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## Letter from Elizabeth Ott to Harriet Clark, October 12, 1847

Elizabeth Ott

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Linden Wood, October 12<sup>th</sup> 1847

Miss H. C. Clark —

My dear Harriet, be not surprised at a letter from me, I have long contemplated this pleasure & this summer while at Farmington, Adie Cayce [? Coyce? Adie is also mentioned in Eliza's other letters] had [?] a letter from you which pleased me, especially your occupation and I procured your address, determined to write you, as soon as I was "at home," again — I spent from July 17<sup>th</sup> to Sept 22 in that very pleasant & interesting family My sister Mary M is now there as teacher of "Elm Wood Academy," and a pretty place is that said Academy. Imagine a neat white building two story in an Elm grove surrounded by a neat farm enclosing a fine yard and you have a faint idea of E. W. Academy they opened the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of this month with 17 pupils part boarders & the rest day scholars. I have been in bad health all this season but since my journey up from Farmington I have gained steadily & feel quite well, & happy in my old place at Linden Wood — At present I am rather lonesome, we have but few pupils as you will see by the circular that The School is now confined to boarders, which will be advantageous to all who see fit to patronise the School . Mrs. Sibley is quite well, & very cheerful, & as active as ever doing good She sends love to you & is rejoiced that you are teaching & giving those around you the benefit of your privileges — I began to teach early, and tonight, I went to school myself alternately, until I felt competent to take charge of a high school — If you were not so useful where you are I should wish that you might spend this year, here, as I know your advantages here now, would be no less than heretofore, if not much better — How delighted I would be to gather, if but for a visit that whole class of girls, but that cannot be, . Change! Change! meets us in the history of all Mary Lee is gone East to spend the winter with her fathers friends. J. Rosseter boards in St. Louis, & will be united to H. Douglass in the Spring — Julia Griffith you know of — Anna Elizabeth M<sup>c</sup>Donald is a boarder here now & sends love to you. Mrs. Smith is here quite ill of, "low nervous fever", but is gaining slowly — She is very feeble & very thin, She is building on her place opposite the house you remember upon it, Just in the grove — She hopes to get into it this winter — The College & Mrs. Fielding's school are doing very well I believe Mrs. Fieldings teacher Miss Jane [possibly "June"?] Burgess, is very young & small, but pretty & engaging in her manners — This is her first teaching A teacher has just arrived from Boston Mass. to take the school in Town, which I taught last year, Her name is Almira Brooks. Mrs. Sibley has nothing to do with the School now, the society Miss Brooks has the whole responsibility — I like her appearance very well & hope she will be liked & useful in St. Charles.

I do not visit att [sic] all now, & therefore have no special news to give you, St. Charles improves considerably I counted 9 new dwellings going up & many old ones repaired this summer & it now boasts a "livery stable," & a new drug store & the other stores do a larger business. Mr. [Wm?] Gear has sold out his Paper to Howard Douglass & J Millington & he leaves for Troy I believe

The health of the country is now very good & we have had a warm fall so far but since the rain Tuesday it is quite cold. ———

Enclosed I send a circular, thinking you would like to see a picture of Linden Wood, and to show it to your friends, that is if you are as interested to hear from us, as we are from you. Will you gratify me by writing me all about your school, & how you like teaching & that part of the country as a residence & every little thing never fear but that I will be pleased, —

Goodbye dear Harriet, write me, & believe me as ever your affectionate friend; Eliza Ott.