

Before a great while so says report,
as David has engaged his he is a
merchant in Sharon Ohio's husband
has returned they were on the hill
last week he has been gone ^{over} three
years. We are all well with the excep-
tion of my hand which aches badly I
have been writing a letter to Edw. Ham
write to me doo I am always happy to hear from
you I wish my love to Maria & the little daughter
20 times for an hour I wish I could see
the little cherub I never thought I could
love a child so well. I never was with
one so long. I wish you could visit
us while we are here, if you don't
visit us where we go, where that will
be I do not know, at least you will
write to your cousin Paul

Written by Phoebe Fossio Ham
mother of John Ham in 1844



Shaker Hill May 26

Dear cousin

I do not know but you
will think that I do not intend to write
to you again, if it so, you are mistaken
I have been waiting to have some thing
of interest to write, but am getting
weary of this, if I had thought my
advice, or my opinion, would have
made any difference about the party
going to California I would have
written immediately after receiving
your letter which was in Jan. I hear
you after, that he had given up going
Had I written it would not have been
to advise, but to tell my opinion
were such a case mine, I should
consider (if I had a husband for
instance) that my husband was
more precious than gold. I would
rather keep him than the gold he would

obtain by going to California.

As for your husband you may tell him, he might as well be there as any where, as far as I am concerned for if ^{he} comes within a few miles he will not come and see us. Now,

Phoebe I did feel almost out of patience to think of Alexander and you being in Washington so long, and ^{not} coming here, I do not think I shall stay so long in Washington City, when I go there on my wedding tour without going to see my cousin Phoebe.

If I have scolded enough to make you do better next time I shall be very glad I was in La Grange in March and spent two or three weeks saw Elizabeth and all the rest of the good people, seemed quite like olden times with the exception of Phoebe and Mott - Mott had been there the week before, I was very sorry I could not have seen him last Friday I

at Mrs Lely's Sarah wished me to look on the window sash and see your name written in pencil by your self, the room had been painted but that spot had been reserved in remembrance of you. What do you think of our arrangements, I think of selling our farm. John talks of going West or somewhere to buy more land and be in a warmer climate, and ^{we} ladies think it will not be very pleasant or profitable farming alone, so have concluded to sell, suppose you come and buy or shall we come and be our neighbors? If you know of any one that would like a beautiful situation on Quaker Hill just recommend this place will you? There has nothing very remarkable occurred yet worth relating as Mr Merritt is not married but I expect every day to hear that she is and Frank & Kin I presume will turn to Gould