

The Filson Historical Society

Mss.

A Moxley - Offutt Family.

M937 Papers. 1818-1978. 1 cu.ft.

2

Personal Correspondence,  
1860-1862.

95x10

Poolsville Md. March 26<sup>th</sup> 1860.

Dear, Sallie.

I congratulate myself on having had the honor of receiving a letter from My Dear, Sallie, and I can assure you that it is with indescribable pleasure that I now have, in acknowledging the receipt of such a favor. You say we are widely separated, but I can say our affections are enlisted, and may be considered inseparable. - We owe a great deal to him who first introduced the art of writing, were we not afforded this method of conveying our thoughts as they suggest themselves, what would be the state of our feelings, gloomy and depressed. So, I hope you'll take advantage often of the numerous opportunities which you probably will be blessed with, in writing to me, and be assured that I am determined to avail myself of every opportunity in writing to my beloved, Sallie. - I hope you will answer one question, in your next letter, it is this does your kind Pa, and Ma, know that we are engaged, and that we correspond. Had I not been compelled to have left My at such an early period, I would have made them acquainted

- with the fact. which was a respect that  
was due your Parents, from me. I sincerely  
hope that they will not object to our anni-  
on. if I have my health. I will be ~~with~~ you  
the coming fall. if your <sup>Parents</sup> would desire it.  
I will get a recommendation from <sup>worthy</sup>  
Gentlemen here. but I think a <sup>man's</sup> manners is  
sufficient recommendation to him. My  
business is honorable one. and I will be  
able to make a Lady Comfortable. when  
I get all my property in my possession.  
if Father had lived. I would have settled in  
Ky. but in regard to my settling in Ky at  
present. Chances are very unfavorable. as  
I cannot get in possession means sufficient  
to buy land <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ three thousand dollars will be  
all that I can get at now. the greater portion  
of my property is in land and negroes.  
The estate is worth from seventy five to eighty  
thousand dollars, at the lowest calculation. and  
it is not to be divided until the minor Chi-  
ldren become of age. I mean the ~~real estate~~  
land and stocks. the personal property  
will be divided shortly. the proceeds of the  
perishable property and money and negroes  
which <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ to be divided, My Dear Father

expressed a great desire, <sup>in his last hours</sup> to have his will changed, so as to give me money to purchase land in the west, but there existed so much trouble in the house, that it was neglected, he was very willing for me to marry and settle in Ky. I wish you could have seen him, I know you could not help loving him. I suppose the five children, each of us will be worth sixteen thousand or 17 thousand dollars, which is reasonably a good start, for a young man. the negro property is worth \$38,000. and the farm would sell for \$25,000. and stocks and farming utensils will be worth \$12,000. besides the money at interest \$7,000. at least that is the valuation that the gentlemen put upon it, who were appointed to put a fair estimation on the property. but if we had millions of dollars it might not add to our happiness, wealth does not in every instance bring happiness. I merely wished to state to you my darling, that I am able to support you. I have not given you this information for the purpose of boasting at all, for had I millions, I never would boast of it. I would be as plain as I am now. You are aware some times that Young ladies



who engage themselves to young men  
from a distance, often repent of it in the  
future, young men who are merely seeking  
the young lady's money, not her affections,  
but permit to say <sup>that</sup> I am not one of that stamp  
the thought of your possessions never entered  
my mind, ~~since~~ I have known you, if you  
were not worth anything, the same affe-  
ction which now exists, would have existed  
under the same circumstances.

Well I expect you are tired of this, and  
I will conclude, by thanking you  
for the kind wishes you have made in  
my behalf, and hope that God will bless  
you, and direct you in all your trials upo-  
n earth, and trust that He will stren-  
gthen the links which binds us together  
with his almighty power, please give my  
love to all who may inquire, and be assured that  
I am forever yours, devoted, Goodbye, from  
William White.

W.

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Poolesville Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> 1861.

Dear Sallie,

I know from the way you write, that you are not too well pleased about my past 2 months silence, well it has been rather a strange course of conduct, but if I were try to tell you in one day how our Protectors from the north, have treated me, you would <sup>not</sup> hear all of these deprivations, I will not attempt to tell in this letter, but hope to see you some of these days when I may be allowed to talk about some other themes of more importance, Your humble self, has been a prisoner, what do you think of that, I thought I would escape arrest, but fortunately ~~not~~ unfortunately my having two homes, I was arrested on my road from my farm to my Mother's in Poolesville, I don't know what I was arrested for, unless it was because they were so badly defeated at my Brother's ferry, Conrads ferry, or Balls bluff, which I presume you have heard off, I was marched seven miles from home, fortunately I was horse back and had not to walk, you don't

know how your William felt, but I was a very saucy prisoner, they did not make much, the General released me without asking me but one question, I think the Lieutenant went who accomplished such a courageous feat, lost his Commission for over doing his duty, the White family have all been arrested now.

I have been very sick since I last wrote, I was a little frightened then, I thought I would never see Lallie, but Lallie has been joking with me all this time, she does not care for me, you talk about your dreams, you feel like I expect that you would like to have them come true, now what would I feel like, to be flirted with, you must not do so, I have thought of one method of trying your love when I see you, and if you fail to do what I shall request you, I will consider it all false, I have never distrusted you until very recently, when I see that you are disposed to complain of my silence, without first finding out the cause, but enough of that, don't find any fault, until I can see you.

Then we can have a big quarrel if we are so inclined, I hear from you, from sources that you know nothing of, how you are carrying on with the young gents, but never no harm only a little innocent flirtation.

do not look often for letters from me, for reasons I will not assign but will some day when I see you, if I am ever allowed that pleasure, you must give my love to inquiring friends, likewise to those who care for me, and believe me to be true to you as the needle to the pole, I am sorry that I said anything about my little fun with the ladies here, you felt as though you believed that I was going to marry that nice Mary, I can't help laughing at the idea, I must stop excuse trifles, good bye,  
Willie

P.S. I will be, perhaps out in Ry in a month's time if I am allowed to travel, you would not have anything to write me now, I am a very homely man, as the girls say, keep a sharp lookout, maybe you will hear of the ugliest man in America being arrested which will be me, I faint every time

Look in the glass, true  
from W.

The Filson Historical Society

13 MAY [c1861]

Catoara House May 13<sup>th</sup>

Dear, Fannie

Your last favor of the 14<sup>th</sup> came safely to hand, though so short it was nevertheless sweet, & gladly received. Wish much you would often write us the news of old Abby. Mary is speaking of going <sup>to stay</sup> ~~coming down~~ in the course of a week or so. She will bring Jennie & Annie with her. I am going with Lute & Mabel, if Mr. Peak can't come. Lute is complaining a good deal with his stomach. I was up at Mr. Ross on Sat. Thursday, found all well. I went up to have my bonnet fixed. I ordered it lined in black & white, straps & laces seem to be all the go. Tell Anna she must not think of any other kind but a straw black, seems to be the prevailing color in dressings. Jennie Hamilton had on a bonnet

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trimmed in black ribbon with a little white  
edge, with yellow & black face linings  
here I suppose was a spring bonnet, all the  
bonnets set up so much in front, I will  
be lost in mine, I had Mamma put on  
black, if she died she can get a pretty  
rate for a pair of 25 to 30 so for get in Leipzig  
I am going up again on next Saturday for  
my bonnet - I will stay several days. I  
I have a dress that would suit Mamma if  
she is not wearing black, even Cousin Mary  
give one perfectly good, the only reason I  
wanted Mamma to have it was, because  
it was made, if she would give me a  
common loan for it, I would give her a  
pair like it. God must not say anything about it,  
to any one but Mamma. I should like to rip it apart  
this morning & just thinking, of what I have  
suggested. I will wait to hear from you till  
the last of this week we will go to Leipzig  
Saturday morning, I will attend to any  
business, you may hear for me to do, if  
you think I would not get the letter

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in time just write to Leipzig to direct to  
the care of C. P. Russ, Cousin Lullie gave  
me that receipt for you, which I incline  
you can get some of the things, at the drug  
store, make it & put it in a stone jug &  
bury it in the cellar, do keep it sweet  
& cool, she says if you cannot get hard  
riders, use vinegar made heat full, but dilute  
it, it comes highly recommended says  
it will not hurt you if it does no good  
I hope you are well, & will have no use  
for it.

