

## Brown Family Correspondence, 1783-1834, n.d. (non-inclusive)

RG 698

- Creator:** Brown Family
- Extent:** 5 files of textual records
- Abstract:** This collection of correspondence and documents details the experiences of the Brown Family of Connecticut, U.S.A.
- Materials:** Contains 80 letters and 7 family deeds.
- Repository:** Brock University Archives
- Processed by:** Anne Adams
- Finding Aid:** Anne Adams
- Last Updated:** August 2019
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### Administrative History:

The Brown Family were early settlers of Western New York, from Connecticut. Daniel Brown (1749-1832) was born in Windham, Connecticut. He married Anna Phelps (1755-1837) on November 7, 1776 in Hebron, Tolland Connecticut. Their children were: Mary Ann Brown (1779-1779) who died at one day old; Daniel Bishop Brown (1780-1822); Thomas Brown (1783-1851) who was married to Lucy; Anna Brown (1785-1815); Ephraim Brown (1787-1826); Henry Brown (1789-1849); Sarah Brown (1791-) who became Sarah Cotes and Samuel Augustus Brown (1795-1863).

Daniel, Henry and Samuel Augustus were attorneys. Daniel of Hebron, Connecticut, settled in Whitesboro, Oneida County in 1803 and then moved on to Batavia, Genesee County, New York later that same year. He came into conflict with Joseph Ellicott who was an agent of the Holland Land Company. This proved to be a setback to his career. In 1805, there was also a scandal involving a woman in Batavia which caused him some trouble.

Henry Brown was in Canandaigua after his graduation from Yale in about 1810. He then went to Albany to study law at the office of the Attorney General. He settled in Cooperstown and eventually established a law firm in Springfield, Otsego County.

Samuel Augustus settled in Jamestown, Chautauqua County and Ephraim Brown established a medical practice in Batavia, New York. Sarah married Doctor John Cotes.

#### **Organization:**

The records are divided into 2 series.

Series I – Brown Family Correspondence, 1803-1834, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Series II – Brown Family Documents, 1783-1820, n.d. (non-inclusive)

#### **Inventory:**

##### **Series I – Brown Family Correspondence, 1803-1834, n.d. (non-inclusive)**

**All letters are addressed to Mr. Daniel Brown, Hebron, Connecticut unless otherwise noted. Samuel Augustus is often referred to as Augustus. Sarah Brown marries and becomes Sarah Cotes. [Many of the items are stained or torn. Text is sometimes affected.]**

##### **1.1 From Daniel B. Brown at Whitesboro, New York, Mar. 10 – Aug 26, 1803**

Daniel says that the family has informed him of the purchase of a farm and he requests money from the family, Mar. 10, 1803.

Daniel says that he will be able to take an examination in the next term of the Supreme Court. Mr. Gold advised him to go to Batavia as it would be a good place for him to settle. Daniel feels that it would be a good idea to visit Batavia before his examination. He believes that he can get letters of introduction from his friends. If he goes to Batavia, he will have to travel

from there to New York to attend his examination. He notes that this will cost quite a bit. He thinks he will go by horseback and says that Mr. Douglas would bring up a horse for him. He asks his father for a horse and says that he has debts for board and cloths [clothes]. He asks his father for money, June 12, 1803.

Daniel outlines his debts so that his father can send him money, Aug. 26, 1803.

**From Henry Brown at Williams College, Kananaskis, Nov. 8, 1803**

Henry says that he is in good health. He is even free from the Williamstown disease – the itch. He gives a brief description of his lodgings and notes that the instructors are very good, Nov. 8, 1803.

**From Daniel B. Brown at Whitesboro, New York, Nov. 19, 1803**

He states that he has just returned from a journey to Genesee County where he has been admitted as an attorney Com. Pleas. He has been assured and encouraged by the Mr. Ellicotts who are the who are the agents of the Holland Land Company. He begs his parents to send him money for books. “It is indeed of utmost importance” he says. In February of the next term he says he will be in Albany to attend Superior Court. He expects to visit his family at that time. He says he will get some books with the assistance of Mr. Gold, Nov. 19, 1803.

