

*[Letter from Nancie Drake to Arno Knight; Nancie is Arno's cousin (her mother is Ruth Drake, sister of Rufus Knight)]*

Centre Lincolnville June 30 1879

Dear Cousin,

Your kind favor was duly received and read with much interest and trusting mine will meet with a similar welcome I venture to write.

I think Arno I detect a slight attack of homesickness of "the blues" for which I feel sort of sorry. When you are so far away and yet reading your letter seemed almost as though I was having a social chat with you "as of old".

I well remember our old childhood days when I was sort of an ally in all your longings for different scenes. Those "moody days" Arno I can see you now, and how amused I used to be when some comical freak from C.W.K. would bring you back to your old self with a gaiety that was always catching. Dear old Effie she never writes but that she speaks of you. I thoroughly understood your Sermon and appreciated it too. I think a retrospective revisit [?] does one good; we see of course many things we regret and many deeds we wish had never been done, and many an unkind word we would vainly recall. All this helps us from doing the same in the future.

Arno don't you think such a review softens the natures that you seem to think grow hard as we grow older.

I wish I could tell you how many pleasant hours I have whiled away just thinking of "by gone" days.

You know Arno that sickness has prevented me from participating in many pleasures that all the others of my associates have been privileged to do. It is not naturally in my nature to be gloomy. But some hours have been sad. But those "old times" have been happy with not an unkind thought. My old school-mates have ever been kind to me and thoughts of them have made my gloomy hours very few. I am very much better this summer than I have been for a long time. I used to have aspiring thoughts Arno as well as you. I wanted spell [?] as a teacher but health and

strength were taken from me and I sort of always comforted myself with the thought that Forever from the Hand, that takes one blessing from us others fall.

So I am content (most of the time) to wait. I only ask to be well once more sometimes. I would try to make someone the "better for my living".

Please not to be homesick nor blue for I know it is a most wretched feeling and make me feel badly to know my friends are lonely and homesick.

Are you tired of reading I am about to close. Alpheus has been here wished me to say he would write you soon. Knowing Nellie keeps you informed of the events this way I'll not undertake anything in that line. Hoping to hear from you again, I will close with a prayer for your prosperity and health. Your Cuz NA Drake

To A.W.K.