Miss Ann Cullen & Mrs. Brinkham daughters  
& niece spent yesterday with us.  
I am looking for Lullie Thompson & husband  
to spend to night with us. I have 70  
chickens & still hatching, some large  
enough to eat, our garden looks tolerably  
well, it is so dry, that things do not  
seem to grow, I have had nothing but lettuce  
& onions to eat as yet. I suppose Maria has  
been eating peas & beets.



I priced scraps of carpeting the other day  
in L. there was but 3 nice pieces that  
would about cover 3 chairs. he asked  
1.00 for the 3. ask Mamma if I must give  
that much, I will try again when I  
go to town. Cousin Lizzie is looking for  
her Mother. she is going down on the  
river to meet her. if you make the  
bitters. of the receipt she sent you  
take a wine glass full three times  
a day on an empty stomach use no  
milk while taking it. I hope it may  
do you good. Mary & family were well  
on Sabbath last. Mr Peck is replanting  
corn, has about finished this evening  
We had a little shower last night - it still  
looks as though it would rain. Write soon  
Love to Pa & Ma & all inquiring friends.

Yours truly  
Maggie

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my mind, I will stop  
as it is nearly 12 o'clock  
Please do not let any one  
see this miserable & hurried  
written note, destroy it, &  
please erase that disconnected  
verse I wrote in your album,  
please do, hoping to hear  
from your darling self at an  
early period. I bid you adieu  
Your loving  
Willie

P.S. Give my love to  
all who inquire, in par-  
ticular your kind Parents  
I will leave on to morrow  
noon train, As above  
Willie

Louisville, Mo., 3<sup>rd</sup>  
61

Dearest:

You will see that  
from this note, Mr. White  
has arrived safely this far,  
I have been to several of the  
hotels in this city, and cou-  
ld only be accommodated  
here at the W.S. The felt  
house & City hotel are com-  
pletely crammed with Uncle  
Sam's soldiers, & to be thrown  
in the midst of so many  
enemies I could not endure.  
Please do not despair, Sam

growing stronger in the  
faith, since I heard the will  
last Underground Railroad  
news, that the Burnside  
Expedition had received  
such a death blow, & Siege  
had been wipped by Prier.  
& had sustained the heavy  
loss of 2500 prisoners, is  
not that encouraging to  
desponding rebels, "be of  
good cheer" than are better  
times approaching.

I will not weary your  
patience with the war news  
I merely wish to encourage  
you to hope on, <sup>accompanied</sup> with my  
earnest wish that the result  
of your hopes will be good.

Must I now mention  
what <sup>has</sup> taken place today  
that one occurrence which

war, so long as life remains,  
reflect sorrow upon my love  
worn heart, how awful it  
is to part from the one  
th<sup>heart</sup> that hath after, but alas  
it has part. Although we  
have the second time  
parted, there exist with  
your Willie that blazing  
spark of love & that same  
bright ray of hope, which  
has influenced ~~me~~ to  
return here to see only you.

I need not tell you my  
feelings, when I saw the  
last glimpse of your sweet  
face, which was illuminated  
by everything that was lovely  
& good. No No, you know  
too well, it makes me sad, I  
have tried to become interested  
at the Theatre to night. but  
nothing would take your place in

Shelbyville

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 1861,

Dear Fannie

Please accept  
this trifle, with the  
best wishes of William  
White. I excuse that  
rude note, of yesterday  
morning, I feel perfe  
ctly satisfied that you  
did not mean to wound  
the feelings of your  
devoted & truly loving  
William,

P.S. excuse this hasty  
scrawl also. I am have  
always to be expeditious  
when in company with  
Cousin Fannie. Dr W

95410

The Filson Historical Society

Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 1861. I, William White do

solemnly declare that I am from this day  
till death, the <sup>18</sup>SOB Christmas present of Miss Salda

Wheat, witness my hand & seal (S)

Wm. White  
Society

The weather still continues  
to be cloudy & raining, so  
much so, as to prevent much  
visiting. Since I left here,  
for Ky. there have been all  
sorts of outrages committed,  
by the lawless Yankee soldiers  
such as breaking into houses  
& plundering, some two three  
of them reaped their due reward  
in a load of lead, which  
caused instant death, only  
a few days before I got home  
there <sup>was</sup> two men of Van Allen's  
regt. attacked the house of Mr.  
Carson by firing in at the window  
under which there were playing  
some little children, & threatened  
to kill every member of the fam-  
ily, one of them succeeded in hois-  
ting the window on the outside  
and climbing half way in the  
house, but it was his last. Mr  
Carson had stationed <sup>himself</sup> in the  
dollar of the ~~room~~ with his gun,  
& aimed deliberately at his head,  
the contents of the gun passing thro  
his head, killing the soldier instantly. Mr Carson

95x10

Polesville Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Sallie

Last night, who do  
you suppose I got a nice let-  
ter from? it was a sweet-  
letter from the dear one, who  
now I address, dont you think  
I am improving in regard to  
being functional? I would  
like to & will try to continue so,  
but am afraid to promise  
you, that I will write as often  
I now do, for I will after a few  
months be very much enga-  
ged at the farm, if I dont  
so often, you must <sup>be</sup> assured  
that it will not be owing to  
my neglect, I wrote a few  
days since to you, & the letter

presume you have ere this  
time received.

My friends were all very  
glad to welcome me home  
again a great many of them  
thought I was about to take up  
my abode in Ky, while others  
expected to see me return  
home with "Mrs White" they  
now think I do not wish to  
marry as I do not visit or pay  
any marked attention to the  
gentler sex here. you can say  
that they do not <sup>know</sup> my <sup>mind</sup> on  
the subject of matrimony; can't  
you; one of my lady acquai-  
ntances last night payed me  
a very nice compliment. She  
said she had heard that I  
had been engaged to a lady  
in Ky, two years & she was  
fast coming to the conclusion  
that I might be trusted, she

always had thought (prior to  
my last trip to Ky), that I  
was a notorious flirt. I told  
her she never knew me to  
be very seriously in love with  
the "lady" she referred <sup>here</sup> to my  
carying on with, she then give  
me "hankins" as Lullie Brownsays  
for pretending as much as I  
did. William yielded of course,  
there was too much truth in what  
she had to say for me.

I never told you, that <sup>you</sup> were  
my very first love, but take  
this occasion to inform you  
that you are, and that I can  
be relied upon.

The good wish of yours  
in your letter, meets with my  
highest approbation, in which  
I heartily join you, viz. that  
the time soon may come, when we  
will meet not to part.



Gen Hooker is now advancing on the side of Alexandria upon Manassas, so as to intercept the communication between said place & Richmond and if he succeeds in accomplishing that stratagem, the Southern troops will be in a bad scrape, they will be surrounded by Banks, McClellan & Hooker, as you'll see by the maps, they move in front and on the right & left wing of Manassas.

Our people say the cause of Gen. Stone's arrest, was because of his being such a Gentleman & kind to the Civilian, too lenient.

The army has left a disease in our Country that the Doctors neither arrest nor understand, it comes nearer the plague than anything else, which followed the army in the Revolutionary war, it does

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Poolsville March 11<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dearest,

It appears to me that it has been a month since I last saw you, and distance now deprives me of conversing with you verbally, so I must resort to this means of conveying what I wish & have to say to you.

