

Postmarked: Manchester (torn)

**To: John C. Stallcup**  
Denver  
Colorado

**From: Mary Pindell Shelby**

Woodside Mo.  
**November 1st (1880)**

My very dear friend;

I  
have just finished writing  
what, I suppose will be the  
last official act in the career  
of old Miss Shelby – writing  
to have some Arkansas  
land sold – but I'll have  
plenty left – This morning Aunt Susan  
& Uncle & I discussed the  
state of the country, & the  
probabilities of the election  
tomorrow – I wonder I am so  
interested in every thing Dem-  
ocratic, but aside from  
party – I wonder more Christ-  
ian people don't pray over  
these things – don't you think  
that helps? I know it does –  
If the weather next Monday

**Page 2**

is as lovely as this I will be  
so glad - & if Tuesday is rainy  
what will we do? But I'll hope  
for the best, every thing has  
gone smoothly – I have even  
had good days for shopping  
& no troubles or disappointments.  
I am very thankful I've staid  
here, so is every one, even those  
at home, accept Aunt Busy –  
Even now we don't know that  
they are coming – Nor about Pinna  
either – Little Evan has been  
sick again - & Blanche the elder  
daughter, who draws, & is one  
of the afflicted ones, has had

something like palpitation of  
the heart – Pinna is making a  
fruit cake for the occasion –  
Before I forget it – I must tell  
you not to get gloves that will  
not look nicely with my dress – do  
you know I don't know much

**Page 3**

myself! However I'll send you  
a little piece – it isn't silk, but  
satin de Lyon, trimmed with  
plush, & a plush cloak, with  
a bonnet of grebe breast. Does  
this convey any idea, except that  
the feminine mind is full of  
vanity & weakness? Barton  
talks a good deal of Dallas –  
She thinks he will be spoiled  
if I have anything to do with  
him – has been giving me  
very sage advice on the subject  
but I had so little spoiling when  
I was a child that I think it  
must be a delightful some-  
thing to look back to – so I  
have been spoiling & petting  
every thing I loved, dogs, inclu-  
ded ever since –

My mind is  
full this morning of tempo-  
ratitus, & so ought my hands  
to be – I don't believe I could  
have stood a six months

**Page 4**

engagement – this three weeks  
seems interminable, even Aunt  
Susan has put it at said –  
Keep busy. I can't, & think of any  
thing else than you, I can't, or  
something connected with your  
new life – Tomorrow I am thirty-  
five – but I haven't taken such  
a lively interest in it as usual –  
I feel like writing you even oftener  
than I do, but what is there to  
say, except what you already know?

Don't you think that ceremony  
beautiful? or you will I am sure  
after it is all over – Are we not  
entering into it soberly, discreetly  
& in the fear of God? Believe me  
my dear, that there is no life  
worth living except in that fear –  
I believe you feel so too – One  
more letter, or certainly two, &  
then it will be face to face, &  
always

Faithfully your own,  
Mary

**Across the first page:**

Aunt Susan says marrying is all of a woman's  
life, but only an episode in a man's – What do you  
think – I am  
afraid she is  
right.

engagement this time makes  
 seems unalterable, you Aunt  
 Susan has put it at one -  
 Trip away, I can't, & think of any  
 thing else than you, I can't for  
 anything connected with your  
 new life - Tomorrow I will think  
 - give - but I haven't taken such  
 a long interest in it as usual  
 I feel like writing you even often  
 than I do, but what is there to  
 say, except what you already know  
 Don't you think that celebrating  
 beautiful & you will I am sure  
 after it is all over - Are we not  
 entering into it soberly, disinterestedly  
 & in the fear of God? Believe me  
 my dear, that there is no higher  
 worth living except in that fear -  
 I believe you feel so too - Are  
 you better, or certainly too, &  
 then it will be fair to face, &  
 always faithfully your own  
 (Mary -

