

As to the manners and customs of the people, they do not differ materially from those of the New Englanders. The people in the east part of the state are mostly emigrants from Pennsylvania, but some from Virginia. I am now a going to the westward about 50 miles to what is called the Western Reserve or Connecticut Reserve. The people there are mostly from Connecticut but some from Vermont. I have been out there at work a while. I like the country very well and think it likely I may settle there. I shall not be home this fall but I will write again after a little and will give you a further account of my business. Write as soon as is convenient and direct your letter to Talmage Portage County, Ohio.

No more at present but remain yours etc. Josiah Sanborn

1817 letter from Ebenezer and Lydia Sanborn to their son, Josiah Sanborn in Ohio. “Brother Caleb,” referred to in both letters, was the fourth of the Sanborn children. Ebenezer refers to Josiah in the 3rd person (“Caleb went... to find his brother Josiah.”) and Lydia refers to Josiah’s father as “your sir.”

New Hampton January 11th 1817

I take this opportunity to write to you to inform you that we are all well at present, hoping these lines will find you enjoying the same blessing. I would inform that Caleb went from home 24 November with the intention to go to the state of Ohio in order to find his brother Josiah. Caleb went in 14 days to Onondaga in the state of New York. There he hired out for this winter expecting to go on to see you in the spring. I wrote to you 27 October and expected to have had a letter from you before now but have had none. I wish you to write soon and as often as you can and write more particulars about your affairs.

Josiah [written in his mother’s hand] I hope you will take an opportunity and come home to see your parents once more. Your sir and I went down to Marblehead to see you. Your sir has since been to Plattsburgh to see you but was disappointed. Now you are gone so far we can’t go to see you. We have great reason to be thankful that you have been kept and preserved through so many dangers since you left home your brother Caleb is gone and left as many are our afflictions but the love will deliver us out of them all if we put our trust in him.

So no more at present – this from your parents – Ebenezer Sanborn Lydia Sanborn

For more information on the history of the town, please visit the New Hampton Historical Society website at <https://www.newhamptonhistory.org/>

Kent Bicknell
Historian, NHHS
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