**From Thomas Gold, Oct. 3, 1805**

Mr. Gold says that he cannot communicate what the excellent talents and education your son might lead you to hope and expect. Daniel went to Batavia as he advised him and the course was difficult to keep without becoming a tool in the hands of Mr. Ellicott which Daniel would not submit to. Daniel’s ardent temperament led him into an affair in which the persons concerned were very reputable and able to injure him. This virtually ruined him. The quarrel was violent and extensive. Daniel asked Mr. Gold if he should leave Batavia and Mr. Gold advised him to visit his parents and warned him not to drown his sorrows in cups. The affair was compromised at \$500, but a law suit and public discussion were avoided. “The girl was most to blame”. Mr. Gold says that Daniel now owes him \$200, Oct. 3, 1805.

**From Henry Brown (with a response from his father), Oct. 1806**

Henry says that he has arrived and settled his bills. He speaks of a Professor Childs who is dead, Oct. 1806.

**From Henry Brown, Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, Jan.3, 1807**

Henry says that he still continues to study the French language. He states that he has had a letter from his brother Ephraim, Jan. 3, 1807.

**To Mr. Ephraim Brown, Hebron, Connecticut from Henry Brown, Yale College, New Haven, Connecticut, Aug. 11, 1807**

Henry discusses Williams College, Aug. 11, 1807.

**From Daniel Brown, Batavia (with a response from his father), Jan. 6, 1808**

Daniel writes this letter with Mr. Pomroy who is an old friend of his Father, Jan. 6, 1808

**From Henry Brown, Yale College, New Haven, Connecticut, April 26 – June 17, 1808**

Henry writes of planning to meet Ephraim. He also writes of his financial obligations, Apr. 26, 1808.

Henry arrived at Rocky Hill. He mentions that exams are coming up and he lists the clothing that he needs, June 17,1808.

**From Elisher Phelps & N.A. Phelps Jr., Aug. 23, 1808**

Mr. Brown is informed that after the writ, Wing vs. Brown is served, you can, with safety, permit your ward Samuel Abbey [Abbe] to enlist into the Army of the United States, Aug. 23, 1808.

**From George Abbe, Windham, New York, Aug. 30, 1808**

The letter says "Dear Uncle, Sam and myself arrived here Sunday" George states that he was at Norwich and he saw Mr. Huntington. Mr. Huntington said that if Sam would like to, then he would be happy to have him stay with him when he is of age. Sam would be able to earn more than he was currently earning. George says that he would not sign any contract without contacting Mr. Brown, Aug 30, 1808.

**From Henry Brown, Batavia, New York, Apr. 21, 1809**

Henry writes that he hopes that “mother is still numbered with the living”. He says that his father wrote to him about that she had recovered from her derangement. He says “You have now, my affectionate parents, passed the meridian of life and you cannot expect to continue many years longer in this ‘vale of tears’”. He goes on to speak of his debts and of their estate. He notes that Ephraim also needs money, April 21, 1809.

**To Messers. Charles & Sueius Abbe, Windham, New York from Daniel Brown, Hebron Connecticut, June 9, 1809**

Mr. Brown begins the letter with “My Dear Kinsmen, I did not undertake to be guardian for you or your brothers to make money....but out of a pure duty”. He says that they should settle with Mr. Wing and Lawyer Phelps, June 9, 1809.

**From Henry Brown, Canandaigua, New York, Feb. 8, 1810**

Henry notes that he hasn’t received a letter for five months leading him to believe that they have forgotten him or the last letter has been lost. He states that he now owes \$55.00 and wants at least \$20.00 worth of clothing. He says that he received a letter from Daniel and he also received a letter from Ephraim, Feb. 8, 1810.

**From Daniel Brown, Batavia, New York, Mar. 8, 1810**

Daniel is distressed by the illness of his mother, but is gladdened at the prospect of her wholly recovering. He states that there is a great deal of revolution in New York State. Putting out and putting into office are the order of the day. He says that he makes a comfortable living, and a little more, March 8, 1810.

