Dear Isaac,

I am again enabled to express my gratitude this morning to the good Shepherd who watches over all his creatures for good and when in the morning I awake and view the rosy cheeks of our children it fills me with great ful feelings and I pour out my soul in praise and thanksgiving and believing at the same time you join your desires at the throne of grace in behalf of yourself and family. Katherine has had a severe time with the sore in her face but is better this morning. We have fine weather. I wrote you last week that I was from home I was at Forts Newel and Mr. Bartleby's. John and Lady was going on Saturday to Mrs. Sanford's. They insisted on my going with them which I readily assented and had good visit. The May was at home but was to go the south on Monday his health is good. I went from home on Wednesday and did not return until Sabbath. Our men are busy getting in crops and it is fair to be fine growing weather. Joshua is at work on his farm and Boynton and Benson are discussing about those they will have poor crops.
Mrs. Fisher says, they have got in four Bushels Spring Rye and this week they will sow three Bushels Spring Wheat. The ground for Peas is so wet that they cannot sow them, yet he is beginning to make gardens and they have voted him in command, and he is so busy that they could not write Josh is sowing Peas and the boys are ploughing the orchard. I can tell what they are all doing, but I am doing very little myself. I rise early and do nothing all day as Papa said to Father. I have but little strength yet. If I could be a partner in your journey, I should get well; you will think me thin in flesh. But I am not yet well, you will say that she is scolding. I think so very self and get up in the morning and think I will go to work, but soon find my strength gone. I think if I had some good wine bitter it would be a benefit to me, but I don't know as there is any to be had short of this town. I have heard since writing that a boat on accident that happened down the river a man was killed instantly in raising a house he was from Vermont, my heart bleeds for his poor wife and children. I have not heard the particulars about it.
our Baptist Brethren are making a trial to build a meeting house and they have got about eight hundred dollars upon it. I hear they are to build with stone. William was here Tuesday they were well and likewise John Family I have not seen John or his wife since he left home I have indeed some but the sick I un till last week I have not seen Mr. Slater since I received your letter the river is to high to crop with a waggon he is as well as usual, I am in hopes you will be at home with us before a great while Tanet says Father has been gone so long that she has forgotten what collar his hair is but his eye are blue just like hers and Edith's you have now been gone as long as you ever was gone at a time it is months since you left home and you was gone that length of time when you was wounded at fort george your description of the yard is interesting and must be to mind before in your mind before which we cannot know anything of yet it is like electricity to me it make me think of the difference that situations can make on the mind I now feel anxious to get a letter but that
Fearful trembling which used to take possession of my whole frame while breaking the seal of a letter is gone and yet I know the same keeper is over all and in all situations. we are in need of his protection but I consider you in steps higher now than when you stood in the least of health that shall I render to God for all his benefits towards me and how unthankful I am for the mercy I receive I have an idea that I shall be that thankful creature that can rejoice both night and day if we live to meet again may the good Lord smile Propiciously upon us and bring us all together in health is the wish of

Your constant Martha Finch

Hon
Isaac Finch
Letter from Martha Finch (age 44) to her husband Isaac from Jay NY April 14, 1830 while he was serving in congress (1829-31) Washington DC
Sealed with red sealing wax

April 14 1830

Dear Isaac

I am again enabled to express my gratitude this morning to the good shepherd who watches over all his creatures for good and when in the morning I awake and see the rosy cheeks of our children it fills me with greatfull feelings and I pour out my soul in Prayer and thanksgiving and believing at the same time you join your desires at the throne of Grace in behalf of yourself and Family Katherine (18 yrs old) has had a severe time with the acne? In her face but is better this morning. we have fine weather. I wrote you last week that I was from home I was at Forks? Newells? And Mr Bartletts John and ____ was going on Saturday to Maj Sanfords they insisted on my going with them which I readily excepted and had a good visit the Maj was at home but was to go to the south on Monday his health is good I was from home on Wednesday and did not return until Sabbath. our men are busy getting in crops and it bids fair to be fine growing weather Joshua is at work on his farm and Boynton? and ______ are disputing? About theirs they will have poor crops

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April 15 Father (Simeon Barber) says they have got in four bushel of spring rye and and this week two bushel spring wheat the ground for Peas is so wet that they cannot sow them yet he is beginning to make garden and they have _____ him in command? and he is so busy that he could not write Josh? Is sowing Peas and the boys are ploughing the orchard I can tell what they are all doing but I am doing very little myself I rise early and do nothing all day or Nap said to Father I have but little strength yet if I could be a partner to you in your Journey I should get well. You will think me thin in flesh but I am not You will say this? She is ____? I think so myself and get up in the morning and think I will go to work but soon find my strength gone I think if I had some good wine Bitters? It would be a benefit to me but I don't know as there is any to be had short of Clintonville. I have heard since writing the above and accident that happened down the River a man was killed instantly in raising a House he was from Vermont my heart bleeds for his poor wife and children I have not heard the particulars

(over)
Our Baptist Brethren are making a trial to build a meeting House and they have got about Eight hundred Dollars signed. I hear they are to build with Stone. William was here Tuesday; they were well and likewise Johns Family. I have not seen John or his wife since you left home. I have visited none? But the sick untiill last week. I have not seen Mr. Slater since I received your letter the river is to high to cross with a waggon he is as well as usual. I am in hopes that you will be at home with us before a great while. Janet (almost 4 yrs old) says Father has been gone so long that she has forgotten what coullar his hair is but his eyes are blue just like hers and Adalines (8 yrs old). You have now been gone as long as you ever was gone at a time. It 5 months since you left home and you war gone that length of time when you was wounded at fort George. Your description of the Navy yard is interesting and must bring to mind trials in your past which we cannot know anything of yet it is like ____________ to me it makes me think of the difference that situations can make on the mind. I now feel anxious to get a letter but that

Fearfull trembling which used to take possession of my whole frame while breaking the seal of a letter is gone and yet I know the same Keeper is over all and in all situations we are in need of his protection but I consider you in less danger now than when you was in the heat of battle. Ah? What should I render to God for all his benefit towards me and how unthankfull I am for the many I receive. I have an idea that I shall be that thankfull creature that can rejoice both night and day if we live to meet again may the good Lord smile Propicioulsy upon us and bring us all together in health is the wish of

Your constant Martha Finch

Hon
Isaac Finch

The “envelope” for this letter is “recycled”, addressed on the outside to

Hon Isaac Finch
Washington
DC

But it had originally been used to send a letter (as evidenced from the inside of the envelope) from

Isaac Finch
Free

(to)
Mr Simeon Barber
Jay N York

Simeon Barber was his father in law, Martha’s father