I have no idea when this was written, but it sounds as if they are possibly at some Spring Resort, so I placed here. This is a pretty little note probably saved because of the beautiful colored flowers on it.

Louise Burrows was Louise D. Dudley who first married Rev. John Wesley Cracraft who died and then in June of 1843, she married John Alfred Dumont Burrows. Her sister, Charlotte Dudley Armstrong, was a very good friend of Amanda's during the year of 1849, at the end of which she moved to Cincinnati.

Dating: **1850 - abt**

From: Louise Burrows

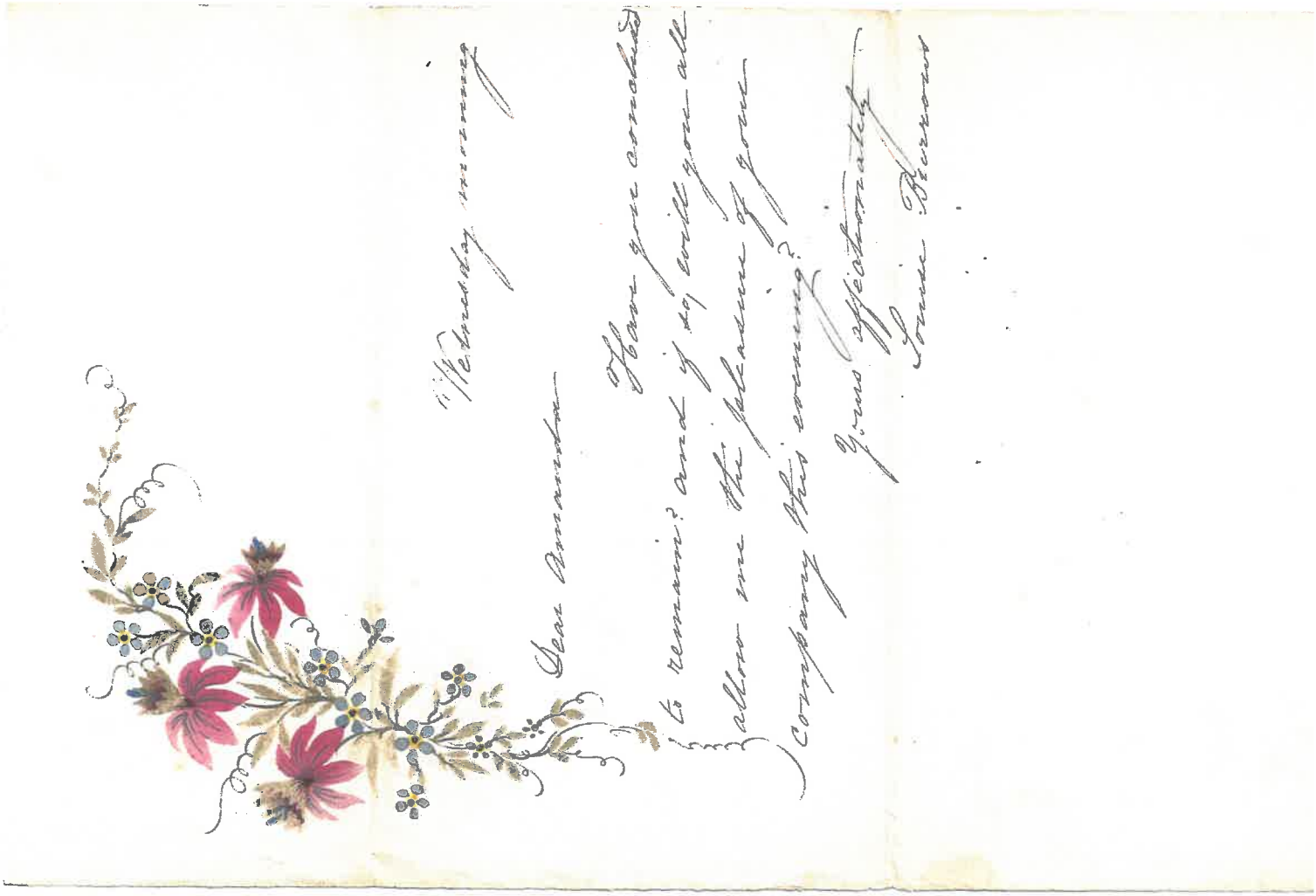
To: Amanda Bruen

Wednesday morning

Dear Amanda

Have you concluded to remain? and if so, will you all allow me the pleasure of your company this evening?

Yours affectionately
Louise Burrows


Wednesday morning

Dear Amanda

Have you concluded to remain? and if so, will you all allow me the pleasure of your company this evening?

Yours affectionately
Louise Burrows

NOTE: First sheet (I assume 4 pages) lost – The mention of Elizabeth's blessing is probably the birth of Evan Shelby Ingels on Feb. 5, 1850. Amanda wrote her March 7th. I believe date to be **about April 1850**. Sallie Ward was the subject of some gossip Susan Carter relayed to Amanda 11/25/1849. Sallie Ward married T. Bigelow Lawrence Dec. 7, 1847 & had newsworthy scandal in her marriage in Boston in 1849. Thomas Shelby and Fanny Todd were married in Dec. of 1849 Portia (A. J. Barry) and Margaret (Samuel Humphreys) Stribling both married Oct. 29th 1850. Sarah "Busy" Bruen was married 10/18/1850 to Edward Letcher Cronly. **Dating 1850 4/?**

No envelope or address or date

To: Amanda Bruen Shelby

From: Lizzie Smith

Page 5

but from what you say of him, I should suppose that
her prospects were not very bright. Why will girls
marry for the sake of marrying!

You ask me about – Sally Ward, for she goes
by no other name here. She has just returned
from the south – where she went immediately
upon applying for a divorce. She will succeed in
procuring one, it is supposed, & public sentiment is
much in her favour, especially since the advertisement
put by Mr. L.(Lawrence) in the paper, forbidding any one to harbour
her, or selling her on the credit of his name. She is very
gay, & before it was publicly known that they had
separated she boasted that she had more admirers
than she ever had before. I have met her in public
twice since her return, & she was to all appearances
unchanged. I pity her, for I consider her the victim
of a false system of education. You know she was
a year or more with us & never was there a more
amiable being in the world – with a mind, too
much above the mediocrity - her only fault there –
and I think it has pervaded her life, was a too
strong love of popularity. She would do anything
to gain herself friends. I could give you many better
particulars which would interest – but – I am so restrict-
ted for time & besides should be almost ashamed to put

Page 6

such tittle-tattle to paper. She gains her point if her
object is to be talked about, for certainly there is no
subject – so much conversed or so differently viewed.

I heard not a word of the Misses Stribblings – but they
might be great belles and their thin fame fail to reach our
quiet walls. Our opposite neighbor, Mrs. Harold(?)

Smith generally keeps us informed of all the gossip afloat, & certainly she tells it is the prettiest way, but the weather has been so unsettled that we have seen very little of each other this winter, & thus we have lost much news.

