. 23, 1868. Maria is Mary's sister.
- ^{xcvi} Lydia Willson b. 31 Jul 1837 daughter of Christian and Anna Willson. Neighbour of Nancy Cummer. Betsy probably Elizabeth age 18 daughter of Robert and Mary Willson
- ^{xcvii} Emily Rinker and Benjamin Loree
- ^{xcviii} Hannah in a letter in 1855 refers to Jerry Dawdy, probably Jeremiah Jr. born 1828, in the 1851 census a carpenter. Sally Ann Rinker is 4 years older than Emily and Sally marries James Dawdy. Jeremiah and James are probably the sons of Caleb Dawdy .
- ^{xcix} All born Canada and no creed: Rinker, Christian , 38 ; Mary Seamstress 33 ; Phebe 8 ; Lydia ; William 12 ; Samuel 9 ; Henry 2 ; Christian and wife Mary Rinker buried Hansler Cemetery.
- ^c Nancy Cummer b. Oct. 1 1832; Simeon b. Mar. 1 1838
- ^{ci} The town of Virgil was once called Cross Roads, then Four Mile Creek, then Lawrenceville
- ^{cii} Elizabeth Moore Kennedy, James' father's first cousin
- ^{ciii} Benjamin Loree aged 24, laborer with father Robert 47, Rhoda 43 in 1855. Benjamin C. Loree and Emily Rinker marry and have their first child Henry D. Loree in Dec. 1856. They move to Michigan in 1864.
- ^{civ} James' first cousin b. about 1836. John Ker married Mary Brown, sister to James' mother, Martha Brown Moore.
- ^{cv} Walter is Hellen's nephew.
- ^{cvi} Simcoe Chapman b. 23 May 1800 d. 19 July 1854. Wife Phoebe Park Chapman
- ^{cvi} Probably Hannah, d/o Alexander B. Chapman and Elizabeth O'Reilly. Hannah b. 1835
- ^{cviii} Christian Guardian 2 Jan. 1856: At the residence of the bride's father, 25 Dec. 1855, Walter O. H. Shrigley, of Pelham (Fonthill) & Elvia G. Hanlin of Stamford [Rev. A. T. Green (Wesleyan)]. Walter is age 27. Elvira and Walter O.R Shrigley buried Greenwood Cemetery, Norfolk county.
- ^{cix} 1851 census: Elizabeth Shaw 16 teacher living with Edward Early family, Pelham: Abraham Swaze Jr. age 22 living with father Abraham and mother Ruth E. They marry August 1856 (transcription of Jacob Keefer's marriages in Thorold)
- ^{cx} Married 27 Jan. 1857
- ^{cx} Peter is Henry's brother, 2 years younger. William Rinker, age 17 son of Christian and Mary Rinker.
- ^{cxii} 1851 Census Pelham: Elizabeth Farr age 25 wife of David M. Farr. David is the son of Stephen and Sarah Merrit Farr.
- ^{cxiii} Florence Chapman born 1856 in Pelham.
- ^{cxiv} Dry Creek is a large stream in the California counties of Sonoma and Mendocino. It is a tributary of the Russian River, with headwaters in Mendocino County.
- ^{cxv} Yankee Flat is a former settlement and mining town in Butte County, California. It was located 5 miles (8.0 km) southeast of Enterprise.
- ^{cxvi} 1851 census Pelham: George Shrigley Farmer b. Canada 22
- ^{cxvii} 1851 census : "Sharlot" House, 18 born Bertie Twp. with (all born Bertie except Jane) James, Farmer age 47, Jane 42 born Ireland, James 19, Isaac 16, John H. 7, Arrilla 11. The only House connection to the families in the letters so far is Betsy House who marries Job Minard. Job may be the brother of Samuel, the father of "Miss Minard" in the letters. Job is in Yarmouth Township, and Samuel moves there.
- ^{cxviii} 1851 census: Price, Peter B. Farmer Canada Quaker 35 ; Charlotte (mother?) b. United States Presbyterian 54 ; Sisters(letter mentions 4): all born Canada and Presbyterian: Jane 24 ; Sarah 21 ;

Phebe S. (teacher) 18 ; Harriet 16 ; Hannah (Wesleyan Methodist) 22 ; Melisa (Wesleyan Methodist) 10; James A. Quaker 8 ; Emma C. Quaker 6 . In Price Family Cemetery, Colbeck Drive, Welland, Thorold: Aaron, Charlotte, Delilah, James Alva, Joseph C., Mary, Melissa, Peter B., Phebe C.