**From Henry Brown, Canandaigua, New York, Apr. 19, 1810**

Henry thanks his parents for the \$70 which they sent him. He claims that he was riding an unmanageable horse when the horse fell and threw him. The bones in his right shoulder were fractured considerably and the muscles were torn from their sockets. He says that he is now almost destitute of cloths [clothes], April 19, 1810.

**From Henry Brown, Albany, New York, Dec 3, 1810 – Jan. 12, 1811**

Henry says that he is now in Capital and arrived there on November 29. He presented his letters of introduction to Mr. Van Vechten, Attorney General of the state and he began

studies in his office. Although it is general practice to charge clerks for tuition, Mr. Van Vechten dispensed of that practice and Henry was admitted without any charge. He says that Albany is a great and growing place. The Congress of the United States was convened and Henry is hopeful that much light will be shed on foreign relations. He hopes that things will finally turn out for the best, Dec. 3, 1810.

Henry says that “with regard to the practice of Physic I have but little to observe”. He says that Albany is crowded with professional gentlemen. He believes that a young man would be better off to possess a handsome fortune and extensive patronage in Albany. He writes of his mother’s health and says that “moments of domestic ease and comfort pass rapidly away”. He also mentions Ephraim and declares that he would not be willing to settle in a remote country town like Ephraim has. He expects to visit his parents at the same time as Ephraim and he asks for money, Jan. 12, 1811.

## 1.2 **From Ephraim Brown, Batavia, Genesee County, Aug. 18, 1811**

Ephraim says that he must explain why he left Homer. Dr. Barny could not dispose of his property as he had wanted and he was not willing to give Ephraim so large a proportion of the profits arising from his practice so Ephraim decide to journey farther. Ephraim met up with Daniel who wishes Ephraim to reside there. Ephraim says he will take his advice for the present and he has had considerable business since he has been there, Aug. 18, 1811.

## **From Henry Brown, Cooperstown, New York (with a note to Samuel A.), Oct 19, 1811**

Henry writes that Doc White is the first judge of their court and he speaks of Ephraim as a young man with promising talents. He sends congratulations on mother’s health improving. He suggests that his father sell some of his land and suggests “I shall be very happy to receive any money that you can conveniently spare and pay Ephraim the interest of the same”. He goes on to write about a court case in which someone was selling horse flesh for beef. The case was won and they received a verdict of \$200.00. The next part of the letter is addressed to Samuel A. He offers him some helpful information on his future prospects. He says that the profession of law in this state is extremely crowded and growing more. The profession of “physik” is even more crowded. Divinity affords indifferent prospects and mercantile business is extremely hazardous. He advises Samuel A. to attend strictly to his books for the winter and visit them in the spring. “If you find should find us in a state of starvation. I think you will be contented to stay home”, Oct. 19, 1811.

## **To Mr. Daniel Brown, Hebron, Connecticut, Gilead Society from Brother Alfred Elderhin, Windham, New York, Jan. 19, 1812**

Mr. Elderhin states that the weather has been cold, so instead of working, he has been gathering wood to keep the family warm. He feels that he has a perfect right to call on Mr. Brown to send him a few dollars drawn on the order of Charles Abbe, Jan. 19, 1812.

**From Ephraim Brown, Batavia, New York, Feb. 15, 1812**

Ephraim speaks of his travels and of his mother's health. He claims that Henry needs money more than himself but he will require \$40.00 or \$50.00 in April, Feb. 15, 1812.

**From Henry Brown, Springfield, Otsego County, New York, Apr. 15, 1812**

Henry says that when he was home, he felt that mother's health was better than it had been in a long time but his father has written to tell Henry that he has had a bad fall. Henry writes "I think that Augustus' plan for acquiring an education is judicial. Mr. Bassett is a faithful, excellent instructor. Yale College however, is superior to Schenectady. "Augustus has a promising talent and shouldn't lie hidden in a little farm in an obscure corner of the world. Henry looks forward to Augustus reading law with him. "Orders have been issued for calling a part of the militia into service in this quarter. They are, I understand to be marched on the Canada lines to enforce the non-importation law", April 15, 1812.

