

Law Office of Henry B. Loomis

Kenney block Front st.

Seattle Wash Terr
December 16, 1886

My Dear Cousins:

I have not received a letter from you for six months and I supposed, until I referred to my letter-book, I had not answered your last letter; but I find that I have received no answer to my letter of June 21st. However, I am writing to other friends and I may not have leisure again soon to write to you and perhaps you will forgive some of my long delays in the past.

As usual I have been constantly busy with law-business; There is a great amount of drugery connected with the practice of law--a great amount of writing must be done; copies of every document must be made and frequently as many as five or six copies. During four years last past since I came to Seattle I have applied myself closely to business. My vacations have been as follows: during 1884 two weeks; during 1885 two weeks and during 1886 ten days. A young lawyer here has to work hard and be content with small fees. There are about sixty lawyers here and consequently great competition.

During two and one half years from January 1884 to July 1888 business of all kinds in this region was exceedingly dull--a long continued depression in trade. Many have been unfortunate and some have become discouraged; and when I compare my progress with others I have reason to be thankful. Last July there began a sudden but material improvement in business of all kinds, which has lasted since that time and is likely to continue; the great depression seems to be at an end.

In 1883 there was an inflated boom here and people were crazy concerning speculation in real estate; and when the sudden depression came on many found themselves land-poor. Then too, the City graded ten miles of streets and built twenty miles of sidewalks; and all this had to be paid for after the subsequent

had
depression began.

This long continued depression has, in reality, been of great benefit to Seattle. I have gained valuable experience which I shall not forget; and every business man here ought to be wiser, more careful and more conservative.

When I came here in July, 1882, Seattle had a population of 5,000 but it was neither a town or a city--it was like an overgrown town--the streets were narrow and rough carriage roads had not been graded; the business blocks and dwelling houses were almost all of wood and cheaply constructed; there was no street-car line no stage, no opera house, no National bank, no electric light for general use, no water works run by steam, no Safe-Deposit Vaults, no large hotel, no telephone for general use, only four or five brick buildings, no fire limits (duplicated in copying) all of these enterprises I have been introduced since four years. In 1884 and 1885 there was some doubt in the minds of many as to the permanency and future prosperity of the city Many strangers who came here refused to admit that Seattle would ever become a large and prosperous city and many believed that Tacoma, Whatcom or Port Townsend would soon take away the trade from Seattle and would outstrip here--would leave Seattle far behind in prosperity and population.

In January 1884 the population was estimated to be 12,000; then began the great depression and about 2,000 people left the city because they would not make a livelihood. These were persons who were never had been established here. Now, after all this depression, during a period of three years, the city is still here, and continues to be the chief and leading city of the Territory.

and the population is at least 10,000 and is commonly said to be 12,000. The city has held its own under the most trying circumstances and has made some substantial progress; its foundation is more solid; its credit was never better than today. It has been demonstrated that Seattle is not ephemeral but permanent and a great amount of Eastern money has been loaned here during the year last past.

I had a pleasant time on Thanksgiving day; Dr. and Mrs. Edward Loomis Smith invited me to dine with them. The weather was delightful, and mild like May. Dr. Smith's mother is a cousin of my father, a fact which I discovered recently. He has been in Seattle eight years and has a large practice. He is considered by many to be the most skillful physician here. He is the only relation of kin of mine in Washington Territory. There are a number of people here from Oberlin, Ohio.

Last August I went with a party of fifteen to Mount Rainier, the highest mountain in Washington Territory--its height is 14,444 feet and it rises up like a lofty dome of snow. The upper part that part above an altitude of 8,000 feet is constantly white with perpetual snow and ice and is clearly visible from Seattle and almost all places in this region. It is the grandest object to be seen near Seattle. Mount Rainier is a gigantic mountain; one of the wonders of the world. We had a most delightful trip and I may some day send you a description of our experience. I have a description nearly completed. I inclose a description written by one of the six (of our party) who attempted to climb to the summit. I climbed to an altitude of 12,000 feet but did not go with the six who climbed higher because I believed and still believe that they were doing an exceedingly foolish act in starting in such a hurry. We reached our camping place at the base of the snow line, altitude 6,400 feet on Friday afternoon at 3:30. The next day at 2 p.m. two of three determined

to start for the summit without any guide and not knowing exactly what route was practicable and before they had prospected and found a practicable route. They induced six others to go with them. We all attempted to reach the summit, but protested against making such attempt before we knew exactly what route was practicable. We told them before they started that it was impossible to reach the summit without careful preparations. They did not return to camp as soon as they expected and four of us packed provisions eight miles over a rough country to their relief, believing that some of them had perished. We thus wasted two days time, provisions and strength and when we returned to permanent camp it was not practicable to start out again. Not more than six persons are known to have ever reached the summit. We expect to make the trip again.

