

Le Roy June 17th/91

Dear Grandpa

If you will allow me to address you in that familiar way, I have thought of you so much of late, I felt strongly inclined to talk a little while with you with pen and ink, as this was the only way I could do, not that I had any thing of importance to communicate, but my heart went out towards those friends from which I had so recently received so many kind ones, that I can never forget while memory lasts. There then is some pain mixed with the pleasure of thinking of the time spent with you and Auntie. I felt when we parted that in all probability we should never meet again in this

would, life is so unceremonious with us, but I have thought very much of late that it was of little consequence what became of these frail bodies, if the soul was united with God, Oh if I could only feel that I was truly a child of him who was smelt and loved in heaven, Oh if I had that evidence within myself that I was a true Christian it seems to me I would not care no more, I often think of you so near the grave, (and yet perhaps not nearer than myself) some saying that you hope of a rest beyond the grave, never placed upon a firm foundation, looking forward to the time when you shall bid adieu to earth, never fearing that all will be well in a future state of the soul. If it is the privilege of one Christian to feel so, why may not all if they truly desire it. Pray

for me sometimes, Grandpa that I may know what it is to love God supremely.

After my return home I found you had written to Father and knowing how much trouble and labor it was for ^{you} to write I felt that I wished it answered. Perhaps Father will do so some time, no doubt a letter from him would be more acceptable than this, but I wished to lay you under obligation if I may be so bold as say so to write to me will you not? I should so love to hear you, and tell you all about your health is. I feel an interest in you and Auntie more - at least more than I did before I made you such a long visit. Give it say tell Grandpa he wishes he could come and see him and kiss him, and Aunt Sylvia to

little loved one, he will never forget
his visit with you, he says tell George
and Tommy he wishes he could see
them, Father and Mother wish to be
remembered to all, they send a greeting
of love. My one usually well.

I almost feel that I am trespassing
in writing, and I know I am
such a formidable hand to write letters
to, but I trust to you will excuse all
this and accept the love of Louise

Miss Sylvia Smith

Uwe's Isaac! So he gaining skill? Do take care of him - How can

I see spare him? unless the hand of God prepare afflict us - and his will pre-
pares us for the shock
We feel his anxious
because the weather
seems so unfavorable
for pulmonary complaints
and we do not know
Dear Grandpa - and
all the friends: are
they well - Please
give a great deal
of love from us all
Very Affectionately
Louise B. Davis

Royalton July 20th 1863

My workbasket is pi-
led up with orders to be made, but
I have only just come from my
schoolroom and very much less
yet to take a short chat with you
before I apply myself to any kind
of work.

What shall I talk about first?
Oh! I know! Aunt Sylvia is always
interested in the ladies and ladies of
any town, therefore I'll first tell who
is in town at the present time and
who expected to arrive and perhaps
I may find time to mention some
illustrious personages who have al-
ready made their summer's visit

and departed. You remember Frank
Denison. He has but recently returned
from the War, with the 12th Reg. V. Col.
will go to Burlington for Commencement
then return to Royalton until Fall.
Will H. Harvey, who is ^{an} Sophomore in
Dartmouth College, will also spend the
summer in Royalton.

Alice Denison at home. Clara in her
school at Hartland. Lucy with Eliza
at Hyde Park. Nancy Atwood has
become Mrs. Albert Sprague and taken
her residence in Chicago. Mr.

Lewis Skinned is in Plymouth Wisconsin
will return in Sept. Willie Skinned is
here, speculating and following in the
footsteps of his father, so far as he is able.

Daniel Bliss Dudley, but let me say
I am introducing a new character, this
young man came upon the stage of
action only last year, and has hardly
become identified with the land, so
he deserves a description: tall, black-

eyes and hair, striking mustache and
bad cough, is at present. Assistant Editor
of the Vermont Journal, generally im-
pressed with the idea of personal im-
portance, is not one of the most agree-
able associates. Judge Marcys daugh-
ters are too widely scattered just now
for me to speak of them all, except to
say that with the exception of Ellen the
rest they are visiting friends in dif-
ferent parts of the State. Florella Rix
is at home, has been visiting in Mass-
achusetts forgetting, as you in whom you
are interested Auntie I shall be sorry be-
cause I know how much you like a full
account of everybody whom you have
seen when I go home.

Dr. Henry Lyman and wife, relatives of
Del. Dec. Joiner, have but lately left
town for the North part of the State.

Mrs. Washburn is favored with visits
from several relatives, retains her en-
joyment of such visits, with as good

a degree of health as ladies of her age usually enjoy.