**To Henry Brown Esq., Attorney at Law, Springfield, Otsego County, New York from Ephraim Brown, Camp at Lewiston, New York, Sept. 27, 1812**

"We are at present on the confines of Canada, without men and means waiting as mute spectators for the mysterious plans of our political rulers. There are on the lines from Buffalo to Niagara about 3,000 men including detached militia and regular troops, a force nearly one half what we have to contend with. What troops there are in this quarter have heretofore labored under many inconveniences such as the necessary munitions of war and the necessary supplies for the comfort of the men". "All the volunteer companies in Niagara, Genesee and Ontario Counties have been ordered a few days since by Major General Van Rensselaer to repair immediately to this place and I am credibly informed that a large number of the Regular troops from different quarters are destined and are actually on their march for this Frontier if so probably a descent upon Canada will be made. Such has been our strength hitherto that a decent upon Canada would have been very unwise and imprudent for our government to think that such a thing might take place certainly betrays their weakness."

"A number of fortifications have been thrown up near the banks of the river on both sides of it from Buffalo to Niagara into which a number of pieces of artillery are

planted". Ephraim goes on to say that there have been a number of illnesses such as fevers, dysentery and diarrhea, Sept. 27, 1812.

**From Henry Brown, Springfield, Otsego County, New York, Jan. 16 – Feb 19, 1813**

Henry says he must postpone his visit to them until April or May due to business. He has received an appointment to deliver an oration on Washington's Birth Day at Cooperstown before the Washington Benevolent Society. He says that he has met people who were under Ephraim's care on the frontiers of Canada. They speak very highly of his professional talents. He has also heard that Daniel is doing very well and acquiring property, Jan. 16, 1813.

Henry thanks his parents for the \$200.00 which they have sent him. A fever has prevailed in Camp and there were four deaths in this town during the fortnight before he was taken with it. He has regained his health and is hopeful that Augustus will read with him in the fall, Feb. 19, 1813.

**From Ephraim Brown, Batavia, New York, Oct. 7, 1813**

He writes that brother Daniel has nearly completed building a house and some family will live there to cook and wash for Daniel and Ephraim. Commodore Perry has taken all the British fleet on Lake Erie which is a glorious victory. Commodore Isaac Chauncey had an engagement on Lake Erie but the British got away as well they could without sustaining much injury. He says "Our troops have principally evacuated Fort George leaving a few regulars and militia to guard that place. They have gone down the lake, probably to Kingston", Oct. 7, 1813.

**From Daniel Brown, Batavia, New York, Oct. 7, 1813**

Daniel writes that Captain Peters will be passing through Hebron and will probably visit Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Oct. 7, 1813.

**From Henry and Samuel A. Brown, Feb. 7, 1814**

Henry states that "War with its attendant horrors has buried some of the finest parts of our state in ruins. The depredations of the enemy have however been stayed and our almost defenseless frontiers enjoy a tolerable state of quiet and repose – That repose however is not the result of American valour but of our enemy's sparing mercy". He says that his brother Daniel wrote to Henry that 50 Indians marched to Genesee River almost with impunity. Our dastardly troops threw away their arms and even our own soldiers surrendered their swords to private soldiers. "I hope the American Eagle will yet soar in

triumph". Henry says that a wool and cotton factory is being set up and he is one of the trustees, Feb. 7, 1814.

**From Phelps and Millar, May 13, 1814**

A request for Mr. Brown to send \$12.00, May 13, 1814.

**From Samuel A. Brown and Henry Brown, Springfield, Otsego County, New York, June 4, 1814**

Augustus thanks his parents for the offer of letting him quit his studies and spending his life in Hebron, but his ardour for the law has not abated and he wishes to continue with his plans. He says "Our army remains inactive on the lines without honour to themselves or pursuing any means whereby they may retrieve our national character." He said that an election was held in April and there has been a considerable gain on the Democratic ticket. He also says that he taught school for three months last year. Henry says that he may possibly visit his parents. He claims that Augustus is quite homesick, June 4, 1814.

