

Le Roy June 17<sup>th</sup>/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 uncertain with  
us, but I have thought very much  
of late that it was of little  
consequence what became of these  
fossil bodies, if the account was  
right with God, Oh if I could  
only feel that I was truly a child  
of him who was much and lovely  
in heart, Oh if I had that evidence  
within myself that I was a true  
Christian, it seems to me I would  
~~not~~ no more, I often think of you  
so near the grave, (and you perhaps  
not nearer than myself) some saying  
that you hope of a rest beyond  
the grave, men proceed upon a firm  
foundation, looking forward to that  
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 of thy kind 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 <sup>you</sup> 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 have you, and tell you all  
how you health is, I feel an  
interest in you and Auntie more  
than I did before I  
made you such a long visit  
Good day 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

Does he gain any still? Do take care of him - How can we spare him? unless the hand of God prepare affliction - and his will pass upon us for the shock. We feel that anxious because the weather seems so unfavorable for pulmonary complaints and we doubtless Dear Grandpa and all the friends? are they well - Please give a great deal of love from us all  
Very Affectionately  
Louise B. Parks

Royalton July 20<sup>th</sup> 1863

My workbasket is filled up with orders to be made, but I have only just come from my schoolroom and very much prefer 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 past and history 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 already made their summer's visit

What Isaac! So he gaining still?

and departed. You remember Frank  
Denison. He has but recently returned  
from the War, with the 12<sup>th</sup> Reg. V. Col.  
will go to Burlington for Commencement  
then return to Royalton until Fall.  
Will H. Harvey, who is <sup>an</sup> 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 <sup>our</sup> loved land is involved. when will our troubles have an end?

Please write to us Auntie or somebody, we are fainting 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<sup>d</sup>  
1865

Dear Grandfather;

Next Friday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 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~~ <sup>write</sup> 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 trial 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 <sup>here</sup>. 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



Royallton, Vermont.

Sep. 8<sup>th</sup> - 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.

Some one suggested that famine or pestilence always follows war, and perhaps we were having the pestilence. Tomorrow we have a Singing Convention here & 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>by the year.</sup> 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  
4<sup>th</sup> 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.  
13<sup>th</sup> 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's visit from Newbridge 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

scare 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 Denison is sick with crazy heads  
symptoms of bad fever. She remains about <sup>the</sup> 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 Pitman's the next day after we got  
home. Found all well, or pretty nearly so. Mr. Pitman 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 31<sup>st</sup> 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 Service Thursday evening. I should love to write more, but will wait, with love to all the dear friends,  
Louisa

of studies paralytic - is  
of rights - the reciprocal -  
Richard Coley but on Bolam  
our father thought it better  
to pay the attention to  
the paralytic part and  
later on a few come after -  
Dear Miss Joe we call him on  
John is a young gentleman  
I have the Sanderwich don  
know who very much not  
substantially - give his help  
in all our some in -  
sight - not - the articles  
to study, I have -  
I particular at first  
length - upon every

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write 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 <sup>the</sup> benefit to his finger  
How are all my Weybridge friends  
and Cousins? I want to see Delaney

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 <sup>old</sup> ~~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 <sup>any</sup> 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 <sup>the</sup> ~~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.K.' bears. I reckon Ella  
and George <sup>go</sup> 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 Denison  
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 had studied  
the several hours class books but  
I have not paid much attention  
to the theoretical part having spent  
most of our time on a hygiene flowers

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 do. We love & care  
for all.  
Louisa

Royaltown, Mar. 16<sup>th</sup>

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 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 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 Con-  
vention, or has been, It began <sup>got</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.  
In great haste  
Louise

It should like to tell you something how Grandfather seems.  
He is going to have the water fail, the hay fail, looko

My dear friends  
one the dark  
side the tone  
of his voice is  
sad. He sits  
at the table,  
& eats, that is  
a great con-  
solation.

Strafford Nov 21st

I must write  
word to give the thanks I  
could not speak on leaving  
the dear friends one and all,  
who had been so unweaved  
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  
heartly thanks and love and  
pray for us. Yours in love L. S. Thak

Stafford, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>

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 Royaltou 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 <sup>not</sup> 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

10  
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