I had no difficulty in traveling I left Louisville on Tuesday at 12 O.C. on the U.S. Mail boat Superior and arrived at Cincinnati 6 O.C. next morning. I found the trip on the boat much more pleasant than on the cars.

Wednesday at half past eight in the morning I left Cincinnati for Pittsburg on the cars and arrived there at half past 2 Thursday morning, and left there at 3 O.C. for Baltimore on the Pa. central railroad through



by Harrisburg and arrived  
at Baltimore Thursday night.

so you see I lost no time on  
my way home.

There have been a great many  
my changes wrought in this country  
since I left for Ky. The whole  
face of the country for five miles  
in every direction from Poolsville has  
the appearance of a desert, destitute  
of fencing & every man's  
farm is public road or thoroughfare,  
for the Yankee Army.

I am very happy to say that  
we have been fortunate enough  
to escape, we have lost very  
little of our fencing, but we can  
only be thankful to the rebels  
for protecting our property, we  
live so near the river, and there  
being such large bluffs on  
the Va side, which commands  
our farm, they were afraid to

encamp on our land, for fear  
the southerners might accidentally  
on purpose throw a shell amongst them,

We are now getting rid of the  
last of them, a forward movement,  
is the order of the day, Gen. Banks  
has succeeded in getting the  
greater portion of his command  
to Charlestown Va, & hope  
soon to hear of him being  
a prisoner of war, so Buckner  
can be exchanged.

He crossed at Harpers ferry  
on a pontoon bridge, which  
is said to be, by some of  
our citizens, the mast carried  
into bridge was constructed on  
this continent, high water will  
not sweep it away, it will rise  
as the river rises, Gen. McC.  
will as is at this time advanc-  
ing on Manassa over the  
old race track "Bull Run",

March 11, 1862

have left the neighbor-  
hood. to seek homes among  
those who desire negro equal-  
ity,

Sam's sweetheart died  
with that fatal disease,  
he sends his love to you &  
says if you see any one  
who wants an nigger man  
like himself, heed in the mar-  
ket.

And your loving Willie  
says he would be glad  
if you will keep true to your  
promise, write often & long  
letters, you must give my  
love to your Father, Mother  
& family, tell Miss Howie  
I would be glad to hear  
from her, Ben, is very much  
pleased with his "incognito"  
appearance, & says she is  
pretty enough for him. I close  
as to late good bye, be true to your  
Willie

95X10

not appear to be contagious,  
I first originated from the  
impurities of the atmosphere,  
occasioned by the filth all  
accumulated at the Camps  
no less than seven persons  
have died in the limited  
space of ten days, a very  
few lived longer than nine  
hours after being taken.

Dr Throve predicts, that  
this summer when the sun  
shines hot, every man's house  
will be a hospital.

There have been a great  
many more marriages in  
Ky than here, only two here  
this past winter, and a  
great deal more ruin  
here than in Ky, the roads  
are impassible the fields  
are the big roads here,  
scores of negroes have

I wrote to Miss Harriet a short  
time since, has she received  
my letter? tell her to write  
soon, Ma & Sam both  
send their love to you,  
Tell Ben, the day he  
was hunting cows, I sold  
one, a fine cow, but a  
notorious wanderer & jump  
per, you must give  
my love to your Pa & Ma  
& family, tell Sallie B.  
I have written twice to  
her, & I would like  
to hear from her every  
month, Sam says he  
will go with me next fall  
if he can, remember me  
kindly to Miss Jennie  
tell her the Baltimore & Ohio  
road will soon be open to  
her favorite town, Cumberland  
and excuse this badly

and write soon to your true Miller

I miss your  
littlest  
very  
but I would  
miss rather  
miss your  
partly all.

Pooler Villes.  
April 1<sup>st</sup> 1862

Sallie,  
Your letter  
of date March 21<sup>st</sup> reached  
me on the 27<sup>th</sup>, I think  
you could not have received  
my last letter, when you  
wrote, as I certainly did  
acknowledge the receipt  
of your letter, I am very  
grateful to you for the  
wise admonition your letter  
contained, and will try to  
act as near to it as I  
can.

The dreadful disease  
that I spoke of in my last  
is still ~~quite~~ very prevalent  
here, & the Doctors are  
ignorant of the treatment  
that is required, they say  
that they never saw nor

OKS 9

read in any medical  
work, anything about it,  
I do not think we can live  
here in the summer at all,  
it will be so bad.

I went down to see my  
sister who is attending  
Fairhill Seminary. She has  
improved very much indeed,  
and has grown to be as  
tall as "his Brown."

You say they call you  
a grass widow, I was  
affraid that when I left  
you would be teased about  
me, as I were so constant  
while with you, but you know  
Sallie, I could not help it,  
had I obeyed my feelings  
I would have been with  
you all the time, as it was  
I did spend half of my  
time with you.

How do you all like the  
war news now? don't  
you think the South  
will be victorious? I do,  
the news paper reports  
give Banks the victory  
but the true report is he  
was whipped and that, ba-  
dly, the prisoners of Lee  
troop's force that Banks  
captured, it appears were  
sick at the hospitals in  
Winchester.

We had a heavy fall  
of snow Saturday which  
disappeared in one day,  
and now it quite muddy  
again, I have a great  
notion of visiting you  
soon, if the health of  
the neighborhood does not  
improve, I will go some  
where.



acres, the whole in cultivation  
this year 348 acres, and our  
wheat is looking beautiful, on  
the river bottom it is 26 inches  
-s high, and on the upland 15  
inches. I believe Miss Hennie  
I have <sup>no</sup> news of interest to com-  
municate, so I will conclude  
my chapter, by wishing you  
happiness and a plenty of it.  
write soon, and excuse all  
mistakes, bad writing &c. and  
believe me to be your true friend  
as ever.

William White

P. S. I am sorry that you  
were so unfortunate as to be ren-  
dered <sup>by fire</sup> minus of out-buildings &  
especially the barn house.  
I understand that Dr Pratt is  
passionately fond of a Toddy, but  
not whiskey toddies, a Miss Kittie  
Toddy, be it so, I expect you are  
acquainted to some extent where he  
is residing, <sup>at least</sup> this though it  
be a trifle, it means respects. W. W.

1 APRIL 1862

I am truly glad to hear  
that your Cousin Sumner <sup>off</sup>  
has resolved to cast off the  
robes of guilt, to seek true  
happiness, which comes from  
above. I hope you will not  
think that I have fallen in  
to desperation, I have a hope  
yet of becoming a Christian.  
true I have been a sinner  
in every sense of the word, but  
I now feel the dependence or  
need of a Savior, and am  
daily striving to act, so as  
to enable me to say conscien-  
tiously my sins are deer-  
casing, I thank you for  
the comfort you offer in  
your letter kindly, and  
wish a thousand times  
that I was capable of return







a great number of negroes  
escaping, and they don't  
go any farther than the  
district of Columbia to obtain  
their freedom, it has been  
found an impossibility,  
to have the fugitive slave  
law enforced. yet this pre-  
sent Administration boasts  
of being the only one that  
has ever enforced the law,  
I think it the only one that  
has made out of the Constitu-  
tion of United States, a "Military  
necessity". We are all in  
great excitement, Union men  
as well as Secessionists, but we  
can do nothing, A Gentleman  
residing in Prince George Co, Md,  
had all his negroes, that  
were able to work, to go to Washing-  
ton, and he found out that they  
were uncomatible, returned

to his plantation, and load-  
ed three wagons with the  
young & old good for nothing  
ones remaining, took them to  
Washington and upset them  
opposite the President's house  
sent the ugliest old man in  
the number to Lincoln to inform  
him, there was a present for  
him, I think the more  
we have made in the  
neighborhood as a patrol-  
ing party, will be a check  
to the flatfooted scoundrels,  
we intend to shoot down every  
one who resists.

