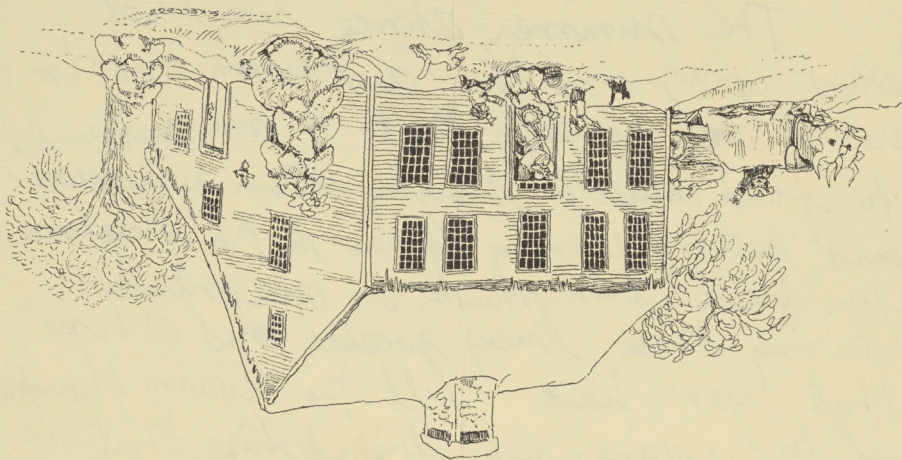


Dearest Nell,

November 10, 1982

The summer, since we last saw you, and the autumn too, have passed so quickly that I am astounded to find myself hanging storm windows and setting evening fires in the fireplace. You have been much on our minds during these busy weeks, and I hope that you have felt the warm thoughts of love, caring, and friendship that we frequently send your way. I have been doing a lot of traveling throughout the country doing programs for children, and giving talks in colleges and libraries to people interested in children's books. It is enjoyable, and the audiences are so appreciative that I have to feel that my efforts are well spent, but I do have difficulty keeping a continuity in the development of the new books that I'm working on when I am in and out so frequently! Helen is equally busy with her various projects, and the two of us are alarmed to find that time is passing so quickly! We are counting on



the oncoming winter to slow us down a bit, and we are looking forward to being in closer touch with dear and special friends, like yourself.

We hope that all is going well with you, and that you enjoyed this autumn, which seemed particularly beautiful to us. It is my favorite season, and I was encouraged to try to improve my behavior when I heard a quote from John Donne recently: "In heaven it's always autumn."

Please give our love to Barbie, Nell, and tell her that we will be calling both of you soon. Take care, and know that your friends are thinking of you. With love from Steve & Fida

Maryland, Connecticut, Historical Society