My Dear Henry,

As you will receive this on New Years day I will commence [---]y letter by wishing you a happy new year and make up for my forgetfulness in wishing you a merry Christmas. We have been having some cold days this past week – presume you have had the same, but think you will be able to keep warm with a good fire, and a warm bedfellow. We are quite smart at home now. Sethy has not been very well the past week, but is better now. Grand Mother Howes went [page] home friday. think I shall be pretty well confined home now. Father killed the pigs thurs day it was a rainy day but warm so they got along nicely. The tea party passed off nicely it was rather cold, and probably many more would have been there, had it been more pleasant. the following eve they [had] the remains, for the children, admission ten cents. they realized in all $20.32 cts which was doing well considering the weather. there were no boys of your age either night. The singing school commenced last Wed eve. they have about 50 scholars I believe, they have it Wed & Sat evenings. The subject for discussion this week is something with regard to Slavery cannot tell just as it was given. Mrs Milton Crowell and Henry Chapman are on one side, and Eunice Chapman on the other have not been to any as yet but think I shall some time, I was glad you [page] wrote to Grand father if they have not answered it to day, they will some time, They went to Harwich Wed to see about fathers face; it has not looked quite as well of late, but am in hopes it will be better bye & bye. Grand Mother is not very smart, but is better than she has been, Aunt T still remains at the Homers, Kate is getting better and Stephen also, Aunt Persis is very feeble and they are afraid she has consumption, as her symptoms appear very much like it. You mentioned about going to Paul Crowell’s I think it would be a good plan for you to go, some Sat or Sunday as you think proper. Rebecca wrote to Aunt T that Tommy went to Middleboro to school and she wished you was going there. I will send you the registers this week. Myra wishes to write on my sheet and I will leave room for her hope you are a good boy and are rapidly improving in your studies Give my love to Levi and accept a share for yourself from Your affection Mother Sarah C Sears

[Written upside-down on first page; in mother’s hand:]

Monday Morn

Am washing this morning Grandmother thinks she will write some time this week Grandfather had out all of his teeth in his upper jaw, 3 in all when he went to Harwich it has appearance of snow this morning Myra is dressing Seth he is cunning as a fox your mother Sarah C Sears

[On last page:]

East Dennis, Dec 20th, 61

East Dennis, Dec 28th. / 61
My Dear Brother Henry

I was glad to receive your letter. We are all Smart and hope that this Letter will find you the Same. grandmother Howes Left us Friday afternoon and we killed our pigs. one Weighed 289 lbs and the other Weighed 320 lbs. went to the tea party and had a good time. have you been up town yet. nana says that he is A going with you back when you Come home and go up. Supose that you will Come home next week friday night, as I Supose that this letter will reach you tuesday I will wish you A happy new year and A happy Christmas as I forgot to Last week. as I have no more news, I will Close. So good by. From you sister

Myra H. Sears