We had a wedding here  
a few days since, and  
the bride, was that Miss  
Mattie Trindle, who I had  
the bad fortune of being enga-  
ged to once, she is a very  
handsome bride.

8  
I don't know of any news

of interest to communicate  
so I will have to bring my  
badly written epistle to a close

My Mother sends her  
love to you, Sam would,  
but he is absent. I let  
him see your likeness, &  
he wondered what a such a  
sweet looking young lady  
could see in his homely  
brother to admire, so I am  
telling a story, but he did  
say you were prettier than  
any girl about these parts.

You must give my best  
love to your good Pa & Ma,  
& tell Mattie Ben, & Miss  
Henrie to write to me. I would  
write to them first, but it all  
comes the nature of a task to  
open a correspondence with all  
my loved friends in your  
state. I will do what you requested me  
good bye, from your loving & sincere  
Phillie

april

5-15

When you write again, tell  
me when you think <sup>up had</sup>  
better consummate our <sup>engagement,</sup> most  
ardent wish. I know of nothing  
at present <sup>to prevent</sup> our "visiting the state  
of matrimony" this coming fall,  
if the war is not ended, we will  
board with Ma, & live here un-  
till property begins to get up  
to its original & intrinsic value,  
when I will dispose of it, &  
move to Ky or wherever you  
propose. Property has <sup>much</sup> ~~very~~  
depreciated very much here,  
in value, & I deem it an  
imprudent course for me to  
pursue, to make a sale now.

If there was any safety in  
my moving my slave property  
to Ky now, I would do it im-  
mediately, for there is no secure

25X10

16  
place here for them now.

Ma thinks that one of the Officer's wives who was boarding here with her, gave the negro woman & daughter a pass through to Massachusetts, since then she would not let any of them stay in her house.

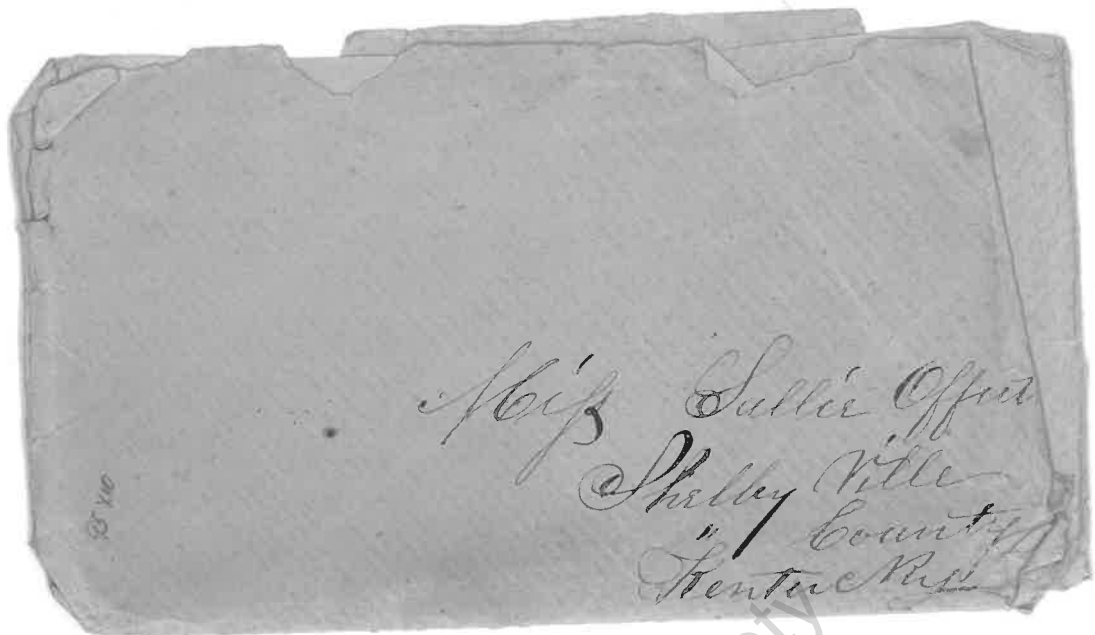
I suppose you have seen an account of the engagement between the Dixie Man of War "Mirimack" and the Federal fleet at Forts Monroe, it has proven a decided victory for the South. The Federal government talk of blockading the entrance of James river by another stone fleet; the Mirimack being much faster than any boats they have & invulnerable, they are afraid

7.  
she will grapple their fleet and clear their blockade.

I say hurrah for the South, don't you? there has been a fight in New Mexico recently, & the Confederates routed them, & captured the yankees' arms & stores.

When I hear good news I will post you, & now & then send you an Md paper, as paper.

The one called the Bo. exchange, has been suppressed three times & each time assumed a different name, it goes by the name, Maryland News Sheet now, but does not speak out so boldly for the South as it did, but always furnish some interesting extracts copied from southern papers, it is the most popular paper here now.



Miss Sullie Offutt  
Shelbyville  
" " County  
Kentucky

1870

The Filson Historical Society



makes me feel, to think that it will be six or eight months, before I can see you, I wish it was six weeks, I never will be happy in this wicked world until we are united. You must not mind the name of "Grass widow," or the little jokes, I feel delighted when I am honored so much by hearing your name mentioned in connection with ~~you~~<sup>mine</sup>, when I was with you, you thought that I was teased, when our numerous acquaintances would joke me, it was all put on with me, the reason I appeared to dislike it, was because I was afraid it would make you dislike me, and that would have been terrible on William.

My Darling, when I last saw you, you said you would write every week, now please do it, I will be very punctual.

I expect you will think I am getting very "Confectionary". And if you could only meet me now, you would be assured of the fact, for I would be strongly attempted to kiss your Ruby lips

I can't find in my vocabulary words,  
one that would begin to express  
how Dear, My Gullie is to me, I am  
always thinking of you. My friends  
annoy me, by talking & asking me  
questions, or in breaking the sweet  
tide of my thoughts, while your sweet  
self command all of them. I will stop this  
so much as I am afraid that so much  
sweet talk will not please you, but <sup>you</sup> will  
have to grant the privilege of being a little  
~~living in my writing~~ <sup>living in my writing</sup> sometimes. for you know  
I speak & write what I feel & mean.

You wrote about you planting your  
flowers, Oh? how much I like to help  
you, I once upon a time assisted a  
good friend, to plant her flowers &  
also to keep the ill weeds down, from  
growing up in the midst of the tender plan-  
ts & choking them, now when I <sup>am</sup> walking by  
the yard (I am often reminded of what please  
be wisheth & I had) by looking at those flowers,  
it was Miss Fannie D. Poole, (You remind  
me of her, in your manners.



We don't get many Southern accounts  
of the recent battles which have occurred,  
But I have heard enough, to know that  
the Federals were badly whipped at  
Winchester, & Strasburg. Mr Bro-  
dy of Frederick County Md, received  
a letter from his son who was under  
Jackson at the Battle, in which  
stated that the Confederate loss  
did not exceed over four hundred  
killed wounded & prisoners, & the  
Federal loss was estimated at fifteen  
hundred, after the battle was over  
Jackson retired to Woodstock,  
I believe this report, because I have  
seen since, an extract from the  
Richmond paper, & they correspond.  
Ma & Sam join me in love to  
you, & Sam says he will (if  
Providence is willing & weather permit-  
ting) be out in Ky some of these days  
when he hopes he will have good time  
with the fair sex of Ky, Give my love  
to all, Your Pa & Ma, family, tell Mattie  
I have looked with a great deal of interest  
at the post office for that promised letter from her.