During 8 September my father was quite ill but not dangerous. I understand that he is now as well as usual and attending to his regular duties at Yale University. Frank is still in Europe and his health continues about the same as during more than thirteen years past.

Captain Carpenter left Seattle August 20th and is now stationed at Fort Klamath, Oregon.

Wilbur F. Sanders and wife paid me a visit during July on their way to San Francisco.

I have just received a letter from Darwin E. Wright upon business.

You have probably seen Mrs. Vischer and her daughter, Mrs. Wendell since their return to Detroit. They seemed much pleased with this region. I do not know what kind of a report they gave you concerning me; they seemed most congenial; but about a year ago a client of mine furnished materials to the contractor who built the house for Mr. Maddox (Mrs. Maddocks is a sister of Mrs. Vischer) I was obliged to bring suit to foreclose said lien and the trial lasted three days much to the discomfort of Mr.

Maddocks. They always treat me very cordially but I imagine they do not love me so much as they would had it not been for said suit.

I was sorry not to see the Misses Algar who were here last summer. I was prevented by reason of business from attending the "clam wake." Mrs. Haines gave them an impromptu party and also invited a few whom she knew had met the young ladies. She did not know that I had friends with whom they were acquainted.

My health continues good and I am as much pleased with Seattle as ever. I hope I may be permitted to see you before the expiration of another year. With much love and wishing you a Merry Christmas

Your affectionate cousin

Henry B. Loomis.

Law office of
Henry B. Loomis
Kenney Block , Front street

Seattle Wash Ter. December 22
1886

My Dear Cousins

Mrs. Maddocks has just informed me of the terrible accident which happened to cousin Virginia, and I am anxious to know more particularly how it occurred and her present condition.

You have my sincere sympathy. Your affectionate cousin.

Henry B. Loomis.

State of--- County---- (ND NP)

January 22, 1898

Dear Cousins:

Uncle Daniel was taken with apoplexy Tuesday evening January eleventh --did not recover consciousness , apparently did not suffer and died Monday morning January Seventeenth at 10 a.m. Funeral Wednesday 19th 2 p.m.

Sincerely
Henry B. Loomis

Ascent of Mount Rainier (Smith)

Saturday August 7, 1888.

At 1:30 Newberry and Campbell reach camp with other two horses and the balance of our provisions, oat-meal, flour etc. And now we are happy. We debate the expediency of starting at once to make the ascent of Rainier the rations will not permit us to be idle in camp. At 3:30 nine of the party make a start for the summit each packed with one or two blankets and provisions for two days. We black our cheek bones and about the eyes with charcoal to avoid possible reflection of the sun into our eyes; we also thoroughly grease our boots. Several of the remainder of the party accompany us to the highest bluff. At 4 o'clock we pause for rest on the crags overlooking Carbon river glacier now below us. Our altitude is 7,400 feet. While sitting here we are aroused by the rumbling ~~as~~ of an approaching thunder storm. It is in the direction of the mountain but Rainier is concealed in clouds and we cannot discern the cause of the rumble but soon the clouds separate and reveal the stupendous mass of snow and ice, the falling ~~avalanche~~ avalanche and the snow ~~dome~~ domes confronts us, thousands of feet in height. We are silent in awe and wonder.

We proceed towards the east clambering over the ridges of rock till we reach the top of a hill that overlooks Carbon River glacier, here again for several hundred yards we coast down the snow on our pike poles almost to the level of the glacier.

