

1860–1961

GRANDMA MOSES



Grandma Moses painting at her kitchen table, 1952. Photograph by Ifor Thomas. Grandma Moses Properties Co., New York.

» *Christmas card to Frances Greer, ca. 1950*

» *Letter to Frances and Mary Virginia Greer, December 26, 1953*

The handwriting of Grandma Moses reflects the mood and pace of her days, as well as the nature of the task at hand.

Ranging from fancy to plain, Moses's execution mirrors the twin roles she played: the artist and the farmwife.

The solitary Christmas card signature is evidence that Moses could turn out a cultivated script when she took the time. The writing style in her letters to friends and family, however, defaults quickly from elegant flourishes into a pleasant and practical – grandmotherly – forward-leaning script. Legibility falls increasingly by the wayside as Moses attempts to negotiate a demanding schedule, a high volume of family news, and a limited amount of space on which to write. For Moses, writing may have been very similar to both needlework and painting: an everyday act for lovingly recording, sharing, and remembering the riches of family life.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Grandma Moses,

Egle Bridge, Dec 26, 1953 all is well here and I trust my friends are else where, where we were over with Forrest and many others, Had a lovely Christmas dinner, The were 12 of us at the Table, a happy lot you see now my Family have scattered out and each goes with his wives people, some day I will try to send you a picture of them, that is some of them, It has been a warm winter here, Picked a dandelion in the yard yesterday, no snow here on the river as yet, Once is here came home from California 2 1/2 years ago with some Chin Chillas from this ranch, to see how they would do in this climate, they have did fine, has now over 80, Mrs Cook has come here from the ranch and will take back some of them for sale after the first of the year, I will miss her she is such good company, maybe you don't know where we are lived now, you remember where Mary and Forrest lived, well now they live in a new house just across there garden, GERALD, you remember their oldest

Boy, he and his wife and 2 Boys, live just across the Kill, in a new house, and Carol and his wife and 3 little girls live in a new house just across the road from Pearl, and my new house is in the same field about 1/4 mile from Carl's and about 1/4 from the old home that you knew, down across the mallow where we picked chinies, Edward and his wife and four children and his mother and sister live in the home stand, I'm down here with Oma, So I can see them all every week, and most every day, Loyed and Alice and their three Boys are down on their same farm, Mrs Cook will go back to California the 7 and in tends to come back the first of March, they are to buy a ranch over in Vermont and live there, the California ranch is up near the Donor pass, so far from every where,