Write to m  
all impositions  
at us even



95X110  
in the border state will all week & depicts land to  
get well,  
if cure all in  
perfections, and  
perfect their fan  
long together with  
"don't & loved  
love  
from you also  
you really willing  
& loving William

Tudor Hall  
Brother Daniels house  
April 9<sup>th</sup> 1862

Your last letter, I received  
after I wrote my last, and this  
will answer it, & you see I am following  
the good example you set me, in being  
prompt in answering your interesting  
letters. I wish you will continue to  
be as kind, for the only moments of  
enjoyment I have, are when I have the  
pleasure of perusing your sweet letters.

I am here on a visit, I came with the  
intention of spending a day, and am  
now confined in doors, owing to the unexpec-  
ted rain, hail & snow storm, it begins  
to look as winter was about to return again,  
the fields & trees are thickly robed with  
snow.

I have been rather unfortunate, on  
last Saturday evening, my most valuable  
servant was taken with that unknown & fatal  
disease and died early on Sunday morning,  
he was the blacksmith, whose Mother &  
sister absconded during my absence from

home, I will miss him very much, he told the man I had hired him to that he had a good master, and that would be willing to stay with me so long as he lived. I suppose you all know the emancipation Bill has passed the Senate, and the bill amended making a negroes evidence good against a white man, <sup>with</sup> carried by a two thirds vote of that detestable Abolition body, we are now in far worse situation than we were, as our negroes will not have to go to Pa. for their freedom, when they get it as much easier, in the district of Columbia.

Next November will suit me very well. I ~~mean~~ think if we are spared, and hope that time will suit my sweet Lillie to marry, I am so sorry we have put it off so long, We will both have to learn to practice economy, these hard times, but I cannot think the times will always be so, Your Willie will always be ready and willing to comfort and supply you with earthly necessaries, that his hands can accomplish, that, I am confident you feel assured.

I never said anything about receiving a piece of poetry, from you, I feel the compliment

very sensibly, but do you mean so much,  
as those lines contain. I think it very  
nice & expressive indeed, but I can't  
altogether think that one could be quite so  
true & self-sacrificing as it would make  
one appear, for you to act it out, would be  
more than any of my sex would dare ask.

I know that you are true to me, and I  
place a higher appreciation upon your sincere  
love, than any thing else that fortune  
has bestowed upon me, therefore I am  
as contented as a single man can be, who  
is engaged to be married. Do you like  
such sentimental letters, as the one I  
wrote prior to this? or one communicat-  
ing news? I like to write my thoughts  
about as my feelings prompt me, and that  
letter speaks truly my feelings now  
and ever. Oh how pleasant it is to love,  
just as you wrote many months ago "I wonder  
if my love is a common delusion" <sup>great</sup> I know it  
is an extremely pleasant delusion."

How I do wish I could have some more  
of those nice boggie rides with you. Here I  
am where I do not take interest enough in any one  
to propose a ride in boggie or horseback,  
I hope for a better streak of luck.

Miss Thence Meadow, my Brother  
Wife's sister, is here from Leesburg Va.  
a very nice pretty & sweet Miss, she  
got acquainted the most of the men  
of the 13<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> regiments of Mississippi  
Volunteers, but she never saw your Cousin  
Ben Coffett, nor never heard his name mention  
and, she has some excellent pieces  
written in her album, by the Missippians  
in fact it is pretty well filled, some splendid  
original ones, she gives a glowing dis-  
cription of the B. bluff battle, it says there  
were not but one regiment engaged in  
the hottest of the fight, the 18<sup>th</sup>, and only  
2 at any time during the engagement.

Dear Sallie you must write often & long  
letters to me, and I will answer them  
at the earliest possible opportunity, always  
I would be glad to hear weekly from you,  
please give my love to all the loved  
ones at Woodland, and friends  
on Marlbury when you see them, I  
am truly sorry to hear of Ben being so  
unfortunate as to lose his nice loggia  
tell him, how does Mother & Daddy  
B. come along, not engaged yet, I presume,  
tell her if she has him right, to hold on to  
him, as young men will very scarce after the  
war is up, and more than that the Southern

let the Yankees confiscate  
our property. - We have  
very promising crops of wheat,  
I never saw better, while we  
have that, we can live.

I have no news, that I can  
give as correct, for the  
news papers tell so many  
stories, I have never receiv-  
ed the paper you spoke  
of sending me, but I expect  
~~it~~ I have seen the same  
account of that Battle,

I am afraid this will not  
interest you, but excuse it  
& I will do better next time  
I have been close at home &  
therefore don't know even  
the news of my own neigh-  
borhood, give my love to  
your Pa, Ma, and family, &  
other friends, accept this  
with my best love from  
Willie

I am so unwell  
I can't do his  
business. I am not  
going to the war  
in which I all  
our families  
to him. Your love  
Willie

Poolesville

May 8<sup>th</sup> 1860.

I am so pleased.

that you remember your  
promise and keep it - so well  
the wishes of us, will have cause  
to complain, if we continue  
on so fractional, & I shall  
try to do my part.

If you were here now, you  
would think we are all working  
people, for every one seems  
to be rushing ahead with  
their work, as though each  
one is trying to beat the other,  
but the season is a very late  
one, as far back as I can  
remember, til this Spring we  
have finished planting corn  
by the 1<sup>st</sup> of May and now  
not more than one half the



farmers have commenced, for about 6 weeks we had scarcely any sunshine, raining all the time.

The young Indians begin to ride about horse back, as the last of the army have gone, we have not a soldier nearer than Washington, and I don't care if they never make their appearance here again, we all feel free once more. our negroes are still leaving, but there have escaped so many from here, their owners make but little stir about them, as they are aware, all efforts for their ever getting them again, has this far, proved to be in vain.

I suppose you are having a nice time, cultivating

flowers. I wish I could see you, I know there is nothing there to give your mind one moment's uneasiness, every thing around you looking beautiful, and you have not so great a responsibility as I have, I expect soon to have the whole of my farming and my own to attend to, you are now <sup>enjoying</sup> the happiest days, of one's life, when we have a father so indulgent as yours, ~~is~~ mine was, but when we are dependant on our own exertions, then we realize what it costs to live, I have thus far, gotten along very well, I cannot complain, how any of us are to meet the pay ment of this war tax, I do not clearly see, I suppose we will have to rebel, like the rest, and



Tedder Hall May 28<sup>th</sup> 1862.

Dear Sallie

I have just returned this afternoon from Yicksburg. I spent a very pleasant day indeed; the place seemed to be deserted by the young men, & every store closed; the young ladies are in fine spirits, and delighted to see me. They gave me reliable accounts of Gen Banks's defeat, whipped in four engagements, with a loss of near 20,000 men. He can only muster 4000 out of 30000 which he went into Va, with. He is now back into and retreating, with Jackson in hot pursuit of him. I hope Fats will be lucky. I have heard of specie being very scarce in Dixie, but I am disposed to doubt it, for I found myself, a three cent piece in the street to day, I had been to the Cemetery, to see the graves of the Mississippians, and found the coin as

I was leaving, I intend to keep it, & when I have an opportunity I am going to have engraved on it, where and the date it was found.

The Ladies were very busy making articles of clothing for the army and all speak as though they have been in the Mississippi regiments.

I will tell you how I got along in Washington, I was there 10 days, & could not get our negroes, as the military refused to return them, the civil authorities can not do anything, about three hundred Marylanders waited upon the President in regard to the negroes war, and all the satisfaction we got from him was, "he did not know what to do," he would take the matter under consideration, we all sent him word that any honest man could easily decide what do, I suppose you have heard of the riot of Sunday and Monday in Baltimore, don't be supposed to hear of Mrs. Prouty her sisters on the plain, to fight for

Keep dear liberty, we expect aid very soon  
from Uncle Jeff.

do not be alarmed dear Gullie, I  
will not commit murder, I can't blame  
the ignorant slaves so much as I do  
the white negroes from the north, they  
have put them up to it, for the purpose  
of robbing us, I will not write any  
more news, but I could not help  
telling you, some this time, as it so  
encouraging; I have not told you  
half, there's so much and good.