Providence (no -  
 November 1<sup>st</sup> -  
 my dear friend, I  
 don't think I will be the  
 best of what act in the career  
 of Trip Shelby - (writing  
 to your dear Aunt Susan  
 and told - but I'll have plenty  
 to say - This morning Aunt Susan  
 & I discussed the  
 state of the country, & the  
 probabilities of the election  
 tomorrow - I mean I am so  
 interested in every thing  
 political - but aside from  
 policy - I wonder how Christ  
 will be people don't pray over  
 these things - Don't you think  
 that helps? I know it don't -  
 At the matter next Monday

is as lonely as this I will be  
 so glad - & if Tuesday is rainy  
 what will he do? but I'd like  
 for the best, any thing had  
 you as soon as I have ever  
 had good days for shipping  
 & no trouble or disappointment  
 I am very thankful I've staid  
 here, & is every one, even those  
 at home, except Aunt Betsy -  
 even now we don't know that  
 they are coming - Oh about Emma  
 & Eliza - Eliza's exam has been  
 sick again - & Hannah the eldest  
 daughter, who draws, & is one  
 of the afflicta ones, has had  
 something like palpitation of  
 the heart - Emma is making a  
 fruit cake for the occasion -  
 Before I forget it - I must tell  
 you not to get gloom that will  
 look nicely, white any dress - as  
 you know I don't know much

myself? How can I be and you  
 of little price - it isn't sick, but  
 rather de Lyon, trimm'd with  
 plush, & a plush cloak, with  
 a bonnet of good breast - Does  
 this convey any idea, except that  
 the feminine mind is full of  
 vanity & nonsense? Barton  
 talks a good deal of Dallas -  
 she thinks he will be spoiled  
 if I ban any thing to do with  
 him - & has been giving me  
 my sage advice on the subject -  
 but I had so little spoiling when  
 I was a child that I think it  
 must be a delightful some-  
 thing to look back to - so I  
 was being spoiled & putting  
 anything I found, dogs, & inclu-  
 sive of a seal - My mind is  
 full this morning of things -  
 habits, & so might my hand  
 to be - I don't believe I could  
 have staid a six months

Postmarked: Denver Colo Nov. 2 (1880)

**To: Miss Mary P. Shelby**  
Manchester P. O.  
on Mo. Pacific Ry. Missouri

**From: John C. Stallcup**

**Page 1A**

Denver Nov 1<sup>st</sup> (1880)

My Dear Mary

Yours of the 29th came this evening – I wrote you some sort of a letter last evening amid much confusion. That riot subsided about nine o'clock. Two China men were killed. Our organ on the "news" did not denounce it this morning as it deserved and the bloody villains cheered for Hancock throughout their lawlessness to the disgust of the better element, but the effect has been against us but I did think I would say no more of politics – and for the present at least I will not –

It is a consolation to know that their is a joy for me close at hand that will bring sorry chagrin of the Campaign.

**Page 1B**

Love is the noblest passion of the soul. It fills my heart and makes all other things insignificant.

You ask what will I do with so much work and a wife too. I cannot have too much work for it is work that gives zest to life. And with a loveable and loving wife life then is complete with happiness. You say you haven't an even temperament – now you cant frighten me with that. Whenever your temper gets unruly Barton and I will certainly be entertained for it would certainly be a novelty.

I am almost glad that there will not be many of your friends come a distance to be at our wedding for we would be with them so little that it would scarcely justify. Would rather they would come to see us when we get to keeping house. I will write you more tomorrow. I presume it is settled –

**Page 2A**

we go to the church in Kirkwood to do the ceremony – Let me see. I start Saturday morning the 6th. It will not be a violation of the Sabbath to travel on that day; by steam you know – and on such a mission too, but I will scarcely get any letters in answer to what I write now will I? But I will keep getting yours and you are really a good letter writer, at least those you write to me are lovely. You can scarcely realize the pleasure your letters have given me – You abiding faith in me and all your goodness – makes me sometimes wonder if I am worthy of so much but if a man's heart was ever true to the object of his love, mine is to you. I don't believe you could do any thing ever to lessen my love but my Dear I must close

**Page 2B**

as the office is filling up with politicians & I must go to dinner – its late for dinner too – tomorrow you know is the election day

Good night  
My Dear  
Jno. C. Stallcup

Dear Mr ph

My dear Mary - Yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> came  
 this morning - I wrote you some  
 sort of a letter last evening amid  
 much confusion - that riot subsided  
 about nine o'clock. Two China men were  
 killed - our organ the "News" did not  
 denounce it this morning as it deserved  
 and the bloody villains ~~th~~ <sup>chimed</sup>  
 for Hancock, they hoot their lawless  
 ruses to the disgust of the better element  
 but the effect has been against us  
 but I did think I would say  
 no more of politics - and for the  
 present at least I will not -

It is a consolation to know that there  
 is a joy for me close at hand that  
 will bury every chagrin of the Campaign



Love is the noblest passion of the soul.  
It fills our heart and makes all other  
things insignificant.

