

March 1880 Letter from Viola Baldwin to her cousin Libbie Hart

(Libby, Sylvester, George, Zerubbabel, John, Samuel, Issac)

Libbie Hart b. 18 May 1834, d. 3 Apr 1904, second child of Sylvester Hart & Relief Baldwin. Lived most of her life with her parents and is buried with them in S Murray Ridge Cemetery in Elyria, Lorain, OH

Westfield, NY Mar 16, 1880

Dear Cousin Libbie,

I do hope you will excuse my long delay: I have thought of you often enough if that would have written letters you would have had more than you could read. I wonder how you and Auntie are this winter? And how you are enjoying yourself. But oh Libbie! I have some very sad news to tell you. Sister Frankie died February 2nd and was buried on Thursday the 5th. Poor Frankie had not been real well since Christmas. At that time she came up here and to her folks on a visit. I now believe that she over-done then. For she was poorly but kept-about until about one week before she died then she came on to-the-bed and grew worse so fast that there was no help for her. They consulted a doctor when she was first taken but he called it only a cold, then he afterward said she had a walking fever. Mother went down and helped her and as soon as Frankie could be persuaded to, Mother had the bed brought down and had her on it. Then the Dr. called it Typhoid fever and stayed right there, but when it changed heart-disease set in and it proved fatal. She suffered everything and was delirious all the time. She did not realize that she was going to leave her children. It almost killed Frank, so unexpected. He arranged his affairs and has now come home and is helping Father. The poor little children will grow up to know this as their home.

The rest of our people are as well as usual. I have been down to my sister Sarah's spending a few weeks. I had a very pleasant time. I did intend to teach this summer, engaged to do so, and afterward found there had been a misunderstanding in regard to it so that has fell through.

We have not been troubled with quantities of snow this winter and I have enjoyed that.

I am reading “Roman History in my circle-course. I haven’t been able to catch up entirely yet. I am a month behind but I do like it better all the while. Have answered all my questions on last years studies.

How are you passing the winter? Are any of the children with you and how is Auntie’s health? Please write to us all about it we want to hear from all our friends up there. Do you think you will take a trip east this year? Tell us hwo Jerry and Carleton are. Also all the news from those living near you. Good Bye.

Please accept love from me for yourself, Auntie, and every one of the others.

Our folks wish to be remembered to you all.

Your loving cousin

Viola E. Baldwin