

Henry B. Loomis

Attorney and Counselor at Law, Nevada Block, rooms 75, 76, 77

With L.D. Latimer and

Wm. W. Morrow

San Francisco.

1500 Pine st

St Louis, Mo.

24th Oct 1879

My dear cousins:

I have been looking for an opportunity to write to you ever since I left you in Detroit, but I have been moving about every minute since. I only spent a day in Cleveland and my visit in Tallmadge was only three or four days long and was taken up with packing or making a few short visits. Uncle Daniel and I attended the Akron Fair one day and pronounced it a success thought it was very dusty.

The balloon ascension was the finest one I ever saw. Every one was sorry Philo did not go down with us.

I had a nice visit with Mr. and Mrs. Petibone at the fair and intended to call at their house but I had no time. Probably Sherman has made you a visit ere this.

Aunt Seward's birthday party went off well there were present about twenty five, nearly all relatives.

The same eve Uncle Daniel & I attended the wedding of George Root's daughter to a Mr. Hinman of Ravenna and Had a gay time--for Tallmadge. The next day I started for Alton, Ill, 20 miles from here where I have two aunts--sisters of my father and about a dozen cousins and in a few days more I found myself in the future Great City of America. I have two cousins who are engaged in business here though their homes are out of town. They have been of great service to me and have introduced me to many desirable acquaintances.

Through them I have succeeded in getting located in a very comfortable and pleasant quarters.

I never had a room with which I was better pleased than with this. It is about 17 feet square with one window to the east and two windows to the south, a corner room and I have an open grate fire place, everything convenient.

If I could have my old friends around me I should be entirely happy. I have made a good many friends here already but I have always liked my old friends the best.

I think I shall like it here very much--the climate is delightful just now. The only thing I dislike about the city is the smoke and dust.

It exceeds in this respect my utmost expectations. But I have met a good many people here from the east and they all say I will get used to that so that I will not notice it at all and that I will not soon think there is no city as pleasant as St Louis.

At present I never come in from a walk without finding several particles of soot (large ones) located at various points on my face. If Maude has not yet purchased a pony she might do well to enquire about the variety which is very common here--the ears are so long that she would need no reins. Her grandfather spoke more encouraging when I saw him last. I enclose a copy of the latest style of hats for ladies.

I shall always remember my visit in Detroit with the greatest pleasure and I hope that if any one of you come near where I am you will not pass me by.

Not knowing who the corresponding secretary of your family may be I address this letter to you cousin Fanny, but it is intended for all. Hoping you are all well with best wishes and love to each--
Your aff. cousin, Henry B. Loomis.

130 Goldend Gate Ave.
San Francisco, Cal.
27th Oct. 1880

My Dear Cousins:

I regret that I was unable to visit Detroit a second time and that none of you were able to visit Tallmadge.

I left Tallmadge on the 1st of Oct and went to Chicago where I met some exceedingly agreeable friends who were also en route for California. There were six in our party, two gentlemen from San Francisco and other ladies representing Hartford, Conn. Brooklyn and Albany New York.

The journey from Chicago and San Francisco occupies five days--lacking one hour. Of this time at least three days and three nights are passed in traversing a vast ocean of prairie. This would become monotonous if one were not surrounded by pleasant company. All of our party have been great travellers. I was the only one who had not been to Europe and two of the ladies had visited Egypt and the Holy Land. One of the ladies has been to California twice before. We were amused by singing, reading aloud, talking and playing whist or casino. Frequently we saw prairie dogs, antelope and large herds of horses and cattle.

As we approached Cheyenne we saw immense snow banks upon the summit of distant mountains. Chinese, Indians with their papoose and mormons entertained us at stations all along the line.

The journey through Cho and Weber canyons and across the Sierras is one of intense excitement and pleasure. We passed through the canyons late in the afternoon and it was very romantic as we sailed along between the towering mountains of apparently solid rock and whose perpendicular sides of many colored stone and carved in all manner of fantastic designs overhung our pathway.

The coloring of the foliage was the most magnificent I have ever seen. Never before would I believe that foliage was ever clothed in such brilliant hues. The cottonwood trees were a bright yellow &

green--the poison oak and bright red and scarlet.

The scenery of the Sierras is more wild and on a far grander scale. The mountains more lofty, the gorges more deep. The train whirls through deep canyons and around sharp curves at the very brink of steep precipices so that we could look almost straight down from one thousand to two thousand five hundred feet.

