East Dennis Dec 15th, 1848

Dear Sister Minerva,

I received your letter in due time and was glad to think you had not wholly forgotten your promise, as Harriet and I had almost despaired of hearing from you again, and Aunt Rhoda Ellis said you were going to Connecticut did not know what might be. If this is all fun, then we had been disappointed in not hearing sooner, but no matter you are very excusable. Harriet has been down 3 weeks, went back last Sunday with Mr. Deman, who has been home twice since you left.

Harriet was quite well and we were very glad to have her company as well as Brother Lewis, for she is a good neighbor and a kind and affectionate sister. We spent a good many nights together, the coming to stay with me when I could not with her. Have not heard from David yet, but looking every day, papers report a heavy gale and several vessels that passed about the time he did, have received considerable damage. Mother is about the same as usual. Aunt Mercy leaves to mourn so that she will then be alone until William leaves fishing.

By the way William has just escaped being drowned on the last trip
He was knocked overboard by the fore-rigging at 11 o'clock at night. No one being near, it was not noticed till he had been down when the sound of men overboard was heard. They saw under full sail, they got out boats and got to him as he was going down the third time. He had presence of mind enough to reach out his arm, and was sensible till they took him in, but it was a long while before they brought him to.

Mrs David Howe has a daughter forty one. She has been for twenty twice there is so much sickness to Dennis that they cannot get half his nurses inside. Another could not leave to go at all. Judah has finished the barn and painted it. Looks quite nice. He is child (the largest) is very well and lain for 2 weeks. Sleepy, there is not the least hope of its recovery.

It has been very sickly indeed at the Dennis. There has been over 15 deaths in about 4 weeks, it seems really melancholy to be over than every house west of Lackland house has had more or less sickness. And now there is a great many sick, but several quite low. Capt Isss Hall is very sick, do not have much hope. Noppa is now quite smart her cough is better and she looks altogether better. Sarah is smart as well as Liz the say she shall write a long letter. Heard from Rebekah the other night. She says better health then the had ever since Sabina was born. She was real sick for a week after you left at Capt P. Hower had a physic Ian, we do not think that she could ever leave us. But she has and thinks in the end it will be her worst. I took Liz and kept her 5 days when it was sick. Nathan's house comes on nicely. They have nearly finished the carpenters will get through in a few weeks. But probably it will not be ready to move in before December. Tell Joshua to have the Select men have staked on out a road and guess we shall have if the town will accept it. Give my love to him with my best wishes for this happiness. I do and shall always feel deeply interested in the welfare
and happiness of those brethren which Ezra in his letters so often
enquired for. and loved as well. Those that he most loved, I love, and
their happiness I shall always be interested in.

Alta is at home went to Boston last week. I hear she brought
news that Clarissa Seaman was very sick with typhus fever. Both of her
children were with her. Was sorry to hear Mrs. Pope was not as well
if you write her give her my love to her and her family. tell her to write me
and I will answer it should like to hear from South Boston.

I must draw this to a close as I am going to Boston to night into
going to Yanks H this week. But I have left out some great exciting
topics. Miss Betsy Sears marriage to Nathan Blake. I think you have
laughed till you cried if you had been at home as some did. Sarah especially
Sarah took tea with her to Barilliers. They say she was the most lovely bride
they ever saw. was about 5o at the wedding and had a grand time. I think

I must close this as my pen has got fairly worn out.

Benjamin Miller was brought home suddenly last week from Shingepi died
of typhus fever.

Good night and happy days to you this fall. you know
we should be glad to have you with us. but knowing the reason
am willing for you to be absent. Though your company would be very
desirable. But you must come down this fall and make a
visit and perhaps things may be more prosperous for the future.

Your affectionate Sister

Write me again soon shall look for you down. Chloe Sears
Before Thanksgiving.
E. Pennis. Oct. 16

Mrs. Joshua Sears
Harwich
Dear Sister Minerva

I received your letter in due time and was glad to think you had not wholly forgotten your promise, as Harriet and I had almost despaired of hearing from you again. and “Aunt Rhoda Ellis” said you was going to Nantucket – did not know what might be – O this is all fun, but we had been disappointed in not hearing sooner. but no matter, you are very excusable

Harriet has been down 3 weeks, went back last Sunday eve with Heman, who has been home twice since you left.