Auntie we have decided not to like our organs at all events and therefore it will soon be removed from the church. Don't call us fickle until you can hear how very much the miserable thing has tried us.

How much trouble the draft is making everywhere - The terrible riot in N. Y. seems to be one of the most shocking features of the War. The idea of a mob gaining such power in that city is terribly significant of the true state in which ^{our} loved land is involved. when will our troubles have an end?

Please write to us Auntie or somebody, we are faintishing (for some news from the very dearest friends of all the world to us.) Miss Sarah Skinner called here last Saturday. Auntie she is one of the excellent of the earth, we all love her very much, she always inquires for you.

vt. 1 2 Oct 1865
Sept 6, 1865, Vol. 2, 1865

3 letters
60-
Royalton, Monday, Oct. 2^d
1865

Dear Grandfather;

Next Friday, Oct. 6th, is the twenty fifth anniversary of Father's wedding day - Some of his kind friends, in Royalton, have made arrangements to celebrate the day - They have a committee, which held a meeting last Saturday evening, to perfect arrangements.

I have received a note from a member of the committee, in which, she says "Will you please ~~write~~ ^{write} in favor of sending a letter to your Grandfather, dated on Monday next, extending an invitation to all other friends - If you do not feel as if the former would be too hard, we should be very glad to see you here at home. Your coming would give us great pleasure Grandpa, but I do not wish to urge beyond reason.

I think the gathering will be a pleasant one and hope that all the friends who can, will come.

There has been a good deal of sickness among us this summer. 4 cases of typhoid dysentery have proved fatal in the village - Our physician Dr. Danforth is now very sick with dysentery. Dr. Crosby has been up twice from Hanover, to see him.

Father and mother both had something like Cholera morbus early in the season, but they are as well, if not better, now than they were before. Father had been ailing for some time, and a decided attack of this kind seemed to be beneficial, rather than otherwise. Our Academy is open for the Fall term with scholars between 70 and a hundred. I wish we might have enough additions to make the number 100, but shall not probably after this. We had a very pleasant visit from Cousin's friend of Abner Twitchel, with me might be favored with others.

Farmers around us are harvesting their corn.

Father has quite a crop this year. It is all in the barn, but not quite husked out yet. Gardens have yielded well. One gentleman near us has raised a good number of fine melons this year. It is not every year, that we can raise good melons ^{here}. Father did not plant any, because we came home rather late. It happens to be a good year for them. The frosts have held off, so that we are having tomatoes in great quantities.

I think Father is intending to write before next time.

With love for all, - your affectionate grandchild
Louisa D. Drake

Royalton, Vermont.

Sep. 8th - 1865.

Dear Auntie;

I must
say just a word to you, as
Father is writing Grandpa.
Nothing would please us
more than to receive a
letter from you.

Please let us hear soon,
if you can possibly save the
time Auntie.

Sarah Francis is stopping
with us from Burlington.
She will stay a few weeks
I hope. if she is well as
usual after this. For several
days she has been almost
sick. We have a great
many cases of sickness in
town, making us think of a

pestilence almost.

Someone suggested that famine or pestilence always follows war, and perhaps we were having the pestilence. Tomorrow we have a Singing Convention here. I expect a great many people from the towns around.

Sarah says, she thinks this is a great place for young people. We are quite likely this summer, we had an "eel" party last week, where 5 colleges were represented by the young men. We caught one large "eel", It was a new kind of fishing to me.

Very affectionately -

Louisa

Love to D. all.

July 6th 1868

Dear Grandpa;

I am sorry that we

have been so long silent. Perhaps it would have been so, if mother & I had kept well while Father was gone & before. We've got him home again safe & sound. It is good to have it so, & seems to us a matter of thanksgiving, especially considering how weak he was, when he went, while away, & is now, yet was enabled to go through without giving up. There was no great celebration here on the 4th of July. At So. Royalton some money was subscribed & fireworks obtained for the evening. Father's coming home before he wrote of coming was a good celebration for mother & I. The treasurers probably use people rather hard when they get as old as I am. That seems to be the general idea, & although the first part was quick & pretty easy, coming out well & going off, in a few weeks I was down again. I hope Nature has worked itself

to hear from somebody who has leisure & time to hear that you & the dear friends are happy & well, I say goodbye to good morning yourself!
 Louise B. Beck

free of them now. They are mean things. It
gives one such mean feelings while they
are on. The work at Co. Royalton gives me
about \$30.00 not a great deal, but better
than nothing. Two scholars came in the
winter to the house, one of them had made
a beginning, before I went to Key Bridge a
year ago last Fall. There was another inter-
ruption & she has one more lesson to finish out.
The money for these counts up a little more.
And there are three more who are on hand
now. Two of them live in neighboring houses,
making it very convenient. It don't do very
well to think of this, when the fact comes to mind
that in the right position I might be earning
perhaps, hundreds of dollars ^{by the year.} But, I am sorry
to have to acknowledge, that I don't do great
things. East Barnard of Broad Brook would have
given me some scholars this summer, but I
could not go very well. Perhaps it may be so that
I shall go in the Fall. We had green peas on the
4th of July. Father finds his garden looking pretty
well. Old Mr. Morse & Mother took care of it, while
he was gone. We are very happy & pretty well. Hoping