I took your letter over to Louise to read & in returning it to me she said, "there is a letter worth receiving." What very satisfactory letters A – you write! And so you do, & to prove my appreciation of them I fully concur in your plan of hearing from each other – once a month, so my dear, I shall expect an answer to this within that time. Louise is in feeble health – has no prospect of an addition to her family – but is in better spirits than since the death of her baby. She read of Elizabeth's blessings almost with envy - & says she longs to see you both. It is very probable that she may visit Danville in the Summer & if she does so she will take Lex. – en route, & perhaps spend a day or two there. As to a visit from me – I can only say that

Page 7

nothing would give me more pleasure, but until Mother returns I can make no plan for the summer. Christmas we ran up to Cin. to spend the holidays with our friends there & I was obliged to promise to come up again in the summer for a month or two. Kate Comstock, my friend, has just gone to the country, & she finds the change almost inoperable from much gaiety to comparative solitude without some friend constantly with her. I half promised to go – but if I cannot accomplish both visits, shall not hesitate a moment between the two – I shall come to you if Boat or Stage can take me there. Do you know, I almost shrink from the change I shall find in Lexington. So many gone so many new faces grown up. I was very much interested in all the items of news you gave me. We had heard of the Brand affair. Mr. Iucho is to give music lessons in our school & through him I shall hear a good deal from you, for he seems constantly passing backward & forward.

Ginnie is very well – is just taking off her morning for William, & looks better than I have seen her for a long time. I do hope she may go with me if I go to you in the summer, but she is talking a little of an Eastern trip – She sends her warmest love – She is in town much more than I am, & is fonder of society. Sam is in a law office & also attending

the lectures. Judge Bullock is one of the Proff's & he often reminds us of Lizzy & Cosby. Give my kindest remembrances to them both if the former has not gone, & remember me most affectionately to your Mother, Eliz. & Sarah. I hear that the latter is a very pretty, accomplished young lady & I scarcely realize that in meeting her I should no longer see the little Busy I have so often laughed with. Does Cosby take enough exercise – or does her disease prevent out-of-door occupations. The dear girl! I cannot bear to think of her sinking & dying so young - & with so much of life yet untasted. I have very sweet remembrances of her & of you all, & 'till my heart shall cease to beat altogether, will you – the dear friend of my early youth, happy school days be inexpressibly dear to it. The other day in looking over some old books I came across your old Euclid, with your name written in it with your own hand, & further down Mary Ellen's, yours and mine together. The team started!

And now although I have filled two sheets, I feel as though I had scarcely begun there is so much left unsaid, but my aching wrist – I fear of your worn out patience warns me to stop. Do write soon to me. Kiss your sweet little one for your old affectionate

Lizzie

To think of Tom Shelby's being married.
What a baby couple!

but from what you say of him, I should suppose that his prospects were not very bright. Why will girls marry for the sake of marrying! –

You ask me about Polly Ward, for she goes by no other name here. She has just returned from the South – where she went immediately upon applying for a divorce. She will succeed in procuring one, it is supposed, & public sentiment is much in her favor, especially since the advertisement put by Mr. R. in the papers, forbidding any one to harbor her, or selling her on the credit of his name. She is very gay, & before it was positively known that they had separated she boasted that she had more admirers than she ever had before. I have met her in public twice since her return, & she was to all appearances unchanged. I pity her. For I consider her the victim of a false system of education. You know she was a year or more with us, & never was there a more amiable being in the world – with a mind, too, much above the mediocrity – her only fault there – and I think it has invaded her life, was a too strong love of popularity. She would do anything to gain herself friends. I could give you many little particulars which would interest – but I am so restricted for time – & besides should be almost ashamed to put

such tittle-tattle to paper. She gains her point if her object is to be talked about, for certainly there is no subject so much canvassed or so differently viewed.

I heard not a word of the Misses Stribblings. but they might be great belles, and their fame fail to reach our quiet walls. Our opposite neighbors, Mrs Kent-Smith generally keeps us informed of all the gossip afloat, & certainly she tells it in the prettiest way, but the weather has been so unsettled that we have seen very little of each other this winter, & thus we have lost much news.

I took your letter over to Louisa to read & in returning it to me she said „ there is a letter worth receiving. What very satisfactory letters A. does write!" And so you do, & to prove my appreciation of them I fully concur in your plan of hearing from each other once a month, or, my dear, I shall expect an answer to this within that time. Louisa is in feeble health - has no prospect of an addition to her family - but is in better spirits than since the death of her baby. She read of Elizabeth's blessings almost with envy - & says she longs to see you both. It is very probable that she may visit Danville in the Summer, & if she does so she will take Dupeen route, & perhaps spend a day or two there. As to a visit from me. I can only say that

nothing would give me more pleasure, but until Mother returns I can make no plans for the summer. Christmas we went up to Cin. to spend the holidays with our friends there, & I was besieged to promise to come up again in the summer for a month or two. Kate Comstock, my friend, has just gone to the country, & she finds the change almost insupportable from much gaiety to comparative solitude without some friend constantly with her. I half promised to go. but if I cannot accomplish both visits, shall not hesitate a moment between the two. I shall come to you if Boat or Stage can take me there. Do you know, I almost shrink from the change I shall find in Lexington. So many gone or many new faces grown up. I was very much interested in all the items of news you gave me. we had heard of the Brand affair. Mr Tucker is to give music lessons in our school & thro' him I shall hear a good deal from you. for he seems constantly passing backward & forward.

Minnie is very well. is just taking off her mourning for William, & looks better than I have seen her for a long time. I do hope she may go with me if I go to you in the summer, but she is talking a little of an Eastern trip. She sends her warmest love. She is in town much more than I am, & is fonder of society. Tom is in a Law Office & also attending

the lectures. Judge Bullock is one of the Profs & he often reminds us of Diggy & Cosby. Give my kindest remembrances to Uncle both. If the former has not gone, & remember me most affectionately to your Mother, Eliz. & Sarah. I hear that the latter is a very pretty, accomplished young lady & I can scarcely realize that in meeting her I should no longer see the little Busy I have so often laughed with. Does Cosby take enough exercise - or does her disease prevent out-of-door occupations. The dear girl! I cannot bear to think of her dwindling & dying so young - & with so much of life yet untasted. I have very sweet remembrances of her - & of you all, & till my heart shall cease to feel altogether, will you. The dear friend of my early youth & happy school-days be inexpressibly dear to it. The other day in looking over some old books I came across your old Euclid, with your name written in it with your own hand, & I sat down Mony Ellen's, yours & mine to gether. The tears started! -

And now altho' I have filled two sheets, I feel as tho I had scarcely begun there is so much left unsaid. but my aching wrist - & fear of your nonexhaustible patience warn me to stop. Do write soon to me. Kiss your sweet little one for your old aff.

Diggie -

To think of Tom Shelby's being married. What a baby couple!

NOTE: Jane may have had a brother Alexander who married one of Leslie Combs' daughters. Her sister Susan (Mrs. Isaac Scott) remains in Lexington area. On the back are Amanda's doodles of the days of the week, the dates and a feather. She has unflattering statement about Bishop B. B. Smith's wife and the bondage of his four daughters: Lizzie, Ginnie, Hatty & Fanny. **Dating 1850 6/8**

Postmarked: Philadelphia Jun 10 (1850)

Addressed to Mrs. Amanda A Shelby
Care of Evan Shelby Esq.
Lexington
Ky.

From: Jane Mitchell

Philadelphia **June 8th, 1850**

I find by the date of your epistle my dear Amada, that many weeks, I might say months have passed since its reception, but I shall not attempt to offer any apology and can only plea dislike of letter writing, which is no excuse at all in the estimation of most persons.

I suppose as the warm weather advances and the dread of the return of the Cholera has caused many already to leave the city, your Ma and Busy among the number. Do you intend accompanying them? But I should think you would prefer your own delightful country seat to a crowded watering place, unless there should be sickness in your neighborhood.

