

Letters from
A. S. Whetlock
to his brother, Friend
Jay Whetlock 1874-1886

North Galway N.Y. Oct. 19th 1874

Dear Brother

I am yet nervous and not prepared to write much this morning but feel that I must say a word to you.

Father was buried yesterday, his remains being interred about 5 o'clock p.m. The funeral at the house being at 2 o'clock p.m.

I feel very grateful to my numerous friends for the respect shown our late father. The turn out to the funeral was one of the largest I ever saw in this neighborhood. George Henick and wife of Amsterdam were here among the rest. The village of Galway was well represented. Mans & family, Hays & family. D. J. Hagt & family. Brockett & wife besides many others from that locality and from South and East and West of the village.

Our poor mother is quite unwell being confined to her bed. During the funeral services. She lay on her bed in the parlour bedroom with Mrs Ira Brockett and Mrs. George Henick sitting on the bed with her. The casket containing father's remains was placed by the side of the bed so that she could view the remains. Dorliska and myself sat at the head, Uncle Robert and Aunt Abby at the foot of the casket.

I have sent for Dr. Snell of Amsterdam to come see mother. Sent by Mr. Henick yesterday and expect him here today.

Father's remains kept first rate. He seemed to look more like himself to the last. I had him more expensively laid out than any other person that I have seen laid out in this section. I had new Knit shirt and drawers. New pants and new cotton shirt with fine linen bodon and had a shroud made in Amsterdam of the best of broadcloth to cover the whole body and feet enveloped.

North Galway N.Y. Jan. 10/75

Dear Brother

Yours duly received acknowledging the receipt of my two last letters.

Mother rested quite well last night for her and this evening is apparently quite easy. Dr. Preston is the attending physician, and does all that he can to keep her quiet.

Horatio Seymour came out some time ago in a letter declining to be a candidate for U.S. Senator. The voice of our friends here would be for Seymour if he desired it. The choice will now probably fall on Francis Keman of Utica one of Seymour's choice friends. It is here understood that it is the desire of Mr. Seymour. Church has a good position as chief justice of the court of appeals and has about two years yet to serve.

Tilden is popular and was nominated for Gov. at the instance of Seymour who was a delegate in the State convention last fall. A. J. Parker is a noble man but did not look for nor ask the nomination for Gov. but voted in convention for Tilden. Church's friends voted for Parker and Parker moved after the first ballot that Tilden be unanimously nominated. I never saw Tilden but once and that was at Ballston in 1848. He was then the guest of Gen. John Cook who was then the State Senator from this district.

Col. Young brought Tilden up to the court house and Gen. Cook in company with him. It was the day of our county convention. Father was president of the convention. Col. Young introduced Tilden to Father and Father introduced Tilden to the convention in his usual happy manner and stated that Mr. Tilden would address the convention on issues of the political campaign.

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Since the death of Dean Richmond Tilden has been chairman of the State committee until our last State convention. As chairman he had a correspondent in most of the towns of the State and did yeoman service in his correspondence. I was the correspondent from this town. While Peter Cagger was living he was the Secretary of the State Committee and I think he told me that he had a correspondent in about every town in the State. In 1856 his Caggers figures on the Democratic vote in this State before and after election raised only 1000. That was close figuring.

Dorliska and myself are in mother's room at this time with her. Lib is lying down to take a nap and the woman in the kitchen is doing the evening work - taking care of the dishes.

Our friends here in usual health in Galway.

Yours

Abel

Dorliska says I must add that Mother is very sick and that it is the influence of the medicine that keeps her quiet.

North Galway N.Y. July 25/75
7 o'clock P.M.

Dear Brother

This morning I went to Benedicts Corners where you and I attend school when we were children. From there I went to our old place where you was born. I drew water from the well that father dug on the place and drank of the same. The well is 45 feet deep. The place is now owned by a Mr. Chase whose mother was Hannah Boothe. She worked for us when you was five years of age. I noticed on the Tipley farm the grave of Abner Ripley standing alone, the fence having passed away. From our old place I went to Grandfather's old place and to his family burial ground on the same. Stones mark his grave also the grave of his mother, his second wife, his daughters, Harriet & Mary. Our grandmother and great grandfather were buried in Milton and grave stones mark their resting places in the cemetery opposite of the residence of Alra Grinnell. I called at Uncle Henry Borees and spent two hours with them. Found them all well.

Mother and Sister quite cheerful today.

With this mother sends you the advocate.