At 5:15 we reach the glacier, altitude 5,250 feet. We stepped from the shore onto a moraine apparantly as solid as terra-firma. The moraines at the sides are smaller and less complex than those near the center....Near the center of the Carbon R-glacier runs a ridge of rocks and dirt large and imposing....The amount of debris on the surface is really inestimable in quantity. Our course is zig-zag to avoid the innumerable vercasses cutting the surface in every direction.

At first we find it a new feat to leap cracks yawning several feet and showing parallel walls of ice 75 feet down; with care the danger is not great; the ice must surely be a hundred and fifty or so feet thick. At 6 o'clock we are at altitude 6,400 feet. Here the glacier no longer rises gradually but it rolls up terrace above terrace of broken ice. We are now in a labyrinth of cracks, hills of debris and deceptive ice bridges. To go forward is out of the question, and to reach the bank is a dangerous experiment; it is by the slow, unsteady movement of straddling sharp ridges dividing chasms and by crawling on all fours that we attain the shore. At 6:40 we are safe on the brow of the hill to the left and east of the glacier and there make camp at altitude 6,800 feet. The plateau here is a similar meadow to that of our permanent camp. The timber is very small; part of us make our bed on the tops of scrub hemlock or pine that are three feet high and so closely matted as to sustain the weight of the body of a man. The distant rumble of an occasional avalanche is the only sound to break the stillness of the night.

Sunday August 8

We rise at 4 o'clock; the morning is cold and the air as invigorating as on a November day. At 4:45 the beams of the sun peeping over the Cascade range shoot aslant across the landscape, painting pink the dome of Rainier and lighting the whole mountain in dazzling white.....At 5:25 we begin the tramp of the day toward the South East. At 6 we rest on a bluff overhanging Carbon R Glacier altitude 7,500 feet; at 6:45 we rest at altitude of 7,900 feet; this is near the head of Carbon R Glacier.

At 7:20 we rest at altitude of 8,500 feet; our course is over alternate rocks and snow. At 7:40 we need another rest, altitude 8,800 feet; Mt. Baker is North; and a short distance to the North, about our altitude, is a park level as a lawn dotted with trees and green as an emerald; we call it sky park.

Kittinger at this place concludes that he prefers to walk down hill rather than up and return to our camp. Our bundles are so heavy the rest of us hide under the rocks everything except a blanket a piece and the provisions; lightened from our load we start again; a very long and steep hill of snow is before us; the sun has melted the surface of the snow enough so that we can catch a footing easily.

At 8:10 we sit down to rest in the snow, alt. 9,300 feet. At 8:25 we reach a long narrow ledge of volcanic rock; climbing to the farthest point up on this we sit down and drive the calks into the soles of our shoes; alt. 9,700 feet; the view from this point is grand..the whole country is nothing but mountains.

At 10 o'clock we are ready for the trip; Carbon R-Glacier to the right and West is impracticable for ascent, but there seems to be at the South side of White R-Glacier a route that can be followed; the distance is more than a mile and the intervening space a chaos of broken snow and ice. The prospect almost intimidates us; we bind a stout rope about the waist of Prof. Ingraham and the left arms of the rest and then face the ~~peril~~ peril. The course leads along the face of a steep shelving bank of hard snow where a mis-step may precipitate the whole party hundreds of feet below and into a bottomless fissure. By slow movements and keeping in each other's tracks we cross this only to bring up at a cliff down which the leader is lowered and the rest of us slide into his arms. At one point we have had to straddle a chasm and scratch along on all fours on a sharp divide between two others; we still hope to find a more favorable road for ascent and we press on towards the summit, though our trail is very erratic to avoid chasms; again we cross a narrow bridge of ice and loose cobbles between two yawning cracks. Prof. leads the way, but we unbind ourselves, for if one ~~should slip~~ should slip it would be impossible for the others to hold him back; the foothold

is too precarious; as Prof. passes over and around a large boulder the loose stones give away and he disappears behind the rock; as we hear the stones rattle down the sides we stand horror stricken, fearing he has gone too, but in an instant he reappears on the other side having regained his footing after a short slide. "his hazardous climbing is unsettling the nerves of some of us and we pass with fear and trembling. Rev. Dilworth ejaculates--"if I can only get down out of this I will thank God and go home" there are some silent amens from others. At 11:15 we have attained an altitude of 10,000 feet. There is no hope of reaching the summit by this route and we turn back to find a place of greater safety and easier ascent. At 12:25 we have descended to an altitude of 8,800 feet to a low ledge of rocks; here we lunch and consider the situation; we still believe that we can make the top before sunset by some other Glacier and the majority are in favor of continuing the trip; Dilworth and Nichols are fully satisfied with their past experience and decline to further expose their lives and limbs and accordingly put back for camp, while the others start on to prospect for a better route.