I had an awful dream last night.  
I dreamed that I had been to see  
you for the purpose of marrying, with  
out giving you any notice, had emp-  
loyed the preacher, and became thor-  
oughly drenched by a heavy shower  
of rain, which made me feel very badly  
together with the sad disappointment.  
I hope it will not turn out so, don't you?  
When I arrive in N.Y., you must be certain  
to be ready. I must stop as it's very  
late, give my love to all who inquire  
good night, from your devoted  
William  
I write soon.

P.S.  
My Brother Sammie  
has been gone two weeks  
is in Richmond, we  
all received news from  
m. Captain B. S. White  
of the Battle at Williams  
burg, he said it was  
a glorious victory for  
the Confederates, and a  
good deal more, but I  
am afraid to write it,  
good bye, from your  
loving

William

Polesville

Tuesday June 10<sup>th</sup>  
1862

Dear Lallie  
What is the  
matter Lallie? I have  
not received but one  
letter for a month, I  
have written several to  
you. Will Brown's letter  
was answered the week  
I received it, please tell  
him I answered it.

do write soon to me  
Lallie, for all the  
pleasure <sup>here</sup> is when I per-  
use your letters. I tried  
very hard to enjoy my-  
self yesterday at the pick-  
nick on the Sugarloaf moun-  
tain, there were beautiful  
ladies as well as entertaining





Went past 8 o'clock, Friday night

Commenced:

Sugar lands, Bachelor hall,

My Dear Sallie,

June 20<sup>th</sup> 1862,

I am here alone, without one smiling face to cheer me, so do not be surprised at having a gloomy sheet. To be sure, I have many trials, but will not occupy time and paper in enumerating them. You said in your brief note, that you did not like "Political letters," I did not infer from the tenour of your letter that you wished to censure me at all, but I do not think I wrote many of the above mentioned, I always felt relieved in a measure, after confiding in my Sweet Sallie telling her of my ups & downs in this old defeated State, and giving her the good news of the C. S. in this department, "Lower Potomack", thinking she was not truly informed in regard to the movements here, (there being nothing but the extract of articles published in newspapers now) but I will never do so any more.

You also mentioned my being so patient when in Ky, in listening to your prattling tongue, Yes every sound from that number fell upon my year like the sweetest music. I must add that I would be truly delighted if you would exercise a little more patience, by making your letters a little longer, <sup>often</sup> you know that I have repeatedly set the example, always longer than yours, I have a good stock of patience left yet, equally as much as when you saw me.

I would give the world, if I possessed it, just to be with you a few short hours. I was rather still in Ky



last winter, but I think were we to meet  
now, I would either entertain you, or be  
a constant tourist, for I would have my  
"put in". War then with all its horrors  
was something new to me, therefore my  
imagination was continually ~~gazing upon~~ <sup>wandering upon</sup> some  
unpleasant occurrence way off yonder  
which the dark future has yet to reveal,  
that with other petty trials caused me to be  
quiet, now I am so hardened, ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> witnessing  
the many unfortunate results of this unholy war  
that I hardly give it a serious thought, if I have  
it would only have a tendency to <sup>injure me</sup> ~~make me~~ <sup>make me</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> ~~trouble~~  
better than halfway.

You must, when you write give me the  
news of Mulberry & your own precinct, & tell me  
how your Pa & Ma are getting along ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> love  
to them, tell Miss Harriet, I think she might  
write to her friend Wm tell Will Brown  
I wrote to him, also to Cousin Sallie, and I  
would like very much to hear from them. Cou-  
sin Sallie promised faithfully to write often  
to me, and it now has been three months  
since I heard from her.

Harvest is nearly upon us, & we will be  
all short of labor in consequence of the  
absence of our negroes. I intend to work  
hard to get rid of hiring much, we have  
hired out so many of our negroes this  
year, that it makes my force slim, I have ~~only~~  
only eleven hands on the farm.

I have enjoyed myself a good deal lately ~~con-~~  
during I have been so closely confined at home,  
there have been many young ladies visitin the neigh

ood, which has made it unusually gay,  
there are three beauties now, at my Brothers  
and that is like home to me, none of them  
suit me so well as Gullie.

When you get up in Woodford with Cousin  
Sam, give my respects to friends there, & be  
sure to make good use of the "buggy". I will  
purchase one myself soon, if I can conveniently  
spare the cash. I have been afraid to get  
one while the army was here, as the soldiers  
ruined most carriages. I have <sup>had</sup> my eye  
upon one in Georgetown for some weeks,  
a \$225 one, as nice as I ever saw, & the  
latest style. Ma says a single man soon  
makes an old buggy out of a new one, espe-  
cially a fast driver as I am. She advises me  
to wait til I marry, before I purchase.

I miss Brother Sammie very much. I  
get melancholly every time I go to our home  
in Poolsville. For the farm I will have  
to employ some one to stay with me for  
company. how I do wish for the time to  
arrive for me to turn my wandering steps  
towards Ky, when I have the promise that  
you will return with me. then I will be  
as happy as an uncaged bird. "What wou-  
ld this world be if we had no one to love?"  
I fancy it would be like somewhat the  
body of ambulance without wheels. move slowly, also  
a great comparison that, is not it?

~~My~~ My Aunt Gullie tell me when you write, how  
we had best make our arrangements next November.  
I look forward to that time, with a great deal of pleasure.  
Billie Gessaway will accompany me. Leds a nice

Gentleman, any of your young friends will do well to win him, we will not be able to remain long in Ky, as there will be none at my home during my absence, who I can trust any length of time, do consent to have the knot tied a day or two after I get there, so we can make some visits to your relatives, I must confess that I am a little impatient about the time, we have been engaged so long, & to look way off yonder for now this, seems to be a great deal longer than the past 2 1/2 years, please write some thing nice about it, you will not fail I know if you will be a little patient, You must excuse this, as I have written hurriedly, & write just as I would talk to you.

Do not cough while on the cars going up to Woodford, I insist, or you may meet the fate of that lady you wrote about, then I would be like that Am bulance in a degree, perhaps til the war terminate, which bids fair to be of long duration.

Again I beg you to remember me <sup>highly</sup> to friends who inquire, & love to your kind Pa Ma & family, I conclude by subscribing <sup>my name</sup> as your true faithful and loving  
Willie —

To Miss S. Offutt.  
Shelbyville  
Kentucky.

Closed quarter of 10  
O'clock.

Please write soon to me,  
for I do not know what  
a few short weeks days  
even hours will bring forth.  
I may be forced away  
from home, to escape  
a draft, when the time  
arrives when I am compelled  
to fight, I perhaps may  
have the privilege of  
choosing sides.

We have put off till  
too late a date, the time  
for the union of hearts  
& hands. — We have seen  
our happiest days, in  
this sinful world, but now  
get. My Dear Follie if  
do not get another letter  
soon from me, you  
must know where I'll  
be. Will you be true to  
me, if I may live to see  
the end of this war, I believe  
you will, I am not necessarily a

95X10  
I can't do a thing in a great cause for it  
if my property is to be confiscated, it might make  
me fight.

Remember me  
to all friends  
of all friends

Dear Follie  
I hope you will be  
true to me.

Follie  
I hope you will be  
true to me.

