

NOTE: By the use of names this appears to be to Cousin Eliza Maurous, mother of Maria Leonard Halstead – widow of James O'Bannon (who is buried with their son Philip Maurous O'Bannon in the Old Episcopal Burying Ground in Lexington, KY) and mother of Fanny O'Bannon has remarried. She married Dr. Henry Lee Jones in Paducah. They had four children; Lewis/Louis, Kate, Rose and Bette between 1848 and 1855. **Dating 1851 2/15**

To: Cousin (Eliza Maurous)
From: Amanda Bruen Shelby

Greenfields **Feb. 12, 1851**

Many thanks dear Cousin for your long interesting letter and for the pleasing intelligence that you will once more visit your relations in this part of the country. I would have replied immediately, but Mary Pindell has been sick for two weeks, & as it was her first illness. I was alarmed & thought of nothing else but administering to her wants. She had high fever & some inflammation of the brain & but for prompt remedies might have proved fatal – then she had neuralgia in her head & neck & suffered intensely. Now that she is relieved I feel like myself again – you can sympathize with me no doubt, as you have but one child, & know something of the terrible anxiety of seeing that only one in danger. Ma has been with me several weeks & I have had great uneasiness on her account, her cough has never been as bad, yet she bears up with her usual fortitude – laughs & talks as if nothing was the matter. If I were in her place I would never smile. She is very happy with her son-in-law, he is so affectionate in his deportment towards her, & another thing most essential, he is sincerely pious & has prayers night and morning. I hope they will be over their billing & cooing before you come, or it might chance to deprive you of your appetite. I am of course glad to see them so pleased with each other, but wish they would keep the proof of it to themselves. We are all delighted with him for he is intelligent, amiable & very industrious. I am so thankful Busy did not marry some stranger who would have taken her away

Page 2

from us. He is so busily engaged that they get out but seldom, still it is a pleasure to feel that they are near. Elizabeth has been so confined with bad weather and sickness in her family that I see very little of her. You will scarcely believe me when I tell you that I have not seen her for six weeks. The children have all had the chicken-pox. She has perhaps written you & given all particulars so I will not trouble you with a repetition. Boon, I believe is doing well, he certainly has undertaken a great deal, to carry on two kinds of business & each requiring his presence and the strictest attention. He is going to Missouri shortly (to sell his property in Lex) & probably you will see him.

The improvement you speak of in Paducah put our city to the blush for it is going down – property never was as low. Many persons think that the new railroads will give business an impetus, but so many capitalist have left that I doubt whether it will ever be a flourishing place. I would love to visit your wonderful town &c often speak of it, but don't believe I could summon courage to risk my life on a steamboat. I have a perfect horror of them – that is all that prevents Ma from going down, she knows the trip would be benefit her, but fears the river more than you would the ocean. Busy & Elizabeth will have no leisure to travel so if we ever meet again depends upon yourself. Although my home & every thing about it would be more attractive in summer, yet I'm afraid if you postpone your visit till then, that there may be sickness on the river or some other obstacle in the way. So let us see your pleasant face as soon as possible, and Cousin Fanny too I will be delighted to see. M. P.

Page 3

feels as if she was well acquainted with her – as she named the doll you sent, after her & kept it until it was nursed to death. And Aunt Hannah too will have a cordial welcome from all. Write when you are coming so that we may not be kept in suspense. I am gratified to hear that Aunt bears up so bravely under the infirmities of old age – tell her she might send me a message now and then as I have written once especially to her and never forget her in my letters to other members of the family. As she takes an abiding interest in church affairs, I will add for her benefit that ours is quite flourishing, numerously attended, & the pastor said to be doing more good than any other in Lex. not with standing drawbacks in the shape of a sickly wife & four small children. The Bishop's family I hear from frequently – they have a good school in the city of Louisville & wish to sell their country residence. Isaac & Virginia are assistant teachers while Sam is studying law with Judge Bullock. Louisa and the Dr. are groaning their lives out in a Gothic cottage. I am all curiosity to see Cousin Maria and become acquainted with her husband and children. I wish you would take charge of the latter some time & let her run up with the Dr. & pay us a visit as it would not be pleasant for her to travel with so large a family. I saw Emily Hall not long since - she sent her love to all of you, & that she had four children & hoped never to add to the number. She is now a fashionable lady and lives in style. Cousin M.(Maria) was surprised at my account of the grandeur of some of the Lexingtonians – when she gets fully over her surprise I will give her another edition for instance a description of a new fashion party called matinee to which the company are invited at 1 o'clock – I suppose to save lights.

Page 4

Busy is going to one today with her new Aunt Nelly, Mrs. Judge Robertson – It is given by one of the Mrs. Elisha Warfields – there are three in Lex. now – Young Wm Brand was married last week to a Miss McCaw one of six daughters of a rich old gentleman retired from business. It was grand of course as they are people who have six courses at dinner for one invited guest.

Busy attended that & the party at Mrs. Brand's. Mrs. Macalaster & that branch of the family do not speak as young Wm sued for \$10,000 of the money her mother willed her, to atone for the injustice of her father's distribution of his property, leaving the son's an unlawful share. Such feuds are disgraceful in my opinion. Young Mrs. E. Warfield (Lis Brand that was) lives in a splendid house & to give you an idea how she finished it will mention one item \$55.00 for a tea set. Mrs. Macalester has \$1000 set of parlour curtains & velvet carpets to match – I would dislike to have so much idle capital in my house unless I had money to throw away. Don't you want to purchase a seven hundred dollar set – there are plenty of them at Bruce's China Store. Shall I tell them to reserve a set for my Cousin from the South? The people in L.(Lexington) talked about Ma for getting a carpet & bed stand but the heirs of Brand & Hunt in less than a year had traveled, built, furnished, entertained &c &c thus saying to the world I have that which I longed for ~

Uncle Tom's family are in affliction now having just heard of the death of Tom's wife in Illinois. She was Fanny Todd of Springfield & daughter of Dr. Todd – having confidence in her father's skill she went there (500 miles) to be confined & died in 9 days leaving a son. She was only 19 and eighteen months ago was a merry hearted girl at Bullock's school – Tom her husband is only 22. His father is building him a handsome house only a mile from ours. She will be a great loss for me.

Do any of you enterprising people think of attending the World's Fair? How I would love to go – but it is a thing not to be thought of until M.P. is grown. It seems to me you might make it convenient & bring me a specimen of the handsomest articles shown, & publish an account. It seems I'm at the end of my sheet so hoping to hear from very soon I'll say good-bye. Love to Aunt, Cousin Kate, Maria, Mr. M. the Dr., Fanny &c &c yrs aff. cousin Amanda Shelby

Written across the top of first page:

P.S. Remember that the inmates of White Hall, Greenfields, & Maple Hill will expect Mrs. Maurous, Miss F OB & Mrs. H. (L. Jones) with pleasure & certainly – Write when you are coming & I will try & meet you in Lexington.

Greenfield Feb. 12. 1851.

My dear Cousin,
 I received your long interesting letter, and
 for the pleasing intelligence that you will once more visit
 your relations in this part of the country. I would have
 replied immediately, but Mary Stidell had been sick
 for two weeks, & as it was her first illness I was ob-
 liged to thought of nothing else but administering
 to her wants. She had high fever & some inflammation
 of the brain, & but for prompt remedial might have proved
 fatal. She had neuralgia in her head & sick & suffered
 intensely. Now that she is recovered I feel like myself a-
 gain - you can sympathize with me no doubt, as you have
 but one child, & know something of the terrible anxiety of
 seeing that only one in danger. Ma has been with me
 several weeks & I have had great uneasiness on her account.
 Her cough has never been at all bad, yet she heard up with
 her usual fortitude - laughed & talked as if nothing was the
 matter. If I were in her place I would never smile. She
 is very happy with her own son-in-law - he is so affection-
 ate in his deportment towards her, & another thing most
 essential, he is sincerely fond, & has prayed night and morn-
 ing. I hope they will be over their billing & cooing before
 you come, or it might chance to deprive you of your
 appetite. I am of course glad to see them so pleased
 with each other, but wish they would keep the proof of it to
 themselves. We are all delighted with him for he is intelligent
 & very industrious. I am so thankful Bury did
 not bring some stranger who would have taken her away.

from us. He is so busily engaged that they get out but seldom
 tell it is a pleasure to feel that they are near. Elizabeth has
 been so confined with bad weather and sickness in her
 family that I see very little of her. You will scarcely
 believe me when I tell you that I have not seen her for
 six weeks. The children have all had the chicken-pox. She
 has perhaps written you & given you particulars so I will
 not trouble you with a repetition. Boon, I believe is doing
 well - he certainly has undertaken a great deal, to carry on two
 kinds of business & each requiring his presence and the
 strictest attention. He is going to Missouri shortly (to sell
 his property in Sec.) & probably you will see him.

The improvements you speak of in Paducah put our city
 to the blush for it is going down. down - property never was
 so low. Many persons think that the new railroad will give
 business an impetus, but so many capitalists have left
 that I doubt whether it will ever be a flourishing place.
 I would love to visit your wonderful town & often speak of
 it, but don't believe I could summon courage to risk my
 life on a steamboat? I have a perfect horror of them. That is
 all that prevents Ma from going down, she knows that the
 trip would benefit her, but fears the river more than you mind
 the ocean. Betsy & Elizabeth will have no leisure to travel so
 if we ever meet again depends upon yourself. Although
 my home & every thing about it would be more attractive
 in summer, yet I'm afraid if you postpone your visit till
 then, that there may be sickness on the river or some other ob-
 stacle in the way. So let us see your pleasant face as soon as
 possible. And Cousin Harry too I will be delighted to see. M.D.

full as if she was well acquainted with her - as she named the
 doll you sent, after her & kept it until it was mended to death.
 And Aunt Hannah too will have a cordial welcome from all
 of us when you are coming so that we may not be kept in
 suspense - I am gratified to hear that Aunt bears up so
 bravely under the infirmities of old age - tell her she might
 send me a millage now and then as I have written once
 especially to her and never forget her in my letters to other
 members of the family. As she takes an abiding interest in
 Church affairs, I will add for her benefit that ours is quite
 flourishing, numerously attended, & the ~~general~~ pastor said to
 be doing more good than any other in Tex. notwithstanding
 drawbacks in the shape of a sickly wife & four small chil-
 dren. The Bishop's family I hear from frequently - they have a
 good school in the city of Louisville & wish to sell their country
 residence - Susan & Virginia are assistant teachers while Ann
 is studying law with Judge Bullock. Susanna & the Mrs
 are growing their lives out in a Gothic cottage. I am all
 curiosity to see Cousin Maria and become acquainted with
 her husband and children. I wish you would take charge
 of the latter some time & let her run up with the Mrs & pay
 us a visit as it would not be pleasant for her to travel
 with so large a family. I saw Emily Neal not long since
 she sent her love to all of you, & that she had four children
 & hoped never to add ^{to} the number. She is now a fashionable
 lady and lives in style. Cousin M. was surprised at my account
 of the grandeur of some of the Lexingtonians - when she gets fully
 over her surprise I will give her another edition - for instance
 description of a new fashionable party called matinee to which
 the company are invited at 1.0 o'clock - I suppose to save lights.

Betsy is going to one to-day with her own Aunt Polly Mrs.
 Bridge Robertson. It is given by one of the Mrs. Eliza
 Warfields - there are three in the new - Young & the Brand
 was married last week to a Mrs. McLean one of her
 daughter of a rich old gentleman returned from business.
 It was grand of course as they are people who
 have been counted at dinner for one invited guest.
 Betsy attended that & the party at Mrs. Brand's. Mrs. Mac-
 aubeter & that branch of the family do not speak as
 young Men sued for \$10,000 of the money her mother
 killed her, to atone for the injustice of her father's distribu-
 tion of his property, leaving the son's an unlawful
 share. Such funds are disgraceful in my opinion. Young
 Mrs. C. Warfield (the Brand that was) lived in a splendid house
 & to give you an idea how she furnished it will mention one item
 \$2500 for a Tea set. Mrs. Macaubeter has a first set of Parlor
 chairs & velvet carpets to match. I would not like to have so
 much idle capital in my house unless I had money to
 throw away. Don't you want to purchase a seven hundred
 dollar set - there are plenty of them at Bruce's China Store.
 Shall I tell them to reserve a set for my Cousin from the South?
 The people in S. talked about Ma for getting a carpet & bedstead
 for the kind of Brand & Hunt in less than a year had trav-
 eled, built, furnished, entertained & &c &c thus saying to
 the world I have that which I longed for.
 Much Tom's family live in affliction now having just heard of
 the death of Tom's wife in Illinois. She was Fanny Godd of
 Springfield & daughter of Dr. Todd - having confidence in her
 father's skill she went there (500 miles) to be confined & died in
 9 days leaving a son. She was only 19 - and eighteen months ago
 was a merry hearted girl at Bullock's school - Tom her husband is
 only 22. His father is building him a handsome house only a mile
 from ours. She will be a great loss to one.
 If any of you enterprising people think of attending the World's Fair?
 How I would love to go but it is a thing not to be thought of until
 N. P. is grown. It seems to me you might make it convenient
 bring me a specimen of the handsomest articles shown, & publish
 an account. It seems I'm at the end of my sheet so proposing to
 kiss from my own self say good-bye. Love to Aunt, Cousin Kate, Maria
 Mr. M. Mrs. C. Fanny &c &c to all Cousin Amanda & Chet

NOTE: Reference to **Jenny Lind** appears to be concerning her concert tour with P.T. Barnum, 1850-1852. See article of her concert **1851**, in Madison, Indiana on the Ohio River. She sat in the "Arm Chair" in Mammoth Cave when she visited Kentucky in April of 1851— thus I will date this letter **1851 spring**.