^{cxix} 1881 census: Welland, Welland Co.: J. Harmon PRICE English 60 b. Ontario Farmer Church of England ; A. H. PRICE 59 b. Ontario Church of England ; Lilly A. PRICE 32: Edgar W. PRICE 30 ; Georgenia PARNELL 15 b. England

^{cxx} In 1844, the residents of a community on the Welland Canal named Aqueduct, renamed their village Merrittsville to acknowledge the role of William Hamilton Merritt's enterprise in founding the hamlet. The road connecting Merrittsville to St. Catharines is named Merrittsville Highway. Merrittsville was later incorporated as the Village of Welland, Ontario in 1858.

^{cxxi} Probably daughter of Hannah's mother's brother, Alexander. 1851 possibly: Alex Brown 57 in town of Niagara has daughter Mary age 23

^{cxxii} Census 1851 Stamford township part 2: Henderson, Alex b. Upper Canada, Wesleyan Methodist 16 ; Henderson, Jacob b. Upper Canada, Wesleyan Methodist 20

^{cxxiii} David Palmer Brown b. 1797 m. Matilda Pell June 29, 1826

^{cxxiv} 1851 census has Lalina M. Moulton 35 in Pelham. Also transcribed as Salina.

^{cxxv} Joseph and Mary VanWyck Chapman m. Oct. 1855

^{cxxvi} The school on Quaker Road was built in 1816 on Robert Garner's property. In 1862 a new school was built opposite it on the south side of the Quaker Road. It was later known as SS#5. (Life on Quaker Road: History, Stories and Goodwillie – Diane Goodwillie)The school was on Lot 174. When a new school was built, the old log school house, complete with stove and pipes was sold to Livi Goodwillie for the sum of eight dollars. In 1893 a third school was built of red brick. This is possibly the Killman family as history books from Thorold list Adam Killman (fought in 1812). There is also Robert G. and Jacob Killman/Kilman.

^{cxxvii} The Miner's progress, or, Scenes in the life of a California miner: being a series of humorous illustrations of the "ups and downs" of a gold digger in pursuit of his "pile." Published in 1853, Daily Union Office (Sacramento)

^{cxxviii} Probably Mary C. Cohoe, daughter of Edward and Catherine Brown Cohoe. She married Jacob B. Moore, Sept. 20, 1859. Richard McAlpin's mother was Deborah Cohoe.

^{cxxix} Hannah Jennings d/o Peter and Sophia, age 16 in 1857

^{cxx} Richard McAlpine marries Adelia Fay in Feb. 1869.

^{cxxxi} 1851 census Pelham, all born Canada West, All E. Methodist: Hopkins, Swazy Farmer 36 ; Catharine 40; **Elizabeth** Spinster 13 ; Ephraim Labourer 11 ; Samuel Labour 8

^{xxxii} 1851 census, Pelham, all born Canada: Burgar, James, Farmer 44 ; Ruth Seamstress 46 ; Urial C. Labourer 23 ; Amy Spinster 17 ; Anna Spinster 16 ; **Catharine** Spinster 15 ; William R. Labourer 14 ; John Labourer 13 ; Joseph Labourer ; James H. Labourer 10 ; Calvin 8 ; Elias 7

^{xxxiii} Alvira Willson daughter of Jehu Lord Willson and Catherine. Jehu Lord WILLSON (s/o Robert Willson) was born 15 Mar. 1812, and died after 1879 in MI. He married Catharine. She was born about 1818.

Children of Jehu Lord Willson and Catharine are:

Richard D. Willson born ABT 1837; Emily Willson born ABT 1838 ; Alvira Willson born ABT 1841; Julia M. Willson born ABT 1844; Hanna C. Willson born ABT 1846; Marinda J. Willson born ABT 1849.