Your long letter was quite a treat I can assure you, it is so seldom that I hear from Lexington, as my correspondence are few, and like myself given to procrastination in replying. But I do hope you will not return evil for evil, for if you only knew how much pleasure your epistles afford me, you surely would obey the golden rule of "doing unto others what you would have them do unto you." I had hoped to have spent this summer in L., but as my health has been unusually delicate this during the winter I concluded I had better be at home, and indeed I think that I had better remain stationary for a while as I have wandered enough in the

Page 2

(Top six lines torn off with part of sixth showing.
She seems to be once again talking of one of the ministers.)

he is as much a stranger as (torn out) here as he units his congregation very little I am told, and judging from the way we have been treated I suppose it is the case.

I do not think I can ever become attracted to any minister as I was to Mr. Buckley, indeed it is almost impossible in such a large congregation as are most here, for the pastor to be intentionally acquainted with but a limited number of his flock. I am glad to hear your church is flourishing and hope there were quite a number confirmed as I heard the Bishop intended making his visitation sometime ago. How is Mrs. Buckley's health? I have not received a letter for a long time from him and have come to the conclusion that he amongst the multiplicity of his cares has quite forgotten that he owes me a letter, but poor man he is excusable. I was highly delighted to hear that the church in Frankfort is in such a prosperous condition owing to the exertions of that wonderful man Mr. Norton, who certainly is a pattern for ministers in general. I heard that Mrs. Hanna has given $16,000 towards the erection of a new church, but I thought it doubtful, and that the sum had been magnified. I saw Kathy Hunt and M. Bean at church, but did not get near enough to speak to them. They looked the same as ever, no improvements that I could see. I did not call to see them when they first came as they did not send us their card, I did not know

Page 3

where to find them. I suppose they expect to present quite a sensation when they return, as girls who have been to the North generally do. I was quite interested in your account of the Misses Stribblings, and should like to be informed of their movements. When do they return to church? I suppose they are Presbyterians. I have heard that Mrs. Combs has nothing to do with any of her daughters and that they do not visit, do you know the cause of the disagreement? I suppose Ann Harper is not Mrs. Bean yet as we have had no notice of its having taken place. I have heard of several weddings which are expected to occur this summer, but as such names are doubtful I do not think them with matrimony. What are the Picketts doing with themselves? It is astounding to me that they were not off the carpet long ago; they are such fine girls, so agreeable, and Sarah I think intelligent.

I was so astonished to hear of the Bishop's intended visit to the city and think Mrs. Smith a very unreasonable woman, as I know it is all her doing. I feel so sorry for those four girls, I wish they could be comfortably settled and could be released from their disagreeable occupation.

Has Mr. Iucho left yet for Louisville? He seems quite undecided what to do, but I think it unpleasant for his family to remain. The three March's are here at school, we see them

frequently and I think them improved already: they are at a
most excellent school. I feel sorry for them and will
always take an interest in them for their mother's sake, who
was a sweet and interesting woman, and so devoted to her
children. I cannot but feel sad when I see them, and think
they have such a father. I wish you would ask Busy
if my scholars still attend S/L(?) School though I think it
doubtful as they were such large girls. I feel quite desirous
to know what has become of them; they were Young's, the
two oldest daughters of our sexton. If you see Mr. Buckley

Page 4

give him my respects, have never ceasing regard for him an his and
hope to hear from him one of these days. My love to your Ma
and Busy, and my best wishes for their health and happiness.
Do write me soon and excuse this scrawl, for really I write
so seldom that I have almost lost the use of my pen
and shall have to take lessons in penmanship, and
composition also, for really both words and ideas seem to
have flown by. Love to all inquiring friends and inform

Top

them I am still alive and as thin as a Scotch Herring.
They will not believe me sure, but really I believe that I
am going into a decline. If you wish to know how I look you can
have the opportunity of doing so sometime during the summer as
Susan has sent for all our likenesses which would have been
taken long ago had not circumstances prevented. I wish I had
a daguerreotype of each of my very dear friends, how I should gaze(?) them.

Side

As it is growing very late I must draw this
production to a close, hoping soon to hear from
you – believe me yours affectionately Jane

Philadelphia June 9th 1850.

I find by the date of your epistle my dear American, that many weeks, I might say months have passed since its reception; but I shall not attempt to offer any apology save my dislike of letter writing, which is not excuse at all in the estimation of most persons.

I suppose as the warm weather advances and the dread of the return of the Cholera has caused many already to leave the city, you also are busy among the number. Do you intend accompanying them; but I should think you would prefer your own delightful country seat, to a crowded watering place, unless there should be sickness in your neighborhood.

Your long letter was quite a treat I can assure you, it is so seldom that I hear from Lexington, as my correspondents are few, and I also myself given to procrastination in replying. But I do hope you will not return evil for evil, for if you only knew how much pleasure your epistles afford me, you surely would obey the golden rule of "doing unto others what you would have them do unto you." I had hoped to have spent this summer in L, but as my health has been unusually delicate during the winter I concluded I had better be at home; and indeed I think that I had better remain stationary for a while as I have wandered enough in the

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the way we have been treated I suppose it is the case.
I do not think I can ever become attached to any minister
as I was to Mr Bailey, indeed it is almost impossible
in such large congregations as we meet here, for the
pastor to be intimately acquainted with but a limited
number of his flock. I am glad to hear your church
is flourishing and hope there been quite a number confirmed
as I hear the Bishop intended making his visitation sometime
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that he amongst the multiplicity of his cares has
quite forgotten that he owes me a letter, but from
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church in Frankfort is in such a prospering condition owing
to the exertions of that wonderful man Mr Norton, who
certainly is a pattern for ministers in general. I hear
that Mrs Hanna has given $16,000 towards the erection
of a new church, but I thought it doubtful, and that
the sum had been exaggerated. I saw Kitty Hunt, and
Mr Brown at church, but did not get near enough to
speak to them. They looked the same as ever, no improvement
that I could see. I did not care to see them when they
first came in, they did not send either Sam I did, not

where to find them. I suppose they expect to produce quite a sensation when they return, as girls who have been to the north generally do. I was quite interested in your account of the Chapes stubbing, and should like to be informed of their movements. When do they attend church? I suppose they are Presbyterians. I have heard that Mrs Combs has nothing to do with any of his daughters, and that they do not visit, do you know the cause of the disagreement. I suppose Ann Harper is not the Bean girl, as we have had no notice of it being taken place. I have heard of several weddings which are expected to come this summer, but as such rumors are doubtful I do not think them worth mentioning. What are the Pickets doing with themselves? it is astonishing to me that they never set off the carpet long ago; they are such fine girls, so agreeable, and Sarah I think intelligent.

I was so astonished to hear of the Bishop's intention coming to the city and think Mrs Smith a very unreasonable woman, as I know it is all her doings. I feel so sorry for those poor girls, I wish they could be comfortably settled, and could be released from their disagreeable occupations.

Has Mr Sachs left yet for Louisville? He seems quite undecided what to do, but I should it unpleasant for his family to remain. The three Marchs are now here at school, we see them frequently and I think them uniformly always; they are at a most excellent school. I feel sorry for them and will always take an interest in them for their mother's sake, who was a sweet and entertaining woman, and so devoted to her children, I cannot but feel sad when I see them, and think they have such a father. I wish you would ask Bessy if my scholars still attend Sabbath School though I think it doubtful as they are such large girls, I feel quite desirous to know what has become of them; they were youngest the two oldest daughters of the deceased. If you see Mr Bailey

them I am still about as thin as a socket shaving. They will not believe me here, but really I believe that I am going into a decline. If you wish to know how I look you can have an opportunity of doing so sometime during the summer as Sugar has sent for ale on Liberman which would have been taken long ago but circumstances prevented. I wish I have a daguerreotype of each of my very dear friends that I should judge them.