No Postmark

Addressed to: Mrs. M. Bruen
Lexington

From: Amanda Bruen Shelby

Well Ma! according to promise I send my beautiful one legged, one eyed, cross grained driver – Excuse his not being in full dress as he had been hauling hay etc. this morning & I was afraid to detain him but he might not get there in time for you to make yr arrangements & get off in time. He rides a horse which Ed. will please ride out if he feels so disposed or, put the saddle on the carriage & let E. or Iby ride him with a side saddle. It is one of the few idle horses & will be needed. I did not dare to send him walking as it took him till 8 o'clock to get there the other day. E.(Evan) is almost well & will be delighted to see you – also my humble self. I have had a nice little ham boiled & will have the little turkey in readiness & ice-cream if you & the finger cakes arrive. M. Cosby came yesterday when I was very busy & set the afternoon. She told me that she & her father will go to hear Jenny Lind.

Now don't forget the loaf of bread & finger cakes – and to stop at W. L. Thompson's as you come out – and buy me a yd. & ¼ of carpet like the piece I bought, & inquire if they have 24 ½ yds left of the green & red like I bought. (crossed out words) Also 13 yds of the bright red & green by way of a rug or that piece at the same price that he called English carpet. Please compare with the green & red like mine & see which would be the prettiest. I cannot afford \$6.00 for a rug & the room looks so nice that I am a little particular. Bring Sis if she is willing

Page 2

Top

and a good bye until 5 o'clock when I hope to see you stepping on my new green & red afore mentioned. Please inquire if the matting has come. I send 50 cts to pay for that sponge, the bread,

cakes & postage if any required.

Ever yr. aff daughter
Amanda S.

B(Busy) will understand about the sponge.
E(Evan) says will B. please get this changed into small silver
at Mr. Tweedy's or elsewhere. I almost forgot a very im-

Bottom

portent item; as to request that you will send G. on the carriage
with E. for footman & ask Mrs. Bain for Clemens & bring
her bodily. Please, please. Remember & stop G from his
work to send him & you might spare Eliza that long –
Don't disappoint us. Will certainly expect you

Side

just take enough out of the 5 to pay
for what I want. If E(Eliza) comes get
15 cts worth of cakes -

Will Ma! according to promise I send my beautiful
 one legged, one eyed, cross grained driver - Excuse him
 not being in full dress as he has been hauling hay
 to this morning & I was afraid to detain him lest
 he might not get there in time for you to make
 yr arrangements & get off in time. He rides a
 horse which Ed. will please ride out if he feels so
 disposed or, put the saddle on the carriage & let
 E. or Abby ride him with a side saddle - It is
 one of the few idle horses & will be needed. I did
 not dare to send him walking as it took him till
 8 o'clock to get here the other day - E. is almost sure
 it will be delighted to see you - also my humble self.
 I have had a nice little ham baked & will have the
 little turkey in readiness & ice-cream if you & the
 ginger cakes arrive - M. Cosby came yesterday when
 I was very busy & set the afternoon. She told me that
 she & her father would go to hear Jerry Lind!

Now don't forget the loaf of bread & ginger cakes -
 and to stop at W & Thompson's as you come out
 & buy me a yd & 1/4 of carpet like the piece I
 bought, & inquire if they have 27 1/2 yds left of the
 green & red like I bought. ~~Also 27 1/2 yds~~ Also
 3 yds of the ^{bright} red & green by way of a ping or that
 piece at the same price that you called English
 carpet. Please compare with the green & red like mine

and a good bye until 5 o'clock when I hope to see
you stepping on my new green & red afore men-
tioned - Please inquire if the matting has come
I send 50 cts to pay for that sponge, the bread
cakes & postage if any is required -

Curry off daughter
B. will understand about the sponges. *Wm. A. S.*
E. says will B. please get this changed into small flour
at Mrs Tweedy's or elsewhere. I almost forgot a very im-

Mrs. M. Bruen
Cincinnati

put take enough butter for 5 to pay
for what I want of E. course get
15-00 worth of cakes -

NOTE: This little letter written by Lizzie Smith for Benjamin Bosworth Smith (child of the Bishop's by his second wife, Harriet Staples Douglass) born about 1846. He died at the age of 17 and is buried by the Bishop in Frankfort. It is written to Mary Pindell Shelby who is about to turn 6. It is dated Monday morn, Oct. 27th which according to the calendar would make it 1851. It came in a beautiful little envelope.

Dated: Oct. 27, 1851

To: Mary Pindell Shelby
Greenfields

From: Bossy

Monday Morning
Oct 27th

My dear Mary Pindell,

Yesterday I was looking at the pictures in the book you sent me & that made me think of you & I thought that I would write you a little letter. I want to tell you about my soldier's clothes – I've got a soldier coat & a soldier cap & a banner & the little Dutch children come all around me in the street & think I'm so beautiful, & I look so sober that

Page 2

they wonder I do not laugh & smile. When I come to see you I will bring you some flowers & something good for a little party – a little pie I think wo'd be good, & if I can get any wedding cake I will bring that too & then we can have a nice little wedding. –

I hope you are well and fatter than I am – for I am being thin but well. When I have on my gown to preach in it makes me look larger. I have church Sunday morning & preach

Page 3

a little – but not much. I
wish you were here to
hear me & to sing hymns.
When are you coming to see
me. I want to see you
very much & get acquai-
ted with you. Can't you
come to see me next sum-
mer with you Mama?
We will be in the Country
then & we will run about
& swing & have a little
party in the grass under
a shade tree.

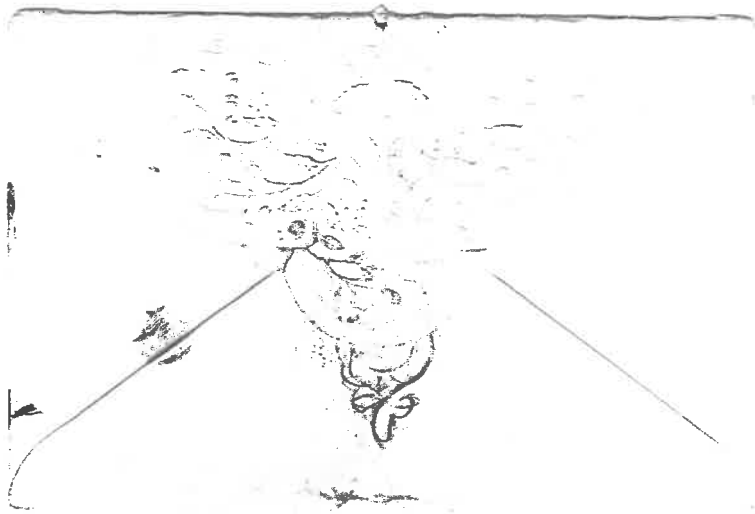
But I must stop wishing
now & bid you 'good bye'.
because I must dress up
in my soldier clothes –

I am your affct little
Bossy –

Miss. Mary. Snidell.
Greenfield.

Monday 20th -
Oct 27th -

My dear Mary Snidell,
Yesterday I was looking
at the pictures in the book you
sent to me, & that made me
think of you, & I thought
that I would write you a
little letter. I want to tell you
about my soldier's clothes.
I've got a soldier-coat, & a
soldier-cap & a banner
& the little Dutch children
come all around me in the
street & think I'm very
useful. & I look so sober that



They wonder I do not laugh
 with you. When I come to see
 you I will bring you some
 dresses & something good
 for a little party. a little
 pie I think would be good, &
 if I can get any wedding
cake I will bring that too
 & then we can have a
nice little wedding.

I hope you are well
 and fatter than I am. for
 I am very thin but well.
 When I have on my gown
 preach in it makes me
 look larger. I have church
 Sunday morn^g & preach

a little - but not much. I
 wish you were here to
 hear me & to sing hymns.
 When ~~you~~ see
 me, I would to see you
 very much & I am accustin
 ted with you. Can't you
 come to see me next sum
 mer with your mamma?
 We will be in the country
 then & we will soon about
 & singing & have a little
 party in the grass under
 a holy tree.

But I must stop writing
 now & bid you good bye,
 because I must dress up
 in my soldier's dress
 I am your affec^t little
 14

NOTE: I believe this to be written in 1851 because for this calendar year Oct. 29th was on a Wednesday. The final pages are missing ! Dating 1851 10/29

To Evan Shelby, Esq
For Mrs Shelby
Lexington, Ky

To: Amanda Bruen Shelby

From: Lizzie Smith

Kalorama Wed. 29th Oct. (1851)

If my correspondents were to judge me by the alacrity with which I reply to their letters they would imagine me a much colder hearted personage than I think I am. But, Dear Amanda you must remember that you, too, must plead guilty to a breach wide and fearful in our epistolary intercourse and ought therefore to be lenient in judging the delinquency of your still attached but very busy friend. I was as happy in welcoming your letter as one usually is in seeing again a long loved but seldom seen friend, and can only be thankful that since you are so intermittent in your favours, they should be so full & satisfied when they really come to hand. After I had finished it I felt as if just risen from one of our long, long talks and had I followed the impulse of my head I should have answered you that very day, but so many things intervened to prevent & I have been so occupied ever since that now, almost for the first time I have an uninterrupted moment to give you.

Where shall I begin or how far shall I retrograde to take up the thread of our divided lives? I think I will spare you all beyond the 1st July when I left home

Page 2

with Virginia for the North. We were absent two months and though days fled like a dream I saw and enjoyed much in their brief span. V went to Geneva where she visited her friends the Gallaghers and I after a week of delights there (for it was Commencement week & there was every thing to interest) went on to Wilmington, Del. where I have friends, perhaps you may remember my speaking

of the Walls – and where I joined a party to Cape May. Oh! how I wish you could have been with me there as you were at Estill two years ago! How much we should have enjoyed together – in talking – walking – diving and all the pleasures of that crowded watering place! The bathing was perfectly glorious and I felt invigorated beyond belief from day to day. Such is the virtue of the waves that the ugly come out beautiful – the weak – strong and unhappy mamas without wished for children find them in the water. Who knows but that we should have had an heir to the Shelby's! There was but one drawback to the pleasure we enjoyed & that was the immense crowd who were the greater part strangers to us – to me entirely so and we had no pleasant coterie like that we enjoyed at Estill. I saw some splendid toilet(?) but not so much beauty as we have

Page 3

in Kentucky, although in place of it there is an absence of affectation and a contempt of those arts which are so liberally practiced at the West by the belles & would-be belles to attract attention. Mary Conrad would have been laughed at – and Sally Hunt observed only as we look at some wild animal. Apropos of Mary – in spite of her nonsense & frivolity I cannot help loving her for she has much “bohemian” in her composition and is only so far selfish as every devotee of fashion must perforce be. I wish her well married as the only curse for her and that may fail as I think it has done in the case of Rosa, and Mrs. Erwin &c &c. What a picture of their life do you give me! I would not be the slave of fashion for all this world can offer. No! I had rather continue as I am, “Have of an hour and vasset to a belle.” although to most my life would appear sad & toilsome enough. But, dear A – this life is not all! “Beyond this vale of tears, there is a life above.” and when we stand at its portals how will the things of this lower world take their proper place and assume their real value! Then will the “fragrance of one well spent hour” rise a more acceptable increase

to Heaven than all the perfumes Lubin
ever manufactured! I wonder if they never

Page 4

think of all this! But to return to my journey. After my return from the Cape I went to N. York – for a very flying visit and a most melancholy one, too – for I saw for the first time since her death all dear Aunt Fanny’s friends – and those children who were so dear to us both. It made it more sad, too, that Mr. Comstock is about contracting with marriage much to the distress of Aunt F’s family, or I should say was, for since my return he has failed to a large amount and is said to have released Miss Westerfelt (his fiancée) from her engagement. He was living in most splendid style – keeping up an almost priceless establishment – four equipages – and every thing to match and I thought when I was in the midst of it all “What a fortune he must be making to maintain all this!” and now comes the crash! My heart bleeds for him because I know his high thirst and how galling his position must be just at this time. I do tell you a great deal could I see you which I cannot commit to paper and which is perhaps as well buried in oblivion – but if we were to meet I “could a tale unfold.” However, when we shall see each other again, dear Amanda, it seems a very long time since we met and it may be as long again. In Geneva there was a fairy of a child with wild hair & elfish ways like Mary Pindell and she reminded me of her every hour. Does she grow & give birth to as many odd sayings as ever? Write me something about her to please Bozzy who remembers her with most chevalier constancy. I suppose you know that Mother has been absent for the past two months and that the care of school, family & children devolves entirely upon us. We are now expecting her every day and most glad shall I be to resign my keys and sink into the obscurity of private life – for the brudens have been almost too heavy to be borne – and I can almost

(rest of letter missing...)