Some folks are trying to get Mr. J. P. Smith out of the Post Office. He has been in a long time & they never could start him yet. tho' it has been tried a good deal. I hope they'll have no better luck now.

The rest of the important items must keep till next or you will be too tired to listen. Farewell. To your - self. Adell -

Louisa B. Drake

Royalton, Vermont.
13th of September 1870

Dear Grandfather;

We all reached home safe & sound Thursday evening about 8 o'clock. But it was a tough struggle for the last 10 miles. My mother was so nearly used up that she could not make her voice heard i.e. she was too tired to talk. Since that she has apparently rested completely & feels quite well, for her. The stay at Brandon from about 10 o'clock till 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ next morning was jolly, Mary & Ella Reynolds were housekeeping with a good girl in the kitchen. William

Lucy had gone to New York City for a week, & left the girls to keep house. Mary is about 19 years old, I guess, & her sister a year or two younger. It was such a funny coincidence, for when I was down there on a Beebe visit from Ny bridge 3 yrs. ago last Spring the Reynolds girls were left just in the same way, but later Mother came home in about a week & there was plenty of time to see them. The very P.M. we were here, Emma Pierce, a lady I had seen before, living just across the street was married in church. Father went down to the wedding. I did not, neither did Mother. They were in full view to us tho' as they took leave for the church, & afterwards came back & fixed off for the cars. The lady had a handsome dress of Irish poplin trimmed with web velvet. Father said she looked well.

Her dress was brown & when she started for the cars, it was almost covered up with a linen over dress trimmed with lace to match the dress. Clara Demison was married in St. Paul's church the day we came home at 11 1/2 A.M. The invitation for us went to Middlebury & came back here again. Mrs. Hastings, our Royalton milliner, was married in the M. E. Church at Royalton this morning & started for Boston in the 11 o'clock train. The assistant teacher in the Academy is the same girl that went to school with me at Mrs. Worcester's, we have both found it out so quick, and are friends. About 50 scholars this term. Mr. Wright appears much better than Pat. Burke, & is Superintendent of the Sabbath School. It seems very jolly at Royalton, a wedding at every house most. I don't care how many they

score up if they take me for witness every time. Father was re-
elected to the Legislature just as the Weybridge man was. (Mr.
Brittall. Miss Rachel Demison is sick with crazy heads
symptoms of bad fever. She remains about ^{the} same lately, but
I hope there will soon be a favorable change. Other people
are better & pretty well. Father preached last Sabbath in the
A.M. & we had reading meeting in the P.M. One week from
next Sabbath Mr. Caldwell will be here. I am anxious some
about Ann, whether she has got safely back to Iowa. If any
news is received, please inform us. I hope nobody got sick at
the Brick House" You certainly looked pale Grandpa, after
that late evening visit, or else my eyes didn't see straight. I
went right off to Miss Sarah Spitzer's the next day after we got
home. Found all well, or pretty nearly so. Mr. Spitzer was moving
his corn barn to get it away from the rats. It had been joined on



Dear Auntie;

I am writing to you from Royalton this 2nd day of January 1871 instead of being in Weybridge & writing from there to my Dear friend Miss Sarah Skinner. She wants to have a letter from me when at your house, if I ever get there I am calculating to give her the letter. Today we received a welcome word from you & another from Rev. Mr. Morley, who is preaching at Sioux City Iowa, & who preached in Royalton a while, & boarded with us, in the Spring of 1866. Both these letters have given us joy & you ought to feel good, because you have really done such a good deed! in writing this letter. I Grandfather expecting snow that

will reach to Royalton? The fact is we have had no good sleighing here this winter. Father has finished his schools for the second time, visited the last one yesterday.

