

[Letter from Nellie Wescott to her brother Arno Knight to tell him about her nephew Winfield Knight, son of Ave Knight, who she helped raise after the death of Ave's wife Winnie Tolman in 1899]

Camden Maine May 22 –  
1917

Dear Brother

Intended to write before but never mind "better late than never" pleased as always am to hear from you it will only be a "little longer" with any of us. But truly believe I could die happy now for my dear boy Winfield is going to realize his ambition far sooner than he expected. He has received the honor of being sent to Harvard will enter with the next class presume in Sept. and expenses paid by government I am so happy for him beyond his wildest dreams but he said he would save his money to go to Harvard Electrical department soon as war was over but sooner now I am glad I let him go when he comes out he will be a first class radio operator expert and capable of installing stations and of being sent any where in the wide wide world it's the best electrical laboratory in U.S. also training will get equal to four years schooling at Harvard they have demonstrated lectures by best electrical experts in U.S. the actions of all apparatus will be explained shown tuning [?] putting together repairs every thing pertaining to wireless codes customs signals will be far better than all books and omnigraphs money could buy I feel so proud of him now wonder if they think him worth raising I do the Lieutenant told him he would advance rapidly he had brains and principal two necessary adjuncts, my I am proudest woman in Camden I feel paid for my work as well as sufferings which have not been a few now you can tell Ave if you see him he certainly ought to feel proud of him but I don't consider any credit due to the family for what he is do you? Another kick due me and few more cusses added on Carrie Currier scratched her finger with a pin at her work and got blood poison rushed to Hospital only lived three days all so sad. I saw Emma Belle Walker at funeral and just a few words of condolence to her that was all Have not been able to get down to see Ella again hope to soon am going to Criehaven [?] to spend few days with Winfield soon as weather little warmer do not expect he will be at home more than a few hours before he goes away very busy now they are building on a light and signal tower and room for them to sleep in when off duty there he is head operator there and will be I presume until he leaves for Harvard. My blessings go with him for success and honor.

I know you will be glad I have seen one bright spot late in my life  
(Ida E. Lord Rockland Me Park Street Ida's address)

Why can't you ever ever call down for mercy sake do come the latch strings always out and am usually at home

Received announcement of Urban Youngs marriage I presume you did also, just heard Green-acres was burned do they know any thing about how or cause of it. How you coming with planting good I trust I don't suppose Ave cares enough or has sense enough left to appreciate what "an Honor" has fallen to Winfield after being told but to one who understands it's a "big Honor" and I trust it spurs him on to reach the pinnacle of fame for he is a good clean boy and so young. With lots of Love Sister Nell do write don't wait so long.

So Very Sorry Emma so poorly how is she now?? Tell the news to her of Winnie please