

Letters from Aunt S.
Whatork to his nephew & niece,
Friend Jay Whatork & Darlisha F.G.
Whatork (same names as their uncle
& aunt) 1887 - 1888

R1824/1

TO: D. Whitlock (Miss)

North Galway
Sunday, Jan. 23, 1887

My Dear Niece:

Your favour of the 9th received yesterday. In consequence of the deep snow and snow drifts we received no mail at this office from the 13 until yesterday, and now we are all right with a thaw and soft weather. I went to the village on the 13th and sent my man and team home. It snowed some during the day and on the morning of the 14th was snowing fast. In the afternoon I had the landlord take me home and since then have not been out anywhere but most of the time confined to the house being quite unwell, and part of the time under the care of the Dr. Am now improving and will be able to go out again soon.

The Christmas gift of Leslie pleased you, and It was a satisfaction for me to so learn from you.

As to reading the news of the day is the most I look after at this time.

As to novel reading I am not able to advise, as I never was much of a novel reader.

A New York winter is somewhat similar to your winter. You have some colder weather than we do in this latitude. Your springs are earlier than with us. This has been a pleasant winter here until the 13th. Snow enough for fine sleighing and business. My man got his back off to Ballston and logs are in to the mill yard and nearly 8 tons of hay away before the 13th and a lot of wood for himself up at the house.

Saratoga Springs is a lovely place in summer. Its Mammoth Hotel and beautiful private residences. The Congress Spring Park, Judge Hilton's large and extensive park mostly in the town of Greenfield with its beautiful roads and drives, the Grayson and Champion Sporting & mineral Springs on the

-2-

Ballston Avenue. The avenue to Saratoga Lake are all places of resort to the numerous visitors in the summer season. Mount McGreggor the place where Gen. Grant died is also a place of resort for its elevation and the scenery from its lofty height. Mount McGreggor is reached by railroad, also Schuylerville on the Hudson 12 miles east of Saratoga. The monument erected there will probably be dedicated next October. I intend to be present at the time.

Your father can explain the monument to you and Burgogns Sumendsen(?) to Gen. Gates in 1777.

Saratoga Springs in winter is dull. The large hotels viz the United States, Grand Union, Congress Hall, Clarendon, Windsor, Wansington, American, Adelphie and many smaller ones are all closed with the close of the season. The three first named hotels your father will recollect the names and site. When they were rebuilt they were greatly enlarged.

I will send you a copy of _____ Guide of Saratoga and how to see it next summer. It will probably be out by the 1st of June. This is amild day with sunshine and water dropping from the eves of the buildings.

I had a letter from Uncle Jared last evening. Saying that Giles Stockweather died at Milwaukee on the 13th and he will be buired at Kenosha. My house is now much improved from the picture you have of it. Will complete painting when warm weather reaches us.

Please send a card in acknowledgment of this.

Your U.

A. S. Whitlock

North Galway N.Y. Dec. 18/87
Sunday morning 9:15 a.m.

My dear Nephew & Niece:

Tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock I will be sixty-eight years of age, taking my maternal grandmother's word for the hour of my birth, and I am thankful that I am able to get about as well as I do.

I rode to the village (3 miles) yesterday and outside most every day if the weather is pleasant. On Friday I attended the funeral of one of my old friends 4 miles from my place. His age 74 years and he was the second client your father had when he commenced pelefoging in this town and four years before he was admitted to the bar of this county. Sometime last night it commenced snowing and is still snowing and at this hour I think it is nearly a foot deep. Tomorrow I will probably get out my sleigh for the first time this winter.

As Christmas will be around one week from today and with the compliments of the season I send you each a two dollar bill. [See next page for conclusion]**

North Galway, N.Y. Dec. 18/87

Dear Nephew

Yours of the 13th at hand. In reply say that I have no \$6,000 to loan. In my last letter to you I stated that after Jan. 1st '88 I would have \$1,500 or more to loan or words to that effect. If the three farmers pay their note when due I will have that in addition and the interest falling due in Jan. & Feb. at your place = \$257, and \$75. on the Schultz mortgage = in all \$1,032, which will be all I desire to loan.

If a good opportunity presents itself to loan \$1,500 on first class security advise me. I can loan all my money herebut at less rates

R1824/24

of interest, consequently choose to loan when I can get higher rates of interest with first class and undoubted security.

What I make while life last with me will be mostly for you and yours sister after my decease. I have worked hard and been industrious to make what I have and cannot tell what it may cost to take care of me in my last days but must be well cared for.

With this I send you Schultz note for \$75 due you 11/88 which with interest due at that time viz. \$48 will = \$123.00.

You can receipt the interest for me and I will endorse the amts. on the note when received and acknowledge receipt.

Yours & U.

A. S. Whitlock

3:20 p.m. - - Full a foot of snow. My farmer had just got up his team and is going over our beat with a sleigh & I will have out my team and have my first sleigh ride for the winter.

** My friend Mr. Brockett at the village is improving. I am there often and assist Mrs. B. with his business.

Trusting you wi-1 have a pleasant and profitable time during Christmas and New Year's, I remain your uncle with my best wishes,

Abel S. Whitlock

R1824/5

North Galway, N.Y. August 12/88

Dear Nephew:

Your favour of the 8th received yesterday. Would have liked to have Mr. Hooper kept the money longer and expected when the last interest was paid he would retain the sum for the full year viz to Feb. 15, 1889.

As requested I send the note and mortgage.

My farmer finished getting in his oats yesterday morning, and not a full crop the draught having shortened them 1/3. Corn good growth but late & potatoes fair.

Perhaps Miss Hooper or Mr. Bowler can post you on some good and safe securities, as I would like to invest at least \$2,000 that I now have on hand in the Savings Bank drawing 3% per annum and will put the amt. that Mr. Hooper pays in in the Savings Bank at 2% when received by me. I am in my usual health; today we are having a fine rain.

Do you own any land beside the farm and the lots in Belle Plaine?

I think at one time your father had an 80 acre lot in the woods five miles from Belle Plaine, from which he used to get wood.

With us real estate is dull. I would be glad to sell but at this time there is no sale for farms unless at a sacrifice. I think now of selling my timber and wood on the ground and then let the farm go for what it will fetch at auction and so close out here and relieve myself from the care of the same.

I am quite well.

Yours & C

Abel S. Whitlock

R1824/6

North Galway, N.Y. Aug. 31/88

My dear Nephew:

Enclosed find satisfaction for Mr. Hooper's mortgage. When you write me take pains and write plain, and be careful about statements and date.

In your last letter with the Hooper mortgage enclosed your letter was dated September instead of August and statement that \$20 was interest due to Sept. 15/88. By looking at the mortgage you will see that the interest was \$20. Aug. 15/88.

Now my dear boy do not let my calling your attention to the above offend you in the last.

Truly yours,

Abel S. Whitlock

R.1824/7

No. Galway, N.Y. Dec. 20, 1888

My dear Nephew & Niece:

I have sold my farm and give possession April 1st, 1889. I shall go to Galway village to live. Libbie will go with me as housekeeper. Property is slow. Sale here and I sold for \$6,000, \$3,000 paid April 1/89 and the balance in Six payments of \$500 and interest. Would like to loan \$4,000 or more on first class security that is beyond question. Govern yourself accordingly, and let me know what you can do. I now have in the Savings Bank \$2,200 at 3% per cent.

When you write me take pains and write a large and plain hand as my eyes are much impaired of late. As soon as I get my financial affairs in good shape will send you a copy and while I live will continue so to do yearly.

Yours & C.

Abel S. Whitlock

Probably now be \$1,950.

A.S.W.