^{xxxiv} In 1852, Charles Hager built a frame hotel at the corner of the Plank Road and Indian Line. Close by the rail crossing was 'The Junction Hotel' later becoming 'The Lawson Hotel' after a change in ownership. Today it is known simply as 'The Hagersville Inn'.

^{cxxxv} Olivia is mentioned several times in the letters. She is not in the 1851 or 1861 census. Possibly she is a niece of Henry Sutton, Hannah's father-in-law as he married Phebe Hall b. 15 Jul 1799. Phebe's siblings Amelia, John, and a half brother, Charles.

^{cxxxvi} Possibly Walter Bradshaw OR Walter and Maria Wright Ker married 24 Sept. 1856. Most likely Walter Bradshaw as Hannah in a later letter says Walter needs to come to Norwich to visit and mentions his Maria. It is unlikely she is as close to Walter Ker.

^{cxxxvii} Probably Mary Catherine Cohoe whose mother, Catherine Brown, died Feb. 20 1859. Mary was still at home and married Jacob Moore Sept. 20 1859. Her father, Edward Cohoe, son of John and Mary Moore Cohoe.

^{cxxxviii} Hannah and John Sutton, Jacob and Mary Moore, AB Moore and Susan Stephenson (married 19 Sept. 1860).

^{cxxxix} John Ambrose Cohoe son of John and Mary Moore Cohoe, her first cousin once removed. He marries Elizabeth Clark Oct. 19, 1859

^{cxl} Nancy Cummer, daughter of Daniel Cummer and Sarah Endicott, was born 1 October 1832 at Newtonbrook, York Co., Ont. ; died 25 January 1910 at Chantler, Welland Co., Ont. She was married 1858 at St. David's, Lincoln Co., Ont., to Henry Rinker, born 7 May 1830 at Welland, Welland Co., Ont. ; Henry died 8 February 1902 at Welland ; son of Samuel Rinker and Elizabeth Wyers. Child: Herman Leslie, 4 born 23 February 1859

^{cxli} Probably Mary Elizabeth McAlpine, age 17, daughter of David and Debroah Cohoe McAlpine

^{cxlii} Mary Ann Nobbs and Jefferson Snell were married on Sunday 8 July 1860.

^{cxliii} Walter Bradshaw and Jacob Moore, both of Pelham, witness the wedding of John A. **COHOE**, 23, Thorold, same, s/o John & Mary, to Elizabeth **CLARK**, 20, Gainsboro, same, d/o Joseph & Margaret.

^{cxliv} Lis is unknown as Jacob marries Mary Cohoe Sept. 30, 1859

^{cxlv} The letter is to Jacob and says "Dear Brother". She ends it Adieu dear brother Jacob. The address on the back is from Mrs. Hannah B. Sutton Norwichville to John E. Cohoe, Fonthill, Welland. John is her second cousin. Hannah married John Sutton Feb. 16, 1859.

^{cxlvi} Uncle Thorn is probably William mentioned in a later letter. He may be a brother-in-law to Samuel, Sarah's father. Samuel had 15 brothers and sisters but information on only 3 is available online and no Thorns. Back a generation William Thorn married Sarah Minard (b. Connecticut) and their son Joseph Thorn is married to Sarah Rice (both families in the 1851 census). Two generations back, Sarah Rice's family connects to Mary Foss's ancestors and to Elizabeth Moore of Bucks County.

^{cxlvii} AB and Kate are mentioned many times in the letters. Her identity is a mystery.

^{cxlviii} Possibly Sarah Minard, daughter of Samuel and Rebecca Moore Minard.

