

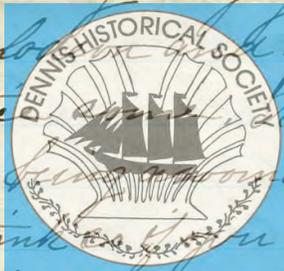


Lothrop Howes  
East Dennis  
Mass.

Nokomis April 27<sup>th</sup> 1865

Dear Uncle Lethrop,

I received in due  
and was very much pleased to get a  
letter from you and especially a photo-  
graph. I have been trying to answer your  
letter, but have had so much to do that  
I could not possibly find time, mother  
has been quite poorly for some time and  
I have had all the work to do, then I  
have been attending singing school  
and I have a melo ~~to~~ you know  
I must practice ~~it~~ in your letter  
you speak of my ~~being~~ woman, I guess  
you would think ~~it~~ you should see  
me I weigh one ~~hundred~~ twenty four  
pounds and expect to ~~be~~ married this  
coming fall, in this I will send you  
a photo. of my intended, he's a merchant



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Historical Society.

in Tokomis and doing a good business  
and I believe him to be an honest industri-  
tious, good man and capable of making  
a good husband, I am twenty years old  
and he is thirty one, that makes eleven  
years difference in our ages, it will  
be two years next fall since he first came  
to see me as you see I am in a hurry  
I am taking things very deliberately,

I wish you would come out  
West this summer we have such a  
pretty place containing <sup>40</sup> acres just  $\frac{3}{4}$   
miles from the village, father has just  
set out <sup>apple</sup> 160 trees and expects to set out  
150 peach trees, but I am afraid we  
shall have a wet spring here at home  
commenced so, and we had such  
a dry winter, we have eight mice  
sheep and I can spin the wool, I spun  
six pounds last fall, that was my first  
beginning I expect you will think  
getting to be a "Cruiker" but not so, I still  
retain my Yankee ways with the exception

of the broad pronunciation that I have  
dropped. I think if you would come  
West it would restore your health, this  
is a great country, you can look across  
these broad prairies as far as the eye  
can reach and nothing to mar the view  
and you can find all sorts and colors  
of flowers that ever grew, I do wish you  
would come out here we would try our  
best to make it pleasant for you, I  
don't suppose you would know any  
of our children we have grown as much  
well as I, I guess I have written all  
the news, brother Henry is as hearty as ever  
I shall have to close this letter the  
children have all gone to bed and I guess  
it is time for me to retire, now do an-  
other this soon, give my love to all the  
friends, not forgetting yourself, tell  
us how you get on, we shall expect a letter from  
you soon as we wrote the last letter  
answer soon and give all particulars and  
tell me what you think of the photo. I send you  
your little ones & Mary



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Letter to Lothrop Howes<sup>[1]</sup> from niece Mary<sup>[2]</sup>; envelope, stamp torn off, postmarked "Nakomis, Apr 4," state illegible, addressed to East Dennis; letter embossed with "Paris" logo:]

Nokomis<sup>[3]</sup>

April 3<sup>d</sup> 1865

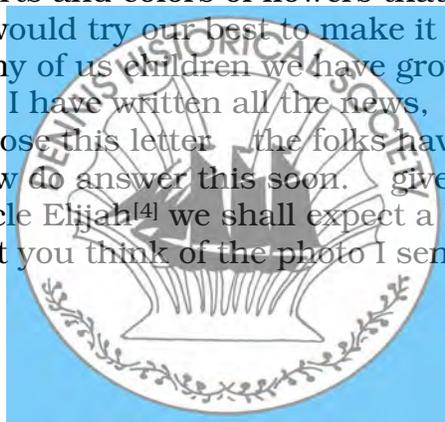
Dear Uncle Lothrop,

I received in due and was very much pleased to get a letter from you and especially a photograph. I have been trying to answer your letter, but have had so much to do that I could not possibly find time mother has been quite poorly for some time and I have had all the work to do, then I have been attending singing school and I have a melodeon and you know I must practice some. In your letter you speak of my being a woman, I guess you would think so if you should see me I weigh one hundred and twenty four pounds and expect to be married this coming fall, in this I will send you a photo, of my intended, he's a merchant [over page] in Nokomis and doing a good business and I believe him to be an honest industrious, good man and capable of making a good husband. I am twenty years old and he is thirty one, that makes eleven years difference in our ages. it will be two years next fall since he first came to see me so you see I am in no hurry I am taking things deliberately.

I wish you would come out West this summer we have such a pretty place containing 40 acres just  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles from the village. father has just set out 160 apple trees and expects to set out 150 peach trees, but I am afraid we shall have a wet spring here it has commenced so, and we had such a dry winter. we have eight nice sheep and I can spin the wool. I spun six pounds last fall, that was my first beginning I expect you will think I am getting to be a "S[-]-cker" but not so. I still retain my Yankee ways with the exception [next page] of the broad pronunciation that I have dropped. I think if you would come West it would restore your health. this is a great country, you can look across these broad prairies as far as the eye can reach and nothing to mar the view and you can find all sorts and colors of flowers that ever grew. I do wish you would come out here we would try our best to make it pleasant for you. I dont suppose you would know any of us children we have grown so much.

well uncle, I guess I have written all the news, brother Henry is as hearty as ever now I shall have to close this letter the folks have all gone to bed and I guess it is time for me to retire. now do answer this soon. give my love to all the friends, not forgetting yourself. tell uncle Elijah<sup>[4]</sup> we shall expect a letter from him soon and give all particulars and tell me what you think of the photo I send you

your little niece  
Mary



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<sup>1</sup> Lothrop Howes Jr., b. 14 Feb 1818, s/o Lothrop Howes & Elizabeth (Taylor); d. unmarried, of consumption, 8 Aug 1888. Brother of James Sturgis Howes, he was postmaster of East Dennis for many years.

<sup>2</sup> Not identified.

<sup>3</sup> There are several places of this name. One is a town in Saskatchewan, between Saskatoon and Regina. While this is certainly on the Great Plains, it is unlikely to be the town of this letter. There are towns in Alabama and Florida by this name, but they do not fit the description of the letter. Finally, there is a Nokomis, Illinois, in Montgomery County, and sits southeast of Springfield and southwest of Decatur. This country is quite flat, and would have the appearance of plains.

<sup>4</sup> Elijah Smith Howes – called "Smith", b. 14 Aug 1820, brother of Lothrop. He married Lydia B. Berry of Brewster, but had no children.