The Practical Route

We further descend on White R Glacier to alt 7,600 feet and then easily cross it to the East Side of White River Glacier. At this lower altitude the surface is more regular and has fewer fissures. At 2:15 we come to the foot of a high divide between this Glacier and a third. Hoping for better luck we climb the ridge, a slope of 300 feet of loose rocks and stones that slip from under our feet at every step and roll like hail stones to the ice below. On this ridge, at altitude 8,300 feet we find some small beds of delicate and fresh blown dandelions, butter cups and daisies. The craggs are devoid of every other kind of vegetable life; the last of timber is a quarter of a mile below. This is glacier No. 3

At 3:30 we have crossed No. 3 and are now resting on a low ledge of volcanic rock running far up towards the summit; altitude 9,000 feet. Sharpe has been kicking for some time against climbing a mountain twice in one day.

Farther away to the South-East is a ledge of rocks where it looks as though we might climb with greater ease. It is a long hard walk over the slippery snow before we reach the rocks at 4:15 and at altitude 9,600 feet.

To the East is an extensive Glacier sweeping off to the South-East we call it No. 4 as we do not know of what river it is the source.

The clouds which have been hovering for an hour begin now to lower towards us, concealing the mountain; we have been heading towards a peak which seems but an hour's climb to reach; we believe that to be the crater summit.. providentially at this moment the overhanging clouds lift and we see the real summit, far, far away, and above the point towards which we are aiming about two miles from the lower peak and to the south. It does not seem possible for any human being to scale those precipitous walls all previous undertakings of ours are insignificant compared with the work before us. We sit down in consternation and awe; Our present position is the last peninsula of rocks on the way to the summit. Had we ventured out into the fog and clouds the chances are that we would have perished in the cold having lost our way.

Our only safe course is to spend the night where we are and be ready in the morning for a further exploration; the timber line is too far below to go back and sleep there. The cold is becoming severe and the rising wind blows through our clothing. Our lot is a luckless one; no fire wood and only five blankets for six persons; shoes soaking wet only a small supply of hard tack and canned meat and our camp miles away. On the west side of the ledge, within 15 feet of glacier No. 3

we prepare a bed. The cold is becoming uncomfortable and we believe that by lying together, spoon fashion as ~~soon as possible~~ we can ~~enjoyed eight~~ accumulate heat. It took us half an hour to roll away the stones so as to clear a space six by eight feet for a bed. About 5 o'clock we all lie down with wet shoes on our feet; a flash of brandy was the best friend we had. Our bones soon begin to ache from lying on the hard ground. After a period of broken sleep some one awoke and insisted that morning must be near; on looking at the watch we learned that it was not yet midnight.

Monday August 9, 1888

Never was a day more welcome; at 4 o'clock we arose, not because the sun was up but because we were tired of lying awake. The mist of the night froze on the blankets. Prof's boots are so stiff that he has to cut one to put it on. Judging from our feeling the mercury must have reached zero. We ratched up and down the rocks to get the blood in circulation.

At 5 o'clock we have eaten a lunch and are ready for climbing, every incumbrance is left behind, so that we shall not carry anything except our pike-poles. We follow the ledge that to altitude 10,000 10,200 feet, then descend the precipitous side East of Glacier No. 4. The sun is now rising with a brilliant colors ; at 5:30 we reach the lowest point in our course on glacier No. 4, altitude 9,800 feet. To the summit now is continually rising grade, the surface generally is more regular than on the other glacier, though very broken in some places. At 5:50 we are up 10,300 feet, ascent steep must rest often and sit down on the snow.

