

A tribute to the memory of Captain Wyeth by James Russell Lowell,  
sent to the Portland (Oregon) High School on the occasion of its having a  
Lowell evening.

ELMWOOD, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

24th April, 1890.

Dear Miss H \* \* \*

I feel as if I had a kind of birthright in your Portland, for it was a townsman of mine who first led an expedition thither across the plains and tried to establish a settlement there. I well remember his starting sixty years ago, and knew him well in after years. He was a very remarkable person whose conversation I valued highly. A born leader of men, he was fitly called *Captain* Nathaniel Wyeth as long as he lived. It was the weakness of his companions that forced him to let go his hold on that fair possession. I hope he is duly honored in your traditions. \* \*

I pray you to give my greeting with the warmest assurance of good will to both teachers and pupils. We are I am sure heartily at one in our desire to maintain and perpetuate the better traditions of our local and national life, and it is upon our schools that we must rely in great measure for the fulfilment of that desire.

Wishing for all of you happy and useful lives—and one includes the other

I remain

Very sincerely your friend

J. R. LOWELL.