I will send you some papers soon.

Stephen L. Hagadom called my attention to a letter of yours to the Ballston Journal dated Nov. 1st 1874. Gross published the letter and S.L.H. say that you paid a handsome tribute to your late father.

Truly yours,

Abel S. Whitlock

R1823/5

North Galway N.Y. Oct. 15, 1876
Sunday evening 7 1/2 o'clock

Dear Brother

Two years ago this evening at 15 minutes before eight o'clock father passed away. How often I think of him and as each day comes around I almost imagine he is with me. Today I have visited his grave and the lot on which his remains are interred is often visited by me.

His grave is covered with soil from this farm, and the lot is also covered with a light grade from the old farm, all done under my eye and superintendance and partly by my own hand.

Owing to my heavy expense for the last few years for my family and myself I have not yet erected a monument. At the present time I do not feel able to advance the money necessary for family monument, but think my returns will enable to do so in a short time. My expenses for labour on the farm for this year will exceed \$425. To that add \$125 for Lil as housekeeper and then \$25 or more for extra help in the house makes quite a bill for me. My inside painting and papering below stairs in August last cost me over \$80.00. I yet have the rooms to paint above and also Dorliska's room to paper. I intend to paint them this coming winter and then will have a good job done, and a good house for one built in 1796.

One word more about the family monument. I could have it done at once, but I do not intend to reduce my principal for that purpose, but lay aside accrued interest and profit after paying my expenses for my family.

Mother and Sister quite comfortable. Mother is at the table with me at dinner and supper. Dorliska is at the table for dinner and tea.

Dorliska wishes to know if you received Olive's last letter with her photograph. She received a letter from Olive yesterday from Rockford, Ill.

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Mother and Sister wish to be remembered to you and yours, and in the future will write to the boy.

Our political friends here are confident of carrying this State by a large majority and thus elect Tilden and Hendricks.

Abel S. Whitlock

R. 1823/7

North Galway N.Y. Jan. 29th 1877
12-o'clock M.

Dear Brother

I stated to you this morning that Dorliska was dead. I have sent for the same undertaker that furnished the casket for father and will have a duplicate casket for sister. Tomorrow I send to Amsterdam for her shroud and shall have Mrs. George Henick (who now lives in Amsterdam) or Mrs. George Dasis select the same. I got fathers there the same being composed of nice black broad cloth and made up like a cloak. Sister will be of the best white moreno and made at the same place that father's was.

Mother wants to keep her remains a week, consequently shall not today fix the time for the funeral.

Rev. R. H. Robindon, an old personal friend of Dorliska and the family, will probably officiate at the funeral. Rev'd J. H. Coleman, pastor of M. E. Church at Galway will also be present and Rev'd Mr. Hemstreet of the Galway Presbyterian Church. Mr. Robinson is pastor of the M. E. Church at Ballston at present and is a noble man. Rev'd J. H. Coleman is a nephew of Seymour Coleman. Rev'd A. Cook, pastor of the Baptist Church at Hagadoms Mills is now here talking with mother. He calls as one of our friends.

We have had no thaw to speak of, consequently short of water.

My men are at work shoveling snow from the road in front of the house, in order that people can have a chance to turn without trouble.

3-o'clock P.M. Aunt Abey has just called. She seemed to think much of Matilda.

Mr. Brockett & Julia Main have just called on us.

Yours

Abel S. Whitlock

North Galway, N.Y. Feb. 4, 1877

Dear Brother:

Yours of the 28th inst. at hand. Probably you rec'd mine of Jan. 28 & 29th on Thursday, Feb. 1st. Stating that Dorliska died on the morning of Jan. 29th at 2 o'clock & 2 minutes. We kept her remains until yesterday, the funeral services commencing precisely at ^{eleven} ~~three~~ o'clock A.M. Mother was not able to be carried into the parlour, where the remains had laid since Monday morning. Yesterday at 10 o'clock A.M. we took the casket containing the remains of our Sister, carried them to the sitting room and placed them beside Mother's bed for her to view them until the casket was closed after services were over. Rev'd R. H. Robinson of Albany officiated, assisted by Rev'd M. Hemstreet, pastor of the Presb. church at Galway & Rev'd J. H. Coleman of the Methodist Church at Galway. Rev'd A. Cook, pastor of Baptist Church at Hagadoms Mills & Rev'd R. Rider were also present. The bearers named by me were Jas. D. Hays, A. N. Reynolds, D. C. Foster, George Hanford, D. Hemane of Galway Village & Peleg Burdick of Foster Hill. Hays and his daughter rode up to see us on Thursday and was quite unwell & when Saturday came was not able to be out. P. H. Meehan took his place as a bearer. A part of the Presbyterian Choir were present and as you know some of them I will name them, viz. Jane & Delia Davis, John H. Hays & wife, Misses Mattie Mairs & Mary Hays. Mrs. Hays is a daughter of Dr. Preston & Miss Mary Hays is the daughter of James D. Hays. They were seated on the west side of the room as follows. At the north end of the sofa sat Miss Mairs, next Mrs. Hays, then the two Davis girls, next Mary Hays in a chair & next to her John H. Hays. On the south side of the room the clergy were seated. Robinson seated on the west side. R. Ira Whitlock & wife and our Lib sat in chairs at the north end of the sofa. The intervening space was filled with chairs for the cousins.