**To Mr. Daniel Brown, Hebron, Connecticut from Alfred Elderhin, Windham, New York, Aug. 11, 1814**

This is another request for money and he also says "You must search up your old gun and be ready to fight", Aug. 11, 1814.

**From Ephraim Brown, Dec. 4, 1814**

This is an apology for not writing sooner and a note to say that Daniel and Ephraim may pay their parents a visit, Dec. 4, 1814.

1.3 **From Samuel A. Brown, Springfield, Otsego County, New York, June 24, 1815**

Augustus received a letter from Sarah saying that Ann [their sister] had died. He proposes an epitaph:

Saved  
to the  
Memory  
of  
Miss Ann Brown  
who died  
on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February AD 1815

in the 29<sup>th</sup> year of her age

He notes the influx of Yankees in the country since the peace. He says that from 10 to 30 wagons loaded with household furniture and children pass each day. "The rise of property will of course keep pace with the increase of population", June 24, 1815.

**From Alfred Elderhin, Windham, New York (with a response from Daniel Brown), Nov. 20, 1815**

Mr. Elderhin asks for money because the "old lady" has been very sick, Nov. 20, 1815.

**To Messers. Brown and Ives, Providence, Rhode Island from Henry Payson and Company, Baltimore, Maryland, May 13, 1816**

A letter regarding shipping and duties, May 13, 1816.

**From Samuel A. Brown, Ellicott, Chautauqua County, New York, Oct. 22, 1816**

Augustus says that he has just settled into this place. He saw his brothers and they were well. The doctor was building a house. He travelled through Pennsylvania and Ohio but thought it wise to return to New York. He claims that the lawyers of Ohio and Pennsylvania are poorly supported compared with New York. Ellicott has become a healthy town, containing about 200 inhabitants. This is the only county in the state to which he is entitled to admission without two more years of study. He says that he resides in Jamestown. He thinks he will stay there until he is admitted in the Supreme Court, Oct. 22, 1816.

**From Sarah Brown, Springfield, New York, Feb. 21, 1817**

She writes about her parents chastising her for not writing sooner. She also talks about her brothers and how she wishes that she could have been home for Christmas, Feb. 21, 1817.

**From Henry Brown, Springfield, New York, Mar. 21, 1817**

Henry mentions that Sarah seems to be contented and happy. Brother Augustus seems to be doing well. Henry seems to think that Clinton will be elected.

DeWitt Clinton (1769 – 1828) served as a United States Senator, Mayor of New York City and he was the sixth Governor of New York. As Governor, he was quite involved in the

construction of the Erie Canal. Clinton ran for the presidency in the election of 1812, against James Madison, Mar. 21, 1817.

**From Samuel Augustus Brown, Jamestown, New York, Apr. 20 – Sept 1, 1817**

Samuel gives credit to Chautauqua County for his health. He says that the county is “well-watered with pure and wholesome fountains”. He says that his siblings are all well. Henry has married a Miss Starr of Cooperstown. Henry has been admitted as an attorney and counsellor at law in the Court of Common Pleas. He says he has done a lot of business but has not received ready cash for his services. He asks his father for money and says that his brother Henry has sent him a law library. He also mentions DeWitt Clinton and thinks that he will succeed. “There is a post office established in this village a post route from Buffalo through this place to Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania....It is in contemplation to cut a Canal from the Hudson River to Lake Erie. If this should take place it would add very much wealth to this western country”, April 20, 1817

Samuel says that ten miles of the canal are completed. Clinton was elected Governor with almost no competition. Samuel bought five lots of land on Main Street for \$240.00. He bought the land from Judge Prendergast. He says that he is collecting materials to build an office, Sept. 1, 1817.

**From Ephraim Brown, Buffalo, New York, Oct. 17, 1817**

Ephraim is traveling to the Southwest. He is travelling with a Mr. Fisher from Batavia. He says that his prospects are dark but “I wish you not to feel too much anxiety for me in present”, Oct. 17, 1817.

**From Sarah Brown, Springfield, New York, Feb. 4, 1818**

Sarah is concerned that Mr. [illegible] was going to Connecticut but he has not returned and she is very anxious about this, Feb. 4, 1818.

