

a house near the Thoreau residence. Channing became T's closest friend and first biographer. A moody, unpredictable, sometimes irascible man, he often offended his friends, including Emerson, Alcott, and Margaret Fuller. Convinced that he was a poet, Channing devoted his life to his writing, but with modest success.

¹ The Red Lodge was a small red farmhouse located on the Cambridge Turnpike adjoining Emerson's land; T had arranged for Channing to rent this house from Sheriff Abel Moore (1777-1848) for fifty-six dollars a year. A land trader and an accomplished agriculturalist, Moore was known as a practical joker and a hard drinker; his temperament would have suited Channing.

Copy-text: AL (VtMiM, Channing W E/1)

Published: Cor 1958, 96; "Letters of William Ellery Channing the Younger" 1989, 186-188

Editor's Notes

This letter is endorsed "W. E. Channing".

PE supplies the date "April 6, 1843" from the contents of Channing's letter to Emerson, sent from Cambridge and dated "Fast-Day April 6th 1843". In that letter, Channing describes the Red Lodge as needing repairs and indicates that he would "put down" in "the Postscript" a list of "these affairs" for T to attend to. The postscript, written on either an attached or enclosed sheet, apparently refers to the letter printed here ("Letters of William Ellery Channing the Younger" 1989, pp. 185, 188n2).

Author's Alterations

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of the barn,] interlined with a caret*

To Henry Vose

April 11, 1843

Concord April 11th 1843

Friend Vose,

Vague rumors of your success as a lawyer in Springfield have reached our ears in Concord from time to time, and lately I have heard other news of interest regarding you

from our mutual acquaintance Mrs. Jackson¹ of Boston—All which concern an old school-and class-mate. Davis² too is with you seeking his fortune also— Please give my respects to him

The last time you wrote to me in days gone by, I think you asked me to write you some political news, to enliven your residence in that drear Chenango Country—but alas I could hardly be sure who was President already—still less who was about to be— And now I have to trouble you with matters of far different tenor.— To be short—My Sisters—whom perhaps you remember—who for the last three or four years have been teaching a Young-ladies school in Roxbury—with some *eclat* and Satisfaction, and latterly have passed a long vacation here, are desirous to establish themselves in one of those pleasant Connecticut-river towns—if possible, in Springfield. They would like, either to take charge of some young-ladies school already established, or else, commencing with the few scholars that might be secured, to build up such an institution by their own efforts—Teaching, besides the common English branches, French; Music, Drawing, and Painting.

And now I wish to ask if you will take the trouble to ascertain if there is any opening of the kind in your town, or if a few scholars can be had which will warrant making a^a beginning.

Perhaps Davis' profession acquaints him with this portion of the statistics of Springfield—and he will assist us with his advice.

Mr Hoar,³ Mr Emerson, and other good men will stand as referees.

I hear of no news of importance to write you—unless it may be news to you that the Boston and Fitchburg railroad^e passing through this town, is to be contracted for directly—⁴ I am going to reside on Staten-Island this summer. If you will answer this as soon as convenient you will oblige

Your Classmate and Well-wisher
Henry D. Thoreau.

Correspondent: See p. 8.

¹ Mrs. Jackson may be Susan Bridge Jackson (1816-1899), daughter of Nathan and Elizabeth Bartlett Bridge of Charlestown, Massachusetts. In 1834 she married Charles Thomas Jackson, Lidian Emerson's brother, but her connection to T and Vose is not clear.

² William Davis (1818-1853), son of Nathaniel and Harriet Mitchell Davis, was a member of the class of 1837. He studied law at Harvard and practiced in Plymouth, Massachusetts, where he married Helen Russell (1825-1900), daughter of John and Deborah Spooner Russell, in 1850.

³ Samuel Hoar.

⁴ Alvah Crocker, a Fitchburg railroad builder, began construction of the Boston-Fitchburg rail line on May 15, 1843. It reached Concord on June 17, 1844. Concord had enthusiastically supported the railroad and contributed significantly to its capital funding.

Copy-text: ALS (RPB, Albert Edgar Lownes Collection on Henry David Thoreau, 1837-1965, Ms. 80.1, Series 1, Box 1, Folder 2)

Published: Cor 1958, 95

Editor's Notes

This letter is addressed "Henry Vose Esq. / Springfield / Mass," postmarked "CONCORD MA{illegible} 11", and endorsed "D. H. Thoreau. / 15. Ap. 1843".

railroad] PE; rail- / road in MS

Author's Alteration

a] preceded by cancelled the

From Ellery Channing

May 1, 1843

See them, O beloved Thoreau, how greatly convenient a house of one's own will be! {text lacking} that will keep him Greek reading a half a year. {text lacking} So many have been your benevolences that my wish is too shallow to know how to bring you into my debt. Only so much, as offering you a shelter under my roof, when I may have one, can show effect.

Correspondent: See pp. 154-155.

Copy-text: The Stephen H. Wakeman Collection of Books of Nine-