Mr. Mairs took the full charge of the funeral. I took my seat at the head of the casket near the dining room door, to my right sat Dr. Prosten

& Ira Brockett. At the side of the casket sat J. P. Brockett & wife, L. Wright & wife & C. U. and Mr. Mairs at the foot. It was a beautiful day and everything passed off well.

On Monday last I set two men at work hauling away the snow from the road in front of the house, also from part of the ____ yard. Hauled the snow into the meadow in front of the house. On Friday I took four men to the cemetery & shoveled the snow from the main aisle in the cemetery & the one leading to my lot where I buried father side enough for four to walk abreast & scraped it out clean, so that on Saturday we had the clean sod freed from snow to walk on, also on the lot and about the grave.

Mr. & Mrs. George Herrick of Amsterdam selected the shroud. It was a beautiful one trimmed with white satin & came from the coffin manufactory at Amsterdam where they keep them on hand & manufacture them to order.

The turn out to the funeral was a sort of a tidal wave as when father was buried. Everybody knew D. Whitlock whether they had ever seen her or not. All who knew her loved, honoured, & respected her, and others respected her reputation. Consequently the large turn out to her funeral.

I did not write to Uncle Robert as I did not want them here. Ira Whitlock's wife was with us again from Tuesday until today. Helen is an excellent woman and a first class housekeeper and was of great assistance to us at this time. Dorliska's remains kept well. There was not the least perceptible smell. She looked beautiful as she lay in the casket, her face faultless & her beautiful hands white as marble. From the time we laid her out she laid on the sofa in the parlour until Saturday when we placed her in the casket that now holds her remains.

Mother is lying quiet on her bed at this hour, 4 o'clock p.m. She does not seem to improve.

With this I will send you one or two papers.

Respectfully yours, Abel S. Whitlock

P.S. Since closing this I have opened it at mother's request & read it to her. She desires me to say to you that her love for her children does not cease, and wants them so to live that they may all meet her in Heaven. With this I send you a copy of the Balston Journal. The notice of sister's death as to date, age,

& being a member of the Methodist Church is incorrect. It will be all right in the next issue.

R1823/10

Saturday evening
North Galway Dec. 22, 1877

Dear Brother:

At mother's request I again inclose two dollars for your children for New Years.

One year ago this evening our late sister spent her last evening with Mother & myself in the sitting room.

She looked tired and languid as she passed my chair on her way to the hall door, as she left for her room. She afterwards told me that she stopped on the stairs & rested as she went up.

Sweet girl! Had I have known how weak she was at that time, I would have helped or carried her to her room.

She has gone but has left many pleasant incidents for us to reflect on and talk about.

Mother continues smart as at last report from me.

Frank Leslie did not reach us today, consequently will not be for'd to your address next Monday. I shall send for the paper again & will for'd the same to you as last year.

The mild weather still continues with us. The Green Mountains do not show a vista of snow no more now than in June.

Yours

Abel S. Whitlock

Mother has handed me some slips that Dorliska cut from the papers & marked & requests me to send them to you. She has hundreds of them & takes great pleasure in reading them. She wishes to be remembered to you all.

Please acknowledge receipt.

(Commencing Mother's death Jan. 13, 1883)

North Galway, N.Y. Jan. 13/83

8¹/₄ o'clock A.M.

My Dear Brother

Our dear Mother left us this morning at 15 minutes before 4 o'clock.
She died easy, simply sleeping until she ceased to breathe.

Will not bury until Tuesday, the 16th.

