

Letter from P. Stephenson to Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Stevens – Cairo Jan 15, 1845

My Dear Friends,

Think not by my long silence that you are forgotten by us. We think much about you in your affliction and often wish to see you but I write so seldom that it is quite a task and I am very much disposed to procrastinate. My time has been occupied the past summer. Lut moved on his farm last May. In June Elmira was very ill so much so that we feared she would not recover but our Heavenly Father was better to us than our fears and while many have been called away to their long home she still alive though very feeble. My health has been better ---- it has for many years until recently but I am now convalescent . I went to Dutchess in August and did not return until about the time the river closed. While there I heard that Emeline had a son and intended when I returned to knit him a pair of socks but Elmira cannot knit at all and I have been engaged for the family. I send a pair fear they will be small but perhaps they will be useful if your life is spared. I sometimes hear from you by your brother and have been hoping to see you here. I very much regret that I did not see your husband as I hear he has been here. Sister Jerusha was here in June on her way to L.I. with her son who had been iss a long time. The air did not agree with him and they returned sooner than they anticipated. He has since died here. Not heard from E. Hampton in a long time. Capt. Sanford's family have been called to affliction by the death of their second son. He near about thirty had been married six hears has two childred that died in infancy. He resided in Ulster County near where Mr. Gleason's daughter lives. Mr. Night is preaching in Madison. They have hired him only for the winter. They had a donation party for him on New Years Day and I expect their necessary wants are all supplied. His daughter is at a Seminary in Greenbush teaching music. So let us hear from you soon. I am anxious to hear how your Father is. Dear friend I hope you have ere this been enabled to give yourself up to the Saviour of sinners who says "whosoever will come to me I will in no way cast out" and can say like Job "though he slay me yet will I trust in Him". And may I not hope my dear Mrs. Osborn that though you are afflicted you are not forsaken and that you enjoy the presence of Him who does not afflict "willingly or grieve the children of men but for our profit". May you feel though they are terrible trials here if we improve them aright the Lord has said they shall work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Mr. Wells is expecting to visit some relatives in February. I have requested him to call on you perhaps he may be the bearer of this and as you wished to see his child you will have an opportunity. How is Mrs. Frazer and her family. Harriet wished to be remembered affectionately to you. Mr. Lut and Elmira unite with me in affectionate remembrance to all your family and any friends that may inquire to write.

(on side - Clarissa Woodruff is with her cousin in Franklin)

Your affectionate P . Stephenson

Mrs. Calvin Stevens
Mr. Calvin Stevens
Gilboa

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Mrs. Calvin Stephens
Blenheim