"Cape Horn" has the reputation of rivaling all the world in grandeur of its scenery. At this point the track is laid far up on the mountain side at the very edge of a perpendicular precipice--you look down into the awful depths below, two thousand five hundred feet and see a beautiful valley, a perfect picture of fairy land.

All along the Sierras we saw places where huge hills had been washed and dug away by ardent gold hunters.

I was most agreeably surprised in the landscape of California. After four months' drouth I expected to see everything brown and parched, but the trees and flowers and shrubs are green and fresh.

I must reserve further comment until another time. Hoping you are all well and that I may hear from you soon.

Your affc. cousin.

Henry B. Loomis.

The state-room with lambrequins did not give entire satisfaction --we could not view the scenery.

Law Offices of Latimer & Morrow

75, 76 and 77 Nevada Block

San Francisco, June 2nd 1882

My Dear Cousins:

Your kind letter of 26th April, also one of 11th Jan. were duly received. I have been so busy that I have had no time to write letters of friendship.

The past winter here in San Francisco has been exceedingly disagreeable and unhealthy with cold winds and cloudy weather.

Whatever I have said in praise of the glorious climate of California I still re-affirm but I must make an exception of San Francisco as being entirely different from the climate of any other portion of California.

This city is situated directly in line of the Golden Gate a narrow opening or break in the coast range of mountains so that the wind rushes through this doorway from the broad ocean to the interior of the country. There is constantly each day during the year a slight breeze.

The forenoons are generally pleasant during the entire year but about 2 o'clock p.m. each day the gentle breeze aforesaid is changed into a chilly wind. As a result it is almost impossible to prevent catching cold each day.

I resisted the latter weakness for sometime after coming here, but during the past winter I fell into the line with a majority of San Francisco people and have had considerable trouble with my throat. I expect to take a vacation the latter part of June and expect to become entirely rid of any such trouble.

The fact is the climate of San Francisco is too cool for persons engaged in sedentary employment, it is like April in Boston.

I was glad to know that you contemplate a visit to New England and know that you will enjoy the trip. I only wish I could go with

you. If you go to New Haven you must see my father. Let me know the street and number where you will visit and I will write my father to call upon you provided you are willing.

"The Chinese Must Go." I was pleased to learn that you have some sympathy with us in regard to the Chinese. It is a fact that the best people and most highly educated -- what I may call the first class of society on the Pacific Coast, are almost unanimously of opinion that the Chinese in such vast numbers are absolutely ruinous to our prosperity.

A short time since I made a short visit to Uncle James Wrights' family at their fruit ranch in the Santa Cruz mountains.

(I was interrupted here and obliged to delay finishing my sentence until 14th of June.)

Their farm is distant 63 miles by railroad from San Francisco and is surrounded by some of the most beautiful scenery I have ever seen.

Of course I saw the bright side of everything. In May the hills and valleys of California are arrayed in their Sunday clothes. Wild flowers of brilliant and variagated colors are omni-present in full bloom and look their loveliest. The fields and trees are a bright green.

The roads are hard and smooth and free from dust. The air is mild and balmy, but at the same time bracing and exhilarating.

This mountain air is so free and invigorating that Wrights' station has acquired considerable reputation as a resort for health and pleasure.

The birds are all in their happiest mood and nothing seems wanting to make a paradise complete. Their mountain ranch is situated about 2,000 feet above the level of the ocean which is distant only 17 miles and from the surrounding hills can be clearly seen.

These mountains do not rise abruptly from the ocean but gradually like a stairway and the land is very broken and irregular.

Deep canyons and gulches with here and there a beautiful little valley far down at their bottom (in some cases more than 1,000 feet down) wind about promiscuously among the mountains.

The scenery resembles greatly that of the famous white mountains in New Hampshire. The Santa Cruz mountains have been and still are the most places densely wooded.

The lumber men however are doing all in their power to cut down the timber and destroy this beauty of nature. They have been obliged to go slow because of the great labor and difficulty of hauling off these gigantic logs.

The snow is never deep enough there to render assistance. Large quantities of wood are carried down by means of "mule trains" and a large fortune has been expended in building a flume many miles in length in which to float the logs.

I enjoyed climbing up and around the hills and riding horse back.

