

Donated by Arthur Brauer in 1996

Dear Mr. Brauer,

I am so sorry you are having so much physical trouble. The only consolation I can think of and that isn't much, but there seems to be thousands of people today having such troubles. I am glad your son and daughter-in-law are so near to you and I am sure Art will get you all the help possible. So many families get widely separated these days.

Mine was more fortunate. We were mostly on the farm. My sister lived in Guilford but that too far away.

My father had five sisters and a brother. His brother had a farm at the head of High Street in Terryville. One sister died in Texas, one in Kansas, one in Milford Conn and two were nearby. Aunt Mary never married. She had a store in Bristol at one time and Grandfather lived with her. Later she moved back to the farm and took care of grand father until his death. He caught cold in the blizzard of 1888 trying to get to the barn and care for some livestock and died soon after at 84 years.

Speaking of the blizzard of 1888, it was the only one I have ever seen and I will be a hundred in April 9. My father had never seen one either. It snowed for three days, it was bitter cold and the wind blowing a hurricane so much snow falling and more blowing, that there was no visibility, many people became lost even when near their home.

In New York City people dropped exhausted in side walks. I remember hearing of one who was saved because a storekeeper was looking out and saw him fall and dragged him into the store.

I remember my mother standing on a chair and looking out the top row of glass to see and the snow piled up against the south side of the barn. My father and two older brothers went out the second story window to get to the barns and mother feared they couldn't find the way back.

There were drifts 20 feet deep. They didn't get a train through from Hartford to Waterbury for over a week because the cuts were filled with snow and a lot of it had to be shoveled. There were no telephones in the country at that time and people were really snow bound.

Fortunately it cleared off warm and the sun was up high and it settled down fast but there was snow on the north side of fences in places until early May.

My father told of one big snow that came in early June. Many people thought he was wrong in the date but he was driving a horse and sleigh from Danbury and there were a lot of drifts in the road. He said it was in early days of June and gardens were coming up but it went off and didn't hurt them.

He said when he got up near home he met Merit Ford where M Leavy(?) does now and he said to him young man, you never saw this before and you never will again.

I'm sorry to write this with pencil but the pens seem to fade and I got disgusted with them.

The reason I write all this is that I thought it might give something to think about for a few minutes and take your mind off yourself.

To say you have my sympathy is putting it mild, but it may be a little consolation and know people are thinking about you.

Most sincerely

Maurice E. Minor

March 3rd 1880 (sic) 1980

Note- Letter written by Maurice E. Minor to Mrs Arthur () Brauer when she was terminally ill with cancer in 1980. The Brauers lived at 760 Plymouth Rd Harwinton, which was the former home of Hiram Minor, Maurice's father Maurice Minor owned a home and land in Terryville and Harwinton. His father's shingle mill is a part of the Historical Society's exhibit on the Harwinton Fairgrounds. Mr Minor was very active in local and state politics. He also served as a State Legislator for the town of Plymouth.