Aloramo. Nov. 29th 1841.
 If my correspondents were to judge me
 by the alacrity with which I reply to their letters
 they would imagine me a much colder hearted
 personage than I think I am. But, dear Amanda,
 you must remember that you, too, must plead
 guilty to a breach wide & fearful in our
 epistolary intercourse, and ought therefore to be
 lenient in judging the delinquencies of your
 still attached but very busy friend. I was as happy
 in receiving your letter as one usually is
 in seeing again a long-loved but seldom
 seen friend, and can only be thankful that
 since you are so intermittent in your
 favours, they should be so full & satisfactory
 when they really come to hand. After I had
 finished it I felt as if just risen from one
 of our long, long talks and had I followed
 the impulses of my heart I should have
 answered you that very day. But so many
 things intervened to prevent & I have been
 so occupied ever since that now, almost
 for the first time I have an uninterrupted
 moment to give you.

When shall I begin or how far shall I
 retrograde to take up the thread of our
 divided lives? I think I will spare you
 all beyond the 1st July when I left home.

with Virginia for the North. We were absent
two months and though they fled like a dream
I saw and enjoyed much in their brief span.
I went to Genoa where she visited her friends
the Gallaghers and I after a week of delight
went for it was Commencement week
there was every thing to interest I went
on to Wilmington, Del. where I have friends.
perhaps you may remember my speaking
of the Waco and where I joined a party
to Cape May. Oh! how I wish you could have
been with me there as you were at Estle
two years ago! How much we should
have enjoyed together in bathing - walking -
driving and all the pleasures of that
crowded watering place! The bathing was
perfectly glorious and I felt invigorated
beyond belief from day to day. Such
in the virtue of the waves that the ugly
come out beautiful - the weak, strong and
unhappy swimmers without wished for children
find them in the water. Who knows but
that we should have had an heir to the
Shelbys! There was but one drawback to
the pleasure we enjoyed & that was the
immense crowd who were the greater
part strangers to us - to me entirely so, and
we had no pleasant coterie like that we
enjoyed at Estle - I saw some splendid tri-
letter but not so much beauty as we have

in Kentucky altho' in place of it there is an abhorrence
 of affectation and a contempt of those arts
 which are so liberally practiced ^{at the north} by the
 better & would-be better to attract attention.
 Mary Conrad would have been laughed at, and
 Sally Hunt observed only as we looked at
 some wild animal. Oportuna of Mary - in
 spite of her nonsense & frivolity I cannot
 help loving her for she has much "bonhomie"
 in her composition and is only so far sel-
 fish as every devotee of fashion must per-
 force be. I wish her well married as the
 only cure for her and that may fail
 as I think it has done in the case of Anna
 and Mrs Evin &c. &c. What a picture
 of their life do you give me! I would
 not be the slave of fashion for all
 this world can offer. No! I had rather
 continue as I am "Slave of an hour and
 vassal to a bell." altho' in most my
 life would appear sad & toil some enough.
 But, dear A. - this life is not all! "Beyond
 this vale of tears, there is a life above," and
 when we stand at its portals how will the
 things of this lower world take their proper
 place and assume their real value!
 Then will the "fragrance of one well spent
 hour" rise as more acceptable in course
 to Heaven than all the perfumes Sabin
 ever manufactured! I wonder if they never

think of all this! But to return to my journey. After my
 return from the Cape I went to N. York. for a very flying
 visit, and a most melancholy one too. for I saw
 for the first time since her death all dear Aunt
 Fanny's friends, and those children who were
 so dear to us both. It made it more sad, too,
 that Mr Comstock is about contracting another
 marriage much to the distress of Aunt F's family.
 as I should say was. for since my return he has
 failed to a large amount and is said to have
 released Miss Westwell (his fiancée) from her
 engagement. He was living in most splendid
 style - keeping up an almost princely establish-
 ment, four equipages - and every thing to match
 and I thought when I was in the midst of it all
 "what a fortune he must be making to maintain
 all this!" and now comes the crash! My heart
 bleeds for him because I know his high spirit - and
 how falling his position must be just at this time. I did
 tell you a great deal could I see you which I cannot
 commit to paper and which is perhaps as well
 buried in oblivion. but if memory turned I could a
 tale unfold." I wonder when we shall see each other
 again. Fear Amanda, it seems a very long time since
 we met and it may be as long again. In General
 there was a fairy of a child. with wild hair &
 elfish ways like Mary Lindell and she remind-
 ed me of her every hour. Does she grow & give
 birth to as many odd sayings as ever? Write
 me something about her to please Peggy who remembers
 her with most chevalric constancy. I suppose you
 know that Mother has been absent for the past two months
 and that the care of school, family & children devolves
 entirely upon us. We are now expecting her every day
 and most glad shall I be to resign my legs and sink
 into the obscurity of private life. for the burthen have
 been almost too heavy to be borne. and I can almost



NOTE: I believe this to be to Isaac (Ike) Shelby, son of James, brother of Evan. He was appointed by his father James to care for the distribution of his estate. He lived in the home the Gov. had given to his father, Richland, and was called on by others for financial care and advise.

This note was written **Dec. '51**

Address to: I. Shelby

From: Evan Shelby

Dear Ike

Amanda would like very much to accept of Mrs. McClure's invitation but in consideration of the roads snow &c I think she would have a rough time. If you think it safe & likely to be an agreeable trip for her I will make Perry get up our carriage & he can take his fiddle

E. Shelby.

Dec. '51

Note by address in Amanda's handwriting.

Here's a new novel
please send the
last papers
& write
a
answer

Dear Ike

Amanda would like very much to accept of Mrs McColum's invitation but in consideration of the roads snow &c I think she would have a rough time. If you think it safe & likely to be an agreeable trip for her I will make Perry get up our carriage & he can take his fiddle.

The 31

E. Shelby.

There is a man named
Blunt and he
has a fiddle
I will
write
to him in
I. Shelby

NOTE: Childhood correspondence via Lizzie Smith for "Bozzy", see October 27, 1851 letter & October 29, 1852 letter. Mary Pindell was born Nov. 1845, so she would have turned 7 just prior to receiving this letter. He was the son of Bishop Benjamin Bosworth Smith's second marriage to Harriet Staples Douglass and will turn 7 in 1846.

Dated: Jan. 30, 1852

For: Mary Pindell Shelby

From: Benjamin Bosworth (Bozzy) Smith

My dear Mary,

Although you do owe
me a letter, yet I cannot keep
from writing to you . I will now
tell you about all the Christmas pres-
ents I had. A sword & guns and,
cannon & hoe & horse & knap
sack & drum & trumpet & cane
and candy apple and a monkey
and to much candy that I
could not eat it all – altho'
I did. I had a little puppy
that Wm Ramsdel gave me
last Saturday night but it
ran away from me. When
I get out to the country I am
going to learn to ride on horse-
back & side with my sisters (Fanny & Hatty?)

Page 2

where ever they go. Do you
know how to ride yet, &
don't you wish that summer
would come? Gracious knows
I am tired of waiting for
the Bible you promised to
bring me! I am going
to have a garden with
sister Fanny & have some
pretty flowers. I
wish I could send you some –

If you have a puppy you
must send me some of
him. All I can think of more
is that you must write
me two letters till your

mother gets tired of writing. When are you coming down to see me? You cannot read this, but you must get your Mother

Page 3

to read it for you.

Yrs

Boz

Alias Capt. Hoyt(?)

Friday
Jan - 30
1852

Edison Shelby, Esq.
for Miss M. P. Shelby
Lexington
Ky

My dear Miss.

Although you do not
me a letter, yet I cannot keep
from writing to you. I will not
tell you about all the Christmas pres-
ents I had. A sword & gun, and
cannon & horse & horse & knap-
sack & drum & trumpet & cone
and candy apple and a Monkey
and so much candy that I
could not eat it all. all the
I did. I had a little puppy
that Mr. Summels gave me.
last Saturday night but it
been away from me. When
I get out to the country. am
going to learn to ride on horse-
back & ride with my sisters.

wherever they go. Can you
know how to ride yet, &
could you visit that summer
wouldn't you please know

I can't find of writing for
the 13th too farward to
bring me! I can't find
to have a garden with -
like to have those some
hobby horses. I wish I
could read you know.

If you have a hobby for
me I read me some of
them. All I can think of now
is that you must write
me how often like you
Mother just kind of me.
bring. When can you come
down to see me? I am
certainly read this, but you
must get your Mother

to read it for you.

Yours
1857
Miss Daphn. May 1.

Friday
Sept 30
1857

NOTE: Found among their papers this appears to be a poem that Amanda or Evan Shelby cut out of the Lexington Observer and Reported in 1852 Entitled "Note the Bright Hours Only". I have not located the author. **Dating 1852 2/?**

"NOTE THE BRIGHT HOURS ONLY"

A lesson in itself sublime,
A lesson worth enshrining,
Is this—"I take no heed of time,
Save when the sun is shining."
These motto-words a dial bore,
And Wisdom never teaches
To human hearts a better lore
Than this short sentence teaches.
As life is something bright and fair,
And sometimes dark and lonely,
Let us forget its pain and care,
And note its bright hours only.

There is no grave on earth's broad chart
But has some bird to cheer it;
So hope sings on, in every heart,
Although we may not hear it;
And if to-day the heavy wing
Of sorrow is oppressing,
Perchance - tomorrow's sun will bring
The weary heart a blessing.
For life is something bright and fair,
And sometimes dark and lonely,
Let us forget its pain and care,
And note its bright hours only.

We bid the joyous moments haste,
And then forget their glitter -
We take the cup of life, and taste
No portion but the bitter:
But we should teach our hearts to deem
Its sweetest drops the strongest;
And pleasant hours should ever seem
To linger round us longest.
As life is something bright and fair,
And sometimes dark and lonely,
Let us forget its pain and care,
And note its bright hours only.

Though darkest shadows of the night,
Are just before the morning,
Then let us wait the coming light,
All boding phantoms scorning;
And while we'er passing on the tide
Of Time's fast ebbing river,
Let's pluck the blossoms by its side,
And bless the gracious Giver.
As life is something bright and fair,
And sometimes dark and lonely,
Let us forget its pain and care,
And note its bright hours only.

"NOTE THE BRIGHT HOURS ONLY."

A lesson in itself sublime,
A lesson worth enshrining,
Is this—"I take no heed of time,
Save when the Sun is shining."
These motto-words a dial bore,
And wisdom never teaches
To human hearts a better lore
Than this short sentence teaches.
As life is sometimes bright and fair,
And sometimes dark and lonely,
Let us forget its pain and care,
And note its bright hours only.

There is no grove on earth's broad chart
But has some bird to cheer it;
So hope sings on, in every heart,
Although we may not hear it;
And if to-day the heavy wing
Of sorrow is oppressing,
Perchance-to-morrow's sun will bring
The weary heart a blessing.
For life is sometimes bright and fair,
And sometimes dark and lonely;
Then let's forget its toil and care,
And note its bright hours only.

We bid the joyous moments haste,
And then forget their glitter—
We take the cup of life, and taste
No portion but the bitter:
But we should teach our hearts to deem
Its sweetest drops the strongest;
And pleasant hours should ever seem
To linger round us longest.
As life is sometimes bright and fair,
And sometimes dark and lonely,
Let us forget its toil and care,
And note its bright hours only.

Though darkest shadows of the night,
Are just before the morning,
Then let us wait the coming light,
All boding phantoms scorning;
And while we're passing on the tide
Of Time's fast ebbing river,
Let's pluck the blossoms by its side,
And bless the gracious Giver.
As life is sometimes bright and fair,
And sometimes dark and lonely,
We should forget its pain and care,
And note its bright hours only.

