

Jeremiah Richards  
Jan'y 9<sup>th</sup> 1849

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January 9 - 1849

Mr. Almon S. Richards.

West Springfield.

MMMM

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to meet in a better world - Amen

6/2/99  
1/2

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Dear children George  
and Maria, I know of your last letter to me  
and for not writing you sooner. You had better to me  
was from the first 1844, I know of your last letter to me  
It now becomes a duty to inform you of the most sor-  
rowful, painful, and heart rending circumstance of  
my life. The death of a dear and affectionate daughter,  
your dear sister Lois, who departed this life January 9<sup>th</sup>  
one week this morning at break of day, I will relate a few  
circumstances previous to and at the time of her death,  
about the 1st of December 1844, she went to Cambridgeport in  
the family of George Prickett, where she stayed about 3/4 of a year,  
then returned home, did up some work for herself, visited  
her friends, (and she had many for all that knew her) and  
and was making ready to start for Boston, when she received  
intelligence that her Uncle Isaac Richards, of East Thompsett,  
12 miles west from Middlewell in Berkshire County, had lost  
his wife, and his children having been, and some of them  
there were very sick, he wished her to come and work in  
his family a while as none of his daughters were able to  
do his work - she gave up going to Boston - she and Henry took  
the stage - arrived at Uncle's in Middlewell Tuesday  
P.M. October 21<sup>st</sup> - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> her Uncle came and  
took Lois to Thompsett, staying in the evening with  
your Uncle's afflictions were that he was taken with  
the fever, which was not so raging though the counting but  
soon got up again, he then had six children taken, then his  
wife, some of the children soon recovered after having a  
regular run of fever, others lingered long - 17 days after  
being attacked, the wife died - then did he feel that the  
hand of God was heavy upon him - wife gone - friends  
all gone, sick - others might beat out with constant  
fatigue, some children yet sick, and two more new cases

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in his own family (these were two more of his own children)  
 It was at this period of his troubles that he sent for your  
 dear sister to come and <sup>help</sup> him take care of his house and family  
 For he had learnt something of ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> good graces, good qualities,  
 good properties, good morals, and good behaviour, all  
 of which were adornments she possessed. But had never  
 seen her. When Lois arrived at Monmouth she found  
 some of the old cases yet lingering, and the two new  
 ones progressing. She went to her work, the family  
 all admiring her. She soon learned that Phoebe was  
 down with the fever, and Nancy taking care of her,  
 next news - Joel and Nancy were down with the  
 fever, December 3<sup>d</sup> (Sunday) Lois and her Uncle goes  
 to Hallowell to see ~~the~~ the sick ones - Lois then being  
 the very image and picture of life and health,  
 returned home same evening - next (Monday) feels  
 unwell, but works, Tuesday, feels worse, Wednesday  
 most down, Thursday, takes her bed - the family  
<sup>physician</sup> called in - thinks he can break up the fever - visits  
 her often - Making 9 or 10 visits - nothing alarm-  
 ing respecting her case appears till Monday after-  
 noon ~~January 1st~~ <sup>January 1st</sup>, when she appeared to be a little  
 deranged something like for getfulness - other sym-  
 toms followed - in the evening she broke ~~out~~ out in prayer  
 to God, (she was a praying soul and one that loved  
 that Jesus ~~would~~ died to save her) and the manner of  
 her prayer led her Uncle and other bye standers  
 to believe that she was convinced that the time of her  
 departure was near at hand - soon after she became very  
 easy - her Uncle saw signs of settling of blood under  
 nails - stepped to the second neighbours - doctor run in  
 her uncle raised her ~~bed~~ with his hand - she died

without a struggle or a groan - she was gone - left the  
 perplexities of earth forever - not a parent, Brother,  
 or sister, to look upon in her last expiring moments,  
 But she had an Uncle who felt her ease and mine, a fam-  
 ily of cousins that loved her as they did themselves, friends  
~~and~~ all around and near by to help console the afflicted,  
 Her request was if she died there that her remains  
 might be conveyed to her native home - Her Uncle then  
 made all necessary arrangements, having every thing  
 in the most decent order respecting the corp, left  
 home on Thursday morning and arrived at my cousin  
 Gideon Youngs Friday evening 7 o'clock, almost  
 overcome with afflictions trouble and fatigue,  
 Before Lois died, Nancy having got about, and  
 hearing that Lois was sick, had made up her mind  
 to go and help take care of her, before she got away,  
 a messenger came (on Tuesday) and bore to her the  
 sorrowful intelligence, then did Nancy feel that heavy  
 and afflicting stroke of divine providence - Wednesday  
 morning she <sup>took</sup> stage, and after one day by stage, another  
 by private conveyance arrived at your sister Marys  
 with the mournful tidings, and that the corp would be  
 in the neighbourhood as soon as it could be, the drifts,  
 snow, and cold making it an unpleasant affair and  
 very laborious, The funeral services were attended  
 to <sup>on</sup> Sunday, when her remains were followed to the  
 grave by a large procession of weeping relatives and friends.  
 Her age was 22 years 4 months 16 days. Let us get ready to  
 follow - this is not half I have to write - If permitted shall write  
 more in a few days - Nancy quite unwell - Van Buren poor  
 health.