The roads and trails wind around and up and down the sides of the mountains. On one side the steep bank towering above you; on the other side a steep precipice and on its sides myriads of tall Red-wood trees of gigantic size that excite profound admiration and wonder and many of them more than 200 feet in height and straight as an arrow, and their slender tops many of them are far below the trail.

At the foot of the canyon stand other trees of equal size and dimensions but which look like more slender tooth picks.

Now we make a sudden turn and wind around a sharp curve like a horse shoe and entirely new scene is before us--valleys far below and another valley at a distance, a green velvety meadow on a distant hill-side.

Now we gallop through a dark and dense growth of trees and shrubbery where for some distance we can see nothing of the surrounding country but the sun with somber and quiet rays peeps through small openings in the tree tops. Not a sound can be heard save that of a gurgling brook, the cooing of a mourning dove and a tinkling bell in the distance.

Soon we make another sudden turn and ascend a steep hill from the summit of which we obtain a magnificent view of the surrounding hills, valleys and mountains and the ocean, 20 miles away.

Directly in the foreground of the landscape is the beautiful Soquel valley extending from yoy towards the ocean and just beyond the valley is the broad Pacific rolling its fleecy breakers upon the shore.

On the right of the valley, along the shore is the town of Santa Cruz.

On the left is the far-famed Monterey through frequently concealed from sight by being enveloped in fog.

All along the trail are scattered beautiful wild flowers, blossoming trees and shrubbery. Large gray squirrels sit upon boughs above our heads and gaze at us.

These are a few links which repeated in promiscuous order give some idea of a ride around and among these beautiful mountains.

There is a remarkable difference between these mountains and those in New England.

Although the latter are covered with trees yet the soil is very scanty and the few farmers who are courageous enough to attempt the cultivation of their rocky heights eke out a miserable subsistence and obtain as a reward an abundant harvest of stones!

In California some of the most fertile land and most valuable for wheat and grape growing is situated on the summits and sides of these Santa Cruz mountains

Here the grapes are shipped by the ~~ton~~.

I was much pleased to see vineyards and orchards kept in such excellent condition and looking so healthy and thrifty.

In regard to the value of this mountain land I was informed that some sold for \$300 per acre after it was cleared and set out with growing vines or fruit trees--that other land the soil of which was equally productive sold for \$40 per acre before it was cleared.

You would understand our appreciation of this mountain air were you subjected for any length of time to the chilly blasts of San Francisco for in the summer the people of San Francisco are obliged to get into the country to get warm.

Hoping that you are all well

Your aff. cousin

Henry B. Loomis.

Law Office of Henry B Loomis
Attorney and Counselor at Law

Seattle Washington
Territory
24th February 1883

My dear cousins:

Your kind letter of 2nd Oct. was duly received while I was in Portland, Ore. and the photographs of Johnnie and Maude came in due time (August I think)

I am sorry to have neglected answering your letter but I have been very busy--I have been working hard since the beginning of the year endeavoring to square accounts with all my correspondents.

I am glad you had such a pleasant trip east. Wish I could have been with you.

I had occasion to come here on business last July and spent eight weeks in this vicinity during the summer, in company with a college friend.

I wish you could have been here to share in our enjoyment. You are so fond of the Detroit River --I wonder what you would say if you saw Puget Sound in all its glory. I will try and send you a description which I have written--it may appear in the Beacon.

I was so much pleased with the climate, scenery etc. that I determined to remain here if possible. By this time you may think that I am so a rover. I was offered greater inducements to locate here than to remain in San Francisco.

I became tired of plodding along and following in the wake of hard times.

I went to Boston in the autumn of 1875 just as depression in business was beginning to manifest itself, and it continued until 1879, when I was obliged to leave on account of severity of the climate.

In the meantime I began studying law, and went to California at a time when the wave of depression was traversing that famous state.

The era of depression has not yet ended.

Since before going to California, I have had in view only one purpose, I was unable, in California, to carry out my ideas as I discovered upon arrival there, and was obliged to abandon them, for a time and make a fair trial of San Francisco.

I remained in San Francisco for no other reason than that I had at that time no other choice in the matter if I remained in California. I came to California expecting to make my home in San Jose, but found it impracticable as regards business.

While in San Francisco I made some progress and father and many friends seemed to think I ought to be satisfied to remain.

I have said many things in praise of California and some of San Francisco and would not now retract. There are many delightful places in California, and San Francisco is good enough for a person of leisure and wealth, while in good health but San Francisco is an expensive and fast place to live, if one cares to go into "society" and mingle with the people.