NOTE: Since this is in Lizzie's handwriting, it appears that she wrote the letter for Bozzy, see Jan. 30, 1852 letter. Sarah (Busy) Bruen Cronly must have been pregnant and then miscarried because their first, Joseph Bruen Cronly was not born until June of 1853 and then he only lived one month. Also Lizzie refers to Louise missing Arthur which might have been the name of her baby that died. **Dating 1852 2/10**

Addressed to: Mrs. Evan Shelby
Lexington
Kentucky

To: Amanda Bruen Shelby

From: Lizzie Smith

Monday Feb. 10, 1852

I could not but smile, dear A when I found from your first remark that the note I scribbled for Bozzy to quiet a fretful hour had really, found the aim he intended it for and fallen into the hands of little Mary Pindell. Fortunately she is not critical, or she might have lost much of the interest she expresses in her gentleman comes prudent, in finding that he could sent a lady such an epistle. I think it must have mingled with Father's budget & been mailed by him unconsciously; but as it has at last, elicited a letter from you I am disposed to think it a very friendly chance. I had began to fear before your letter reached me that you had abandoned the visit I had been expecting with so much pleasure, but I never could have imagined the cause. You dear little dumpling you, if you were to be thrown out of the cart you will certainly roll to a place of safety; and as children and drunkards are particularly provided with a guardian angel so rotund damsels like yourself prove your own safeguard. As I am disappointed, that I could say all manner of wicked things to you! To

Page 2

think that – we should have been so near seeing you & enjoying so much & then to have the cup dashed from the lips! I don't know now when we shall ever see each other again. For my summer vacation is three times bespoke & I don't know that I shall be able to leave home at all. Oh! I wish I could see you to have one of our promenading talks up & down your beautiful halls! I have so much to say to you & to counsel you about that will not do to be committed to paper. Do not imagine that it has anything to do with "Mr K." a gentleman whose ac-

quaintance I am not honoured with, and whom unfortunately, I "cannot tell you all about" or with anything "Mr." that I am at present cognizant of – for your fears of my desertion are as remote from the facts as possible. Do tell me who the gentleman is whose name you have heard linked with mine! I am quite anxious to know. No! I am just now anxious and undecided as to my future and therefore will not trouble you with my feelings until all is settled – then you shall know – but if you were near enough how I could talk with you! Your letter was full of remembrance, but none pleased me more than the item with regard to Busy. She will be so

Page 3

and Mr. Cronly too – when all is fortunately over. If I could and I would send my congratulations, & indeed I cannot imagine the feeling that would make them unwelcome -.

Children are so lovely – so blessed, such comfort, that if I were a Mother I could scarcely have enough of them. Think what would you be without your darling – or we without our Bozzy! And dear E too! She is as good & as strong minded in every other respect, that it seems almost a new mania. I pray that God may be gracious to her in all things, and in none more than in binding for her bosom such a lovely bouquet of children. It is only when sin & sorrow are connected with it that it cannot bear the curse of the fall. We have just passed thro' a scene such as I hope never to witness again. Mother had bought a coloured girl just before Christmas, very valuable & the daughter of a woman whom we have had some years from Eliza Breckenridge. She was in the family way although sixteen – indeed just fifteen; and the then intended having her insured, but she had no idea she was so near her time – put it off until she wld(would) return from Shelbyville where she was to make a short visit with Father. The night she left Lucretia was taken sick & for forty eight hours lay in spasms – foaming at the mouth & senseless. We went for all the physicians we could reach but although she had three with her all night endeavoring to remove the child which was too large to be born, she was not relieved until the morn when Drs. Cornwall & Miller came and from that moment she had no ray of consciousness until about an

Page 4

hour before her death which took place in the fourth day. You may imagine how much we suffered in anxiety and watchfulness & responsibility. F & Mother did not return until

after all was over and I was initiated into mysteries and horror I had scarcely conceived of before. Fortunately Louise was with us most of the time, seeing the Drs. &c, &c.. She says she has no desire to have Arthur replaced – indeed she feels a kind of jealousy for him, that any other should fill the void made sacred by his removal – but I think she would be happier. She had anticipated your visit with a great deal of pleasure & we had planned many pleasant hours together. We go to the country in about six weeks, & the children are anticipating it with much pleasure. That is with the exception of Hatty, whom we scarcely class with the children. She is so much of the young lady that she has just returned from a bridal trip to Cin. by the way of Frankfort & Lex. I would have written by her but I know she would be but one night there and that at the Hotel. She was bridesmaid to an old school mate of hers, who is herself very young, strong as Tom's _____(?) gained Mother's consent. Girls mature so differently. Do you remember what children we were at fifteen? Our ambition all centered in our books and our love in each other. By the way – speaking of “auld lang syne” recalls some lines I wrote to Rosa the other day – drawn forth by seeing her signature so often in the Journal. They are not worth sending you – but as they recall a scene you may remember, if I can lay my hands

Across the first page:

Thank E(Evan) for his kind remembrance of me –
give him my love & say I will come when
I can -

Monday Feb. 16. 1852.

I could not but smile, dear A., when I found from your first remark that the note I scribbled for Bogy to give a pretful honor had really found the way he intended it for, and fallen into the hands of little Mary Findale. Fortunately she is not critical, or she might have lost much of the interest she expresses in her gentleman correspondent, in finding that he could send a lady such an epistle. I think it must have mingled with Father's budget & been mailed by him unconsciously; but as it had at last elicited a letter from you I am disposed to think it a very friendly chance. I had begun to fear before yr letter reached me that you had abandoned the visit I had been expecting with so much pleasure, but I never could imagine the cause. You dear little Tumpling you, if you were to be thrown out of the car you would certainly roll to a place of safety, and as children and drunkards are particularly provided with a guardian angel or returned devils like yourself from your own safeguards. I am so disappointed, that I could say in manner of wicked things to you! I

Thank E for his kind remembrance of me -

think that - we should have been so near seeing
 you & enjoying so much & then to have the
 cup dashed from the lips! I don't know
 now when we shall ever see each other again,
 for my summer vacation is these things
 hopeless & I don't know that I shall be
 able to leave home at all. Oh! I wish I could
 see you to have one of our promenading
 talks up & down your beautiful halls! I have
 so much to say to you & to counsel you
 about that wild web to be committed to
 paper. Do not imagine that I hear anything
 to or with "Mr. K." a gentleman whose ac-
 quaintance I am well honoured with, and
 whom unfortunately, I cannot tell you all
 about: or with any other "Mr." that I am
 at present ignorant of - for your fears of my
 description are as remote from the facts as possible.
 Do tell me who the gentleman is whose name you
 have heard linked with mine? I am quite
 curious to know. Oh! I am just now
 anxious and undecided as to my
 future and therefore will not trouble
 you with any feelings until all is
 settled - then you shall know. But if you
 were near enough here I could talk with
 you! Your letter was full of news to me, but none pleased me
 more than the item with regard to Henry. He will be so

and Mr. Cronley too. When all is fortunately over. If I could I
 would send my congratulations, & indeed I cannot im-
 agine the feeling that would make them unwelcome.
 Children are so lovely - so blessed in all respects, that
 if I were a Mother I could scarcely have enough of them.
 Think what you would be without your darling - or me without
 our boys! And dear E. too! She is so good & so strong-
 minded in every other respect - that it seems almost
 a minor matter - I pray that God may be gracious to her
 in all things, and in none more than in binding from
 her bosom such a lovely bouquet of children. It is only
 when sin & sorrow are connected with it that it seems to
 bear the curse of the fall. We have just passed thro' a
 scene such as I hope never to witness again. Mother
 had bought a colored girl just before Christmas, very
 valuable & the daughter of a woman whom we have
 had some years from Elyza Vouchinige. She was in the
 family very altho' not sixteen - indeed just fifteen, and Mo-
 ther intended having her insured, but she did not then she
 was so near her time & put it off until she should return
 from Shelbyville where she was to make a short visit with
 Father. The night she left Lucretia was taken sick & for forty
 eight hours lay in spasms - foaming at the mouth - & severely.
 We sent for all the physicians we could reach but altho' she
 had three with her all night endeavoring to remove the clots
 which was too large to be born, she was not relieved until
 the morn'g when Dr. Howell & Miller came. and from that
 moment she had no ray of consciousness until about an

hour before his death which took place on the fourth day. You may imagine how much we suffered in anxiety and watchfulness & responsibility. F & Mother did not return until after all was over and I was initiated into mysteries and horrors I had scarcely conceived of before. Fortunately Anne was with us most of the time. Seeing the loss of Mr. She says she has no desire to have Arthur replaced. indeed she feels a kind of jealousy for him. that any other should fill the spot made sacred by his removal. but I think she will be happier. She had anticipated your visit with equal deal of pleasure & we had planned many pleasures and hours together. We go to the country in about six weeks, & the children are anticipating it with much pleasure. that is with the exception of Hatty, whom we scarcely do with the children. She is so much of the young lady that she has just returned from a brilliant trip to Paris by the way of Frankfurt & Lux. I would have written by her but I think she will be but one night there and that at the Hotel. She was bridesmaid to an old school mate of hers, who is herself very young, & young as Louis among gained Mother's consent. Girls mature so differently. Can you remember what children we were at fifteen? Can you remember the centered in our books. and our love in each other. By the way. speaking of "and long eyes" recall some lines I wrote to Maria the other day. drawn forth by seeing her signature so often in the Journal. They are not worth sending you. but as they recall a scene you may remember, if I can lay my hands



NOTE: I am assuming that this is in answer to the letter written for Benjamin Bosworth (Bozzy) Smith by Lizzie Smith, just after Christmas – Jan 30th. Perhaps Mary Pindell called him Bossie. This is written by Amanda Bruen Shelby for her daughter Mary Pindell Shelby and would be dated approximately – February 15th, 1852.

To: Bossie

From: Mary Pindell Shelby

Dear Bossie,

Mother and myself had just got back from a visit to Cousin Mary when your letter was handed to me. I am very, very much a surprised that a letter should come all the way in the P. Office for me. I have been to see a grown lady & she showed me a large, old scrap book & I saw a side face of Napoleon, a picture that Mother painted when she was young & a basket of

Page 2

fruit that looked natural enough to eat. But I know you want to hear about Christmas. The evening before, I was so anxious to know what St. Nicholas would give me that I sent out Peter & Lucy every few minutes to listen if he was coming & if he was not, to call him – At last I got to sleep but woke before day & looked in my stockings & there I found a heap of toys & plenty of cake & candy. Mother gave me a box full of blocks that I can build a house with

Page 3

like the picture on the lid. I am very sorry I did not get down to see you, but hope I will in the spring, & that we'll have

Amanda's art work - wish there was more MPS remembers seeing a still life so real you wanted to reach out and eat the fruit.



From old Scrap book

one good play together. One
of my cousins sent me a
snow bird that cold weather
already picked & I stuffed it
& roasted it in my little skil-
let & it look like a Lilliputian
partridge. You want to know
if I have a dog – no indeed!
unless I can get one like
poor Tommy T. I never want
another. I have a cat but she
can't take care of the house
like he did & I have fed her

Page 4

her so much that she won't
catch a single rat! You must
not wait till you learn to ride
on horseback to come to see
me, but rush up here in the
cars the first time your Father
comes. My Aunt has so many
pretty, smart children & we
will have such a pleasant
time together. If you have the
tooth-ache, bathe your feet in
hot water – it is my remedy.

Eliza, Florence & myself take our
dolls with us wherever we go –
don't you think we had better
study our spelling books? Can
you read? Here's a wreath of my
drawing & painting – Write
to me soon – Yrs M. P. S.

(these are daughters of Elizabeth Bruen Ingels, Eliza
Maurous, 8 & Florence Lamartine, almost 4)

Mrs Mary P. Shelby
Greenfield

her so much that she won't
catch a single rat. You must
not wait till you learn to ride
on horseback to come to see
me, but rush up here in the
cars the first time your Father
comes. My Aunt has so many
pretty, smart children & we
will have such a pleasant
time together. If you have the
tooth-ache, bathe your feet in
hot water - it is very remedy.
Ella, Florence & myself take our
dolls with us wherever we go -
don't you think we had better
study our spelling books? Can
you read? There's a wreath of my
drawing & painting - Write
to me soon. Feb M. P. S.