Do it is growing very late I must close this
Doctor tell a lot, hoping soon to hear from
you which are your affectionate Sam.

Mrs. Amanda Shelby
Care J. Crain - Shelby Esq.
Lexington
Ky.

P.S. Write soon

you have any update, be sure covering paper for this on his one
left. I also from him on of those days. Only be I am old
one Dog, one pig but makes up. Also Hoffe one Gallina
Ducks on farm one rooster Also Barred Jan. Hens & white
& Leghorn. Also 2 dim Chickens but all be of my pet
one black hen & the Goose is frameently, and
confusion ole, Jr. Lots Hatt have one sow Long &
fine Jersey. Only can I of remaining Jersey one sighn

NOTE: Fannie Shelby would be Frances Todd Shelby, first wife of Thomas Hart Shelby, Jr. She married Dec. 19, 1949 and died in 1851, just nine days after the birth of their son, John Todd Shelby. Her reference to J. Grimsley would be to her 2 ½ year old nephew John T. Grimsley, son of the her sister, Elizabeth J. Todd Grimsley. "Miss Shelby" would be to Mary Pindell Shelby about 4 ½ years old. I am placing this here, guessing the time of year, **1850 summer**.

A note to: Amanda Shelby

From: Fannie Shelby

Although in the midst of packing
cousin Amanda – We will do
ourselves the pleasure of being
with you a little while this evening.
Your offer of gossip is so tempting
it would be impossible to resist
for doubtless you have a good
supply. Ms I. Grimsley with pleasure
accepts of Miss Shelby's invitation
for this afternoon – excuse haste
for I write in a great bustle.

Yrs

Fannie Shelby

Although in the midst of packing Cousin Amanda - we will do ourselves the pleasure of being with you a little while this evening your offer of gossip is so tempting it would be impossible to resist for doubtless you have a good supply - Mr L Grimsley with pleasure accepts of Miss Shelby's invitation for this afternoon - Excuse haste for I write in a great bustle -

Yrs.

Jasmine Shelby

NOTE: this little note was probably written **summer of 1850,** Lizzie finally made a visit to Amanda that year and they went to Estill Springs. Evan & Mary Crosby were first cousins.

A NOTE:

No Date

To: (scrawled on the back) Miss M. C. Shelby

From: Evan Shelby

Grassland

Dear Mary,

I write for Amanda
who is very busy making arrangements
for starting to Estill. She and Miss
Lizzie both join with me in regrets
that we will not be able to meet
the ladies.

Yrs truly

E. Shelby

Dear Mary.

I write for Amanda who is very busy making arrangements for starting to Estill. She & Miss Lizzie both join with me in regrets that we will not be able to meet the ladies—

Yrs Truly

E. Shelby

Miss M. E. Shelby

Frankfort

NOTE: This is a poem written in unidentified handwriting but very much like Susannah Hart Shelby Fishback, possibly to Mary Cosby Shelby. **Dating 1850 8/8.**

Dated: August 8, 1850

I stood dear Mary, in the vale below,
Soft shadows fell upon the dewy grass,
And on the cheek of Even dwelt a glow
Such as o'er face of angel well might pass.

Above me rose the mountain's rounded cress,
Green from its base how graceful was its swell,
Densely of verdant where the eye might rest,
Sorted the rapt vision like a fairy spell.

And on its noble brow it wore a glow,
So softly bright – so delicately fair,
That never shone in Moueritt's (?) diadem
A jewel of a price so richly rare.

It shone the crowning work of God's great hand,
A radiant link betwixt the Earth & Heaven,
It raised my soul from this fair mountain land,
To that bright world where fall no shades of Even.

Page 2

Oh! if this Earth with all its sin & care,
Bears this the impress of the Deity,
Think of the Spirits glow when standing where,
Right from God's throne is resting beamingly.

Too weak – too weak – the mortal eye wld close,
Neeth that excess of light the spirit blaze,
But when we reach that land we'll be of those
With angel vision who adoring gaze.

Then let us walk below with unveiled eyes,
Blessing our God when this to us are given.
Glimpses of scenes glorious as shall arise,
When Faith has turned to Light – in yon bright Heaven!

Estill Springs
Thursday even
Aug. 8th 1850

I stood, dear Mary, in the vale below,
Soft shadows fell upon the dewy grass,
And on the cheek of Even dwelt a glow,
Such as o'er face of angel well might pass.

Above me rose the Mountain's rounded crest,
Green from its base how graceful was its swell,
Down ~~softly~~ ~~of~~ verdure where the eye might rest,
Bosted the rapt vision like a fairy spell.

And on its noble brow it wore a gem,
Softly bright - so delicately fair,
That never shone in Monarch's diadem
A jewel of a price so richly rare.

It shone - the crowning work of God's great hand.
A radiant link between the Earth & Heaven,
It raised my soul from this fair mountain land
To that bright world where fall no shadows of Even.

Oh! if this earth with all its sin & care,
Bears thus the impress of the deity,
Think of the Spirit's glow when standing where
Light from God's throne is resting beamingly.

Too weak - too weak - the mortal eye will close,
Neath that excess of light. that spirit blaze.
But when we reach that land we'll be of those
With angel vision - who adoring gaze.

Then let us walk below with unveiled eyes,
Blessing our God when thus to us are given
Glimpses of scenes glorious as shall arise
When Faith has turned to Sight - in your bright Heaven.

Estill Springs
Thursday even'g
Aug. 8th 1850.

NOTE: This is a page of a crisscross letter, totally written across the page one way and then turned 90 degrees and written across the other way. It is very difficult to transcribe and one corner has been cut off but I believe before the letter was written. In transcribing, I marked the sides 1-4, then arranged in what appeared to be the correct order. It seems as though at least one page may is missing. If a servant is there to deliver, Susan Carter must have finished her business in Arkansas and returned to the Lexington area. Sarah "Busy" Bruen was married 10/9/1850. Jane Curl wed Richard Webb on August 30, 1850. I believe this letter was written before her marriage even though Amanda states they went to a wedding with their husbands. Frances (Fanny) Stuart Todd Shelby (Mrs. Thomas Hart Shelby, Jr.) died Feb. 1, 1851 – Harper/Bean wedding was Oct. 31, 1850. As Fannie's sister is there and will accompany back home to Cincinnati to be with Dr. Todd, her father, for the birth of her baby. I date this then to be about **September 5, 1850**

Niagara Falls - Maid of the Mist

To: Susan Carter

From Amanda Shelby

#1

We soused in the pantry making preserves & the rain pouring torrents. Who would have expected visitors? But lo, at 12 o'clock they came driving up the same company I had invited a few days before. They had been calling at Uncle Tom's & Mr. Jones had chosen the part of driver in preference to riding inside & was exposed to the rain. They refused to stay to dinner fearing to give me trouble but I insisted & they stayed all day & we had a merry time. E & Mr. J sang their college songs together. The later making an accompaniment on the piano as they proceeded. He sang with great expression & in his comic songs equal to Russell – Irish. Jimmy is just the same. Mr. Shelby happened to come the day they were here & thought the child was perishing for want of proper nourishment. Fanny Shelby's sister, Mrs. (Harrison) Grimsley has been at Uncle Tom's ever since you left. Busy & myself called on her. She is superior to Fanny in every respect, but I ought not express

a decided opinion of F for she is so young that neither more of a baby are fully developed. She will return to Illinois with her sister & stay until after her confinement which