**From Samuel A. Brown, Jamestown, New York, March 8, 1818**

He writes about general family news, March 8, 1818.

**From Henry Brown, Springfield, New York, Apr. 30, 1818**

He says that he perceives by the papers that Democracy has triumphed in Connecticut. He supposes that this will make his parents happy. He hopes that the leaders will be cautious in their reforms. Apr. 30, 1818.

**From Samuel A. Brown, Mayville, Chautauqua County, New York, July 14, 1818**

Samuel writes that he is currently in Mr. Houghton's office in the village. This is necessary in order that Mr. Houghton might certify that Samuel has pursued his judicial studies. He says that the Legislature has made some laws calculated to injure the practice of the lawyer. He says that he hasn't been affected too much because he is an appointed Justice. He notes that brother Daniel is appointed district attorney for the County of Genesee, July 14, 1818.

**From Sarah Brown, Springfield, New York, Aug. 31 – Nov. 5, 1818**

Sarah does not think that Henry and his wife will visit very soon. They have a daughter now which they have named Cornelia Ann. There is also a note on here from Marcellious, Aug. 31, 1818.

Sarah says that Ephraim was planning on going to Connecticut in the Winter and she would like to accompany him, Nov. 5, 1818.

**From Samuel A. Brown, Jamestown, New York, Nov. 19, 1818**

Samuel left Hebron, Connecticut and travelled to New Haven and attended the Legislature for a short time. He went to the City of New York and he received his license as an attorney. He gives a glowing report of New York and says it is a place of immense wealth and business, Nov. 19, 1818.

**From Daniel and Ephraim Brown, Batavia, New York, Nov. 23, 1818**

Daniel says that perhaps his parents have heard that under the new administration of Mr. Clinton, he has been appointed the District Attorney for Genesee. The job pays about \$400.00 or \$500.00 dollars a year. He says that the village is thriving and the great canal is progressing rapidly, Nov. 23, 1818.

**From Sarah Brown, Dec. 26, 1818**

A quick note from Sarah in which she states that they are all in good health, Dec. 26, 1818.

**From Ephraim Brown, Batavia, New York, Feb. 12, 1819**

Ephraim says that Daniel is well and that his own health is restored. Ephraim had a hemorrhage of the bowels. He remarks that people in this part of the country are extremely healthy which makes physicians be almost in a state of starvation, Feb. 12, 1819.

**From Samuel A. Brown, Jamestown, New York, Apr. 4, 1819**

Samuel says that on the seventh of March he married Prudence C. Cates of Springfield. Her father is a farmer and a tavern keeper in Springfield. There has been a considerable revival of religion in his town, principally among the Methodists. About \$400.00 has been set aside to support a Presbyterian clergyman to preach in the village. Samuel thinks that religion is necessary in society in order to keep people civilized, , April 4, 1819.

**From Sarah Brown, Springfield, New York, Apr. 9, 1819**

Sarah writes about a journey and she says that brother Henry will send some money to Thomas, April 9, 1819.

**From Samuel A. Brown, Jamestown, New York, July 25, 1819**

Samuel writes that a Mr. Camp was sent to Ellicott by the Philadelphia Presbytery. A number of people have become "humble penitents at the cross" and the Baptists and Methodists have also increased in number, July 25, 1819.

1.4 **From Sarah Brown Cotes, Batavia, New York, May 29, 1820**

Sarah writes that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, Augustus and his wife buried their little daughter that they had named Prudence Ann. She only lived for 40 hours. She then speaks of her own child who is three months old. She says that they have named him Augustus Brown and she will send a lock of his hair to remind them of their grandson. This also contains a note with the salutation "Honoured Sir". This seems to be to Sarah's father from her husband John Cotes, May 29, 1820.

**From Ephraim Brown and Sarah Cotes, Batavia, New York, Dec. 6, 1820**

Sarah says that her baby has been ill, but is now recovering, Dec. 6, 1820.