Dear Bossie,

Mother and myself
had just got back from a
visit to Cousin Mary when
your letter was handed to me.
I am very, very much a surprised
that a letter should come
all the way in the P. Office
for me. I have been to see a
green lady & she showed
me her large, old scrap book.
& I saw a side face of
Napoleon, a picture that
Mother painted when she
was young & a basket of

^{fruit}
~~fruit~~ that looked crustal
 enough to eat. But I know
 you want to hear about Christ
 mas. The evening before, I
 was so anxious to know
 what St Nicholas would
 give me that I sent out
 Peter & Lucy every few min-
 utes to listen if he was com-
 ing & if he was not, to call
 him. At last I got to sleep
 but woke before day & looked
 in my stockings. & there
 I found a heap of toys &
 plenty of cake & candy. Mother
 gave me a box full of blocks
 that I can build a house with

like the picture on the lid. I am
 very sorry I did not get down
 to see you, but hope I will in
 the Spring, & that will have
 one good play together. One
 of my Cousins sent me a
 snow bird that cold weather
 already picked, & I stuffed ^{it}
 & roasted it in my little kil-
 let & it looked like a Lilliput
 Kestrel. You want to know
 if I have a dog - no indeed!
 unless I can get one like
 poor Tommy J. I must want
 another. I have a cat but she
 can't take care of the house
 like he did & I have fed her

NOTE: Ma is not living with Amanda as yet. The Cronly's have moved from White Hall to live in town at Mrs. Dunham's. Alfred Grigsby would not have been born until late 1851 maybe even early 1852. Mary Howard Wickliffe married John Preston, Jr. in January 15, 1852. Her father was Robert Wickliffe. This is Amanda's writing and as mentioned in the first line it is to her cousin – I believe most likely Maria Leonard O'Bannon Jones but it might be to Eliza Maurous. The top corner is torn off thus there no date and as ending came across the top of the page – no signature. Biggest question is why was she at the Grimes/Moore home for (deportment or dancing or French...) I have dated **1852 Spring**.

No Address or Date

To: Cousin (Maria Leonard O'Bannon Jones or Eliza Maurous)

From: Amanda Bruen Shelby

Excuse if you can dear Cousin my long (torn off) owing partly to my indecision whether to visit you or not. Inclination prompted me to go but prudence to give it up. I would have been compelled to take M. Pindell & while the weather was so uncertain I could not think of it independent of the actual risk of going on our great Louisville & Lexington R. Road. Accidents are of almost daily occurrence, so indifferent are the engines & careless the engineers – some say it is owing to the mobility of the President, of the truth of this you may judge when I tell you he is little Parson Dudley. Don't you remember him? On the other route by stage it is equally hazardous. You may think this rather incredible when there is such an amount of traveling but it is the truth & if others chose to risk their lives, I am not. But I do really want to come & then I could claim with a better grace a visit from you. Ma may go down in the Spring, but it is very doubtful, as her disease requires such constant care. She has been better than usual this winter because she has been less exposed. I have almost gained her consent to break up house-keeping & live with me altogether. It is very unsafe for her to live there alone in her delicate health & she is away so much at all events that the place is at the mercy of the public & always in danger of fire from careless negroes. Busy is still at Mrs. Dunham's and has no idea of taking upon herself the care of a house & servants.

Page 2

(torn off) & I think always
(torn off) each mistaken ____
(torn off) will follow the example
(torn off) share towards multiplying
(torn off) little Sal need not flatter herself that she is going to get off so easily. She has nothing to do but dress, read and visit. Elizabeth tells her that she used to sit at Mrs. Dunham's too, taking her ease, but now, between suckling & teething &c &c, she scarcely enjoys a good nights rest.

As she is only thirty-one there is not much prospect of a cessation of that sort of thing. As for myself I laugh & grow fat & can sleep from the setting till the rising of the sun. I heard of the Grimes the other day through Mrs. Lutz (now Mansfield) who has been in Paducah & neighborhood a month or two. She says Mary has her wedding clothes ready to be married to a clever man & that Margaret is likewise engaged to a fine fellow, who Mrs. G.(Grimes) objects to on the score of poverty. How true are these reports? Not very, I imagine, for they sound like the same old tales she would tell when asked about their prospects. Do tell me how they look & dress – what sort of a house they keep, whether they are making any thing & how the son turned out. Is Mrs. Moore with them? When you remember that I was with them 7 months you will not wonder at my curiosity & they were really very kind. You say you did not get my letter describing S. Grigsby's folly. She was the only remaining child of the youngest son(Alfred) of Isaac Shelby & heiress to a very large estate. Her mother was a Miss Hart, sister of Mrs. Gibson & is now Mrs. B. Breckinridge –

Page 3

Well, this dashing girl with her \$80,000 thought the beaux about her not good enough & fancied this Mr. Grigsby on her return from Cuba, his greatest recommendations were that he was a Virginia gentleman, a consul to Bordeaux nine years & nephew of Gen. Scott. He was poor as a church mouse & had never been in business – they are making the thousands fly – Isaac is executor in his Father's stead & in that way I have learned so much. To give you an idea of the cost of the bridal paraphernalia – the bill at Cochran's \$1,000 & she bought all her handsomest dresses in Philadelphia – her wedding dress cost \$150.00, veil \$100, pearls \$250.00 hank's \$10 &c &c &c, the supplier estimated at \$1000.00. Her chamber was furnished with rosewood & blue Danish lace curtains, velvet carpet, oil paintings &c &c &c. She gave \$1000.00 for a carriage, 600 for horses & now has gone to Europe & left it all – the infant heir, Alfred Shelby Grigsby, Esq. now in Florence, tried to imbibe nourishment from the natural fountain & lo; the nipples of the same became inverted & Mrs. S. S. Grigsby has to wean the above mentioned & allow him to depend upon strangers for sustenance. The Italian wet nurses it appeared are spiteful & not to be depended upon, therefore when Mr. & Mrs. G. wish to visit a place of interest Mr. A. S. G. has to be dressed and dried & carried little wise – Now, if this Mr. A. S. G. should get the thrash, measles or any other disease I will write immediately. Do you want to hear of another fool? To wit, M. Wickliffe – She ordered a 700 dollar Brussels lace robe to be married in, but it was sent to N. Orleans by mistake & she, poor thing had to wear one of her plain evening dresses that only cost 100. Her mantra maker in Phil. did not send her but 25 dresses & those had

but two bodies each. Whether they will be sufficient for a change

Page 4

in the little town of Helena remains to be tried. Mr. J. Preston is a lawyer there. The wedding was as grand as Lex. could furnish. One item in the confectioner's bill was 20 doz. eggs, a dollar per doz. & so on. She received her company in low necked short sleeved dresses. She went to a dinner when the thermometer was degrees below zero dressed in the same way – Susan Carter invited her to spend a social evening to meet a few intimate friends – she came at 10, dressed in a ruby coloured velvet, lace under skirt, sleeves & chem.-isette – the rest of the company must have lost their patience waiting for tea. Her Father is suing again for all that part of Lexington the Bruen house down to Frog Town & some think he will gain the suit. It will be very hard against Ma & us too for the tavern is not yet sold. Old Susan Cook is-keeping the private part of it. As Chiles has the only hotel he asks Eastern prices & keeps an indifferent table. Mrs. Brennan's friends are urging her to open a boarding house – they say that there will not be a 1000 dollars left when his debts are paid. He died very suddenly & she has lost a child since. Did you know Mr. & Mrs. George Trotter – he died supposing she would be almost penniless but a suit has been decided in her favour & she is worth 20,000. Four of the Trotter family have died in the space of a year – two of Mrs. Leavy's brothers, G. T. & Kitty Leavy a very interesting girl about 18. A great number of sons have born since the numerous weddings last Fall. Kate Legrand (Mrs. Gilliss), A. J. Bean formerly (Ann Jane) Harper etc. etc. the latter is living in a little bit of a house with ground in it & seems very happy – just opposite to Mr. L.(Lloyd) Warfield's noble mansion & which she once promised him to become mistress of, but 100 got the upper hand & she took the poor little Bean. S(Sarah) Legrand that was, is spending the winter with her mother with a troop of gawky children wild from Missouri where she now lives & hates the air she breathes. Mrs. Dougherty her cousin has bought a farm near Lex. to give her husband employment. He is steady – dresses fine & enjoys the fortune they say she has. She had false teeth & a wig & looks pretty for at that. Mr. Ward has broken up (business?) & gone back to Connecticut. Mr. Berkley had to advise him not partake of the Communion again, his habits had become so bad. You know he has been a hard drinker for some time.

Has Mr. Nash accepted the charge of the church in P.(Paducah)? Our good preacher has been sorely afflicted – He sprained his ankle two months since & has not yet recovered – sometimes it is so painful that he cannot stand on it long enough to preach. His wife has children very fast & is never well. She has been confined to her bed six weeks and

Across top of first page:

has not been expected
to survive. Tell Aunt
that my pew is
taken in our church
that the congrega-
tion is very large
the organ fine
& singing de-
lightful. The
leader of the
choir gets 80
dollars a year.
They have bought
an organ (torn off)
the Presbyterian (torn off)
Church (torn off)
on (torn off)
Al (torn off)
(torn off)
(torn off)
(torn off)
(torn off)
(torn off)
(torn off)
(torn off)
(torn off)
(torn off)
(torn off)
W
Yours
believe

Top line across top of back – upside down:

Please answer soon & I will tell you plenty of Lex. scandal – if

Top two line across the top of Page 3 and page 2 – upside down.

you don't, I'll think you are disgusted with this budget. Tell Kate if she will send M.P. a (perhaps a painted picture) (torn off)
much obliged if it is no bigger than my trunk nail. I have told her so much of the beautiful paints (torn off)

I am not here
 to determine
 what my part is
 taken in our church
 that the organ
 you is very large
 the organ fine
 & singing de-
 lightful - the
 leader of the
 choir quite so
 almost a year -
 they have been
 an org
 the Pres
 Chas

being partly to my indecision whether to visit you or not
 inclination prompted me to go but prudence to give it up.
 I would have been compelled to take Mr. Priddell & while the
 matter was so uncertain I could not think of it independ-
 ent of the actual risk of going on our great Louisville
 to Lexington N. Road. Accidents are of almost daily occur-
 rence, so indifferent are the engines & careless the engineers -
 some say it is owing to the inability of the Presidents of
 the truth of this you may judge when I tell you he is
 Mr. Person Dudley - Don't you remember him? On the other
 route by stage it is equally hazardous. You may think this
 rather incredible when there is such an amount of traveling
 but it is the truth & if others chide to visit their loved ones
 not. But I do really want to come & then I could claim
 with a better grace a visit from you. We may go down
 in the Spring, but it is very doubtful, as her disease requires
 such constant care. She has been better than usual this winter
 because she has been less exposed. I have almost gained her
 consent to break up house-keeping & live with me altogether.
 It is very unsafe for her to live there alone in her delicate
 health & she is away so much at all events that the place
 is at the mercy of the public & always in danger of fire from
 unless insured. Rudy is still at Mrs. Dunham's and has no
 idea of taking upon herself the care of a house & servants.

if she will send Mr. P. to
 I trust always

she mistakes too

will follow the example

in her towards multiplying

little but need not flatter herself that she
 is going to get off so easily - she has nothing to do but down
 read and visit. Elizabeth tells her that she used to sit at
 Mrs. Manham's too, talking her ears, but now, between such
 long & tedious to be she scarcely enjoys a good night's rest.

As she is only thirty-one there is not much prospect of
 a cessation of that sort of thing. As for myself I laugh
 & you get & can sleep from the setting till the rising
 of the sun. I heard of the Grimes' the other day through
 Mrs. Sato (now Mansfield) who has been in Paducah &
 neighborhood a month or two. She says Mary has her
 wedding clothes ready to be carried to a clever man & that
 Margaret is likewise engaged to a fine fellow, who Mr.
 G. objects to on the score of poverty. How true are these re-
 ports? Not very, I imagine, for they sound like the same
 old tales she would tell when asked about their prospects.

Do tell me how they look & dress - what sort of a house
 they keep, whether they are making any thing & how the
 son turned out. Is Mrs. Moore with them? When you re-
 member that I was with them 7 months you will not won-
 der at my Curiosity & they were really very kind. You say
 you did not get any letter describing J. Grayson's folly - she
 was the only remaining child of the youngest son of Isaac
 Shelby & passed to a very large estate. Her Mother was a Mill
 Kent sister of Mrs. Gibson & is now Mrs. P. Buckenridge.

