

GENMS10_Sweetser_1091898tr

Transcribed by Jasmine Armstrong, 2/20/2017

Gorham Maine
October 9th 1898

Dear Mamma:-

It is Sunday
afternoon. I have just returned
from a long walk. Grace, Eunice,
Charlie and I have been to the
top of Fort Hill. It is the highest
point of land around here
and the view from there is just
lovely. The old Fort that is
spoken of in Good Old Times
used to be on the top of this
hill. On our way back we
found a place where the
raspberries were very thick.

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I never saw raspberries at this
time of the year before. Last
Wednesday after school we girls,
Eunice, Grace Charlie & I, went
down to the old McLellan house
and the lady took us all
over the house. There was an
old lady there who was blind
and she said that Hugh
McLellan was her grandfather
and that he built the house
1773. It was the first brick
house built in the state of
Maine, and it is made with
wall about two feet thick and
it is not latched but the plastering
is on the bricks. There were
over four large chimmneys [sic] in
the house but they have been

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torn down and two small ones built instead. There is one window in the house which has the same window sash in it that was put there when the house was built. It was very thick and it looked queer. The windows have very wide seats in there because the walls are so thick. In one of the chambers was an old fashioned wash bowl with blue figures on it and the furniture in the room was all old fashioned. The bureau was mahogany and it had a swell front to it. Up in the attic were the old spinning wheels and flax wheels.

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One of the flax wheels was the one the McLellans brought with them when they came over from England. There was an old cheese press the flax counts a tall clock and lots of other old things in the attic. Among them was a pair of brass andirons. She shows us a ring which they found one day when they were ploughing. On the inside is said, "You are the rose I chose". She said that Elijah Kellogg said that it

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was the ring that Joseph

gave Mary when he went away to sea. The old blind lady told us a lots of interesting things about the house and we saw the old spring. The lombardy poplars which stand in front of the house are nearly a hundred years old. We all wrote our names in an album which they have all the visitors put their names in. Last Saturday morning I went down and took a picture of the house.

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I hope it will be a good picture I have taken two other pictures since. One of the old Academy, and one of the Hall. I carried them all down to Mr. Marshall's and he said he would have them ready for me to-morrow. Last night we had our reception. There were about one hundred of the scholars here and Mr. Hinkley and his wife, Gov. Robie and his brother, both ministers and they all had their wives with them. All of the teachers and some more Gorham people who I did not know. During the evening we had some music Miss Gorden and Miss Gordurni gave us a piano and violin duett [sic]. Miss

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Gordurni played a piano solo and another girl sang a solo. Coffee, cocoa and fancy crackers were served in the

dining hall. After every one but Mr. Hinkley and his wife had gone the scholars had a dance. The six boys who belong in the school did not seem inclined to go home so Miss White got one of the girls to go up onto the fourth floor and ring the retiring bell. The boys wanted to know if there was a fire and one of the girls told that they would be fired if they did not leave very soon. They did not

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stay much longer. We were told to go to bed but we did not. I have not been up so late before since last summer. We had a real good time. All of the girls said that is was much better than any reception they ever had here before. Miss White told us this morning that she thought we could have a sociable here once a month if we wanted to. I left this letter here to go to supper

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I have been to the prayer meeting at the M.E. Church and we went there this morning. They have a very large attendance at their evening meetings and they do not keep them as long as they do at the Congregational.

Eunice and I have been
fighting over the distance
between here and the top of
Fort Hill. She thinks it is two
miles and I do not. We have
asked several people how far it was
and one told us a mile
and another two miles and

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a half so we do not have the
least idea how far it is
There is a queer old fashioned
house at the top of the hill and
I guess it is very old.
We ate the last of that cake
to day and our store of apples
is decreasing. If you have
any way to send over anything
by anyone just send some
more Macantoshes [sic].
Eunice had a letter from home
the other day and they said they
had had a Wilford paper in
which was announced the engagement
of Maria E. Baston to Irwin Ide
perhaps you have not heard
of it.
Charlie have been here to-day

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she staid over on account of the
reception.
How did you succeed in
getting those things in Portland?
Have they gathered the apples
yet? There have been several
frosts lately but they were not
heavy enough to hurt the flowers
over in front of the school building.
I forgot to get any worsted

to make any slippers of when
I was a home so I shall have
to get along without them for a
while.

If you send anything to me
by express write a letter at
the same time and let me
know about it because they do
not let anyone know about them

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until they have laid around in
the office two or three days.
It is time for all lamps to be
out so I must stop writing. I
guess this letter is long enough
but there is not much in
it. Tell Ernest to let us
know when they are going to have
that drama he is in.
When are they going to have
the County Store.
I must close now
With much love
Harriet.