^{cxlix} There are Thorns, an old Quaker family, from Lynn, Massachusetts, which may relate to Worcester County, Massachusetts. Byron is Byron J. Doan who married Sarah's sister, Anna E., 09 Jun 1859. Byron is the son of Joshua Gillam b. 1811 (Jonathan, Elijah, Israel, Daniel, Daniel, John) and Fanny Minard Doan. Joshua was hanged Feb. 1839 for his part in the rebellion of 1837. Byron's brothers were Joel, Benjamin Cooper and John Thompson Doan. He died 23 Feb 1870 in Michigan. In Sadsbury Twp., PA, Alice E. Moore b. 1829 married William Thorn in 1854. Alice is a distant relative to Jacob, third cousin once removed, so this is unlikely to be the Uncle Thorn mentioned. The Volumes on the Doane Family list several moving to Wocester County, Massachusetts. The earliest include: Noah Doane (Solomon, Samuel, John, John) b. July 4 1732 who moved from Eastham to Wocester Co. in 1797. Oliver Doan (Elisha, Jonathan, Dr. David, John, John) who moved to Wocester at the age of 28 from Eastham and Cape Cod. 1851 census: Thorn, William Farmer b.England Quaker, 73 ; Sarah Spinster b. Connecticut , Quaker 71 ; Sarah H. Spinster b. C.W. Baptist resident of Stamford Twp., 63. Sara (age 71) is Sarah Minard

^{cl} Samuel Minard Jr. born 12 Aug. 1839 and died young. Andrew Moore book says at age 3. Grandma is Rachel Wildman Moore who died 25 July 1859 in Pelham.

^{cli} AB Moore marries Susan Stephenson in 1860. Susan's father, Benjamin, was from Thorold and mother, Catherine, from South Dumfries. The family lived a mile north and a mile west of Princeton. Susan died of pneumonia at age 46. Susan was the eldest daughter. Susan and 3 of her sisters were teachers. Susan attended Norman School in Toronto. She married AB just before her 25th birthday.

^{clii} The date of this letter is unclear. Jo is just starting out for California. If this is Joseph Chapman it would be around 1853. James Dawdy appears to be married at this point and James and Sally Ann are referred to in an 1855 letter.

^{cliii} Probably Deborah Hill daughter of Joseph Hill, son of Benjamin and Ann Moore Hill. Ann was Solomon Moore's aunt. Deborah married William Bessy 9 July 1857. Baby Alonzo was born 12 Nov. 1854

^{cliv} Sally Ann Rinker in 1851 census. Named Sarah Ann at marriage of her daughter, Amelia. Sarah Ann Rinker married James Hamilton Dawdy.

^{clv} Jeremiah Dawdy Jr is on the 1851 cenus with the Draper family, Jeremiah Dawdy and Alvin Draper carpenters. Jeremiah age 23 (b. abt 1828). James H. Dawdy is also on his own, a laborer age 24. They are probably sons of Caleb and Mary Ellison Dawdy. Jeremiah should be the son of Jeremiah Sr. b. 01 Oct 1800 as he is listed as Jeremiah Jr. but there is a son Jeremiah for Jeremiah and Sarah Ann b. 25 Jan 1845 d. 1846 in the White Brick Church Cemetery, Ancaster Twp., Wentworth Co., Ontario. Also Jeremiah and Sarah were not married until 1830. Possibly Jeremiah had a previous marriage but no record of one is online.

^{clvi} Mary Foss Moore, second wife of Solomon.

^{clvii} 1851 census Pelham: all Methodist Episcopal Church, all born Canada West: Swazy Hopkins Farmer 36 ; Catharine Spinster 40 ; Elizabeth Spinster 13 ; Ephraim Labourer 11 ; Samuel Labourer 8

^{clviii} 1851 census: John Cusick 13 living with Levi and Sarah C. Bradshaw. John Catholic born Canada. Levi the son of David Bradshaw and Mary Damude, step son of Mary Foss Moore, second wife of Solomon.

^{clix} Post master 1861 Drummondville W., Welland, John Ker; 1860 John Ker judge of cattle in Drummondville

^{clx} 1851 census: Ward, Josiah Farmer b. United States 24 ; Ruth Seamstress b. Canada 24 ; Hannah E. Seamstress b. Canada 4

^{clxi} 21 Jun 1854 Amanda daughter of Jacob and Phoebe Maria Bacon Moore married John Rock Lewis.

^{clxii} Simcoe Chapman, brother of Jo

^{clxiii} Mary marries Joseph Chapman 24 Oct. 1855

^{clxiv} Sally Rinker and Nancy Cummer