

LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

FINDING AID FOR
THE NANCY E. SAVAGE LETTERS
1849 – 1852

CATALOG NUMBER: LOWE 15674

PREPARED BY

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PREFACE

This document, *Finding Aid for the Nancy E. Savage Letters (1849– 1852)*, describes a group of letters written to Nancy E. Savage, of New Hampshire, by various friends and acquaintances. They were donated by Sally Byrne of Holland, Massachusetts. They were cataloged at the Lowell National Historical Park by Clee A. Ace, volunteer, with the help of Dan Walsh, Museum Specialist.

This finding aid has a list of the 14 letters with synopses. The original letters are held in the Cultural Resources collections in the Curatorial Department of Lowell National Historical Park. Photocopies of all original letters were created and are maintained in both the Library and the Curatorial Departments of the park.

Researchers are requested to contact the park Librarian for assistance in accessing and using this material. If original documents must be consulted, researchers are requested to contact the park Curatorial Department. Users of these materials are advised to determine the copyright status of any document from which they wish to publish.

Publishing authors are requested to cite their use of this collection in the following manner: Letter number, Nancy E. Savage Letters, Lowell National Historical Park.

INTRODUCTION

This finding aid describes materials in the *Nancy E. Savage Letters*, 1849 – 1852. It is a group of 14 original mill girl letters which has been processed in chronological order.

Nancy Emeline Savage was a mill worker in Peterborough, NH, who left the mill for unknown reasons. The letters from her friends and acquaintances were written from various locations in New Hampshire. There are three letters, April 25, May 9, and July 13 that show no year.

The letters are mainly news of friends and places that are familiar to Nancy Savage, whose correspondents referred to her by her middle name Emeline. There is frequent reference to mills, working conditions in mills, and work available in mills in locations around New Hampshire.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Accession number: LOWE 507

Catalog number: LOWE 15674

Quantity: .2 linear feet (14 original letters)

Storage: 1 legal archival document box containing both the original and the study copies.

Location: Lowell National Historical Park, 67 Kirk Street, Lowell, Massachusetts 01852 –1029. Phone 978-970-5000.

Description: The letters in this collection were written to Nancy Emeline Savage, who worked for a time in Peterborough, New Hampshire. The dated letters cover the period August 28, 1849 to April 28, 1852. Three letters have no year on them are dated April 25, May 9, and July 13. They contain news of friends, activities of the correspondent, mill job information, working conditions in the mills, and availability of mill work.

This collection of letters was donated to the Lowell National Historical Park by Sally Byrne, Holland, MA. There is no information about the relationship of the donor to Miss Savage.

Accession 507: 14 letters

- 1) Aug. 28, 1849. From Frances J. Cross to "Friend Emeline" (Savage). Sent from Hudson, NH; letter addressed to Nancy E. Savage, Greenfield, NH. Letter talks about not going into the mill yet, expecting to board with Mr. E.W. Gorrells.
- 2) May 29, 1850. From Frances J. Cross to Emeline. Sent from Nashville (Nashua) NH; letter addressed to Miss Nancy E. Savage, Peterboro, NH; postmarked Nashua, May 30. Letter talks about being in the mill now, going to the doctor in Lowell, boarding with Mr. Enoch Cummings.
- 3) Aug. 10, 1850. From Frances J. Cross to? (no salutation, probably to Emeline). Sent from Nashville; no address or postmark (letter was probably in an envelope). Letter talks about working in the mill, boarding alone.
- 4) Sept. 30, 1850. From Frances J. Cross to Emeline.
Sent from Nashville; letter addressed to Miss Nancy E. Savage, Peterboro; postmarked Nashua, Oct. 1.
Letter states in part " ... I shall leave the mill next Saturday Night; I do not know how long I shall stay out they are ageing to stop $\frac{1}{4}$ of the mills and they are ageing to cut our wages down we have had \$2,12 per week but now have only 10 shillings, the 4 loom weavers have only 11 shillings sixpence the spinners have 8 shillings ... I have had my miniature taken it is just as natural as life ... "
- 5) Feb. 11, 1851. From Levi Nichols to Miss Emeline Savage.
Sent from Peterboro; postmarked Peterboro, Feb. 12. Letter states in part " ... your wide looms will be ready the first Monday in March, and we want you should come back and run the old looms once more. The company will not pay quite as much per cut as they did when you left ... we will keep your looms for you ... "
- 6) Oct. 19, 1851. From Susan S. Gould to Emeline. Sent from Newport, NH; letter addressed to Miss Emeline Savage, Greenfield, NH, postmarked Newport, NH, Oct. 22. Letter talks about going to Keene, Leominster, Boston, Lowell, and home again by way of Concord. Maria may work at sewing or go to the mill at Harrisville. Asks how Miss Robb gets along on "my looms".
- 7) Nov. 23, 1851. From Lucy Farington to "an absent friend" (Emeline). Sent from Manchester, NH, Manchester Corp. #62; no address or postmark (was probably in an envelope).

- 7, cont. Letter talks about her boarding house, its location, cost of \$1.31 per week, keeper's poor health and her two hired girls, one Irish. States in part "... Imagine yourself carried from that little village to the city, from that little weaving room of a handful of looms to one that two hundred and one in it, and mill that is three hundred and thirty feet long and there is some difference I reckon (?), the work is not much like the work up there it is very fine delaine (delaine is fine woolen cloth) that we are to work upon, I run three looms."
- 8) Dec. 14, 1851. From Louisa Stevens to Emeline.
Sent from Peterborough; no address or postmark (was probably in an envelope). Letter is mostly family news, mentions mills in very general terms.
- 9) Dec. 14, 1851. From Susan S. Gould to Emeline. Sent from Newport, NH; no address or postmark (was probably in an envelope). Letter talks about expecting to go into the mill, asks if Emeline is going to Peterboro or Clinton; if Clinton, Susan would go with her; mentions factory at Harrisville.
- 10) Feb. 22, 1852. From Selina (Susan Gould) to Emeline.
Sent from Keene, NH; no address or postmark (was probably in an envelope). Letter talks about probably going into the mill in the spring; the rest is family news.
- 11) April 28, 1852. From Louisa C. Stevens to Emeline.
Sent from Peterboro: no address or postmark; sent to Nancy E. Savage. Letter states in part "...I received your kind letter last evening wanting to know if you had got a pair of looms here, well I expect you have and if you want to come back I am very willing to give them up you have let me have them longer than I expect you would have..."
- 12) April 25 (no year). From Maria A. Gould to Emeline.
Sent from Nashua; letter is in an envelope addressed to Miss Nancy E. Savage, Peterborough, postmarked Greenfield, NH, May 14 and stamped "paid". Letter talks about working in Mrs. French's shop, one of the shop girls fainting and the doctor being sent for, and Maria having to be walked home by Mr. French.
- 13) May 9 (no year). From Selina (Susan Gould) to Emeline.
Sent from Stoddard, NH; no address or postmark (was probably in an envelope). Letter talks about being back home from Keene, not knowing how long she will stay or if she will go back into the mill. The rest is news about family and friends.

14) July 13 (no year). From Mary C. Reynolds to "dear friend", probably Emeline. Sent from Lowell; addressed to Miss Nancy E. Savage, Greenfield, NH. Letter talks about having a good place in the mill, Adeline going into the weaving room.