

**NOTE:** I sent these to Betty MANN for her books on the BORTON family. I do not have a copy of either book therefor not certain which she included. Posting them here for all to read. Have tried to copy them as close to the original typed copies I have as I can. I received these from Xena CARMAN now deceased. Know she had others but sent me only these as they included my BEST line. Dorothy Petry

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Letter # 1:

Addressed on outside of letter to  
Alexander Kidd HUBBARD  
Deerfield, Portage Co., Ohio

Risdon, Ohio April 19, 1837

Dear Sister (To Eliza BORTON DOUGHTY) This day has put to an end the sufferings of our afflicted brother Jesse who left this world with the full assurance of a far better one. He has suffered beyond what I can tell you with a pen If I could see you I could tell better his leg was swole from his knee to his hip and run dreadfully and smelt almost intolerable it was cut open about the time I wrote to you before and has been running over since his body was nothing but skin and bones about a week ago his other leg swole worse than the sore one which appeared to take away all his appetite he could not take wine any more to do him any good or any kind of food. He left this world about 12 o'clock today tomorow his body is to be taken to Risdon and beried I can not write much now for I am very unwell and most don out waiting on a poor sick brother who could not fele well when I was not with him. his wife yesterday scolded him because he wanted John to get him 10 yds of muslin cambrik to make him a shirt she said seven yards was enough she said it was no use to make much of a shirt that it would do with a collar this hurt his feelings there was much more said but John got it and I helped make it to his mind he sais they was to wear into his fathers kingdom he told us he wanted to be buried like other people and that we see that he is His wife a few days ago wanted him to make his land and all to her father so that his debtors could not get anything but she did not get it done. I want you to let mother and all know of his death i want you to writs to me as soon as you can I have not heard from you since i wrote before i want to hear from Ma Best and jane Direct your letters to Risdon, Sinico Co.

Sarah Best Apr 18, [wife of John BEST]

My family is all well you must excuse my aukird letter fo i thought i must send you a few lines as soon as i could

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Letter # 2:

Hamilton, Stuben Co. In.  
September 3 1858

My Sister (To Eliza BORTON DOUGHTY) painful is the task i set down to perform. My fears has been to well realized our Mother is dead. After mother came hear her health seemed to improve the swelling left her feet and legs for the most part her apitite was good and I flattered myself that she would be with me some time but alas how vane are all our hopes her old complaint come on again as she said it had done for forty years it was so for about four days I questioned her to find out all i could but i could learn nothing but that she was just as she had been a thousand times before and that was all i could learn till last friday night she got worse in the night. My wife was up with her most all night and doing all she could but all we could do did no good the System sank worn cut by old age and on the first day of this month she sank into a stupor and passed off in that way without pain or suffering. My sister I never talked with my mother on the subject of death I dare not do it I was afraid she would think that we was tired of her and I was as careful as I could be and tried to make her as happy and comfortable as I could and she seamed to be perfectly as home for which I am glad. She seamed to feel perfectly at home with us. We followed her to the grave yesterday under the providence of god Benjamin Perky a Disciple preacher I think you know him he is from the same part of Ohio Daniel and Levi is acquainted with him he was just passing through on a tour and he preached here the night before last I got him to preach the funeral sermon Samuel McGown was with him I think I do think of all the men I ever saw preach a funeral sermon I never saw one more capable that Brother Perky

My sister I have done all I could I would have been so glad if i could have had you with user if we could all have been together with our mother in her last moments a few months ago i did not expect ever to see Mother again much less that i was the one that was to administer to her in her last sickness and a lone to follow her to the grave O if I could have had one of my brothers or sisters with me to advise me it would not have seamed so hard but I have done all I could. Eliza break the news to Sarah Best i do not knew where to rite her My family is about as well as common I want to see you I must close rite soon

Darling Borton

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Letter # 3:

1866

Dear Sister, (To Eliza BORTON DOUGHTY) - I received your good letter and was very glad to hear from you and your children I am sorry to hear that Leonitws [Leonidas] (first wife) is dead you wanted to hear from me and my children my health is not very good and I was very sick last spring for 2 or 3 months and I have not been the same person since. Elen, Socrates wife is dead and died one year ago last October she died in the south at fort smith, kansas. poor dear elen she saw a good deal of trouble. When the war broke out they was in town and Socrates was forced in the rebel army and as soon as he could he deserted and came to the union army then she could not hear from him and they told her he was dead and she sold what she could and left the rest and started to come north. She had a buggy and three children they traveled four hundred miles she came to one of the union armies and she went to see the kernal to get a transportation through to the north the kernal told her there was a man with him by name of best She told him it hits be his brother but not (her husband) he was dead and started to go away and just happened to meet Socrates she did not know him she was riding her horse he spoke to her and asked her if she did not know him when she saw who it was she fainted and would have fell from the horse if he had not have ketched her she was sick and her children she had buried her little babe six months old a few days before Socrates was overseer or ward master of the hospital and he got a house for her and she stayed with him at fort Smith over a year She had another little babe and took the measles and the babe took it and died and Elen got over the measles and a chronic diarear set in and then the flux set in took her away Poor dear elen she was all the world to him it seemed as if Socrates could not get over it and he was left with two little boys one 11 and the other four years old and the hospital was moved and all the solgers was ordered their regiment and he he to send his little boys to me. O sister what a trial to take care of them but they got safe to the little one was sick a long time he had the cronic direar but he is well now he is a darling little fellow his name is Willie J Socrates came home at last the boys came one year ago last January Socrates has been here since September he was married to a very fine woman a few weeks ago her name was larentte (?) [LANDT] Socrates said he had 15 hundred dollars worth of property in texas when the war broke out and he has lost it and wife and three children since he left here. His wife was a widow with two children her husband was a solger who came home sick and died a year ago

Edward came home a year last january [January 1865] he was in the south prison 14 months he lost his health he was wounded in hip and arm he is married and has a little dauter too weeks old he lives with me.