In - your most
 in the little town
 a lawyer there
 furnish - me
 a dollar per day
 which short
 minutes was 14
 day - Susan
 to meet a few
 in a ruby
 center - the
 waiting for tea
 dining to
 think he will
 us too for the
 the private part
 pieces & keeps
 saying her to
 not be a 1000
 of suddenly &
 Mrs. Gage
 Reminded but
 worth 20,000
 year - two of
 boy girl about
 numerous
 formerly Harper
 3 rooms in it
 noble mansion
 best of, but
 D. Legrand that
 a troop of
 lives & has
 bought a farm
 already secured
 false teeth &
 up & gone
 parade of the
 You know he
 that Mr. Nash
 been only
 has not yet
 stand on it
 it is never
 she has been

10

NOTE: The babe without a name, born Mar. 1, 1852, was called "Nannie", most probably a nickname for Hannah. She died Mar. 13, 1854 just past her 2nd birthday. This letter is written from "Maple Hill". Mrs. M. L. Jones is Maria O'Bannon – obviously remarried – see Paducah census report (Dr. H. L. Jones). Note the Elizabeth is still not living in the castle Ingelside. As of May of 2020, I still have not located Maple Hill. **Dating 1852 9/20**

Postmarked Lexington Ky. Sep 24 (1852)

Addressed to: Mrs. M. L. Jones
Paducah
Kentucky

From: Elizabeth Bruen Ingels (Amanda's sister)

Maple Hill Sept 20th 1852

Your most welcome letter dear Cousin was an unexpected pleasure I did not deserve. I have made several attempts to answer it but interruptions together with one of my failings procrastination that thief of time, must be my apology for not writing. I will as I have not written for so long give you an account of each member of the family. My dear Mother's health is truly distressing. She has returned from the springs not near so well as when she left, her cough is dreadful and seems to increase almost daily and is so weak she can scarcely get about her room, has to be carried by a servant to the carriage when she rides which seems to be the only thing that benefits her, this time last year after a summer spent at the springs she was so well she did her own marketing & shopping. She has given up her house for the present year as I suppose Amanda (who seems to be the scribe of the family) has told you. She sold none of her furniture has it packed away, and still speaks of going to house keeping next May when the year will expire. Her home is principally with A who has a house as large as a castle. We are still cramped up in our little coop with 6 young ones. Ma was with me 3 months

Page 2

in the spring and was so ill the greater part of the time she had to be fed with a spoon. Such a siege of nurse as I have gone through with the last spring and summer I pray I may never experience again, the children white and black

little Florence who had congestion of the brain you know something of the disease how terrible it is, we despaired of her life for several days. since, all but Maria have had the whooping cough. Maria and Eliza the brunettes and Captain are going to school. M(Maria) will not be 13 until next January. She has commenced taking music lessons. Cousin Fanny can beat her, I know it is a great draw back on her time riding in and out of town every day but she prefers it and I think it more beneficial to health than music, that is, if she like the balance gives it up as soon as grown or married, which some trouble they get into soon enough without the aid of accomplishments. Eliza evinces the greatest talent for music she will be the proficient in that branch and Maria in drawing and painting. Florence who will be five next March is to be the beauty – she is almost deformed with fat, her hair and large eyes are a dark hazel, her hair curls naturally, complexion fair and ruddy. The next Major Evan as his name sake calls him, was 2 last Feb., is a perfect little man with light hair and blue

Page 3

eyes, goes hunting with his Pa, rides horse back &c the youngest but not the least important personage in the house is the “March hare” as we call her because she made her appearance the first day of the month, is still without a name tell cousin Eliza she must come and help us as she did once before in the like dilemma she is going to be such a rare beauty, fair skin and blue eyes, I suppose is the reason we cannot make a decision. Amanda is the same fat mischief loving old dutch, her idol Mary Pindell grows very fast, promises to be a fine looking woman, is a perfect Shelby, no prospect for any more.

Poor Sallie lost her little one when only three weeks old with malignant thrush so styled by several Drs she and Cronly could not have grieved more had it been a grown son, though before its birth she murmured and rebelled a great deal more than I ever dared to do with seven, she called him “Joseph Bruen”. They are still boarding with Mrs. Dunham, has as much leisure, health as good, and is loving as ever. A(Amanda) prophesies another is on the way already, but not a word of this when you write. Boon is the same old Boon as deaf as when in Paducah – he has been in and out of the

notion half a doz. times this summer of going to Philadelphia to consult Harty the great Aurist – he, Dr. H, now intends visiting Lex. I hope he may be benefited – he is by the sweat of his brow building a more commodious house for

Page 4

Top:

wife Betsy, we hoped to have got in it this fall – but I am afraid now, not before next summer. I am still one of Pharaoh's lean kine(?) black and scrawny the children often look for grey hairs, but have not found any yet. My day to fatten may come round yet I look forward to the time when I shall have done bringing forth. I pick up a little every chance I get which

Bottom:

same, causes me to hope. Aunt Betty is still living at our old home. I never pass it without shedding tears. What changes a few years have wrought. Who can tell what the next six may bring forth! Remember me most affectionately to Cousin Eliza, & Cate. Kiss all the little ones for me. Tell Aunt Hannah howdy do. Some of you try and make us a visit. We all looked in vain for Cousin E last fall, tell her she must fulfill her promise this fall – I never expect to see you unless you bundle up

Side

and make us a visit. If the Dr. cannot you might come. You owe me one and must pay it. I will have plenty of room next summer. Boon has another brother who is going to Mo. to live. I am afraid we'll have to follow his example if our family increases any more. Write soon & believe me your aff cousin Elizabeth

Across front page:

Maria is nearly as large as I am. Captain is nearly as tall as she is. Your old Friend Emily Hale always inquires after you all. I forget how many children she has, her oldest is very ugly

and not as large
as Maria. I
wish you could
have been here
during last
week to attend
the fair. Such
a display of
Beauty and
industry was
never witnessed
in the West. There
must have
been 40 or 50 quilts.
Ellen Anderson of
Louisville got the
premium a \$60
pitcher for a silk
quilt.

Mama is nearly as large as I am. Captain is nearly as tall as the

Friend Emily
 I shall always
 inquire after
 you all for
 get how many
 children she
 has. Her eldest
 is very ugly
 and not as large
 as Maria. I
 wish you could
 have been here
 during last
 week to attend
 the fair such
 a display of
 Beauty and
 riches try was
 never witnessed
 in the West. There
 I must have
 seen 4 or 500 quilts
 Ellen Anderson of
 Miss. will get the
 premium of \$600
 for a quilt
 for a quilt

welcome letter dear Cousin
 An unexpected pleasure. I did not deserve it. I
 have made several attempts to answer it but
 interruptions together with one of my failings
 procrastination (that thief of time must be my
 apology for not writing). I will as I have not
 written for so long give you an account of each
 member of the family. My dear Mother's health
 is truly distressing. She has returned from the
 Springs not near so well as when she left
 her cough is dreadful and seems to increase al-
 most daily and is so weak she can scarcely get
 about her rooms, has to be carried by a servant to
 the carriage when she rides which seems to be the
 only thing that benefits her, this time last year
 after a summer spent at the springs she was so
 well she did her own marketing & shopping. She
 has given up her house for the present year as I sup-
 pose Amanda (who seems to be the scribe of the
 family) has told you. She sold none of her furniture
 has it packed away, and still speaks of going to house
 keeping next May when the year will expire. her
 home is principally with A who has a house as large
 as a castle. we are still cramped up in our little
 coop with 6 young ones. Ma was with me ^{with} ~~in~~ mo

in the Spring and was so ill the greater part
 of the time she had to be fed with a Spoon. Such
 a Siege of nurse as I have gone through with
 the last Spring and Summer I pray I may never
 experience again, the children white and black
 had the measles during Ma's sickness. then
 little Florence who had congestion of the brain
 you know something of the disease how terrible
 it is. we despaired of her life for several days.
 Since, all but Maria have had the whooping
 cough. Maria and Eliza the Bennetts and
 Captain are going to School. M will not be
 13^{teen} until next January she has commenced taking
 music lessons. Cousin Fanny can beat her I know
 it is a great draw back on her time riding in and
 out of town every day but she prefers it and I
 think it more beneficial to health than music.
 that is if she like the balance gives it up as
 soon as grown or married, which same trouble
 they get into soon enough without the aid of
 accomplishments. Eliza wins the greatest talent
 for music she will be the proficient in that
 branch and Maria in drawing and painting.
 Florence who will be five next March is to be the
 beauty - she is almost deformed with fat - her hair
 and large eyes are a dark hazel her hair curls
 naturally, complexion fair and ruddy. The next Major
 Even as his name sake calls him was I last Feb
 is a perfect little man with light hair and blue

eyes goes hunting with his Pa rides horse back
 &c the Youngest but not the least important
 personage in the house is the "March hare" as
 we all call her because she made her appearance
 the first day of March is still without a name
 tell Cousin Eliza she must come and help us
 as she did once before in a like dilemma she
 is going to be such ^{rare} beauty, fair skin and blue
 eyes, I suppose is the reason we cannot make
 a decision. Amanda is the same fat mischief
 -loving old Dutch, her idol Mary "pindie" grows
 very fast, promises to be a fine looking woman is
 a perfect Shelby. no prospect for any more.

Poor Sallie lost her little one when only ¹⁴
 weeks old with malignant Thrush so styled
 by several Drs. she and Cronly could not have
 grieved more had it been a grown son. Though
 before its birth she murmured and rebelled a great
 deal more than I ever dared to do with seven, she
 called him "Joseph Bruen". They are still boarding
 with Mrs Dunham has as much leisure, health
 as good, and as loving as ever. A prophesies another
 is on the way already, but not a word of this when
 you write. Boon is the same old Boon as deaf
 as when in Paducah he has been in and out of the
 motion half a doz times this summer of going to Phila
 -delphia to consult Hartly the great Quirist he ^{Gr. H.} now intends
 visiting Lex I hope he may be benefited - he is by the sword
 of his bow building a more commodious house for

Write Betty, We hoped to have got in it this fall. I am afraid now, not before next Dec. I have seen the children of her first for grey hairs, but have not found any yet. My day is fallen away, some years I look forward to the time when I shall have done something. I pick up a little every chance I get which

and make no a visit of the Dreamer
you might come down our way
one and many pay it - I will have
plenty of room - next summer
I am not another brother who is going
to Mrs. to live - I am afraid will have to follow
his own path if you find it necessary any more
with love & believe me I am your old cousin
William



Wm. W. & Janet
Paducah
Kentucky

Dear, I would like to hope. Aunt Betty is still living at
our old home. I never part without wishing her
what the next day may bring forth. I remember most
affectionately to cousin Eliza & to kill all the little
from the Aunt Hannah Kennedy. I am sure of you they
and make us a little for the matter. I will be sure
for some in a little for the matter. I will be sure
fall - I never see you - I am sure you will be sure
to

NOTE: This lined blue paper was used for letter writing by Amanda starting in late 1852 so I believe this letter to have been written late **1852 fall**

No Postmark from Webster House, Richmond

Addressed to: **Mr. Evan Shelby**
Greenfields

From: Amanda Bruen Shelby

Webster House, Richmond

My dear husband, we arrived safely at 6 o'clock & Ma was so exhausted that we could not think of going farther, though we might have got to Green's by dark. Uncle Tom met us on the pike at Col. White's & said that only 4 seats were engaged in the stage & so Ike went forthwith & took ours. The horses seemed so tired & Ma could not lie down conveniently so we might as well go in the stage instead of being a whole day as we would be & then perhaps not get a room on the first floor. Sarah White is going up & they say there's a large company & Mrs. Conrad the belle of the Springs. We are delightfully fixed & Mrs. Webster too clever – she would spoil us.

Do as well as you can without me – I will write again – they will be waiting for this ink at the bar. Good bye – take good care of yourself, for the sake of your aff. wife

Amanda

Mr. Evan Shelby
Greenfield

Webster House, Richmond

My dear husband, We arrived safely at 6 o'clock & Ma was so exhausted that we could not think of going farther, though we might have got to Greens by dark - Uncle Tom met us on the pike at Hol White's & said that only 2 seats were engaged in the stage & so I went forthwith & took out. The horses seemed so tired & Ma could not lie down conveniently so we might as well go in the stage instead of being a whole day as we would be & then perhaps not get a room on the first floor - Sarah White is going up & they say there's a large company & Mrs. Conrad the belle of the Springs - We are delightfully fixed & Mr. Webster too clever - she would spoil us. So as well as you can without me, I will write again - They will be waiting for this ^{note} at the bar - Good bye - take good care of yourself for the sake of your aff. wife
Amanda

NOTE: This very well could have been a premonition of Evan's becoming sick from what ever caused his death on January 23rd, of 1853 (possibly Cholera). I believe this letter to have been written late **1852 fall**.

No Postage mark or date.

