
1 7/14/1833 *From:* Eliza Howard

To: Mr Roland B. Howard,
[Sr.]

OOH-0001

Leeds, Maine

Waterford
State of Newyork on the
Hudson river

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds July 14, 1833

My Dear Husband

I am greatly rejoiced to hear from you, and to hear such good news too that you are safely arrived at the place of destiny without material injury to your health. But now commences the laborious undertaking. Now the greatest exposures to ill health. What a gratification it would be to me to be with you and share with you the cares and anxieties of every day but that is impossible at present. But I hope and trust (notwithstanding the uncertainty of everything of an earthly nature) we shall again be together united and educating our only son.

My anxiety is thrice doubled since I have the sole care of him. The thought of seeing life closed upon him almost distracts me. He seems quite promising now, his restless temper requires attention, but I think it forebodes no evil - he is affectionate. Warren gets along tolerably well, appears as though he needed a guide sometimes. He complains of being lonesome.

Nothing special has happened to any of us yet. What of this month that has past has been more favorable to vegetation. Our crops begin to show themselves a little. We complain of the wet. It is rather difficult getting on to our cornfields to weed to them, on wet land. Mr. Hoodman has not begun the hay yet, but will probably this week. I believe the hay has not suffered any for want of cutting yet. The oxen remain quietly in the pasture. Warren weaned the calves a few days since. The colt is quite handsome, grows very well. In short everything remains about the same as when you left home.

Otis ran to meet grandpa to enquire for his papa's letter when he came from the office, and brought it to his mother. He was unwilling to part with it to have it read and then kept it in his hat until he went to sleep. It was such a treasure that papa had sent him, he comforts himself with the idea of going to Newyork when his colt is large enough to see papa. It seems but a day or two to him. He says pa will be gone a great while.

Our friends are all as well as usual in the vicinity. Mr. Nathan Howard of Winthrop spent the afternoon of the fourth of July here with us & I found him a pleasant jokous old gentleman. He offered to carry your father to Bridgewater the latter part of summer. He is going alone in a carriage. Pa asked me if I should be willing to have him go when you are gone. I shall leave it altogether with you to decide but I should be glad if he would feel himself needed here in your absence. He is a great deal of company for me. He appeared quite overcome in his feelings when you left us. He is perfectly calm and contented in his appearance. He was rather gratified than otherwise with the contents of your letter.

When reading your letter the thought occurred to me that my husband's pride was some wounded when contrasting his brother's family with his. But we must submit to such allotments and think if we cannot fill as high a station in life as we could desire, we may perhaps do as much good in some less opulent situation. Our children tho humbly educated may fill important stations in life. Let us hope for the best, and bear with patience whatever crosses our path in life.

Mr. Foss together with his other family troubles has had his best barn blown to pieces in a whirlwind. It was moved on the ground ten feet. We felt it some, but our damage was small in comparison with others. Mr F. has since sold his farm to Daniel Hinkley. In this circumstance is discovered a great change in the situation of a number of persons. It is quite curious that he should buy the same farm that a few years since he was brought onto a porper.

You say in your letter, write all your troubles and complaints. I don't feel as though I had any real troubles. I have anxieties and cares. The mind is full of them. I recollect you said I have nothing to do but take comfort this summer. You forgot how soon you would be gone from us, but we resolved to part from each other for a while, hoping it might be for our future good. Why then should I not rest content with that hope. As for comforts

I have a great many and I am sensible that a humble acknowledgement of them is due to my maker and preserve for the daily mercies I receive from his hand. Our improvements in our buildings I find very convenient and am greatly obliged to you for them. I sincerely hope we shall enjoy them together again.

Oh my dear husband. You have all my heart with you every day of your absence. Your
Eliza Howard

You will know too how to excuse the many mistakes in my humble scratch. Write as often as is considered.

I hardly know how to direct this letter. You did not think to tell me what county you were in, but I will do the best I can.

