

18 Jan 1986

Maizie Crockett → Nora
Teaching in Albany
4 yo. experience
of a minor explosion
Very interesting

MOUNT
HOLYOKE
HILLS

Albany Wyo.

Jan. 18th '86

Dear Sister Nora: —

Two minutes ago I received your long looked for letter. Now I think mother wrongs me, I write to her as often as I can find any thing to write I have written to her four times since I have heard from home. It is now two weeks since I have had a letter, Oh! Nora I have something very terrible to write you it is so bad and my nerves are so upset I can hardly gather my thoughts together,

Well last Tuesday night I went to a meeting had a very good time, came home talked until

screaming, and said it was No 4 that had exploded, well I dressed and Ma B, and I went down to no 4 (it is one mile from here) to learn all we could about it well we had got nearly there when some men came running from there and had us go back as they were looking any minute for another 24, and the very ground we were on was dangerous, well there were thirteen killed, our best trustee, the Pres. of the Y, Mr. M. J. A., the Bp's son in law two little boys ~~and~~ etc the gas was so bad they could not get down in the mine for hours, the first company of men that did go down (only a very short way) did not return as soon as the people thought they should, so some went to look for them and found them senseless and nearly dead. They dragged them out as quickly as possible

eleven o'clock went to bed ^{got to}
Thinking on different subjects until
my temples throbed quite painfully.
had been in bed about 10 minutes
when I heard a terrible sound. I
had filled my stove as full as it
could be with coal before I went
to bed and shut all the draft I
thought at first my stove had
burst all to pieces, but did not
look to see but went on calmly
Thinking, and could still hear
the noise. Mrs. Beveridge (I live in
part of her house) began shrieking
"O my God Mr. Smith, No. 2
has exploded and pa Beveridge
must be dead." I do not know
what ailed me but I calmly
arose went to her room. tried to
quiet her told her it was only the
engine throwing off steam. well
she was nearly crazy and shrieked

and screamed you never saw
what I did or you would know
better. well I walked to my door
looked out; it was a beautiful
moon light night I looked at
No. 2 (it is not a half block from my
home) well there was a cloud
hanging over it as black as any
thing you ever saw it was not
many minutes until the
cloud had disappeared. Oh Nora
the gas was terrible; well I was
still very calm took care of her
5 children while she ran half
dressed. to one B's I began
dressing, and watching were
running fast, and trying to
quiet Pa who was almost going
into fits, to tell the truth Nora
through all my calmness, I thought
my last hour had come.
Mrs. B. ran back still crying and

in one place, a leg in another,
his heart in another, his entrails
in another, and his body half
a mile away, the other was
found, also terribly mangled.
The cars were sent nearly a quarter
of a mile all torn to pieces and
the rails were blown up and
bent in all shapes, some large
timbers were sent clear through.
The boarding house one went
through the roof and ceiling
and tore a mans head to
pieces if he had not been at
a party he would have been killed.
one man that lived close by jumped
up to see what was the matter, took his
baby in his arms, told his wife to follow,
started into the other room a broken
beer knocked him on the arm and
he fell backward just in time to
prevent a stone that weighed some
where over a ton from falling on him,
I have seen all the wrecks, and it

looks strange that gas can do
such things iron are bent double
that I would not have thought
any power on earth could have
bent, broken timbers dirt etc.
was thrown nearly to my door.
I went down to the mine the
next day, and the wives, mothers,
fathers, orphans etc were there
almost frantic and were watching
and waiting for the bodies of
their dear ones. while I stood
there they brought up two bodies
they had heard the explosion coming
and had thrown themselves down
on their faces to save themselves, and
they had not been burned much but
what they call fire damp (I suppose they
mean heavy bad air) had killed them,
two poor men (one of them I had danced
with a few nights before) had not been
touched by the ex. but on account of bad
air had left the room they were
working in and gone quite a distance.

to some water (they people say if there is
any pure air it can be found over
water) and when they were found
their faces were in the water, they
must have suffered agonies knowing
that if relief did not come soon
they must die. There was thousands
of tons of coal thrown down and they
had great difficulty in finding all
the bodies. There were two of the men
working in the entry at the time and
they think that one of them must
have caused the accident, as his body
was terribly mangled there was so
much gas in the mine and while on
the car loading the coal, his lamp must
have touched it off the two firemen
were burned black, one of them was
the trustee and I went to see him I
could only tell him by the shape of
his nose he looked as though he had
never had either beard or hair.
I also went to see Willie Peterson
the son of the man who keeps the
boarding house where I boarded) he had
been burned some but when they

and it was a half hour before
they could see life in them.
I forgot to say that just as the 14,
was going to take place two Brothers
got in the cars to go down into
the mine, and the train was going
coming back with the firemen
and the two little boys well a good
man by the name of Cooper was
standing near the cars as they were
going to start down and he thought
of staying there until it returned,
but changed his mind and
went down into the engine room
he only got there in time to
barely save his life. Now can you
imagine those two bros. starting
down the mine with almost
lightning speed to meet the
explosion, they could not have
been half way down when they
were driven back with such force
that at eight o'clock next morning
the head of one was found hanging

he had asked me several times
to go some evening and he
would ~~have~~ take me through
the mine. I am thankful I
was not in the mine that
evening.

I have had a terrible
time with Oa, she could not
sleep for about 80 hours and
would almost go into fits, she
would pray, and beg by turns
to go home, they thought there was
danger of another ex, and the
whole mountain is filled with
gas and fires, and the whole
mountain might ex. There is
a powder magazine about a
quarter of a block from our house
and I hardly blame her for
being nervous I do not know
what has made me so calm
in four weeks from now ∇

they are going to close school for
8 weeks I think I shall be obliged
to go home for that length of
time I think no one ever
ever so lonesome as I.

when Orosentine his
picture he done it up in brown
paper can not you do the same
^{with your pictures}
as I do so long to get them
Give my love to Bro. Will and
tell him to send me a specimen
of his hand writing also a bird
drawn with pen. I want to show
it to Mrs. F. I have been
bragging Will so don't disappoint
me. Please write soon, forgive
all mistakes in this as I dare
not look the letter over

I am as ever your loving
Sister

Mary Stocking

MOUNT HOLYOKE MILLS

My dear aunt

I wish you was here for I am very
scared for fear that no mine will
explode but Bro. Beveridge said
it will not explode one of my
friends was killed in the mine
and one of the trustees was

I like your nuts taste very good
seeing you stole them from the
mine I feel sorry for the poor
little things. I wish you was
coming home sooner.

I guess ma has told you all the
news so I don't think I will
write any more this time.

a little Dutch girl came pretty
near getting drowned but she got out
I will quit will love to all & remain
your niece, Ca.

washed him the black skin came off
I saw the skin that came off of his
hands and and it looked almost
like black gloves only the nails were
there on the ends the poor little fellows
had one hand raised as though
he had seen the danger coming
and raised his hand as though
to protect himself, I also saw the
men that had put their faces into
the water to get ~~protection~~ breath.
The bodies were all sent away but
4 and they were taken to the hall
for the funeral sermon preacher,
&c. the trustee (Bro Cumsock)
had spent ^{the} Saturday evening with
me before the accident, and now
I can almost imagine I can see
him sitting in the same place