**From Samuel A. Brown, Jamestown, New York, Feb. 23, 1821 – July 27, 1821**

Samuel says that they have a child which they shall name Charles Cotes. He says that the territory comprising the town of Ellicott had not exceeded 50 persons in 1810 but now it is almost 1500. In 1813, the village did not have a solitary inhabitant, but now it has a little more than 200, Feb. 23, 1821.

Samuel says that a preacher by the name of Mr. Hubbard has been preaching to them. He studied with Mr. Bassett, July 27, 1821.

**To Lieutenant John Cotes, Hebron, Connecticut (or in his absence Daniel Brown) from Richard Smith, Batavia, New York, July 9, 1822**

This is an announcement of the death of Daniel Bishop Brown. Daniel Brown (his father) is the heir. Administration is granted to Ephraim Brown and John Cotes, July 9, 1822.

**From Samuel A. Brown, Jamestown, New York, Nov. 2, 1822**

Samuel writes about the death of his brother Daniel's sickness (apoplexy) and death. He says that his own son, Charles is a healthy, fat boy, Nov. 2, 1822.

**From Samuel A. Brown and Sarah Brown Cotes, Batavia, New York, Sept. 12, 1823**

Samuel says that they are anxious to finish with Daniel's estate. He says that as to professional business and the business of the shop, there is no reason to complain. "The nearest place which we can get to the canal is about 17 miles. The boats come no farther than Rochester at present which is about forty. Our place is not injured by the canal but on the contrary considerably benefitted by it." Sarah sends a description of her two children Augustus and Mary Ann, Sept. 12, 1823.

**From Samuel A. Brown, Jamestown, New York, Sept 17, 1823**

Samuel says that the town and country around has lost valuable citizens who went by the Southern country to sell boards and for other purposes by the fever which prevails in the southern climate. Because they live on the head waters of the Mississippi, boards are sent to New Orleans. Frequently, one third of the hands die on a trip there because of the unhealthy climate. He states that the Clintonian party is down at present, Sept. 17, 1823

**From Ephraim Brown, Batavia, New York, Jan. 4, 1824**

Ephraim writes about his journey to Batavia and speaks about the family, Jan. 4, 1824

**From Sarah Cotes, Batavia, New York, June 10, 1824**

Sarah says she is very gratified at having a visit from brother Thomas. Brother Augustus was there also, June 10, 1824.

**From Samuel A. Brown, Batavia, New York, June 11, 1824**

Samuel writes that brother Thomas has visited him. He also says that he and his brothers have divided Daniel's estate "in the most perfect friendship", June 11, 1824.

**From Samuel A. Brown, Jamestown, New York, Aug. 10, 1824**

Samuel introduces (through the letter) the Reverend A. West of the Presbyterian clergy, Aug. 10, 1824.

**From Sarah Cotes, Batavia, New York, Apr. 11, 1825**

Sarah talks about Doctor Brown and says that his health is better than it has been in a while. She says that he has had a valuable addition made to his family. A healthy son was born and they have named him Daniel Bishop after his grandfather, Apr. 11, 1825.

**From Samuel A. Brown, Jamestown, New York, Dec. 5, 1825**

He announces the birth of another son who they have named Theodore. Charles now goes to school. "I do not know that there were any white inhabitants in this country in the year 1800, in the year 1810 there were a little more than 4000, in 1820 more than 13,000 and by the late state census, there are exceeding 21,000...You can scarcely have any idea of the benefits we derive from the canal. I have since I have been here known salt to sell for \$12 per barrel (5 bushels) it now sells from \$3 to \$4 per barrel. Many other things have fallen in the same ratio, Dec. 5, 1825.

**From Clarissa M. Brown (widow of Ephraim), Goshen, Connecticut, Nov. 4, 1826**

Clarissa writes about the death of her husband. Her youngest child is just six weeks old and she calls him "Ephraim's precious babe". She writes about her financial situation and says that she is comfortable, but far from independent, Nov. 4, 1826.

**From Henry Brown, Batavia, New York, July 12, 1829**

Henry says that they have been very much affected by the fever and ague. Sarah and two of her children are affected. Dr. Cotes is in good health and he has taken on a new partner named Dr. Woodruff, July 12, 1829.