Eliza Howard

[Envelope]

North Leeds July 20

Mr. Roland B. Howard

Waterford

State of Newyork on the Hudson river

2 9/21/1843 *From:* Oliver O. Howard *To:* Mrs. John Gilmore

OOH-0001

Hallowell, Maine

South Leeds, Me

Source: Bowdoin

Mrs. John Gilmore
South Leeds
Me

Hallowell Sept 21st 1843

Dear Mother

It has been about three weeks since last we met. I should be glad to come here and make a visit, are you well. I did not know but you had made yourself sick by taking care of the babe [Rodelphus Howard Gilmore]. How does he do. Is his sickness abated. Is Charles and Rowland well. You must let Rowland come and make my school a visit. William commenced going to Mr. Burnham's School the day that I did. We have a very good school. I like it very much and the teacher. He told me to give his best respects to you and tell you that I was a very good boy. But whether it is so or not you must come and see. The day that I cam down, I rode from the fork of the road here. I got to grandfathers about 11 o'clock, and in the afternoon I went to Caravan. The same that was at Winthrop, that Charles and Rowland went to. If you would like to know how much money I have spent and in what way I will tell you. For going to Caravan 25 cts, slate 12 1/2 ct, ink 6 1/4 cts, pen and case 6 1/4 cts 4 quills 4 cts, 6 sheats of paper 6 cts, arithmetic 83 cts, Latin grammer 62 cts, all added together makes 2,05. I asked Mr. Burnham what new study I had better take. He told me that I had better take Latin. Week ago Wednesday I went to muster. And yesterday George Pollard and Rowland's friend Charles Pollard he said he should like to see Rowland very much. Yesterday we went down to the wharf to see a Brig of War, where they take apprentices. Excuse mistakes.

Your affectionate son.
Oliver O. Howard

3 10/26/1843 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0003

Hallowell, Maine

South Leeds, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Envelope:

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore
South Leeds, Me

From: O.O. Howard
Oct 26 1843

Hallowell Oct 26th 1843

Dear mother

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines as Uncle Ensign is now here and is going to Leeds soon. He said that you were all well there, that is when he came from home. My shoes are most gone. They have two or three holes in them, I cannot wait a fortnight for my shoes or boots for by that time I shall have nothing to wear. I should like to have you get my boots made as soon as you can, and send them. Uncle Ensign brought the news of Olive Cushman's death and said that she died the day before you got home. Give my love to my brothers. Tell them I am much obligate to them for the apples, and also give my love to all the rest as Roland, Howe and Arza, Anne.

Yours affectionately,
O.O. Howard [Age 13]

4 10/26/1843 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: Rowland B. Howard

OOH-0003

Hallowell, Maine

Leeds, Me.

Source: Bowdoin

[Assume 10/26/1843]

To Rowland B [Howard]

Dear Rowland

I write a few lines to you. I am thankful to you for the apples as I suppose you sent them. I should like very much to have you come and see me, and your cousins. Give my love to little Charles. I went to Mr Pollards one afternoon. Charles said he should like very much to play with you. He said he should like to go out to Leeds and make you a visit. I should like to have you come here and make my school a visit.

Your affectionate brother.

O.O. Howard

5 11/5/1843 *From:* Elisa Gilmore

To: Master Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0005

Leeds, Me

Hallowell, Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, November 5, 1843

My dear boy

I need not tell you how much I think about you, and how much I desire that your time may be spent to advantage. You already know that nothing else could have induced me to let you go away from me, but for your own benefit. I want to have you think of this after you go to bed at night and look over the past day, in your mind, and ask yourself the question whether you have spent the day properly or not and think whether mother would be satisfied. I do not think I am hard to be satisfied.

I do not consider it any excuse for me when others do wrong, if you see others that do not get their lessons well or any other misconduct. I beg of you my son never let it have any influence on your conduct. You said to me they do not have to write composition but once a fort night at the other school. Now Otis I thought much of what you said because that seemed to say to my mind I want to get along easy. I don't think so much of my future advancement as of my present ease. I will hope for the best and so must you don't think lightly of your Mothers views. She is ever mindful of you and it is your happiness that is nearest my heart, it is a great comfort to me that you have always been a good boy and I hope always to have that satisfaction all of our family seem to cherish good feelings toward you and speak often of you.

R.B.H. [Rowland Bailey Howard] wants to come to see you and would be glad to come with his papa tomorrow, but I do not think it best, for him to come now the weather is so cold. Charles wishes he could come to Hallowell and wants me to tell you he can let down bars and put up bars. Rowland has been quite a help this fall. He was all the help I have had when we got home but Rowland A G [Gilmore] has begun to work on the farm again now.