#4

I have With different feelings I can(not) address. It seems dear Susan
that my heart feels more warmly towards you since you have
been so kind as to pay so agreeably visit & returned alone
too & all for my sake. I flatter myself. You don't know
the anxiety we felt for you. E(Evan) almost reproached himself
for not accompanying you. I will always esteem Prewitt(?)
a gentleman for his politeness. I am glad that Louisa (Smith Green) was so bene-
fitted by her trip & often think of her in her sweet quiet home. Has Vir-
ginia (Smith) returned? How is C. L. (Catherine Louise)? I would love to get a long letter
filled with a description of all she saw & learned while still
fresh in her mind or if she will not seem so disposed if you
must. How happy that Mr. C's affliction has been sanctified to
him. I hope that as he has acknowledged God's afflicting hand
his dear children maybe spared to comfort him in his lon-
liness.

Owing to the resent alarm of cholera in Lex. Ma and Busy
have been with me – a great deal it has been raging – more
around Ma's than in other portions of the town. At the hos-
pital it assumed a most malignant form without symptoms
of cholera. Dr. Dudley said it was
death – that he had no name for such
a disease & the patients lived but a few
hours. Now it has entirely subsided.
They returned the evening you left and
were astonished that you had gone. Busy

#2

not anticipating it had left a note at the gate house saying
we must come in the next morn with trunks & spend the week there.
Ma was improved as had been drinking the Chalybeate very
industriously. Every one tells me the accommodations improved
after we left. Can they mean to insinuate that plenty could
not exist where we were? Miss Rode's returned to Estill
accompanied by Miss Brock & other agreeable company.
B was charmed with her – Shelby I. took a fancy to
my little sister & addressed her with considerable
hopes of success as she told someone he could make (her)
give up Cronly. He would be an excellent match for any
girl. She has several devoted beaus. Sarah McClure, you
know left the day after we did. She has been quite sick in cones-
quence of our excursion. I met with her at a wedding, Miss
Kurl(Jane Curl)'s wedding. She had ridden 12 miles over bad roads although
completely overcome she promenaded the whole evening &
turned in the finest spirits. Isaac has not been down here.
B(Busy) and myself went to the wedding on horseback with our two
husbands (as the road was too bad for a carriage) & came
home in the dark & but for the instinct of the horses
might have come in contact with many a fence & tree.
The bridal attendants arranged the instruct in the

back parlour, table and fashion & then doors
were then open & behold a tea light scene!
Miss Jane, not wishing to be seen, requested
that only one lamp should be lighted & she
was gratified for no one saw her distinctly for
she appeared like the Maid of the Mist. The
Minister was a Reformer & such a ceremo-
ny I never heard, He only asked if they
were willing to be man and wife & again

#3

no promises on the part of either. I wished for you
frequently. The dressing if I can, presented an a-
musing scene. All the ladies took their out-
ting dresses with them & such confusion &
hurrying I never saw. Miss H. Hughes was there
with her preciseness. The supper was elegant.
Busy is quite hurried in her preparations as Mr. B's (Berkley)
departure on the 4th of Oct. will hurry on several of
the weddings before that time. Mr. Cronly was compelled to
attend the Association at Covington at that time so
it is amazing that they shall be married on the morning
of the 2nd & go to Cin(cinnati) the next day. His sister will be
one of the bridesmaids & S. Gibson the other. She will be
terribly hurried having her clothes made up as the
goods have not come yet. She will buy a wrapping
& bonnet in Cin. I hope you will meet with her & go
visit to see Liz. K together. I wish I could
go but E(Evan) is closely engaged at home &
I do not like to leave home alone. W.
Jones begged me to go over. I persuaded her
I would like to meet with M. Jones
again. She dined with me once by invi-
tation & a second time accidentally
Mrs. Bany(?), Mrs. Bullock came with them
& we had a very pleasant time. Mr. C, B(Busy)
& Ma & your absence was enormously
regretted – The servant's taken me by surprise.

1

4

2

[illegible]

3

[illegible]

NOTE: Jane alludes to Sarah "Busy" Bruen's impending marriage to Edward Letcher Cronly. There are a few words I have not transcribed yet. **Dating 1850 9/27**

No postmark or envelope
To: Amanda Bruen Shelby

From: Jane Mitchell

Philadelphia **September 27th, 1850**

My dearly beloved friend,
Your letter came to hand
two days since and I hasten to reply, in order that
you may feel obliged to fulfill your promise of giving
me the particulars of a certain event of importance
shortly to take place in your family. I am glad to hear
that my friend Sallie had made so good a selection
of a partner for life's voyage, and I can assure you
she has my best wishes if they are of any avail,
that all the pleasures and joys with so few as possible
of the troubles of married life may be her portions.
I suppose she intends residing at home as I suppose
your Ma would not be favorable to a separation.
All Lexington will be married I conclude(?), when pur-
using the list of weddings to take place within a few
weeks, and the maid or bachelor will be quite a curiosity
after a while. I think I should feel quite desolate if I
were to return to Lexington for when girls marry they
are apt to think that society has no further claims
upon them and that for the future they must

Page 2

live for their husbands alone. That it is not always so
I will acknowledge, yourself, and one or two others of my early
friends being proof to the contrary. Susan is continually
writing for us to come and spend the winter with her,
but there does not seem any disposition on the part of
any but myself to make a visit and were my
health better I should be tempted. I am much better
now than for some time past, my throat is almost well
and perhaps I may conclude to come. Father and mother
expect to make her a visit (if spared to do so) next summer
and I could certainly return with them, but I cannot make up
my mind, to leave home, yet I think it seems selfish
in us not to go when Sue is so desirous and seems
to feel our love so much. There have been quite a number
of Lexingtonians here this summer but one being out of
the city during the warm weather prevented our seeing
them. Mrs. (?)raters and her party called and left their
card under the door – which we found upon our return.
I suppose they are at home by this time.

We spent our time most delightfully in the country, the
change from the hot dusty city, we found quite
agreeable. We were at a farmhouse 22 miles from the
city on the railroad or rather between two, with
a kind obliging family, and five or six boarders besides
our family. The country most beautiful, and in some
parts romantic in the exterior; the house and grounds

Page 3

were on the edge as it is called while from various points
could be seen the charming and surprisingly beautiful
lingering valley, description of which you have no doubt often
seen and which holds so conspicuous a place in the early history
of our country. We returned to the city the last week in
August on account of the arrival of a friend of mine from
St. Louis who expected to remain with us. She paid us a
visit of few weeks and finding she could not prevail upon
me to return with her this fall for the purpose of acting
in the capacity of bridesmaid, she left and is at present in
New York, still hoping I will decide to return with her. If I go
to S.L. suppose she will insist, but I think I am not
destined for that office as this is the third time that I
have had to decline the honor owing to circumstances
over which I had no control.