At 6:15 we are up to 10,600 feet at 6:30 we are 10,850 feet. The mountain is white as marble glistening in the sunlight and we put on colored glasses to protect our eyes from the dazzling light from the snow. The mountain side is steeper the higher we go and our steps are more frequent and prolonged. At 11,000 feet we begin to feel the rarity of the atmosphere with every upward advance of 75 feet we stop panting and exhausted on the snow. There is no indication of the flow of blood to the head, but the lungs do not expand easily. For hours we steadily climb, at times straight ahead, then passing on the same place for many rods to avoid wide crevasses.

Towards noon the clouds begin to rise and at the same time a fog is gathered about the summit; at noon the clouds and fog have met and we are enveloped in almost twilight gloom; the cold has increased so that gloves are indispensable; the wind increases in velocity so that at time we throw ourselves down flat to escape its force.

About the altitude of 13,000 feet we are brought to a standstill by an almost perpendicular cliff of ice and snow. For three quarters of an hour we cut our way, step by step, up this cliff for 500 feet; the man at the head of the line cuts for a few minutes, then steps aside for the next to take his place, thus each takes his turn and the hatchet is constantly cutting. Before the appearance of the dense fog we could see the bare rocks surrounding the crater, but now we are all at sea.

When we reached the top of this last mentioned bluff we cannot see a hundred feet ahead. By pressing forward perhaps we could find the crater, but now if we should fail to find the crater we could not retrace our steps in the fog and it is impossible to live during the night on the freezing snow fields; we are already thoroughly chilled. Baker and Smith absolutely refuse to go further. They are afraid of

losing the path of the steps which they had cut on way up

On consultation all resolve to turn back, it is a pity for we are up 13,800 feet; we discover that there is a similar cliff of ice to be mounted before going ahead. It is impossible to make the summit and return below to a safe place for sleep that night. Another hour may bring us into the crater but we run the terrible risk of being lost in the fog. With regret and almost disgust we turn back and pick our steps down the cliff.

A short distance to the South is a fifth Glacier very wide and looks to us as if it would afford an easier ascent than the one we are on. (No. 4) We think it is the South Glacier which some tourists in past years have taken in trying to reach the summit.

White River Glacier is the one we follow back. It is easier to descend than to go up. It would be impossible to navigate one of these glaciers without a pike-pole and calks in the soles of our shoes.

About 7 o'clock in the gathering twilight we discern, two miles distant on the farther bank, a fire burning; it is on the bluff on North Side of White River Glacier; We observe on our way down this glacier a bright green oasis near the lower end of Glacier No. 3; if we ever make this trip again that will be a good place to camp on the night preceding the final ascent.

On reaching the camp fire which we had seen we find Milworth and Loomis.

(Occidental Hotel
Montgomery St.) Wm. B. Hooper mgr.

San Francisco March 30, 1890

My Dear Cousin:

You will be surprised to know that I am in San Francisco. I returned to Seattle February 26th and soon afterwards a client of mine informed me that, if possible, I must go to San Francisco on business for him. So I hurried my business and left Seattle again March 21st and here I am. Will probably return to Seattle in about two weeks.

I enjoyed my trip over land via Denver and Rio Grand R.R. (though the cars are too narrow) and saw that the Rocky Mountains were correctly named. I saw the scenery at its best. The mountains were all covered with snow. I stopped a day at Colorado Springs and Manitou.

From Ogden to Sacramento I had the pleasant company of James Mrs. Christy and his daughter and wife, Grace Henry all of Akron. Mr. Christy came to California in 1850 with cousin Philo and a number of others from Tallmadge and Akron and he told me of the romantic adventures of that trip. Mr. Christy and the ladies have just made a trip through Southern California and in vicinity of San Jose and San Francisco and returned home via Portland and I saw them in Seattle the day before I came away.

You would probably enjoy California at this season of the year. Everything is green and fresh and the fruit trees are in bloom. I have been delighted. Almost everywhere in the vicinity of San Francisco and San Jose at this season of the year you find beautiful scenery.

Last week I was obliged to go to Santa Cruz on business and on my way back I stopped to see Uncle James Wright and family. They live in the Santa Cruz mountains on a fruit ranch. In the morning Uncle James and I took a long walk to the top of one of the highest hills in the vicinity of his home. We saw a beautiful

landscape which no artist can paint ~~rapidly~~ accurately.

I have no time to write descriptions and will merely give you some of the objects and colors and you can paint the picture.

