



Louisa May Alcott's

Home of *Little Women*

## ORCHARD HOUSE

5 November 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter expresses the strong support of Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House for the proposed "Two Revolutions Footpath" connecting Thoreau Farm with the Battle Road Trail of Minute Man National Historical Park (MMNHP).

Orchard House itself connects this home's remarkable residents during multiple periods of history -- from the 1650s and the era of King Philip's (Metacom's) War, through the Revolutionary War period in the 1700s, and into the 1800s. Today, it is most noted because Miss Alcott penned *Little Women* here in 1868. As stewards of this storied property, we are very aware of the importance of making connections of all kinds.

The proposed physical connection of Thoreau Farm with the Battle Road Trail not only enhances historic connections, but also helps visitors appreciate the natural beauty of this area. Louisa's father, Amos Bronson Alcott, was a key figure in the Transcendentalist movement, as were Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. A key tenet of Transcendentalism is appreciation of the natural world: "Up through Nature to God" was a point of view deeply felt by Mr. Alcott and, in fact, all of the Transcendentalists.

Furthermore, the fact that this project would be a public/private partnership is truly important. In 1999, Orchard House was in grave danger of collapse. It was a public/private partnership that allowed our massive preservation project to succeed. We are eager to see another such public/private partnership undertaken to achieve another important historic and preservation goal.

Sincerely,

Jan Turnquist  
Executive Director