Hubbard lives where he did when you were here they now have five children 3 girls and two boys they buried a girl and a boy.

Lycurgus was drafted but his health cleared him.

Hub inlisted but they would not take him his health cleared him.

John [John Nelson] was wounded in the head was advertised mortal he was took to Louisville and doctored he did not know anything for three days and he had spells of derangement very bad ones he is back home now and is better.

Sollene (?) folks went back to her folks over two years ago they have four children two boys and two girls John is with them for most three years and they are talking of coming here this fall We are talking of selling and going to a warmer climate it is too cold here in the winter takes all we can raise in the summer Socrates says he will not stay here if we sell. If we sell and I live I want to come and see you. Joshua Borton's address was the last i knew Devitt P.O. Devitts Co illanons. I fele downhearted Socrates has moved and is about taking his little boys here and it makes me fele lonely and bad. The older one had a good cry today he says he would rather live with grandma poor little fellow they seem very near to me I have had them so long but they are not far off they will live in my old house this summer and maybe longer.

Ramsey's folks are well. Their young son went to war and died with a fever. Doc Bests folks are all well. Their oldest boy was prisoner of war in the southern prison and there over a year. He was shout in both legs and is some lame. I fele sorry for Darling I wish I could see him Daniel wrote to me some time ago. I should like to have mary Paver's address. I have not heard from Julissy for some time but since William came home she seems to have forgotten me. It has got to be the 19th of the moth our folks are all in bed I am very tired and not very well so I believe I must say good bye and go to bed Dear sister do write again I am so glad to hear from any of you Joshua is on a circet he preaches. He has a second wife and 3 or 4 children I would like so well to come and you and I go to see them

Farewell dear sister,  
from your sister Sarah Best

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Letter # 4:

Letter from Eliza Doughty to Eliza Ann Gibb  
Mar 10, 1873

Dear Daughter Elizanne I am beginning to think of coming home I can see some bare ground again but there is plenty of snow yet.

Sis, be ready to clap your hands and be glad for Sarah has a baby and it is a boy and we call him Billie he was a year old the first day of March she has had him six months and Hiram and Sarah loves him very much. I think I am getting well I have had a hard winter and everything done for my

comfort too it has been so cold and I so tender that if the cold or wind blew on me I was sick My right eye was so bad I did not know but I would go blind my face getting bealed and broke my eye is not well yet but much better and I can read and write again. I received Leo, Elen and Flor-a Delles letters and was so glad to hear from home I am at Hiram and Sarah now I received a letter from aunt Sarah Best and her folks she has been very very sick. Mar. 11 Scottons wife rote for her she was taken New years day with rheumatism and was so sick she could not turn herself in bed they had to sit up at night to take care of her She was better when they rote last. I have not been to Omro since I came here there is no meeting here that I can go to but the folks have plenty of dancing I think they are to have a dance at William Tritts tonight and they will probably keep it up till four o clock in the morning. Hiram Tritt has been very sick but is getting better or well William is lame in his back not able to be around much the rest are well so far as I know Hiram Lee is well, sarah I believe not so well has a bad cold but goes ahead People say it is the hardest winter they have ever know I have thought a great deal of home and all of you and my poor little Willard do you ever see him and how are they all doing. I suppose Willie and Mary F gone to the school Did Willie have good luck teaching our school Aunt Sarah wants me to come and see her I didn't know but Leo would come and go with me I think he said something I construed to that effect but I can't remember I think I cannot go alone I want to go home as soon as it will do to travill I am anxious to her from home

Write soon, your mother  
Eliza Daughty

The following notes are written in long hand on the bottom of the second page which are the last 4 lines of the letter:

Leo - Leonidas H. (my father)  
Elen- " 2nd wife - my mother  
Flora Delle - my half sister  
Sis - my older half sister (Mary Florence)  
Since my brother Leonidas Jr. was born July 12, 1873 - I think Leonidas Sr was busy at home & couldn't take the trip.  
Willard (my poor little Willard) son of John Hubbard & Ruth Moore H. Willard was defective. Could never talk plainly - nor learn to read or write. He was grandmother "protage" and I think she left property for his care. In short - a tramp. Good natured & witty but a tramp just the same.  
Willie & Mary P - Leonidas son & dau by 1st wife  
Grandmother was very religious and did not approve of dancing. I get a "kick" out of this letter - between lines!

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If you haven't read the book "THE LURE OF THE LABRADOR WILD", THE STORY OF THE EXPLORING EXPEDITION CONDUCTED BY LEONIDAS HUBBARD, Jr.; by Dillon Wallace; Fleming H. Revell Company; 1905. I suggest you see if your library can get a copy for you to read. I suggest you read it for a couple of reasons - 1. He was a relative. 2. It is a good book, but sad. His parents were Leonidas HUBBARD and Eliza BORTON, sister of Sarah BORTON wife of John BEST. Irving BEST made a note in his affidavit, "who came out to Ohio to hunt," "He was the same age as Lyncurgus. Aunt Eliza HUBBARD lived in Michigan."  
Dorothy Petry

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