The sun is shining bright, the atmosphere is clear and the air is pure and balmy; the sky is mottled and fleecy with fleecy clouds; the birds are singing sweetly and now and then you hear the tinkling of bells, the crow of a rooster and the merry voices of children at play.

In the foreground is Monterey Bay (distant about 18 miles) on its edge is the little charming city of Santa Cruz, (population 7,000.)

All around you are hills and winding valleys covered with trees and with grass (barley and oats) green as velvet--the trees are of dissiduous growth and with foliage of different shades of green--; scattered here and there are fields of newly plowed ground of color red, yellow and brown, and on many we see the straight rows of grape vines and young trees. There are everywhere pink and white patches --fruit trees in bloom. There are numerous wild flowers of various colors and fields green as velvet, and now and then a field yellow with wild mustard.

Cotages are dotted here and there.

In Colorado you notice the absence of green and the scarcity of water.

I found the friends all well and I remembered you to them. If possible I will visit the Lick observatory before my return to Seattle.

And I wish to see considerable of San Jose and also go to Monterey.

Santa Cruz is a beautiful place and I am told the climate is delightful--flowers grow there in great profusion and I am told that the roses bloom there in the open air during the winter.

I suppose Maud has returned ere this--many birds have returned.

Hoping that you are all well and happy

Your affectionate cousin

Henry B. Loomis

Seattle, Washington.

Seattle Wash. Sept. 17-1890

Mrs. Philo E. Wright:

My dear cousin:

Your kind letter of July 9th was received by me when I returned from Alaska, August 13th--you had a good excuse for not having written before and I appreciate your trying situation in the matter of obtaining suitable servants.

I hope that Evelyn has recovered entirely before this time and that you are all rested and in good health.

My trip to Alaska was very interesting and instructive--I sent Maud several copies of the Seattle Press containing my account of some of the things which we saw at Muir Glacier. I wrote an account of the entire trip but in as much as several descriptions of the trip to and from Glacier Bay had recently been published in Seattle papers, I withheld that portion of mine.

Mrs. Vischer and Mr. Wendell and daughter, Mary, left here yesterday for Detroit. I tried to get Mary to acknowledge that Seattle was a better place than Detroit for residence, but she thinks we have not shade trees enough. At present the city is not in a condition to "receive" visitors.

The growth of Seattle is wonderful;--the population has increased so rapidly that streets are being opened, for the first time, in every direction. There are many hills here so that these streets newly opened must be graded and they are dusty in summer and muddy in winter. A great many streets are also torn up for sewers and water pipes or blocked with building material and cable-roads and electric roads are being built in various directions. It will require several years to put the streets of Seattle in first-class condition. In time I think it will be a beautiful city. There is little frost here and lawns can be kept green during the entire year.

I expected to go Eastward during the present month but I am prevented by several law-suits which must be tried before I go away and I may be detained here several months.

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Struve and daughter, Miss Mary Struve of this city are going to New York and may perhaps stop in Detroit on their way home in November. They have been very friendly to me during several years and I gave Mrs. Struve your address and requested her to send you their address in case they stop at Detroit--no occasion for suspicion. You should meet Mrs. Struve and daughter and you will find them congenial. Mrs. Struve has met Mrs. Wendell. They may go to Detroit.

Miss Struve and her sister and brother went to Alaska on the same steamer that I went on.

Very kind remembrances to all

Sincerely Henry B. Loomis

Seattle, Washington

January 26--1891

Mrs. Philo W Wright,
37 Henry st.
Detroit, Mich.

My Dear Cousin:

My time has been constantly occupied with business and I have not had time to look around for a present for Virginia.

Probably you know better than I do what would please her; and I take the liberty of asking you to select for me a wedding present and deliver the same to her at the proper time.

In payment for same I enclose herewith a draft No. 3599 , for twenty-five dollars, the Guarantee Loan & Trust company Seattle, Wash to the American Exchange National Bank, New York, N.Y. payable to my order and indorsed payable to your order.

Very sincerely

Henry B. Loomis

(I ? above draft. got it cashed and gave the same to Virginia to select what she desired in New York where she and Mr. Collin went after the wedding and she purchased a handsome lamp as present from H.B. Loomis FPW)