

Longmead May 28<sup>th</sup> 1853

My dear Niece,

It is long, very long since I have had the happiness of hearing from you by letter, I want very much to hear from you, or to have a letter from your self, Sewel Harriet had been here on a visit, he told us you were all well a week before he left home, he leaves here to-morrow morning, great changes have taken place since you left this part of the world, I am now home broken up housekeeping, and am making my home with Lydia Wilds, she has a family of eight children, her eldest son is farming on his own joining his father, she has two daughters, nearly grown, Anna & Amanda, Mary and Ella David John Francis & Dennis are their names, I have forgotten whether or we ever informed you of the death my youngest daughter, Margaret, she has been dead 5 years, since that I have been part of my time with Lydia, and the other part with Mary Jane, but mostly with Lydia, as my goods are all there, Rebecca Anna is here on a visit she has not been to see us before for nearly two years, her health is rather delicate, but it is better now, than some years back. ~~when~~ she lives 85 miles from us when at home, she has no children living, they talk of going to Virginia to live, Mary Jane and myself went to see her two years ago for the first time, for me it was quite a journey.

My dear niece, What great joy it would afford me to once more behold your face in this part of the world, I hoped

you would <sup>make</sup> it. If your old native lambs to and those  
of your friends that are yet living, who would rejoice  
to see you, I assure you, nothing would give me greater  
pleasure than to see you here, Dearest Niece I have seen  
many trouble it since the death of your uncle, I could tell  
you a volume could I but see you. Samuel Thibodeau  
to go out there with him, he said he would conduct me  
to your door, but this we would be to great an expense  
takeing for one of my years. I heard some weeks ago  
from Mrs. Chalmers's family, I believe they were all well but  
I never see them, we don't know much about your Aunt &  
Blackstone children, I suppose you have heard that Samuel  
Griffins son John had been married two years, Samuel Griffins  
health is somewhat delicate, Mrs. Harris and her daughter  
are getting along very well I believe, Elizabeth is considered as  
a very <sup>good</sup> farmer and manager, she has two sons and two daughters  
Dear Niece, I would be glad to know whether my sister is yet  
living and how she is & how her children are doing, Samuel  
informed us of the marriage of William, this we had not heard  
before, he says you look as young as ever do, my dear Niece  
make us a visit. I should be so happy to see you, but I must  
make haste as the night is advancing and finish my letter  
and I will be to call for it in the morning to take to you and  
we must be up soon, <sup>a brother of the above Elizabeth</sup> the time has been limited for writing  
as you may discover from the manner it is written it  
is made up with blot and mistakes, but you will  
excuse I hope, I had forgot that Maria Plummer it was  
wished to ask you concerning her mother, if <sup>you</sup> know any

thing off if you would be so good as tell her when you are  
I see this letter which I hope you will as I shall look for  
few. I must now close by requesting you my dear Niece  
to give me a circumstantial of yourself and all my friends,  
give my love to all my relatives that know me, reserve  
a large share to yourself, the children unite with me  
sending their love to you all, write soon, very soon and  
now I must say Goodnight it is a sorrowful  
Goodnight.

P.S. I <sup>got</sup> forgot to mention anything  
of your cousins in Philadelphia.  
Ann Ritchie is a widow  
left with eight children, all  
of whom she has raised genteelly.  
She has two daughters married  
there was a talk of her being  
married again.

as they were second cousins

"The family name Sewell, came from our  
Uncle Sewell Green, a brother of my father's  
mother.

Gene Spruance

Spruance

She was a  
sister of my grand  
mother Griffin  
and my Aunt  
Elizabeth Hazard

Her husband had  
been U.S. Senator

A. H. Reed