

Lenox Jan 11, 1829

Dear sister,

I attempt to write you a few lines and am under the painful necessity of writing that my dear husband, your brother Joseph N. Lee is no longer an inhabitant of earth. I know you will feel anxious to know how his health has been and much more the state of his mind. I don't think his health has been as good since father died as formerly. He has been troubled with diarrhoea and vomiting bile often but has been able ~~generally~~ to ride about and see to his business and do some work generally until about 5 weeks before his death he then went to the — to carry dinner to our folks at work, there he left his team and walked home across the swamps. I think it was too much for him. He was taken soon with a diarrhoea and vomiting bile but he did not give up. He doctored himself and dieted for about 3 weeks. He then employed a physician but alas he could not help him. He walked out of his room sabbath morning and continued to walk in his room until wednesday evening with a little help. He died thursday morning to human appearance with a very slight struggle. We felt alarmed about him but did not think him so near his end until a very short

time before he breathed his last, Dear sister it would rejoice my heart if I could write that he was sensible of his situation and manifested reconciliation to the will of God. He appeared to have his reason to the last but his views and feelings are a secret to the world. It was very sudden and unexpected to us all. I hope he felt that comfort he was not able to manifest. Dear sister you can better imagine my feelings than I can express them. I think so far as I know my own heart I desire that we may all feel reconciled to the will of God and be prepared for all trials and changes that awaits us. I should have written to you sooner, but I have felt some of the time as though I could not write this news to you and I have had the inflammation in my eyes and I asked aunt Betsy to write to you and thought she had until a few days ago but there was a misunderstanding about it.

Cousin Esther Lee died in September and Olive ——— second son is very low. We think he has the consumption. My health continues poor and I feel some of the time that my strength cant continue a great while but we dont know how many trials we may be carried through. I know dear sister you have had many trials and know how to feel for others. You have had some that I have not experienced and I have those

~~you~~ you have not. I wish you to write as soon
as is convenient after you receive this and let
me know how you do and enjoy yourself and
the situation of your children and Vinsons
family if you know and I think by my
feelings for your children you wish to
hear from mine, Margaret health has not been as
good since our father died as before. I think it
hurt her taking care of him. She was married
to Vinial. Last May and they have
lived here since she overdone herself when her
father was sick and died, and has been very
unwell some of the time since but is better now
Esther lives about two miles from Chittenango
enjoys comfortable health except — of the
— which are very distressing. She has
a little son about 15 months old. & Idelia
lives 5 miles from Canastota near the
railroad. Her husband is in the railroad
business. you know who they married I
suppose. Her health has been poor many
years and some of the time since she married
has been very sick. She is more comfortable
now but not able to do her work. She has a
son about 2 years old. My father and Mother,
brother Solomon and wife and youngest

son, brother David, wife & son, sister ~~Maria~~
and her husband made us a visit last fall, a
short time before Miles was taken sick.
Father and mother were very comfortable
for people of their age. Sister Petsy and the
—— family, Cousin Patty, cousin Hannah
and their families are in usual health for
aught I know except William Bonds wife
we hear is sick with a cold the neighbors are
in usual health I believe. Dear sister
I should be glad to see you but if we are
not permitted to meet again on earth
may it be the will of God to prepare us to
meet when sin and sorrow cannot
disturb our felicity is the desire of your
afflicted sister

Mary Lee.

P. S. I suppose you received your
legacy that your brother sent, or you
would have written about it before
now.