You ask what will  
I do with so much work and a wife  
too. I cannot have too much ~~life~~ work,  
for it is work that gives zest to life.  
And with a lovable and loving wife  
life then is complete with happiness.  
You say you haven't an even temperament.  
Now you can't fight me with that  
when your temper gets unruly.  
But you and I will certainly be satisfied  
for it would certainly be a worthy


I am almost glad that there will not  
be many of your friends come a distance  
to be at our wedding for we would be  
with them so little that it would scarcely  
justify would rather they would come to  
us when we get to keeping house I will write  
you more tomorrow. I presume it is settled

2

We go to the Church in Parkwood to  
 do the Ceremony - Let me see, I start  
 Saturday Morning the 6<sup>th</sup> It will not be  
 a violation of the sabbath to travel on  
 that day, by steam you know - and on such  
 a mission too, but I will scarcely get  
 any letters in answer to what I write  
 now will I? but I will keep getting  
 yours and you are really a good letter  
~~writer~~ writer at least those you write to  
 me are lovely you can scarcely realize  
 the pleasure your letters have given  
 me - your abiding faith in me and  
 all your goodness - makes me sometimes  
 wonder if I am worthy of so much but  
 if a mans heart was ever true to the  
 object if its love mine is to you I dont  
 believe you could do any thing even to lessen  
 my love but my dear I must close

as the office is filling up with  
politicians & and I must go  
to dinner its late for dinner  
too. tomorrow you know is the  
election day

Good night  
My dear  
John Stallcup



Miss Mary P. Shelby  
Manchester  
on No. Pacific Ry. } Missouri

**NOTE:** Following is a copy of an article that appeared in the Herald-Leader, July 22, 1962 about the Warfield/Gratz house with a reference to **Mary Pindell Shelby** Stallcup and her profitable sale of the house and lot she built. I am not sure it speaks of the right house though...I am placing here as a point of interest.

No Envelope or Postmark

**To: John C. Stallcup**

**From: Mary Pindell Shelby**

Woodside, Mo.  
November 2nd, 1880

This much I wrote in the twilight my dear friend, but concluded lovely as it was, eyesight was better than sentiment, so waited until the lamp was lighted & am sitting in my accustomed corner, doing my accustomed amount of talking – writing my last letter, the last to which I am to put the dear old name that has stood me in such good stead for just thirty-five years today, though all the vicissitudes that have come to me – it seems old, very old to begin a new life, but I know the kind Father who doeth all things well, knew what was best – so I am content –

I think  
I have answered your questions

**Page 2**

most satisfactorily, even helping you ask that one important one – Will it be my fad; or be saying too much if I say if you had gone away without asking it I should have been very forlorn? I shall never call you a conceited a man, you might have known, if you had been a long long while ago, that I wasn't altogether indifferent. Poor Barton has born the brunt of it – but she is beginning to

realize I am really going – but  
I hope she will soon be with  
us – I know she will if there  
is any immediate prospect of  
a home – They had a notice of  
my approaching marriage in  
the Lexington to live in the beau-

**Page 3**

tiful or elegant house I was  
building – What do you think  
of it? I prefer Denver vastly –  
Mr. Wilgus, the gentleman who  
is attending to the building of  
the house has almost had  
one or two offers for selling & letting –  
so your old bugbear will soon  
be gone –

The minister will be  
home this week, is to be cones-  
crated Bishop in three weeks  
from Sunday – Uncle is go-  
ing to see him, so I don't know  
whether it will be necessary  
for you to or not – at any rate  
there will be time on Monday –  
Susie Harrison will be here  
too, if her Mother keeps well –  
so our house will be very full.  
You will have to get a carriage  
from town to take us to the Church.  
There are more this side of St. Louis  
but you can telegraph from

**Page 4**

Kirkwood for it – I thought the  
buggy & pair very nice, but I  
suppose it wouldn't do – but I  
believe that is all –

It would be  
quite absurd to pay so much as  
the rates at the Windsor – I always  
thought I'd like the Glenarin best,  
but until we decide it makes  
no difference, for a while –