August 27<sup>th</sup> 1862

Some weeks  
had elapsed since I  
had the pleasure of perus-  
ing one of your sweet  
letters, but on last Satu-  
rday July 31<sup>st</sup>, my long  
& pleasant anticipations  
of receiving a reply to  
my last, was realized.  
I do not consider forcras-  
sation on your part  
an "offense" at all. I  
insist upon you to write  
often, because I am so  
fond of hearing from  
you. It gives me great pleas-  
ure to hear of your enjoying  
yourself & often wish I could

be with you, but that  
wish I fear will prove one  
of little avail, as the dan-  
gerous hour ~~is~~ this un-  
natural war is fast  
closing upon us here.  
The final blow is to be  
made, I think very shortly,  
and volunteers do not re-  
spond to the call of the Presi-  
dent, so they resort to the  
system of drafting. ~~Conse-~~  
quently this old state is  
in a precarious condition,  
she did not furnish her  
quota before, and not  
one volunteer has she  
given since the last call  
for the 30,000, a draft  
is looked for here, &  
if they do order it, how-  
ever what will be the resu-  
lt. My imagination cannot

picture anything horrible  
enough to describe. I  
firmly believe that in  
such an event, that  
I should give the  
South ten soldiers when  
the government would  
draft one. You may  
judge for yourself where  
I will be, when you hear  
of the draft for me.  
Influential secessionists  
are being arrested all  
over the state, and the  
test oath fails, which  
is that you will support  
the government at the  
risk of your life, if you  
do not take the oath your  
property is to be confiscated.  
I believe that the Confis-  
cation bill was introduced  
solely for the border states



at  
ard  
  
Poleville

August 13<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My Dear Gallie

When I last wrote to you, I wrote rather in a light tone about the draft in this State, but I find now that it is too true for a joke, in some portions of the State they are enrolling the Militia now and were expecting it here every day. So very many men having left the State for the South will make it very hard upon those remaining, the quota being a large number, 9000. And I am forced by those circumstances to desert a Dear Mother Sister & little Brothers, a sweet home to go forth in Battle for the sunny South, and all this sacrifice I am to make, without little promise before me, but what can I do. I can not go into another State, Substitutes cannot



be had, some persons have offered  
as high as four thousand dollars, that will  
<sup>not</sup> get one. I cannot stand this draft, & I  
do not wish to go to a fort, nor to pledge  
my life and property to support  
such a government as this. It goes  
very hard with me to leave, and wou  
ld not if I were allowed to rema  
in undisturbed at home, but it is the  
last resort, every man in Maryland  
most would go south, if they could  
possibly get there. I will have a  
great risk to run to get through the  
lines, but the crowd I am going  
with, will reach Richmond or die  
fighting their way through.

I suppose the Federals will confis  
cate my Brothers property & mine, but  
property without liberty I do not want,  
Gallie I would have been on my  
way to see you, but that last order  
from the war department, prohibits  
any one leaving their homes or county  
to evade the draft, Our arrangements

are all knocked in the head  
now. it almost kills me to think  
of it. if the south gains her indep  
endence we will I hope be united  
be true my Dear Gattie. and please  
write to my Mother occasionally, by that  
means you probably might hear from me.  
I will try to get letters to you. &  
if I can get through safe I'll pay  
you a visit when we go up in the  
to take her on the Wagon.

How I feel now, you cant imagine  
& I cant express. I am trying to  
be cheerful as I can. Ma would  
rather see me with Brother, than  
on the Yankeny side, all rebel simf  
athizers will losse all their property  
by confiscation, <sup>is not</sup> it very hard. I cant  
think that an overruling & just God  
will ever suffer such a state of  
affair to last long, the war must become  
unpopular with the north, for they  
never make any more money out of  
it, any more. at one time it was

a harvest for New England,  
but the money now, does not  
seem to be so popular, as the hard  
yellow coin,

Give my love to all friends,  
I bid them goodbye for now,  
& Remember me in your prayers  
Many a one had had have a wife &  
family, but I do not think anyone  
ever felt worse than I do, over parting  
with my friends, but enough.

I will, every opportunity that is  
afforded me, send a line or  
two to you, by the way of the under  
ground railroad.

Goodbye my Dearest, my hopes  
are many yet, that Providence will  
smile on me, and direct every thing  
~~to~~ for the best, bringing us nearer  
Him, & nearer to each other, from  
your true and loving  
Willie

Poolsville August 30<sup>th</sup> 1900

Dear Father

Your letter to my son enclosed to me came safely to hand, I feel myself all most incompetent to the task of addressing you as I have so little to say that is either encouraging or pleasant, Willie had intended visiting your place and partially made his arrangements to that effect with a view to elude the draft when Hallack issued his orders prohibiting all travelling upon the public conveyances, and as there seemed to be no other means of escape, as it wanted but a few days of the appointed time for drafting he said he would go south he had rather die than be forced into a false position or become Lincoln's hireling slave. This mother could not blame although I deplored the sacrifice.

95110

knowing as I did that his earthly prospects  
might be destroyed by such a course still when he  
had made up his mind he was firm in his determina-  
tion and no persuasions of mine could have  
stopped him, but we will hope for the best and  
not give way to despondency, if he falls we shall have  
the satisfaction of knowing that it was in a noble  
a just cause, I have a firm reliance in an overruling  
providence who orders all things after the council of  
his own will that he orders and directs our steps and  
the bounds of our habitations, why should we not  
then resign ourselves to his all wise decrees knowing that  
all things work together for good to them that believe  
he careth for the sparrow will he not also care for  
my precious Fatherless children - Thous and have left  
our little state and linked their fate with the southern  
confederacy and are still leaving whenever an opportunity

ty prospects  
course still when he  
us firm in his determina  
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nd to them that believe  
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— Thousand have left  
eir fate with the southern  
whenever an opportunity

of doing so with safety occurs the excitement  
here is intense so many have left that it is  
believed that the draft will take almost every  
other man ~~this~~ is very little chance of hiring  
a substitute men are talking of giving 500  
dollars and it is not thought they will get them  
at that, I might write you some news but  
do not know that it would be prudent to do  
so, I have heard that W arrived safely at his  
destination from Sam I have had no intelligence  
for many weeks the chance of sending letters  
either way is very poor but if I see a favorable  
opportunity will forward your two last letters neither  
of which he has received shall all ways be happy  
to hear from you my love to all enquiring friends  
I remain yours with much esteem J White



Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, 62

Miss, Sallie Offutt,

Shelbyville,

Shelby County,

Ky.

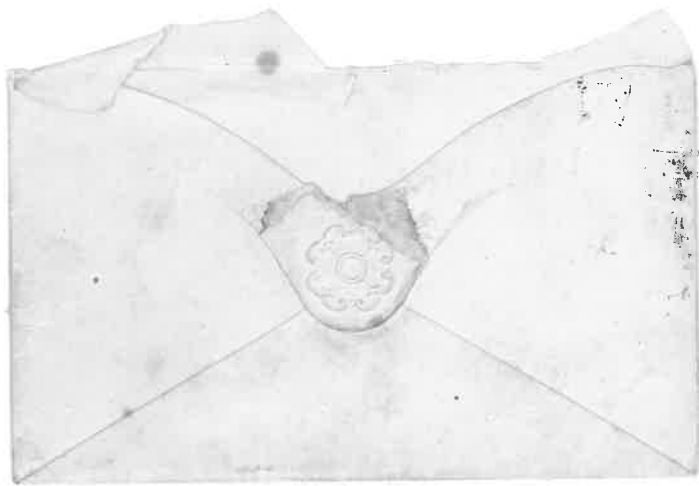
The Filson Historical Society



The Filson Historical Society

Baltimore May 10  
Miss Alice  
Washington  
of home in Baltimore  
from the South &  
not at - Stanton as  
you William. Mrs  
she had just arrived  
there from her - and  
The year was a little  
to mail to you, but  
in consequence of some  
error it contained  
reference to the "Constitution"  
Constitution of I had

95x10



thought to deliver it;  
but - thought I would  
hide such evidence  
from of his capture  
and of his continued  
love for you - thinking  
perhaps this might  
be of some advantage  
than not making  
known at all.