You do not speak of your Ma's health and I infer that it's
about as usual, give her my love and tell her if Busy
has any idea of leaving home, to remember the request
she made of me when at the Springs a few summers
ago. She will recollect it no doubt – if not – I will forget
it likewise. I am glad to hear Mr. Berkley is preaching
such delightful discourses; and suppose that his time is so
sacrificed in writing there and talking to his son, that
he has no time to answer my letter which was written
some six months ago. I wish you would jog his memory
a little for your friend. I am very sorry Kate Legrand

Page 4

is going to marry that insignificant man her inferior
in every respect in my estimation and I think I had a
good opportunity of judging, as he traveled in our company
last summer. He seemed half beside himself and could
not talk rationally on any subject – so deeply in love did he
appear to be, once so low of critique(?), for he told me she had
accepted as her motto, "Faint heart – never won fair lady." and
thought by perseverance to accomplish his object; and
win the prize; and it seems he has succeeded much to
my surprise, for I consider Kate a paragon of goodness and
desiring of better fate; but every one to their liking.

He is clever, pious and amiable I think and hope, but as soft as mashed potatoes. Don't for pity's sake let any one know my opinion of the gentleman for I would not have Kate, the dear creature, hear of it for the world.

I think Ann Harper will do well in her union with Mr. Bean, he is an interesting young man and quite intelligent as far as I have had an opportunity of judging. You must have enjoyed Lizzie Smith's visit exceedingly after so long a separation, it would have afforded me much pleasure to have been with you, while she formed one of your number, to have talked of bygone days, when (we) were school girls together.

How many changes has a few years wrought, 'tis sad yet pleasing to dwell upon them. Remember me to her when you write.

Across first page

You say Miss Ann Warfield will marry a Presbyterian. How will that suit her high browed relations? If she attends church with him I think there can be no confidence placed in any one, for she certainly is the most bigoted woman I ever knew who was not a Catholic.

I hope she may bring over if he is worth having.

Tell Sallie she must use all fair means to bring her liege lover over to the true church for I should be so sorry to lose her and he will no doubt be quite an acquisition.

There are some half dozen girls here from L.(Lexington) at the different schools. I saw Jane Warfield at church a few Sundays ago with Mrs. Tillman's scholar, and Kate Morrison made her appearance at our house a few days since with the March's. M E March the oldest, has had spitting of blood and a cough and looks badly. I do not believe she will live until spring, she will soon follow her mother; poor thing she seems so low spirited though I do not believe she apprehends danger. How I longed to undeceive her but I dared not and do not think it my business. It is growing

late and I shall have to
close. Kiss M.P. for me, and

Across page 2

tell here when she learns to write she must send me a letter.

My respects to Mr. Shelby and love to all friend inquiring affectionately yours Jane

Has Fanny
Bodley another
child? I
heard she
expected an
arrival soon.
I hear Lucy
Craig and
M. Brannin
are to be
married, do
you know
whether there
is any truth
in the
report?

Lexington
has increased
in population
exceedingly
since I left.

I will feel
quite a
stranger
there. How
is M. C.
Shelby? Thus
I must
stop or I
shall weary
you – do
answer soon

Your letter came to hand two days since and I hasten to reply, in order that you may feel obligated to fulfil your promise, of giving me the particulars of a certain event of importance shortly to take place in your family. I am glad to learn that my friend Collins has made so good a selection of a partner for life's voyage, and I can assure you she has my best wishes if they are of any avail, that all the pleasures and joys, with as few of the troubles of married life may be her portion. I suppose she intends residing at home as I suppose you Mrs would not be favorable to a separation. While Lexington will be minus 1 ornament, when journeying the list of weddings to take place within a few weeks, our ranks of bachelors will be quite a minority after a while. I think I should feel quite desolate if I were to return to Lexington for when girls married they are apt to think that society has no further claims upon them and that for the future they must

I will acknowledge yourself and one or two others of my early friends being good to the contrary. Susan is continually writing for me to come and office the matter with her, but there does not seem any disposition on the part of any but myself to make a move next; and even my health likes I should be tempted. I am much better now than for some time past, my cough is almost gone and perhaps I may conclude to come. Father and mother expect to make her a visit, if office to do so, next summer and I could return with them, but I cannot make up my mind to leave home yet. I think it seems selfish in me not to go when she is so desirous and seems to feel one loss so much. There have been quite a number of Lexingtonians here this summer but one being out of the city during the warm weather prevented her seeing them. Mrs Baker and her party called, and left their card under the door while we found upon our return. I suppose they are at home by this time.

We spent our time most delightfully in the country. The change from the hot dusty city, we found quite agreable. We were at a farmhouse 22 miles from the city on the Nashville road rather between two, with a very obliging family, and for as our boarding house our family. The country most beautiful, and in some parts romantic in the extreme, the horses and grounds

were on the edge as it is called which from various points could be seen the charming and surprisingly beautiful Wyoming Valley, descriptions of which you have no doubt often heard, and which holds so conspicuous a place in the early history of our country. We returned to the city the last week in August on account of the arrival of a friend of mine from St. Louis who expected to remain with us. She came in a week of few weeks and finding the weather not favorable upon me to return with her this fall, for the purpose of acting in the capacity of bridesmaid, she left and is at present in New York, still hoping I will decide to return with her. If I go to L. I suppose she will insist, but I think I am not fortunate for that office as this is the third time that I have been to celebrate the honor owing to circumstances over which I have no control.

You do not speak of your Ma's health and I infer that she is about as usual, give her my love, and tell her if Bury has any idea of having Henry to remember the request she made me when at the Springs a few summers ago. She will recollect it no doubt, if not I will forget it likewise. I am glad to hear Mr Beckley is finishing such delightful discoveries; and suppose that his time is so occupied in writing Poems and flattery to his Son, that he has no time to answer my letter which was written some six months ago. I wish you would jog his memory a little for your friend. I am very Hale & quiet,

is going to marry that insignificant man Ben Simpson in any respect in my estimation and I think I have a good opportunity of judging, as he travelled in our company last summer. He seemed half besides himself and could not talk rationally on any subject, so deeply in love did he appear to be, and so low spirited, for he told me she had rejected him which I do not doubt. But I suppose he adopted as his motto, "Faint heart never won fair lady", and thought by perseverance to accomplish his object; and won the prize; and it seems he has succeeded much to my surprise, for I consider Kate a paragon of goodness and deserving of a better fate, but every one to their liking. He is clever generous and amiable I think and honest, but soft as mashed potatoes. Don't for pity's sake let any one know my opinion of the gentleman for I would not have Kate the dear creature hear of it for the world.

I think Ann Harper will do well in her union with Mr Bean, he is an interesting young man and quite intelligent as far as I have had an opportunity of judging. You must have enjoyed Lizzie Smith's visit exceedingly after so long a separation, it would have afforded me much pleasure to have been with you, while she formed one of your number, to have talked of bygone days, when were school girls together.