I am  
quite anxious to know how Sister

Eliza will take your communi-  
cation – I don't think another  
letter would make you unless  
I write again in the morning, & even  
then it would scarcely reach going  
so I'll say good bye in this – I  
suppose I can substitute some  
other person in your place, but I'll miss  
sending letters to you – I've said not  
one word about the election, but  
I can't hear one word until tomorrow  
(corner torn) turnover – I'm not sanguine for  
(corner torn – either?) side, I haven't any just now

Across the first page

Do you know I am ashamed to say I am sleepy, but I  
sit up late writing & waking up early to think & if I don't  
take a nap, am fearfully sleepy – so until Monday

I am,

Faithfully yours,

Mary P. Shelby

I think I will have a few more cards than  
I need so if you think of any more names it will  
do when you come – Why didn't you send all  
the names you wanted to?



most satisfactory, even help-  
ing you date that one in por-  
-tault one - Will it be my job,  
or do saying to <sup>if I say so,</sup> must of you  
had gone away without getting  
it. I should have been very for-  
-lorn? I shall now call for a  
-concordia a many you might  
-have known, if you had seen  
-a long long while ago, that I  
-wasn't altogether insignificant  
-Poor Gantout has some the front  
-of it - but she is beginning to  
-realize I am really guilty - but  
-I hope she will soon be wite  
-me - I know she will if there  
-is any immediate prospect of  
-a labor - you had a notice of  
-my approaching marriage in  
-the Lexington paper - said I  
-ought not being the gentleman  
-to Lexington to live in the pen-

-dipus or elegant house - I was  
-painted - What do you think  
-of it? I prefer Decker pretty -  
-Mr. Bulque, the gentleman who  
-is attending to the building of  
-the house has already had  
-one or two plans for sitting & sitting  
-so you - the budget will be  
-to you - the number will be  
-some this much, it is to be con-  
-valed Bishop in there makes  
-from Sunday - week is go-  
-ing to be again, so I don't know  
-whether it will be necessary  
-for you to or not - at any rate  
-there will be time on Monday -  
-John Harrison will be here  
-too, if the Mother keeps well -  
-so our house will be very full.  
-You will have to get a carriage  
-from to take us to the Church  
-there are now this side St. A  
-but you can telegraph for



No Postmark

**To: Miss Mary P. Shelby**  
Manchester P. O.  
on Mo. Pacific Ry. Missouri

Note across front of envelope: I neglected to mail this until I got out nearly to Glenarin St.

**From: John C. Stallcup**

Denver Nov. 3rd (1880)

My Dear Mary

I have no letter from you for two days – none since my last to you. – No very definite returns from Colorado Election – the State is Republican. I think by about twelve hundred – The Democracy did better here than any where else in the North –

I really feel relieved to get through with the business of politics although this Election satisfies me that this State is Democratic with the proper management.

I hope to get a letter from you in the morning when all will be right and cheerful again. Our Democratic friends are very blue.

**Page 2**

I have run ahead of the Ticket here the returns are not complete yet so don't know amount, but when I come down I will tell you more about - such news. We will stay a day or so in St. Louis won't we?

Now My Dear you will pardon me for not writing more on this occasion I know.

I think I will write you in the morning.

Truly Yours Jno. C. Stallcup

Denver Nov. 3<sup>d</sup>

My Dear Mary I have no letter from you  
for two days now since my last  
to you. - No very definite returns  
from Colorado's Election. The state  
is Republican I think by about  
two hundred. The Democracy did  
better here than any where else  
in the north. I really feel relieved  
to get through with the business of  
politics although the election satisfies  
me that the state is democratic  
with the proper management  
I hope to get a letter from you  
in the morning when all will  
be bright and cheerful again  
our Democratic friends are very blue

I have run ahead of the Ticket  
here. The returns are not complete  
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but when I come down I will  
tell you more about - such  
news. He will stay a day or so  
in St. Louis won't we?

Was my dear you will pardon  
me for not writing more on this  
occasion. I know I think I will  
write you in the morning.