Trusting you will  
excuse the liberty I  
have taken in addressing  
you - I remain  
Respectfully Yours  
John C. Smith  
Secretary

Mr. Smith has joined  
a Company of Cavalry  
Commanded by Mr. [unclear]  
and is about to start  
for the east and  
will be in [unclear]  
in a few days.

any letter addressed to him in the  
care of Capt Elijah White Winchester  
Virginia ~~the~~ ~~with~~ ~~Stuarts~~ Cavalry  
I think will be received my love to  
all friends I am happy to hear from  
you at any time hope you will continue  
favor me with a communication as often  
as convenient I have not sent your last letter  
but will do so the first opportunity they were in  
fine spirits when I heard from them last  
with much love I remain yours E White

Please take good care and  
return

hand to

Mrs Mary ~~M~~

Poolesville Oct 23<sup>d</sup> 1862

Dear Sallie

I do indeed owe you  
an apology in not sooner responding  
to your first letter, but your kindness  
of heart will readily pardon any  
seeming neglect upon my part when  
made acquainted with my present  
trials, you say that you heard that  
the Confederates had paid us a  
visit, they did and their coming  
brought much trouble to me as all  
of our servants belonging to the  
farm in the absence of my oversea  
= took six of our horses and went  
off to Washington, as they said for  
protection, where they still remain  
it has completely knocked all of  
our Farming operations in the head  
I have been compelled to rent the  
Farm out, this is about 30 of them  
under the protection of the government

95X10

only one of the number returned  
I have made no effort to reclaim  
them as it is attended with much  
trouble and expense and after  
all if they do not chose to stay with  
us we can not compel them to do  
it here, my sons were both over with  
them William was at home but a  
few moments he was well and look-  
ing better than usual I gave him  
your two first letters Samuel was  
not at home attal but was well they  
only remained in Maryland two  
days and were ordered back to  
watch a force of Federals that  
were making their way up on  
the Virginia shore for the purpose  
of getting in the rear of Jackson  
I am happy to say they they did not  
accomplish their design, but after  
a hard fought battles in which  
he defeated the Union forces  
returned to Virginia and left no

in the same predicament they  
did you at the mercy of the  
Union army and they are carrying  
every thing with a high hand  
arresting citizens destroying property  
and so on  
I have one wounded and one sick  
confed in my house we had  
quite a little battle in our usually  
quiet vilage some canonading fright-  
ed the citizens half out of their wits  
it was an exciting time I assure you  
I am sorry that I can not inform you  
of the number of my sons regiment  
he was with me so short a time that  
I did not think to enquire I have  
not received any letter from him  
but hear from him frequently it is almost impossible  
to send a letter over they have the  
<sup>river</sup> double picketed and do not allow any  
communication whatever I can tell  
you this much he belongs to Stuarts  
Cavalry Capt Elijah Whites company





had with your pretext & conscience Samuel Booker, did you  
mean this all in one connection, or two persons understood.  
Perhaps the former was Mr. White, your old  
Lancaster friend, if not where is he now?  
Oh! they are very patent! Kentuckians should  
not if we before, arise, at once while so golden  
an opportunity presents itself, go arise & boldly  
march out into the rank, & proclaim their intentions  
to defend some fundamental rights from the  
proving & envious foe, when I stop & look upon Hy  
& her sons, I feel my face almost tremble with  
shame to behold so many single or married men  
remaining at home seemingly unconscious of  
the evil being, & distressing events about the  
continent. Could be overpowered & held firmly  
against the shackles of oppression, there are  
any free people in Hy? When such proclamations  
as the fact are issued and all read &  
understand fully the import, how can slave  
holders remain slightful & quiet and permit  
such unjust proceedings to take place?  
I do wish to see a man! think of conquering  
Hy but only secretly and take the proper  
course. Old Mr, never could have discovered out  
this horrible scheme, but no, however, unpleasant  
the people, say, yes sir, we are humiliated  
and now are our share please sir Mr Mr  
recommence papers both for them if you can  
possibly. Oh! that the mighty arm of the

I could not interpose in his mercifulness for  
to prevent this dreadful plot of Edward G. Lincoln from  
being carried into execution. Call for my sake  
please get the life of John C. Calhoun, read, speak  
of Henry Clay & Thomas Jefferson & others, Calhoun  
for surpassed them, he, was a statesman, and one  
of the greatest men America ever had. His speeches  
were deep, sensible, & prophetic, of course denunciations  
of secession, still he has plainly presented in them the  
very sad facts that are daily staring us in the face  
to-day, speaks of the abolitionist as not only  
being in favor of emancipation, but of grabbing the  
places in paritide to the whites after they have  
of the South should be required in the face of  
such stern reality we should be willing to live  
back the dark time that is hurriedly coming  
to sweep over us and plunge us into unknown  
troubles from which we may never emerge.

I will dwell no longer upon this unfortunate fact.  
Belle Platte is not on a visit to me has been  
many a week we enjoy ourselves, hunting, papers,  
hazel nuts, grapes, and when the fruit falls begin  
to gather hickory nuts, ride all over the woods  
to have a good time generally, reading, sewing, some  
times, she was in New Orleans all winter, & returned  
home in May she is indeed a true southerner, her  
father resorted from their grounds & are now in  
the service again all our boys are <sup>are</sup> in Col. Botley



Write soon. Your affectionate daughter  
have you any new patterns for quilts, <sup>Maggie</sup>  
I would like to begin one - it would  
be a diversion & save to while away  
many a dull hour. I received the  
package sent by George Marshall. I was  
much obliged for the favors. The dress  
was quite pretty. The materials have  
gone on for quilts. but I suppose that  
winter quilts will still be high.  
Mr. Young of tumor has turned to be  
a rebel. since old Abe's proclamation  
some of his members, have withdrawn  
on that account of it. Mrs. J. K. Duke,  
& Ronny, Stevensons, & some others  
there is a probability that some of  
them will come back. Aunt Belle's  
Matriarch about last Tuesday with us is  
as much a rebel as ever. The last  
account we had of her she was at  
Richmond sick with a swelled face  
Her name is Belle. I think of her often  
tell her, to write when she has favor  
Mr. to send me a ladies slipper pattern  
the 1st chance. My love to Pa & all the  
family & tell him we are much indebted  
to him for speaking in time to the

26 Oct [1862]

Amherst College, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>

My dear Mrs.

Why is it that you  
never write to me of late. I feel you  
neglect me. I am so anxious to see  
or hear from you if you only know  
my anxiety - I know you would  
write the first spare moment.  
I am so low spirited & have so  
little to comfort me in view of  
my situation if I knew I could  
see you at any time it would not be  
so hard. but the distant state  
of the country, makes everything so  
uncertain, what would you advise  
me to do. I dislike leaving home &  
being so much trouble to you all  
& them when I think of their  
suffering. I must undoubtedly & thank,



"in some measure  
might be avoided, I know not  
what would be best, write & let me  
know your opinion as to what I  
best best do. I was up at Mrs. Bruce  
on Friday last. found all well  
May had quite a family as many  
in white family as you have she  
seems to get along well & takes  
no more trouble on her heart than  
she can kick off at the heels.  
We have had a good many federal  
soldiers passing through Georgetown  
about 10,000. They have taken off  
a goodly number of negroes, they  
just tell them to come & go with  
them and almost force them into  
ranks, a good number have been  
captured, one of Aunt Sullie Martin  
went off & now is in jail at  
Stamford;

We hear, that they have  
completely devastated the country  
between Louisville & Frankfurt,  
and have committed many outrages  
such as plundering houses and  
breaking up furniture, they went  
to Monroe at Frankfurt & broke  
up the furniture & plundered it  
of valuables, 4 of them went  
to Cousin John Buckels at night  
saying they had come to arrest him  
took his gun pistols gold watch  
\$818.00 in money. For the reputation  
of their army they ought to drum the  
thieves out of it; Is there  
much change of sentiment in the  
people of Shelby since they were visited  
by the thieving federals, I never see  
how you liked your quilt, I have thought  
of it several times thinking it was lost;