It is a pretty good place ~~to~~ to live but a poor place in which to grow old.

It is "not that I loved San Francisco less, but that I loved Seattle more."

This is more a region after my own heart, I have heard so much about growing up with the country that I concluded to try it myself. I have already gained six pounds--I weigh that much more than at any time during my residence in San Francisco.

Thus far I have no reason to regret the change except that as heretofore, in moving I have been obliged to leave behind kind friends. In moving about I have gained some experience and seen considerable of the country.

There are already more than fifty (50) lawyers here--the bar is an old able one and very large and still they come from all

parts of the United States.

Business of other kinds is very active and property here is constantly rising in value. It seems to be an excellent and safe place to invest money.

Money is in demand and brings 10 per cent interest per year, 12 per cent on short loans and there is good real estate security.

I have already invested and loaned considerable for other people

I passed a delightful summer and would like to write you a long letter recounting pleasant experiences. I have traveled about the country this year in this region in many directions and in Oregon. Was charmed by a trip up the Columbia river. We can show you some of the finest scenery in the world.

Is Rev. M.D. Wilson from the east now in Astoria, Ore., a relative of yours? A friend of mine met him on his way. Sorry to hear of death of Mr. Torrains. Father was disappointed not to see you. I enclose business cards. Your aff. cousin.

Henry B. Loomis.

Seattle, Washington Territory

7th June 1884

Mrs. Philo E. Wright

Detroit, Michigan.

My dear cousin:

Your kind and interesting letter of 12th March was duly received.

I am pleased to hear from you and especially because I may not have been entitled to the letter. For I think I was already indebted to you for a letter of prior date---at all events so far as I can learn from my records my last letter to you was dated 24th Feb. '83. I believe that one reason for not writing was that you said you were likely to move and change your address, of which you were to give me due notice.

Being a bachelor, I have no one to write my letters of friendship. I write to my friends as often as I can find opportunity, but fortunately (or in the matter of correspondence unfortunately) I have so many friends scattered about the country that I cannot find time to do my duty in the matter.

I was much interested in the description of your trip to New Mexico and of the delays preceding and the tribulations subsequent thereto.

I hope each of the family are now well--From New Haven to New Mexico is a long journey. If you are so fond of traveling, you make a mistake not to see the Pacific Coast. To do so one ought to start in the spring and take at least six months for the trip--provided you visit Seattle first, at the best time of the year, ie, spring. You could go to California in the winter and visit here in the spring.

Virginia seems to be unfortunate in regard to accidents and as a friend of mine, Mr. Fair, who recently lived here.

He rarely went anywhere without encountering some accident--his favorite trick was being thrown from a horse--on one occasion he fell through a low bridge at a picnic and about January 1883 he distinguished himself by precipitating himself and a young lady into the water while skating.

But this far he has escaped serious injury. Just before I came to Seattle he was invited by the famous trio of highwaymen, on a dark night, to "throw up his hands." He was wise enough to quickly take the hint and ran as fast as his legs would carry him. About fifteen minutes later another man was approached by the same trio, but instead of taking the hint he attempted to draw his revolver and was shot instantly.

The whole city was immediately aroused and made a search for the trio and succeeded in finding them about three o'clock the same night, hid in a hay mow.

After a trial in court the people were ^{so} ⁿconvicted of their guilt that the vigilance committee seized them and hung them on a bar supported by two trees. This is one of the great and memorable events of the history of Seattle.

It had a salutary effect upon the criminal class and since I have been in Seattle the best of peace and good order has prevailed and such a performance is not likely to recur.

You may you" have had a great notion of going west" yourself and inquire about the cost of living in Seattle.

I will gladly answer any question to the best of my ability. But I shall say to you just what I say to everyone--I do not believe it right to urge any person to change their place of residence except in case of sickness or some necessity. I have seen enough of the world and human nature to know that all people do not think alike about any one question or thing--Everywhere, people differ in regard to their ideas of life and happiness--what suits and

pleases one person may afford no attraction or pleasure to another.

Since I have been on the Pacific Coast I have received many letters from friends and others asking advice as to whether or not they should come west.

Ordinarily to advise a change of residence entails more or less responsibility.