You will perceive that your boots are not made. Your father has been very much engaged since he came home so that he could not attend to getting them, as he was out of leather and Oscar too. I am sorry but you must have patience they will come soon. The babe [Rodelphus Gilmore] is quite healthy now & expect he will forget you.

I should have been glad to have you come home in the vacation, but on the whole I thought you had better keep on with your work as it would change things to come away and go back. I cut and made your pants I hope they will fit well. I shall get the rest of your clothes as soon as possible. I have had a great deal to do since I came home. Mr. Gilmore will come to H again before long. You have a little yarn with you that I want to finish a pair of gloves I have begun for you. It is paper coullor. I am afraid if I coullor more it will not match it and that is some of the same I can send you some more for your stocking, be sure and keep it up and have Mr. G. put it in his pocket. I cannot finish them until I have it. Tell granma the small bunch of yarn I send her and the rest Ann Lee sends. I shall get your clothes as fast as I can.

Give my love to William, Maria and Vaughn. I should be glad if they would write me a letter. Remember me to your Uncle and Aunt and Mrs Vaughn all the kindnesses you receive from them are remembered with gratitude from me.

I am ever your affectionate Mother Eliza Gilmore.

[To] O.Otis Howard

P.S. you may show this to Granma, but don't show it much for it is not written so well as I can write when I am not fatigued. E.G.

[Envelope]

[From] Leeds to Hallowell, Nov 5th 1843

[To] Master Oliver O. Howard

Hallowell, Me

6 11/6/1843 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0006

Hallowell, Me

Leeds, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Hallowell Nov 6th 1843

Dear Mother

I thought I would write a few lines to you as I expect Father [1] down today. I write you that I am well and all our folk, but it is very sickly in this place, there has four or five persons died since I have been here. The private term of Mr Burnhams closed last Saturday and the vacation is about four weeks. I am going to study at home and recite to Mr Burnham.

[The above was written by Oliver Otis Howard. On the same page of paper, Oliver's grandmother, Betsy (Stinchfield) Otis added the following note]

Otis had just begun this wen his father came and he went home and has not returned.

Dear Elisa

Your husband says Anna is going to spend part of the winter with you. I think it will be as well for her and that she will enjoy it as well and or better then she would hear. Your father [2] is very unwell and it is difficult to git along. He can't bair any noise and think one more in the family will be too much. It is much better for Sarah to stay here and go to school, and her Mother to stay with you as is concluded. I want to have her come and make a visit if it is convenient. I think your Father is no better. Upon the hole has bin some better but is not so well now. I want to say agoodeal but have not time. Give my love to all. Write to me soon. Otis is a good boy. Yours ever after.
Mother B. Otis

[Notes:

1. Oliver is living with his uncle John Otis in Hallowell. This reference to Father is Oliver Otis Howard's step-father, John Gilmore, the wife of Eliza Otis, who is living in Leeds.
2. This reference to father is Oliver Otis Howard's grand-father, Oliver Otis, who was 75 and who died the next year on 28 Sept 1844.

7 11/6/1843 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0007

Hallowell, Me

Leeds, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Hallowell, Nov 6th 1843

Dear Mother

I write you a few lines because father is here and I can send the letter by him; our vacation has now commenced. Uncle thinks I had better get my lessons as usual here at home for Mr Burnham says he will hear all the lessons I will get and bring to him. I think he is very kind. As for my duties I do not think it is hard to perform them, as for my composition, I like to write it, and I have written once a week, I only spoak of their writing them, to the Academy. I am very much oblige to you for your advice (and will try to obey you). I get along very well, I have got the wood in. And my chores are not so hard as they were. I could not go to Meeting for the want of shoes, and I am very sorry that I could not have my boots but however I shall try to make the best of it. I should like very much to come home in the vacation but as you think best for me not to I shall not come. Give my love to them all, do not harbour a thought that I do not mean to do right dear mother. Excuse mistakes for I am in a hurry. Give my affectionate love to my brothers, your affectionate son O.O.H.

[In very large letters] OO