Harriet was quite well and we was very glad to have her company as well as Mother Sears, for she is a good neighbor and a king and affectionate sister. We spent a good many nights together, she coming to stay with me when I could not with her. Have not heard from David yet, but looking every day. papers report a heavy gale and several vessels that sailed about the time he did, have received considerable damage. Mother is about the same as usual. Aunt Mercy leaves to morrow so that she will then be alone – until William leaves fishing – By the by William has just escaped being drowned on the last trip [over page] he was knocked overboard by the fore boom at 2 oclock at night no one being near it was not noticed till he had risen when the sound of man overboard was heard. they was under full sail. they got out the boat and got to him as he was going down the third time. he had presence of mind enough to reach out his arm, and was sensible till they took him in, but it was a long while before they brought him too –

Mrs David Howes has a daughter 4 days old. have been for Mother twice there is so much sickness in Dennis that they cannot get help her nurse is sick Mother could not leave – to go at all – Judah has finished the barn and painted it. looks quite nice – His child (the largest) is very low and lain so for 2 weeks, dropsy. there is not the least hope of its recover –

It has been very sickly indeed at N. Dennis there has been over 19 deaths in about 4 weeks. it seems really meloncholy to be over there every house west of meeting house has had more or less sickness – and now there is a great many sick, but several quite low. Capt Asa Hall is very sick do not have much hope. Myra is now quite smart her cough is better and she looks altogether better. Sarah is smart as well as Sis she says she shall write a long letter. Heard from Rebekah the other night she

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17 Ezra Sears, b. 11 June 1821, died in Baltimore, 3 Dec 1846, only 2 weeks after his marriage to Chloe C. (Sears).
19 Mary “Polly” (Seabury) Sears, mother of Joshua and widow of Ezra Sears (1789-1830).
20 The child was Eliza Clara Howes, born 10 Oct 1848, died 23 July 1851.
21 Whatever his ailment, he lived until 3 March 1870.
enjoys better health than she has ever since Sabrina was born. She was real sick for a week after you left at Capt I Howes had a physician. we did not think that she could ever leave us, but she has, and thinks in the end it did her good. I took Sis and kept her 5 days when R. was sick. Nathan’s house comes on nicely. they have nearly finished the carpenters will get through in a few weeks, but probably it will not be ready to move in before December. Tell Joshua the Select men have staked us out a road, and guess we shall have one if the town will accept it. Give my love to him with my best wishes for his happiness. I do and shall always feel deeply interested in the welfare [next page] and happiness of those brother which Ezra in his letters so often enquired for, and loved so well. Those that he most loved, I love, and their happiness I shall always be interested in.

Abba is at home went to Boston last week. I hear she brought news that Clarissa Seamen was very [ill] with typhus fever, both of her sisters was with her. Was sorry to hear Mrs Josslyn was not as well if you write her give my love to her and husband. tell her to write me and I will answer it. should like to hear from South Boston.

I must draw this to a close as I am going to Betseys to night instead of going to Isabels this week. But I have left out the great exciting topic, Miss Betsey Sears marriage to Thacher Clark[22]. methinks you have laughed till you cried if you had been at home as some did Sarah especially Sarah took tea with her to Barzillais. they say she was the most lively bride they ever saw, was about 50 at the wedding, and had a grand time (Milton says[])

I must close this my pen has got fairly worn out –

Benjamin Miller[23] was brought home a corpes last week, from Springfield died of Typhus fever –

Good night and happy days to you this fall. you know we should be glad to have you with us, but knowing the reason am willing for you to be absent, though your company would be very desirable. but you must come down this fall and make a visit and perhaps things may be more prosperous for the future

Your affectionate Sister
Chloe Sears
write me again soon shall look for you down before Thanksgiving –

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22 Thacher Clark (1787-1871) married his first wife Lydia Hall (d. 26 Mar 1835) in 1814. His second wife was Mehitable “Hitty” Sears, married in 1835. His 3rd wife was Betsey Sears of Brewster, married 27 Sep 1848, Brewster, when he was 61 and she was 53, her first marriage.

23 Benjamin Miller, born 8 May 1828, son of Parker Miller & wife Sophrona, died 2 Oct 1848. The place of his death does not appear in the Dennis Vital Records.