You will appreciate the position which I assume--you might be much pleased to have a friend go from the Pacific Coast to Detroit and reside, but under any ordinary circumstances would you urge it.

If you desire a change of climate or a change of residence my advice is to come and see the country first--try it awhile before destroying all bridges behind you.

In regard to Seattle I can say that I like it and several thousand other people like it.

I am greatly pleased with Seattle and am entirely content. I have a number of agreeable friends and consider the climate, take it all in all, the best of any I have experienced.

Money commands one and one half per cent per month interest.

In regard to the cost of living here a good house can be rented for \$30 to \$45 per month. Servants command \$20 to \$30 per month. It is difficult to retain a good servant.

Bread stuffs probably are not much more expensive than in Eastern States.

Table board at the best hotel (and a first class one) is \$7 per week. Same kind of board in private house same price (This is the best)

The schools here rank high.

At present there is an opportunity for first class instruction in art and good instruction in music.

to the pa

I am unable to judge so accurately of the music of the painting, sketching etc.

I enclose price list of our leading grocer C.P.

Stone.

To change the subject, how do you like the new combination, Blaine and Logan? I was anxious to see Edmunds nominated.

Yours Sincerely

Henry B. Loomis

Seattle, Wash Territory

Sept 18, 1884

Law Office of Henry B Loomis

Mrs. Philo E. Wright,

Detroit:

My Dear Cousin:

Your kind letter of 4th Aug duly received. I am sorry you have given up your trip this way but hope you will soon find it convenient to come. I was interested in several items of news --I had a letter from Uncle Daniel dated 2nd Aug. Yours is the latest edition.

I regret exceedingly that I missed seeing your friend Mr. Rowland. I kept an eye open for him and saw in the paper, notice of his arrival at Tacoma about Aug 17 and supposed of course he would remain there several days with his son. I was obliged to be away from Seattle on the 18th and 19th and on my return found to my surprise that he had visited Seattle and gone.

Some friends of mine leave here for Detroit about Sept. 19(Friday) Lieut Wm. A Nichols, 23d infantry goes to join his company now stationed at Fort Wayne Mich. His wife is a daughter of Col. Granville O. Haller, now a resident of Seattle and who served in the Mexican war and was with McClellan and Burnside in the late Civil War.

They will be accompanied by Mrs. Haller, sister of Mrs. Nichols.

I am not so well acquainted with Lieut and Mrs. Nichols because they have been here only three months on a visit.

Mrs. Haller I have known during more than a year and she is highly esteemed in Seattle. She leaves a hospitable home. I think you will enjoy meeting them and I have told them about you and

I know they would be pleased to have you call.

With love to all, Henry B. Loomis (Are you acquainted with J.R. McDonald of Detroit. He has recently purchased valuable property here

Seattle, Washington Ter.
June 21st 1886

Henry B. Loomis,
Kenney Block, Front street
My Dear Cousin:

Your kind letter of June 7 and 14 and the "Easter Letter" and the pictures through Mr. Wendell have all been received and I am much pleased with them and thank you sincerely.

I think I acknowledged the receipt of the Easter Letter by postal.

Mrs. Vischer and Mrs. Wendell arrived safely last Wednesday and the next evening I met them at a lawn party. I understand that Mrs. W. resides near you in Detroit and I room in the house adjoining the house of Mrs. Maddocks (the sister of Mrs. Vischer). They gave a good report of you all and say that you have a beautiful home.

I wish you had concluded that it was best to come to Seattle. But I do not undertake to advise any one to move when they are already contented. I hope to visit Detroit some day.

Have you ever met Mrs. Laura Balch of Akron who used to be with Aunt Julia Upson a great deal? Her sister married Capt. Gilbert S. Carpenter, USA now in 14th infantry stationed at Vancouver, this territory.

Capt. Carpenter is an excellent gentleman and has been in command of the two companies which have been stationed here in Seattle since February last. I think he must be fifty-five years of age--his hair and whiskers are silvered over. He has been a kind friend to me and it seems like seeing an old friend--Uncle Daniel sends me the "Beacon" and Capt. comes to the office almost every day.

He seems to be much pleased with Seattle. He is son of Judge Carpenter who lives on West hill Akron and Graduated at Western Reserve college in 1859.

With much love

Your aff cousin

Henry B. Loomis

P.S. During most of the winter Fran was at Nice, France
and in May last he was at Montreux, Switzerland. His health is
not much changed since 12 years.