To: Evan Shelby

From: Amanda Shelby
(away at a Spring)

My dear Husband, Judging from Isaac's letter that, as you have gone in search of stock, you will be absent 2 weeks at least, I scarcely expect this to reach you, but still I cannot resist this opportunity of writing. Ike wrote to me Sun. night & I answered it immediately, knowing that you could not be at home as you had started that morning. We have dreadful news from Athens that Donely, French Aubrey & 12 others had died suddenly of Cholera. Is it true? I am alarmed at the thought of its being so near us & no one to take care of the bl'k people – though I need not be apprehensive on their account as they were prudent enough to stop eating vegetables themselves when there was no sickness about. But if I thought for a moment that you were at home of course I would be willing to walk home – rather than to have you in such peril. I am willing to go at any hour & look for you & Ike every day since the report reached or for a letter containing a true account. I overheard accidentally that Ike had been sick enough to send for Dr. Bush. I am so, so anxious to hear from you – Uncle Tom will send this up – do write instantly. Ma is not as well as at home – the water has done me a great deal of good – by way of scouring & purging. M. P. is perfectly well & almost cries to see you – I never wanted to see you as much. Your likeness

Page 2

has been very much admired – The fare is delightful, water fine as ever, & a pleasant company. Some ladies met with a dreadful accident coming up Tues. so that I'm afraid to return without you or Ike unless it is necessary. Uncle Tom is going so good bye
My dear Evan - Yr aff wife Amanda
I feel as if I had been from home a month. Trust that every thing safely & that we may meet before
long.

My dear husband, Judging from Isaac's letter that, as you have
you in search of stock, you will be absent 2 weeks at
least, I scarcely expect this to reach you, but still I
cannot resist this opportunity of writing to you. The note
to me Sun. night & I answered it immediately, know-
ing that you could not be at home as you had start-
ed that morning. We have dreadful news from Athens
that Sonch, French Aubrey & 12 others have died
suddenly of Cholera. Is it true? I am alarmed
at the thoughts of its being so near us & as one
to take care of the sick people - though I need not
be apprehensive on this account as they were prudent
enough to stop eating vegetables themselves when
there was no sickness about. But if I thought
for a moment that you were at home of course I
would be willing to walk home - rather than to
leave you in such peril - I am willing to go at
any hour & look for you or the crox day since
the report reached or for a letter containing a
true account. I overheard accidentally that Ike
had been sick enough to send for Dr. Bush
I am so, so anxious to hear from you - Uncle Tom
will send this up - do write instantly - Ma is not
as well as at home - the water has done me a
great deal of good - by way of scouring & purging.
Mr. P. is perfectly well & almost cries to see you - I
never wanted to see you as much - Your likeness

has been very much admired. The face
 is delightful, water fine as ever, & a pleasant company.
 Some ladies met with a dreadful accident coming up. I feel
 so that I'm afraid to return without you or Ike unless it
 is necessary. Uncle Tom is going so good bye.
 My dear Prun - My aff wife Amanda

Mr. Prun Shelby
 Buchanan

I feel as if I had been from home a month. I feel
 that my thing safely & that we may meet before
 long.

NOTE: This **crisscross letter** in undated and unsigned. I labeled the 8 different sides to transcribe, then arranged them to the best of my ability. There appears to be no real beginning, thus a page may well be missing. Elizabeth Ingels delivered "Nannie" Ingels in March of 1852 and Bishop Doane's Trial was in October of 1852. (An attempt to suspend a third bishop of High Church views failed after he had been presented four times. Bishop Doane, not only by his unrivalled diplomatic skill, but by the goodness and probity of his life, made an ecclesiastical trial impossible.) I'd place date approximately late Sept. 1852 & later found this envelope that appears to belong to this letter dated **Oct 22 (1852)**.

I believe this to be written to: **Amanda Bruen**
And to be from: **Lizzie Smith**

First Pages missing

D

understand why Busy did not
 feel as if she could
 take the cares of that
 large house upon her –
Give her every affectionate love & assure
her of my sympathy in her
disappointment of which I
had not heard until you
wrote. It is difficult for me to
think of her as a married
Dame even tho I have so
vivid a remembrance of Mr.
Cronly's devotion before their
marriage. It always mingles
with my recollection of Estill
where you must have had a
pleasant sojourner this summer.
I'm as surprised that Mary
Brannin could give you

A

any information with regard
our movement for I am
ashamed to say that
we have not called upon her
since her removal here &
although I have been anxious
to speak to her in Church
she has never given me
an opportunity – always looking
the other way when I tried
to catch her eye. Is she
not rather odd? Margaretta
Bounty mentioned to me her
having met an interesting
lady, a Mrs. Shelby who

literary talent & tastes than
you commonly see in so

B

young a person. She is a great
friend of Hatty's & wrote me
in much anxiety to know if the
truth of some reports we had
heard with regard to what was in-
deed a sad enough accident.
The overturn of a carriage in
which Mother, Hatty & Mrs. Edwards
were riding. The horse for-
tunately stood still and their further
injury was prevented/ but Mother
was severely sprained in both of her
wrists and is even now disabled.
Father was so much alarmed
that he went East a week
earlier than he intended. He will
probably be detained another month
in Burlington by Bishop Doane's
trial. Have you seen any
particulars? I was sorry not to
have seen Mr. Berkley when

C

he was here but we could not very well
leave our own church. He was very
much admired and his sermons
were like a draught of cold water
in a thirsty land to those who
have been starving under Mr.
Norton's administration. He has
just returned from England and is
as anxious to remove his place of
residence as some of his friends
are to have him. Would you be
willing to give up Mr. Berkley
to us? I see nothing of Dr.
Mitchell's arrival although two
others of the new professors are
here. I shall certainly call to
see Jane for I remember her
with much affection. I wish I
were so situated as to pay her
some attention. V & L. (Virginia & Louise) are both
well & the later has just received
a visit from Sue. She looks old &
worn & has three children, having

lost one. Her children are beautiful.
Ellen Gwathmey spent a day with
Louise last week & I went over
to dine. She is prettier than I have
ever seen her & twice as roman-
tic. I don't believe she will ever

4

marry although there is a sort of understanding
with Cary Fry. She is to spend
the winter in New Orleans
and I gave her strict charges not to
return unengaged – Which charges she
retorted upon me. She was quite in-
dignant with General Wood at Mrs.
Colman's party because he hinted
that she would marry with more inter-
ested motives than she would have
done some years back. Do you
see that poor Eliza Jane has lost
her mother? She was on her way to

1

visit – E. J. when she died – I don't know any one
whose loss will be more felt – she has so large
a family – and two children no older
than Eliza Jane. Mr. Breckenridge
has Mary Ellen's boy and has adop-
ted him as his own. I am glad that
he is under such delighted influence
reaffirming as well as improving. His
brow is like his Mother but otherwise
he is like his Father. Remember me
affectionately to your Mother & tell her I
hope she is enjoying this lovely weather.
It seems made for an invalid. How

2

I should enjoy a stroll or horse back
ride through your lovely woods. Is
it not perfect fairyland around you?
Give my love to Elizabeth & congratulate
her for me on the accruement to her
family. She has learned by this time
to love & prize her little Rose bud
and will be ready I doubt not for
another in all good time. I hope Evan
has not forgotten me for I have not

him and Mary Pindell too. Do you
see much of Mary Crosby? Give her my

3

love when you meet. Tom made a great im-
pression upon Hatty. She thought him
handsome & gentlemanly and I
thought him much improved –
But I must come to a stand still
for want of room – although I feel as
if I have said nothing. Do not let
a year pass before you write again
and then I will not have such a
stack on hand. V would send her
love if she knew I were writing.

I suppose you will know who this is
from.


To Amanda
From Lizzy
Oct 1952

① visit E. I. when she dies. I don't know any one
others, but I will be sure I'll be there to help
a family. And two children in other
that Miss Susan says she knows
has many things to say. And has a
ted him to see and use. I don't see that
he is under to do anything. I don't see that
refusing to go with an impression
paper is like this. Mother and Thomas
is in the air. Other remember that
effect to the mother + the son
it all sum up. I'm sure this family
has an incident of their

A

2
I don't know any one
others, but I will be sure I'll be there to help
a family. And two children in other
that Miss Susan says she knows
has many things to say. And has a
ted him to see and use. I don't see that
he is under to do anything. I don't see that
refusing to go with an impression
paper is like this. Mother and Thomas
is in the air. Other remember that
effect to the mother + the son
it all sum up. I'm sure this family
has an incident of their

B



 To Mr. Shelby Esq.
 for Mrs. Shelby.
 Lexington -
 Ky.

M

I have been thinking much of late of the
 many things that have happened since we
 have been separated. I have been thinking
 of the many things that have happened
 since we have been separated. I have been
 thinking of the many things that have
 happened since we have been separated. I
 have been thinking of the many things
 that have happened since we have been
 separated. I have been thinking of the
 many things that have happened since we
 have been separated. I have been thinking
 of the many things that have happened
 since we have been separated. I have
 been thinking of the many things that
 have happened since we have been
 separated. I have been thinking of the
 many things that have happened since
 we have been separated. I have been
 thinking of the many things that have
 happened since we have been separated.

L

merry. altho there is a sort of understanding
 with Charles Jones & his friends
 the matter in New Orleans
 and I have been thinking much of late
 of the many things that have happened
 since we have been separated. I have
 been thinking of the many things that
 have happened since we have been
 separated. I have been thinking of the
 many things that have happened since
 we have been separated. I have been
 thinking of the many things that have
 happened since we have been separated.

NOTE: Elizabeth (Liz) Fontaine Shelby was Mary Crosby Shelby's only sister and she called "Bibby". This sister married William Bury Kinkead and they later returned to Lexington from Covington and built a home near Greenfields.

No address:

To: Amanda Bruen Shelby

From: Mary Crosby Shelby

Covington Nov 2d 1852

Dear Amanda

The unpleasant weather prevented me from going to Cincinnati while Father was down, which is the very reason for not writing to you by him as I promised. I was over however on yesterday and looked at a variety of furs for your benefit. They are very expensive this season. A handsome boa (Stone Martins) answering the description you gave me cannot be bought for less than twenty five dollars, but the Fitch is almost as handsome and is only half price. If you conclude to get one, write to me, and I will purchase it

Page 2

for you with pleasure.

I am so happy to be once more with Mr. Kinkead & Sister and the dear little children. I found they had just moved to a most delightful house, large, and very convenient, not far from where they were living.

They have now been here long enough to feel perfectly at home.

We have a pleasant circle of friends, & I am spending my time so pleasantly.

The children are very much grown. Margaret is going to school & talking music lessons. George & Frank are two noble little fellows, and Molly last though not least is one of the most lovely babes, I ever saw. She is considered a beauty by impartial judges. I am fully aware that I do not come under that denomination, for my love

Page 3

for her is very nearly akin to that of a Mother's.

Lucy Gore is living here. Her husband died in California a few months since and left her in very reduced circumstances. On her return home she had her entire wardrobe stolen, not even a change of clothing left. She has one child, a very handsome little boy. She will get a pension of two hundred & fifty dollars a year for five years.

Sister Bibby was in Newport not long since. Mary Jones has gone to housekeeping in one of the houses they owned in town. Their new house is not completed. It will be very handsome. I have heard it would cost twenty five thousand dollars. You know it ought to be handsome for that price.

Mrs. Rings is living here. You have heard cousin Susan speak of her. Mr. Rings died not more than three weeks since. When

Page 4

I saw him last I did not think he could possibly have lived so long. I am glad to hear he had left her a comfortable support. She will make her home at Dr. Blackburn's.

Covington is im-

proving very fast. It has now a population of twelve thousand. I greatly prefer it as a residence to Cincinnati, for here you can be retired, & at the same time have the advantages of a large city.

I expect to be down for some time. It is always a trial to me to leave. Having but one Sister, it is delightful for us to be together.

Do write to me. It would give me great pleasure to get one of your interesting letters. Give my love to your Ma, I hope she is better.

Yours very sincerely

Mary C. Shelby

I am sure that I am not the
he would probably have been a
long. I am glad to hear he has
left her a comfortable support.
He will make her home at St
Blackburns.

Nothing very fast. It has you a
relation of the ^{Monday} ^{Monday} of ^{Monday} ^{Monday}
paper it is as a rule to be
for here you can be returned, & at the
same time have the advantage of a
large city.

I expect to be home for some time.
It is always a trial to me to leave.
Having the same sister who delight
that for us to be together.

Do write to me. It would give me
great pleasure to get one of your inter-
esting letters. Give my love to your
mother, I hope she is better.

Yours very sincerely
Mary to Shelby

Washington Nov 2 1852

Dear Madame

The unpleasant weather prevented our going to Cincinnati which at my request for not waiting to you by him at I promised I had been here - then on yesterday and looked at a society of funds for your benefit. They are being expen- sive they appear. I have been told (I have written) and among the advertisement you gave me cannot be bought for less than twenty five dollars, but the price is almost as handsome and is only half price. If you conclude to get one, write to me, and I will purchase it

for you with pleasure.