**From Sarah Cotes, Batavia, New York, Oct. 24, 1829 – Oct. 29, 1830**

Sarah is happy to say that she and her family are healthy. Sarah spent an enjoyable week in Springfield, but when she got home, her baby didn't seem to recognize her. Brother Levant Cotes has gone to Springfield to remain until he resumes his business. Brother Henry is suffering from severe inflammation of the eyes, Oct. 24, 1829.

Sarah's children have had the measles, but have recovered. Mary Ann suffered from an inflammation of the throat and glands. Sarah's husband sailed from New York to London, England on a business trip. He expects to stay there until the end of autumn, Oct. 29, 1830.

**From Henry Augustus Holt, Hebron, Connecticut, Jan. 4, 1831**

Mr. Holt speaks of the end of life "And when called to pass through the dark valley of the shadow of death, may the spirit of truth and grace attend you", Jan. 4, 1831.

**From Henry Brown, Cooperstown, New York, Aug. 7, 1831**

Henry begins by saying that he has nothing much to say, Aug. 7, 1831.

**From Samuel A. Brown, Jamestown, New York, Jan. 11, 1832**

Samuel is sorry to hear of his father's fall. He complains of a very cold winter. He says that his new house is finished and he has rented it to Mr. Gillett, the Presbyterian clergyman, Jan. 11, 1832.

**From Sarah Cotes, Batavia, New York, Aug. 29, 1834**

Sarah says that she has nothing much to say. She says that she has again been attacked by ague and fever. Brother Henry has gone to Albany and his wife went with him. They left two of their daughters with Sarah. Sarah is also expecting a visit from brother Augustus. Aug. 29, 1834.

**Henry Brown, n.d.**

He writes about Sarah's impending visit to Connecticut and goes on to say that he hopes she is welcomed there. He then says "We shall be happy to have her make her home with us", n.d.

**Series II – Brown Family Documents, 1783-1820, n.d. (non-inclusive)**

- 1.5 A writ addressed to the Sherriff of the County of Hartford, his Deputy or either of his Constables of the Town of Hebron. Abigail Waters and Eben Root before John Phelps, Sam Gilbert, Neziah Bliss, Timothy Dutton and William Buell all of Hebron to transfer to Malachi Loveland of Hebron, Connecticut, money for sale of goods. This is signed by Neziah Bliss, Justice of the Peace, Sept. 16, 1783.

Notification of a highway in which subscribers Daniel Buck, Daniel Brown and Nicholas Fox were by the Honorable County Court at Hartford to view the road in Glastonbury. They were to assess damages to individuals through whose land the road might be laid out. This is signed by Daniel Brown and Nicholas Fox, April 3, 1800.

Survey of Captain Phelps' Land [document is largely illegible due to stains and tears. Notes and figures have been scribbled on the document].

Estate of the widow Susanne Abbe, deceased, of Windham. The guardianship of her five young sons was left to Daniel Brown. Monetary details are laid out, 1803.

Badly damaged and stained document which seems to be written to Thomas Brown from Daniel Brown. He is writing in anger. He says that he went out to the "privy" in the freezing cold and nigh froze to death, it was a matter of great indifference to Thomas. He seems to think that Thomas would be happier with Mr. and Mrs. Brown out of the way. On the other side of the sheet, there is a note to Daniel Brown regarding a dispute between Josiah Barker and Benjamin Bissel. George Oliver Gilchrist would like Mr. Brown to attend. This is signed by Josiah Barker, June 20, 1804.

A document (or letter) to Solomon Porter Esq., Collector of the Port of Hartford which is signed by Daniel Brown. The document is about the death of Daniel's daughter, Ann. [The paper is torn and stained and there is a hole in the middle of the text], n.d.

Indenture between Daniel Brown of Hebron and Doctor John Cotes and Sarah Cotes of Batavia, New York. The document contains information on

the legacy which Sarah's deceased sister, Ann left to Sarah [Ann requested that Daniel Brown pass this land to Sarah]. This legacy concerns 20 acres of land on the south side of Genesee Street and is estimated at about \$2,000, Nov. 10, 1820.