Yours & U

A. S. Whitlock

R1823/12

[Postcard to Hon. F. J. Whitlock]

2/24-84

How is Friend J? The last time you wrote me he was quite unwell. I am anxious to hear how he is. Please send the date of the birth of your children, also your wife and the date of your marriage. Where was your wife born and brought up? I wish to make a record of the births and your marriage hence make enquiries. I am in my usual health. How I would like to see you all, but must defer a visit at your place, for the present.

To: Hon. F. J. Whitlock

North Galway August 31/84

Dear Brother

Yours of the 24th received last Thursday. Was glad to hear from you, and that you could stand the pressure of a week at conventions. I do not now feel able to stand my pressure of mind at this time and hardly think I will attend the co. fair at Ballston this week. My man that has been with me since April 1/73 is now sick and unable to do anything and has been so for three weeks. My other man had not much force, and I always have to call him up in the morning. I shall do the best I can under circumstances this season but run the farm at a loss.

I will now make an effort to sell. I offer to take \$8,000 for the farm, the timber and wood being of value and held in a great measure the sale of farms in this section.

The Jessa H. Mead farm of 130 acres sold last spring for \$5,000 at a partition suit. One of the girls buying it, and my farm should at least bring as compared with the Mead farm what I ask for it. I would however take less rather than lose a sale, as I am so anxious to be relieved of the care of it. A friend of mine who lives 3 miles this side of Waterford was here last Mon. to see me and says he thinks he can sell for me at my price. In the meantime I think I will place it in the hands of a boy real estate agent and let him sell it for what he obtains over the amt. I may stipulate to take.

Last night I had a full night's sleep for the first time in a week and today feel quite refreshed.

Lucy Mead came up in the Stage yesterday and will remain with us some days. I called for her the day before but she had company and could not then leave. Isa Brockett and wife returned from Ocean Grove on Saturday the 23. He rode up on Monday the 25th to see me. I was more than glad to

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see him home again with me. Now I want you and your wife and children to be of good cheer and I will do the best I can in my present condition. If I had a son and daughter with me as you have I think I would be quite at home with some ones to lean on. Libbie does all that she can to keep me up and cheerful and today I feel quite like a man and hope to continue so until I can close out my farm. So I wrote you before that I have never yielded to nervousness until this season and now hereafter I hope to be relieved from it entirely as well as loneliness. Tomorrow morning I will probably go to the village and will try and be out more with my friends. Yesterday I took part of my sheep away to pasture. I intend to sell them all if I can. I have 43 here at home and 57 in Providence to pasture, owing to the shortage of hay. I must sell even at a sacrifice. Store stock will be low with us and slow sale when hay is from \$16 to \$20 per ton herd. Perhaps I have wirtten too much already for me. I asked the question in a former letter, "did I bring you any silverware in 1870?" and now repeat the same.

Yours & C

To: Hon. F. J. Whitlock

No. Galway May 7th 1886
7:05 o'clock a.m.

Dear Brother:

Do you recollect this morning 57 years ago. It was a bright morning. We went to school with Mary Ann Ripley. As we started for school I asked grandmother where was mother as I had not seen her that morning and was told she was sick.

When we returned from school father met us in the north hall and took us in to see our infant sister and gave us some lemonade. All that ever then present excepting you and myself are in their respective graves. At that time the grass was forward and one team was ploughing in front of the house for corn.

The spring is forward for us now. Grass has a fine start. My sowing is all done and my farmer this man are plowing for corn. My farmer has but one team and I let him use my team for the spring's work. I look after all and advise him what to do and how to do it, as I am the better and more experienced farmer.

I received a line from I. Brockett yesterday dated May 4th at New York. He, his wife and Julia Mairs arrived by Steamer that morning from Jacksonville Fla. He writes that they had a rough passage and was about four days making the trip. They will be home next week. He will write me when he will be home and I will probably be at the village to meet him and his wife and co.

I am in my usual health, and walk to Foster-Hill and to John Bensons (the Peter Pettir place) which is about the extent of my walks. In my habits I am regular and abstemious.

My appetite is good. At times I am troubled with vertigo, but it soon wears off. As I write I look from my window in my office and gaze upon my sheep and lambs in the barn lot with full feed. Some are up and feeding and others lying down. Shall probably plough that lot the last of next week for corn. I expect to give my attention to repairs of some walls on my farm and buildings painting and trimming my maple trees this season in order to have my farm in good shape to sell.

Yours & C.

A. S. Whitlock