I am so happy to be once more with Mr. Steinhorn & children & the dear little children. I found they have just moved to a most delightful house, large, and very convenient, not far from where they were living. They have now been here long enough to feel perfectly at home. We have a pleasant circle of friends, & I am spending my time so pleasantly.

The children are very much grown. Margaret is going to school & Frank and Leonard, George, Fred, and Molly last thought not least is one of the most lovely babies I ever saw. He is conversing very emphatically & I am fully aware that I do not come under that denomination for any one

for her is very nearly skin to skin & a Mother's.

Lucy Gene is living here. Her husband died in California a few months since, and left her in very sad circumstances. She has a few hours she has her winter wardrobe, not worn & change of clothing left. She has one child, a very handsome little boy. He will get a pension of two hundred & fifty dollars a year for five years.

John Petty was in Memphis not long since. Mary Jones has gone to handkerchiefing in one of the towns they named in town. Her dress has not completed. It will be very handsome. I have heard it would cost twenty five thousand dollars. You know it ought to be some more for that price.

Mr. Sturges is living in New York. You have heard of him. He is a very rich man. He has more than ten millions of dollars.

NOTE: This is from Ike Shelby most probably to his uncle Major Thomas Hart Shelby whose was in the cattle business. He writes from Evan's home, Greenfields, not sure why it was with Amanda's papers. Isaac Shelby and Sarah McClure were married Feb. 22, 1854; Dr. Robert W. Bush married Lucy Webb on July 8, 1853 – while both were not married immediately I would date this 1852. I have never discovered who Persis Smith was...**Dating 1852 11/18**

No Address Dated Nov. 18 (1852)

To: Major Thomas Hart Shelby

From: Isaac (Ike) Shelby

Greenfields

Persis Smith is the go between of the filibusters of the U.S. & the revolutionists of Cuba & the Cubans have as much right to prevent his landing as I have to prevent Evan's friend Hukill from selling my negroes cholera beef. There is no news in town except the "they say" Bush & Webb are sure to marry this week & Shelby & McClure the next. I am sorry for the Webb if the one story is as false as the other. Susan is going to a party at the Craig's tonight given to little

Page 2

Suk Downing. You can always have your grinding done here any day in the week. I'll be down during the day if I should happen to feel less stupid than a goose. I haven't a smile in me, nor three ideas above a stump.

Yours truly
I Shelby

Nov 18

Perce Smith is the go-between of the ^{Greenfield} Libushiers of the
U.S. & the revolutionists of Cuba & the Cubans have as
much right to prevent his landing as I have to
prevent Evans from ¹stake from ¹selling my
negroes cholera beef. There is no news in town except
that "They say" Bush & Webb are sure to marry this
week & Shelby & McClure the next. I am ¹sorry for ^{the}
Webb if the one story is as false as the other. Susan
is going to a ~~party~~ at D. Craigs to night, given to ^{the} ~~the~~

Get Downing. You can always have your grinding
done here any day in the week. I'll be down during
the day if I should happen to feel less stupid than
a goose. I haven't a smile in me, nor those ideas
about a stump. Yrs & co

J. Shelby

Nov 18

NOTE: This is a note to Amanda Bruen Shelby. Isaac (Ike) Shelby, her brother-in-law was fond of calling her "Mandy" possible because Elizabeth's children called her that and many were around visiting her in their neighboring homes. Amanda has two list on the back dated January 3, 1853 – probably for going to the Springs – their last trip if they went together. Is this a hint of an ailing Evan?

To: Amanda Bruen Shelby

From: Isaac (Ike) Shelby

Dated: November 23, 1852

Dear Mandy, I send you the last papers – I sent a letter to the office this day week for Mrs. Mc., by Evan which I fear he forgot to mail – please inquire & look in his pockets. I don't care greatly whether it went – or not, but I wish to know how we stand. I fear he forgot it from the fact of his having neglected another letter errand by which, but from an accident, my checks would have been protested in Bank. We hope to kill hogs before Christmas but don't see much prospect ahead now. Yrs tru I. Shelby
Nov 23rd '52

On the back **two list** in Amanda's writing

January 3rd 1853 –

16 white bed sheets
4 " lounge "
4 unbleached bed sheets –
30 towels
(8 of them linen)
6. bolster cases
24 p. cases

5 u. gowns = 2 ea b cases
5 pr flan Drawers 7 pr " "
5 " cotton drawers 3 flan bodies
6 pr – stockings
13 towels
5 tea cloths
3 t cloths
5 shirts.

Aunt Mandy I send you the last papers. I sent a letter
 to the office this day week for Mrs Mc, by Ervan which
 I fear he for forgot to mail. please inquire & look in his
 pockets. I dont care greatly whether it went or not, but
 I wish to know how we stand. I fear he forgot it
 from the fact of his having neglected another little
 errand by which, but for an accident, many chucks
 would have been protested in Bank. we hope to
 kill boys before christmas but dont see much
 prospect ahead now. Yours I. Shelby
 Nov 23rd '52

January 3rd 1853.
 16 white bed sheets -
 4 " lounge " -
 4 unbleached bed sheets -
 30 # towels -
 8 of these (linens)
 6 bolster cases,
 24 p. cases -

3 y. ground - 2 1/2 lb. cases
 5 y. ground - 1 lb. cases
 5 " cotton thread, 3 lb. cases
 6 y. - 1 lb. cases
 18 y. - 1 lb. cases
 5 lb. cases
 3 lb. cases
 3 lb. cases

Mrs. Allen
 14

NOTE: Mary Cosby again calls her sister "Bibby" and being unmarried often spends time with her only sister, helping with her four children. The grief over lost that she expresses may have been over the death of Thomas Shelby Kinkead, the Kinkeads second child who died in 1851 at about the age of three. There are two **telling subtraction figures** on the front near the address (in Amanda's hand?) 1853 less 1798 (the year her mother was born) = 55 and 1853 less 1824 (the year Evan was born) = 29! He died just before his birthday.

Addressed to: Mrs. Amanda Shelby
Lexington
Kentucky

From: Mary Crosby Shelby

Covington December 3 1852

Dear Amanda

I received your letter and the money for purchasing the boa in due time. Eliza sent them over the day after she reached Newport, but the unpleasant weather prevented me from seeing her until the following Wednesday. After a rainy spell the banks of the Licking are so muddy it takes several days of sunshine to make the walking at all comfortable. Sister Bibby and I walked over to see her on Wednesday morning, and Mrs. Taylor and Eliza went with us to Cincinnati, and assisted me in the selection of your boa. I was very glad to have the assistance of three ladies in whose taste and judgment I have so much confidence, for in buying an article for another I do not like to rely entirely on my own taste. I found it was impossible to find one narrower in the neck. I hope you will like it, and that it may reach you safely. The price as I wrote you before was \$25.-

Your letter afforded me great pleasure. I am glad to hear that your

Page 2

Ma is recovering. I hope she will now get through the winter comfortably. Tell Mary Pindell that Margaret was delighted with her letter. She carried it in her pocket for several days and preserved it with great care. It was the first letter she ever received.

ed and she will get one of us to answer it for her when I return. She cannot write a letter yet herself.

I have spent my time delightfully. I never enjoyed a visit as much for I have been remarkably well. The long ride which I dreaded so much was of service to me. To an invalid the prospect of returning to health is so encouraging. But having always enjoyed undistinguished good health yourself you cannot be expected to enter into my feelings. For we can rarely appreciate a blessing until we have been deprived of it. I have had but one thing to trouble me, that is the lonely situation of Father & my brother. I think of them so often and the desolate appearance the house presents in the evening, when the labours of the day are done.

Little Molly as the children call her is too lovely. It is delightful to me to watch her growth and improvements. When you are with the dear little creatures constantly they do entwine them selves round the heart, and get such a hold on the affections, it is almost impossible not to love them too much. But when I think of what I have suffered in days gone by for having loved one dear child "not wisely but too well" I feel I ought

Page 3

never again to be guilty of the sin of idolatry.

We have had charming weather for the last week. I have almost lived on the street. Sister and I have been out every day returning visits. Visiting and receiving visits, consumes a good deal of my time. We see Lucy Gore very often. She and Jane Leathers, and also the Gov. and Mrs. Morehead took tea with us last evening, and Mrs. Sanford, Jane's sister, a very agreeable lady. We had a very pleasant evening. The Gov. is a delightful person in a social circle. Mrs. Maurice Dudley was to see me a few evenings since. Ellen Bennet is living with her. I presume you know that Dr. Bennet was dead. Mrs. Dudley told me that her neighbor Robert Todhunter was to be married to Miss Harriet Busbrige. Is it true? When I was in Newport the other day I called on Mrs. Parker as I had been invited to her wedding. She is the happiest bride I ever saw, and advised all her friends to marry. It is amusing to see old people in love.

Mrs. Taylor and Eliza Bullock are

coming to see us tomorrow. Mary Jones has been quite sick. I heard of Mary Brand's death with great regret. I knew her more intimately than any of the girls of her age. She looked so well when I saw her last, but it seems that good health is no guarantee to a long life.

Sister Bibby sends her love to you, and says it would give her great pleasure to have you visit

Page 4

her, and hoped you will certainly do so when the railroad is finished if not before.

Give my love to your Ma. Let me hear from you again, for I will be anxious to know if the boa pleases you.

Your very sincerely

Mary C. Shelby

Covington December 3. 1852

Dear Amanda

I received your letter and the money for purchasing the book in due time. Eliza sent them over the day after she reached Newport, but the unpleasant weather prevented me from seeing her until the following Wednesday. After a rainy spell the banks of the Pickens are so muddy it takes several days of sunshine to make the walking at all comfortable. Sister Abby and I walked over to see her on Wednesday morning, and Mrs. Caylor and Eliza went with us to Cincinnati, and assisted me in the selection of your book. I was very glad to have the assistance of these ladies in whose taste and judgment I had so much confidence, for in buying an article for another I do not like to rely entirely on my own taste. I found it was impossible to find one narrower in the neck. I hope you will like it, and that it may reach you safely. The price as I wrote you before was \$25.

Your letter afforded me great pleasure. I am glad to hear that your

Ma is recovering. I hope she will now get through the winter comfortably. Tell Mary Pindell that Margaret was delighted with her letter. She carried it in her pocket for several days, and perused it with great care. It was the first letter she ever received and she will get one of us to answer it for her when I return. She cannot write a letter yet herself.

I have spent my time delightfully. I never enjoyed a visit so much, for I have been remarkably well. The long ride which I made so much use of service to me. It is an invalid the prospect of returning health is so encouraging. But having always enjoyed uninterrupted good health yourself you cannot be expected to enter into any feelings. For we can rarely appreciate a blessing until we have been deprived of it. I have had but one thing to trouble me, that is the lonely situation of Father & my brother. I think of them so often and the desolate appearance the house presents in the evening, when the labors of the day are over.

Little Molly and the children call her is too lonely. It is delightful to me to watch her growth and improvement. When you are with the dear little creatures constantly, they do entwine themselves round the heart, and get such a hold on the affections, it is almost impossible not to be drawn to much. But when I think of what I have suffered in days gone by for having loved one dear child "not wisely but too well" I feel I ought

never again to be guilty of the sin of idleness.

We have had charming weather for the last week. I have almost closed on the street ^{visits} and I have been out every day returning visits. Visiting and receiving ^{visits} consumes a great deal of my time. We see Lucy Gore very often. She and Jane Leathers, and also the Gos. and Mrs. Moberg took tea with us last evening, and Mrs. Sanford, James' sister, a very agreeable lady. We had a very pleasant evening. The Gos. is a delightful person in a social circle. Mrs. Maurice Dudley was to see me a few evenings since. Ellen Bennett is living with her. I presume you know that Dr. Bennett was dead. Mrs. Dudley told me that our neighbour Robert Goddard was to be married to Miss Harriet Burdige. Is it true? When I was in Newport the other day I called on Mrs. Parker as she had invited to her reading. She is the happiest body I ever saw, and advises all her friends to marry. It is amusing to see old people in love.

Mrs. Taylor andabra Bullock are coming to see us tomorrow. Mary Jones has been quite sick. I heard of Mary Brand's death with great regret. I knew her more intimately than any of the girls of her age. She looked so well when I saw her last, but it seems that good health is no guarantee to a long life.

Sister Bibby sends her love to you, and says it would give her great pleasure to have you visit

her, and hopes you will certainly do so when the
railroad is finished if not before.

Give my love to your Ma. Let me hear from
you again, for I will be anxious to know if the
box pleases you.

Yours very sincerely
Mary C. Shelby.

1853

1798

55

Mrs. Amanda Shelby

Washington

Kentucky

1853
1798
55