Dear Aunt Sylvia, Jan. 31st 1871

Please excuse the broken letter I am sending to you. 10 days is quite a break in date. We have no good sleighing yet. People scratch round some, but Father likes good smooth slipping when he uses runners. And, sad to say, his right eye has so much trouble in it, that he could not go to Keybridge this week. If it was not for this eye, he thinks he should try the sleighing as it is. Last week Wednesday the inflammation began to appear decidedly, caused by taking cold. Father says, tell you he shall come as soon as he can. He does

not feel as if he could take the journey this week. Hardly anything has been tried for the eye except electricity. The cold made a great array of cold sores on his lip & has fixed itself so hard in this eye I am anxious about it. Mr. Kendall called last evening & recommended a poultice of slippery elm, but we have not tried it. When the light shines brightly on the best eye, it makes a bad feeling in the sickest one. And light hurts it more still when it has a chance at it directly - I suppose. He has kept it shut up most all the time. Things are moving along quietly with the people here, a few are sick. The Episcopal Society has a Lecture Thursday evening. I should love to write more, but will wait, with love to all the dear friends,
Louisa

of studies paralytic - to
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Richard Cole but on Bolany
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the - the - the - the - the -
Dear the we are with him on
John is a young gentleman
from the Sandwich Is
Lovers who very much with
which he gave his help
in a - in some on -
right - in - the - the -
the study, I have
the - the - the - the -
length - upon every

wrote us that Grandpa was at Boston

What do you do with yourself? I should
think you would feel lost. How long
does Grandpa intend to stay? I hope
he will stay long enough to get his
finger cured. How glad I am he has
gone. I think the journey will do him
good if he receives ^{the} benefit to his finger
How are all my Weybridge friends
and Cousins? I want to see DeLana

children so much and every body
else over there I can hardly tell
you how much. We are living here -
very quietly there is no particular
excitation here just now. We had
quite a celebration on the 4th of this
month and I often thought of the ^{old} ~~new~~
boys training last year. We had the
Northfield military and Cornet Band
down here and Justin Morill as orator
and in the evening a display of fireworks
which cost about two hundred dollars
not much for fireworks but a good
deal for ^{any} little village on the whole
it was quite an affair & I think cele-
brations in such little villages are
absurd things to say the least of them
Father is supplying the pulpit here by
exchange a young man by the name

of Bittinger is expected here
soon from Andover. Then Father will
be released I suppose. Mother is about
as usual. Father Mother and I went
Raspberrying last night after ^{the} ~~the~~
pieces of quart a piece before dark
they are not very thick here this year. How
are they with you? I wonder if Cousin
DeLuna picks as many this year as
last. I have never been able to learn
what name N. S. bears. I reckon Ella
and George ^{go} to the meeting house to
school now don't they How do they like
Abra Warming as a teacher?
There has been no school here this sum-
mer. Mr. Conant goes to Burtington
in the Fall so that is the last of him
here I suppose I don't know who we
shall have a young man from Burtin-
ton

you will be able to read more than
the name of Gilbert - has made
application and been down to see us
I hope they will engage him He is
first in his class at Washington College
and a very gentlemanly & desirable man
Mr. Grant has a son a son
Lucia Skinner is at home this summer
and Abbie Sage & Alice Demson
is quite a class of young ladies
we have been studying some of some
in May until this week our Professor
Monsieur Lyman has gone to the
mountains and we had disturbed
think is a very interesting study I
think Deane after she has studied
the several books class books
I have not paid much attention
to the theoretical part having spent
most of our time on a living flower

stronger & better than usual lately. If he can only keep this.
One of our old Royaltown
inhabitants has lately united
with the Church in Malone.
There is no great movement
here yet. Lead we are, the
is reason to fear. Please to
remember us at the
Throne of Grace. I shall
we are, if not dead,
Mr. James Caldwell is
a very good minister &
much esteemed.
Mother sends her love
& I too. We love & care
for all.
Louisa

Royaltown, Mar. 16th

You have not heard
anything about our Crab Bag &
Fishing Pond operations as I sup-
pose, and I will give the account
of said operations, after asking you
if the season is favorable for your
health. How happy a thing it is, that
Uncle Solomon has come to H. &
brought a wife that everybody can

take right into the heart of love. I hope you will feel well & enjoy his visit all the time. Father & Mother did not attend the Levee, so I had to go & get it all by myself. The first part of the evening was devoted especially to music, Grab Bag & visiting, then came Supper. I had a part to act downstairs, because some of us were to set tables, wait upon the guests, &c. After a while, two of my girl friends & myself were allowed to leave the lower regions & go up stairs to a little room, where we prepared for the Antiquarian Performance. The ladies who had been employed downstairs went up to see this. Mr. Moses Gage of our village acted as the

head of our family, dressed up in fantastic style & introduced us to Charles Demison, who appeared as a modern dandy, in white kid gloves. He sang in exquisite pathos, putting on all the flourishes. For one thing he fished out of the Pond Ed. Maxham got a great paper bonnet trimmed with artificials. It was made of brown paper with a flaring front & a little crown very long with artificials on it. He put it on & wore it to the Supper Table, making a good deal of fun. He said that if they got so poor he could not rent a house, he & his family could move into the bonnet. The money left after the expenses were paid, amounted to

\$100.05 & something over, This with what has been raised at the Sociables, amounts to about \$100.25

The people have got a little laid up at interest for buying an organ.

