

Letter from Orlando Brigham¹ to his brother Walter E. Brigham² transcribed by Jack Sandeen on 28 Jan 2006 with footnotes added by Ken McClenahan on 15 March 2006

Pomfret³ Oct 20 1855

Dear Brother Walter

It is my duty to inform you that death has once more entered our family circle and has removed our Sister Sarah⁴ from our embrace to try the realities of another world - I have not yet learned the particulars of her sickness nor her feelings in the near approach of her dissolution but let that be as it may - She is in the hands of a just God - But we cannot help mourning when the strong arm of death enters our circle and it's right to mourn four [sic] departed friends but we are admonished of the certainty of our mortality and we too must soon bid adieu to earth, but let us with our brothers and sisters that is [sic] numbered with the maker our calling and election _____ while it's said today. Our mother⁵ feels to mourn as none but a mother can - while she is thus afflicted let us cast the mantle of affection around hir [sic] and help console hir [sic] in the decline of life. E. Plank⁶ _____⁷ on the gain.

All well
From your affectionate
Brother
O. Brigham

¹ Orlando Brigham was born on 5 Feb 1813 at Dunkirk, Chautauqua County, NY and passed away on 3 Apr 1885 at Wasioja, Dodge County, MN. Orlando was the fourth of 14 children born to John Brigham and Sarah (Eaton) Brigham. Orlando married Fanny Jane Safford on 8 Apr 1838 and they were the parents of Delia Brigham who was the second wife of Edward Doud.

² Walter E. Brigham was born in 1811 at Dunkirk, Chautauqua County, NY. Walter was the third child of John Brigham and Sarah (Eaton) Brigham.

³ Pomfret, Chautauqua County, NY.

⁴ Sarah (Brigham) Wilson who was the wife of Nicholas Wilson. Sarah was born in 1826 at Dunkirk, Chautauqua County, NY. Sarah was the eleventh child of John Brigham and Sarah (Eaton) Brigham. Sarah married Nicholas Wilson at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Fredonia, Chautauqua County, NY on 6 Sep 1849. Based on this letter, Sarah apparently passed away in Oct 1855.

⁵ Sarah (Eaton) Brigham.

⁶ Elijah Plank who was the husband of Almary Brigham. Almary was the twelfth child of John Brigham and Sarah (Eaton) Brigham.

⁷ Not readable; the corner of the page is torn off.

On the address side of the letter it says, written across the narrow edge of the folded document,
Brigham paid
Oct 21. NY .3

and the letter is addressed to

W.E. Brigham Esq.
Clearcreek
Chautauqua Co.
N.Y.

There is also a half-inch diameter spot below the address where red sealing was used, and a corresponding half-circle of missing paper on the right edge of the letter, apparently torn off when the letter was opened.