How many changes has a few years wrought, but 'tis a pleasing to dwell upon them. Remember me to her when you

NOTE: In the 1850's Amanda wrote two letters and Elizabeth wrote one letter to Mrs. M. L. Jones (Maria Leonard Jones). This too, appears to be to Cousin Maria because of references to her daughter Fanny O'Bannon from her first marriage, rather than to Cousin Cate or Cousin Eliza…

Sarah "Busy" Bruen's wedding is described. She married Edward Letcher Cronly. His parents Edward Cronly and Barthenia Letcher married Thurs, Dec. 30, 1819. Barthenia Cronly, died Sep. 26, 1833 of cholera in Lancaster, Ky. not knowing that her husband died just days before in New Orleans while on a business trip. Her brother, Robert Perkins Letcher, who had no children, took in the four living children; Anne Byrne, Edward, Maria and Catherine (Eugene having died in early childhood) to raised. Therefore his celebration of Edward's marriage to Sarah "Busy" Cronly. He became Governor of Kentucky in 1840. His wife Charlotte Robertson Letcher is known as one of the most beautiful first ladies of Kentucky. Robert's brother Dr. Samuel Letcher and his partner Dr. David Bell both married women with the last name of Robertson. This also announces the death of Elizabeth (Bettie) Johnson Adams who was one of Amanda's bridesmaids. She was the daughter of Col. Joel Johnson and the wife of David T. Adams.
Also some entertaining opinions of raising children. **Dating 1850 12/5**

No address – mailed or hand carried

To: Cousin (Catherine Saunders?)

From: Amanda Shelby

Greenfields Dec. 5th 1850

I have, dear Cousin but a lame apology for my long silence, but trust that tho long, communication to your me last Fall, will partially atone for it, as you are all together, that is, seeing each other any day. I had no idea you felt such perfect indifference to Busy's welfare – no apology for not attending the marriage, & no congratulations this side of the mountains. Perhaps our letters were not received – indeed I hope they were not, & that this bad state of feelings has not been brought about be neglect on your part.

Sal was married on the morning of the 9th of Oct. by Rev. Ed. H. Berkely in the presence of about forty persons. The invitations were quite limited for the preparations. I will give you all the perticulars – the chamber opening on the porch was fitted up for the bride's accommodations, with which curtains, new bureau, handsome ornaments &c, he next room was the gentleman's with drawing room. The supper was set in the upper part of the hall (a red curtain was hung at the arch & removed when the table was ready). It had a fine effect reflected between the mirrors. But I must tell you of some of the good things on the meat table (ranking first in my opinion) was a saddle of our South-Down(?) mutton cooked with wine, spices to by Mrs. Darby, ham & turkey by Mrs. Carter, ducks & salad by Shelby & Ingels. On the other table ice cream, charlotte-mousse, maranges (a new confection) delightful cake, choice fruits, fragrant flowers, etc. And now about the bride, she wore crape over silk made plain & a Brussels lace veil gracefully arranged & confined with pearl ornaments. She looked lovely, Mr. Cronly very well. His sister Kate, (5ft. 8 inches) in her shoes) stood up with A. Robertson & Miss

Charlotte Duke with our Isaac. The next morning Mr. & Mrs. Cronly went to Frankfort accompanied his two unmarried sisters Kate & Maria. Mrs. Gov. Letcher gave them an elegant dinner, on which occasion she invited many Presbyterian Divines & their ladies and astonished them with high iced cakes, French dishes &c &c. Gov. L. is Mr. C.'s uncle & his sister M. their adopted daughter, so they stayed there until the next morning, when they went on to Louisville, thence to Cincinnati, where the groom had two attacks of cholera. It was during the Convention and despite that misfortune they saw a great deal. Returned in ten days, received calls & congratulations innumerable & are now settled down as quietly as if nothing had happened. They are boarding at Ma's & it is a pleasant arrangement for all parties. I must not forget to mention that they were handsomely entertained at the hands of his relations, Judge Robertson's, Dr. Letcher & Bell. As we live so far in the country I gave them a dining, instead of an evening party. Only eighteen persons were invited, & it passed off very agreeably. Busy has taken off mourning & selected her wardrobe with great taste and judgment – while the other girls gave 5 & 6 dollars pr. yd. she only gave 2.50. Her bonnet was 15.00 all the way from Paris & a white crape shawl 25.00. Mr. C. is an excellent young man & I think will make her happy. They are vastly loving – to prove it, he even gives "Sallie" (he will not call her Busy) one half of the broom straw he picks his teeth with & then & she picked her little tootheys with the other half. Ma & all of us thought she was a great goose to marry before she was 25, but as she waited six yrs longer than Elizabeth & three longer than I did, we had nothing to plead except on the score of experience.

Page 3

Married life must bring its troubles, but she thinks, as all brides do, that theirs will be an exception. May she realize her brightest anticipations! When the Misses and Mr. Cronly's come on the carpet, let all Mothers take a pilgrimage & see the same; for my little sister says, she never yet saw any one raise children properly. You must come & save the little pones from destruction. She thinks E. & I are horrid managers & we wait impatiently the new form of government.

Ma's health this winter is about as usual – the only improvement I perceive is, that she can bear more exposure. E. & B.)Elizabeth & Boon) are well & the children growing and improving rapidly. They are taking some steps towards building – the brick is made & the cabin's are going up. Boon, William & Mariam are partners in the Iron Store & have recently removed their goods to a house on Cheap side – having found the old stand too much out of the way. The Foundry & Machine Shop are in operation, & the upper part rented as a jeans & linsey(?) manufacturing. It is supposed that Lex. is declining as a number of capitalists are leaving it & strenuous exertions are being made to

get subscriptions for three new railroads, to keep those who
are left. Some are building houses that will compare with
European magnificence. Mr. F. Hunt among the number has
selected a commanding situation near his fathers-in-laws
residence & is erecting a perfect palace for his haughty pulia
one little flat-headed daughter. The entrance is at the side,
a Gothic door between two lofty towers. Mrs. H. will have a chamber
30 by (torn out) with a maid's & dressing room attached & other con-
(torn off) unheard of in our little burgh. Did

Page 4
you hear of A. E. Warfield's being a Mrs. at last? She married a
Maj. Rylan of St. Louis, the father of 3 grown sons. His wife
died with cholera when it first visited that city. He was a
Presbyterian but united himself with our church a few weeks
since. Weddings are such a common occurrence now that people
will scarcely go to them & the sight of a bride is no novelty.

Six girls in our denomination have married within the last
two months. Busy, A.J. Harper to Mr. Bean a clerk in Hale's
store. She was married at her brother's & had a large morning wedding.
Old Nuggins distinguished himself by forcing a kiss from the bride &
drinking a vulgar toast = that they might be blessed with a son and
daughter. H. Legrand married Gilles for a long time clerk in Butler's store
now a partner of S. Jackson's, a clever man & a member of the church.
Mary Craig married Brannin, her brother-in-law – Laura had been dead
only thirteen months. I have been to see her & she seems remarkably
well satisfied with herself & particularly with Mr. B. whose name she
mentioned every five minutes. He courted & was engaged to her before
he thought of Laura. Mary is eccentric & always will be. She dreamed that
she married him, had a child & died. It preyed so upon her mind
that she rejected him & then he fancied her lovely sister. Our preacher
Mr. B. has married more than half of those who have entered the connu-
bial state & I hope has made some two hundred dollars. He is still
popular except among the high church & his little Sarah is now the
Mother of four children. I could tell you of matches good, bad & indif-
ferent, but don't suppose you care to hear about utter strangers. Julia
Johnson (formerly she was called Jim(?)) made herself ridiculous by spending 15
00 hundred dollars upon finery & now her only sister is dead, & she will have
to lay it aside. Bettie Adams died on the road near Paducah – she was one
of my bridesmaids & the picture of health at that time. S. Shelby, Evan's
first cousin also made a great fool of herself when she married – buying
pearls, diamonds, velvets &c & all to get a fop to support. She is worth
$100,000 he perhaps not the clothes on his back. She drives a splendid
carriage & he will live in luxury without making an effort. Another
great himself has moved to Lex. Miss Breckenridge of Louisville – worth 600,
000, only 21, & said to be the manager of her whole estate. I must now tell you
something of myself. I am as fat as ever & Mary Pindell ditto. She is very
wonderful & begs to be remembered to Cos Fanny & wants have a cones-
bondena(?) with her. Evan is very well. Give my love to the (torn off)
F. down to the youngest. Have you any idea of visiting us? (torn off)
& believe me yrs truly. Amanda Shelby

Greenfields Mo Jan 11 1850.