The result of the musical Convention, about \$90.00 When we shall ever see

the organ, I can't guess, At South

Royalton there is a Spiritualists Convention, or has been, It began ^{got} last

Friday. If Father goes to The Cure we shall be pretty lonesome probably.

But we must try to get along, I have some work on hand, that is about

one quarter done. I don't know but

the bill for wood about covers all profit for the winter, if I could know

what that amounted to. Father seems

Rayattou 19th Nov.

Dear Auntie

We are very anxious
to hear from you - Auntie -
What is the matter that you don't
write? we have not heard a word
since - Grandpa left Boston for
home - how is his finger? Does it
seem to you better or worse than it
was when he went to Boston?
Is Aunt Polly at Greybridge?
I have reversed the usual order
and commenced this note by
asking questions now I'll tell
you something about myself.

The Fall term of our school closed
Wednesday night with a grand
Exhibition. I wish you had been here
Father attended for a wonder of late
late years he has not been able to at-
tend on account of ill health -

He thought it very good he said &
Mr. Gilbert is liked very much as far
as I know I think he is a very good
teacher. We have a vacation of only
one week the winter term commences

Thanksgiving day, Grandpa Smith
came in here very unexpectedly day
before yesterday to dinner he went
to Northfield on business yesterday
and I am going home with him to-
morrow to spend the vacation

I wish I could stop in and see
you two or three days next week,

Please write us soon and
tell all the news if there is any
and particularly about Grandpa's
finger. Father and Mother speak
about him almost every day and
we like to know very often of his well-
fare.

Mr. Reddick wrote Father
today a line about Alex. Corgan
which I enclose and Father says
hand it to any body you are inclined
to. Father says he thinks you had
better buy one of them.

Are all the children well and
happy. Please give my love to them
all to Aunt Lucy and Uncle
Jake and to Grandpa particularly
and reserve a large share for
yourself.

Love great love

Louise

Strafford Nov 21st

I should like to tell you something how Grandfather seems. He is going to have the water fail. My dear friends I must write you on the dark side of his voice is sad. He sits at the table, & eats, that is a great consolation.

I must write you word to give the thanks I could not speak on leaving the dear friends one and all, who had been so unwearied in all their kindness to me and mine, during our stay at the dear home in Bybridge. Our journey was altogether pleasant. As I review our many blessings I cannot distrust Providence but feel to trust God for the future. Will you all accept my hearty thanks and love and pray for us. Yours in love L. S. Drake

Stafford, Nov. 21st

Dear friends at the B. House,

At this early day, a letter ought to be sent, from some one to tell, how wonderfully God has kept & watched over those who went out not knowing what day would bring forth. The meeting that father planned for Wednesday about noon at Royalton was enjoyed with Mr. Kendall's family, all but one of them being at home. Mrs. Kendall would invite the new minister & sea, Clark & another friend, sea, Rix to take tea if father would stay, but he made the last stage of his journey before nine o'clock wednes-

If we can do nothing to help along the ship here,
it seems desirable to get back to the stuff at
Royalton quick. I suppose it is more necessary
for father than for the rest of us - to get back. He
can be so happy there. Yesterday, everything
looked very home like to him. Cousin Sophy
does not walk yet. has been very sick, for eight
eighteen hours she was unconscious.

The only trouble I found was, after the two trunks
had been locked up at the depot over two nights,
the man who was to get them & re check them ^{not} didn't
at first see them & came back with the idea that
perhaps they were in the other depot, but pretty soon
they were found all right, other baggage had been

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day night without seeming
very much jaded. This morn-
ing, his health is about as good
as usual. Moses was very tired
last night, perhaps does not feel
rested yet. It is a sad scene
here, very. Grandfather is so
strange. Never as I remember
have I seen him before when his
mind was diseased. The other
sick ones are comfortable, and
apparently gaining. Aunt Wealthea
& Sophia sit up, both of them.
Uncle John is not gaining as I
know of. I did not think of him
when I spoke. In his present cir-
cumstances, there seems to be
danger of his getting no better just
but I do not know how it is with him