Mrs dear Cousin but a lame apology for my long silence, but trust that my long communication to your Mo last Fall, will partially atone for it, as you are all together, that is, seeing each other every day. I had no idea you felt such perfect indifference to Ruth's return - no apology for not attending the marriage, & no congratulations succeeding it. Her husband would scarcely believe she had relatives this side of the Mountains. Perhaps our letters were not received - indeed I hope they were not, & that this bad state of feeling had not been brought about by neglect on your part.

Sal. was married on the evening of the 9th Oct. by Rev. Ed. H. Berkely in presence of about forty persons. The invitations were quite limited for the preparations. I will give you all the particulars - the chamber opening on the porch was fitted up for the bride's accommodations, with white curtains, new bureau, handsome ornaments &c - the next room was the gentlemen's with drawing room. The supper was set in the upper part of the hall (a red curtain was hung at the arch & removed when the table was ready) It had a fine effect reflected between the mirrors. But I must tell you of some of the good things - on the meat table (ranking first in my opinion) was a saddle of our South-Moon mutton: cooked with wine, spices &c by Mrs. Marby - ham & turkey by Mrs. Carter - chickens & salad by Shelby & Sayles. On the other table ice-cream, charlotte-russe, meringues (a new confection) delightful cake, choice fruits fragrant flowers &c And now about the bride - she wore crape over silk mode, plain & a Brussels lace veil gracefully arranged & confined with pearl ornaments. She looked lovely, Mr Conly very well - His sister Kate, (5 ft 8 inches in her shoes) stood up with A Robertson & Mrs

Charlotte Duke with our Isaac. The next morning Mr & Mrs. Crosby went to Frankfort accompanied by his two unmarried sisters Sis & Maria. Mrs. Geo. Satcher gave them an elegant dinner, on which occasion she invited many Presbyterian divines & their ladies and astonished them with high iced-cakes, French dished &c &c - Geo. L. is Mr. C.'s uncle & his sister M. their adopted daughter, so they stayed there until the next morning, when they went on to Louisville, thence to Cincinnatti, where the groom had two attacks of Cholera - It was during the Convention and despite that misfortune they saw a great deal. Returned in ten days, received calls & congratulations innumerable & are now settled down as quietly as if nothing had happened. They are boarding at Mrs & it is a pleasant arrangement for all parties. I must not forget to mention that they were handsomely entertained at the houses of relations, Judge Robertson, Mr. Satcher & Bell. As we live so far in the country I gave them a dining, instead of an evening party - Only eighteen persons were invited, & it passed off very agreeably - Busy had taken off mourning & selected her wardrobe with great taste and judgment - while the other girls gave 5. & 6 dollars pr. yd she only gave 2.50 - Her bonnet was 16.00 all the way from Paris & a white crape shawl 25.00. Mr C. is an excellent young man & I think will make her happy. They are vastly loving - to prove it, he even gives "Sallie" (he will not call her Busy) one half of the brown straw he picks his dear teeth with & then I. She picks her little toothpick with the other half - So & all of us thought she was a great goose to marry before she was 25, but as she waited six yrs. longer than Elizabeth & three longer than I dare, we had nothing to plead except on the score of experience.

Married life must bring its troubles, but she thinks, as all brides that there will be an exception - May she realize her bright est anticipations! When the Misses & Mr Crosby's come on the carpet, let all Mothers take a pilgrimage & see the same; for my little sister says, she never yet saw any one raise children properly - You must come & save the little ones from destruction - She thinks E. & I are horrid managers & we wait impatiently the new form of government. Mo's health this winter is about as usual - the only improvement I perceive is, that she can bear more exposure. E. & B. are well & the children growing & improving rapidly - They are taking some steps towards building - the brick is made & the cabins are going up - Bown, William & Hiram are partners in the Iron Store & have recently moved their goods to a house on Chiaje Side - having found the old stand too much out of the way. The Foundry & Machine Shop are in operation, & the upper part of the Factory serves as a jeans & linsey Manufactory - It is supposed that Sec. is declining as a number of capitalists are leaving it & strenuous exertions are being made to get subscriptions for three new rail roads, to keep those who are left. Some are building houses that will compare with European magnificence. Mr H. Hunt among the number has selected a commanding situation near his father-in-law's residence & is erecting a perfect palace for his haughty & public one little flat-headed daughter - the entrance is at the side, a Gothic door between two lofty towers - Mrs. H. will have a cham 30 by [illegible] with a maid's & dressing room attached & other conveniences unheard of in our little burgh. Mid

you hear of A. E. Warfield's being a Mrs. at last? She married a Maj. Rylaw of St. Louis, the father of 3 grown sons. His wife died with cholera when it first visited that city. He was a Presbyterian but united himself with our church a few weeks since. Weddings are such a common occurrence now that people will scarcely go to them & the sight of a bride is no novelty. Two girls in our denomination have married within the last two months. Busy. A. G. Harper to Mr Bell a clerk in Kelly's store. He was married at her brother's & had a large morning wedding. Old Higgins distinguished himself by forcing a kiss from the bride & drinking a sugar toast - that they might be blessed with a son and daughter. N. Legrand married Gillis for a long time clerk to Butler's store now a partner of S. Jackson's, a clever man & a member of the church. May Bell married Branning, her brother-in-law (Wm had been dead only fifteen months). I have been to see her & she seems remarkably well satisfied with herself - & particularly with Mr B. who made the proposal only five minutes - she courted & was engaged to her before he thought of Laura. May is eccentric - & always will be. She claimed that she married him, had a child & died. It preyed so upon her mind that she rejected him - & then he married her lovely sister. Our parish Mr B. has married more than half of those who have entered the connubial state & S. Lipa has made some two hundred dollars. He is still popular except among the high Church - his little Sarah is now the mother of four children. I could tell you of matches good, bad & indifferent but don't suppose you care to hear about other strangers. Poha Johnson (formerly she was called Jim) made herself ridiculous by spending 15 hundred dollars upon fancy & now her only sister is dead, & she will have to lay it aside. Bettie Adams died on the mississippi near Paducah - she was one of my bridesmaids & the picture of health at that time. A. Shelby, Brand's first cousin also made a great fool of herself when she married - buying pearls, diamonds, velvets &c. & all to get a fop to support. She is worth $1,100,000 he, perhaps, not the clothes on his back. She drives a splendid carriage & he will live in luxury without making an effort. Another great heiress has moved to Lex. Miss Breckenridge of Louisville - worth 600,000, only 21, & said to be the manager of her whole estate. You may know she produces a sensation among the dancing men. I must now tell you something of myself. I am as fat as ever & Mary Rindell ditto. She is very [illegible] & begs to be remembered to Lou. Fanny [illegible] wants to see a correspondence with her. Evan is very well. Give my love to the ml. Queen E. for her prompt reply to my last. Tell me a gre[illegible] gossip down to the youngest. Have you any idea of visiting [illegible] Believe me yrs. truly. Amanda. Shelby