Truly yours  
J. B. Stallop

neglected to  
mail this until  
I got out news  
to St. Louis  
Miss Mary P. Shelby  
Manchester  
On Mo Pacific Ry. } Missouri

Postmarked: Denver Colo Nov. 4 (1880)

**To: Miss Mary P. Shelby**  
Manchester P. O.  
on Mo. Pacific Ry. Missouri

**From: John C. Stallcup**

Denver Nov. 4th (1880)

My Dear Mary

I have yours of the 30th and when I get there I will be happy to see you and the fine things you are getting ready for our eventful occasion. My heart jumps with joy at the near approach of the time when I will see you again. It seems an age since I saw you last.

We will learn the Catechism in due time, it is true I am ignorant of it. You will think me almost as bad as a heathen but under a teacher like you it is to be hoped I will progress rapidly.

I have read the Chap. referred to by your old friend, Miss H. I think it about right don't you?

**Page 2**

Never deny your age. I would not take from you or add to you in any respect for then you would not be the Mary P. Shelby that fills my heart with love. You are exactly right not a day too old or a day too young.

I expect when you get dressed in these fine dresses you have been getting you will set me far in the shade.

I will write you again tomorrow the next day I start.

It will take me about five minutes to pack my truck.

It is a big one and I just fill the  
goods in and shut down the lid.  
Now My Dear, I'll close for I know  
you will like a short letter better than a long  
one. You are busy and you cant answer  
this one till you see me any way.

Truly Jno. C. Stallcup

~~Dear Mr 4th~~

My dear Mary

I have yours of the 30<sup>th</sup> ult.  
When I get them I will be happy to see  
you and the fine things you are getting  
ready for our coming.  
My heart jumps with joy at the near  
approach of the time when I will see you  
again. It seems an age since I  
saw you last.

We will learn that Calvinism  
in due time it is true I am ignorant  
of it you will think me almost as  
bad as a heathen but much a tooth  
like you it is to be hoped I will pro-  
gress rapidly.

I have read the Chap. referred  
to by your old friend Mrs H. I think it about  
right don't you?

Now deny you age. I would not take from  
 you or add to you in any respect  
 for then you would not be the Mary P  
 Shelby, that ~~filled~~ my heart with love  
 You are exactly right not a day too old  
 or a day too young. I expect when you  
 get dressed in these fine clothes  
 dresses you have been getting you will  
 set me for in the shade

I will write you again tomorrow  
 the next day I start. It will take me  
 about five minutes to pack my trunk  
 it is a big one and I just pile the  
 goods in and shut down the lid  
 Now my dear, I'll close for I know  
 you will like a short letter better than a long  
 one you are busy and you can't answer  
 this one till you see me anyway

Truly  
 Yours  
 J. O. W. [Signature]

NOV  
4  
1860

Miss Mary P. Shelby  
Manchester,  
on Mo. Pacific Ry. } Missouri



Postmarked: Denver Colo Nov. 5 (1880)

**To: Miss Mary P. Shelby**  
Manchester P. O.  
on Mo. Pacific Ry. Missouri

**From: John C. Stallcup**

Denver Nov 5th (1880)

My Dear Mary

Time is baring us on to our  
destiny and by our hopes and prayers  
a happy one it will be.

This is probably  
the last letter I shall write to Miss  
Mary P. Shelby.

I have yours of the 1st inst  
I have four pairs gloves and from them  
I trust will be able to select some  
thing appropriate.

I will look at the  
Armory on my way to  
you. I will have leisure on the  
train. I really have not had  
the time here.

Your Aunt Susan isn't far wrong on her  
say concerning marriage – Yet what ever is it is

**Page 2**

all of your life shall be the all of mine.  
In the many virtues and struggles of a  
man's life the important events do not  
so entirely absorb the mind of a man  
as they do of a woman for the reason  
that a woman as a general thing has  
less of the other affairs of life which  
make up a man's life.

But so far as we are concerned  
we will be one.

Good bye till I come  
Truly Jno.C.Stallcup

P.S. I expect I will get there before this  
letter does, yet I hope to get another  
from you in the morning before I start.  
Col. Grigsby died this morning – died of  
sickness contracted on his trip in Summit County.  
Where I was titled to speak the week I was  
to see you – how different our futures ---

Jno C. S.

DENVER  
NOV  
3

Miss Mary P. Shelby  
Manchester, Mo.  
Or Mrs. Paepely, } Missouri

Dear Mrs. Shelby

My dear Mary,  
Time is bearing us on to our  
destiny and by our hopes and prayers  
a happy one it will be.

This is probably  
the last letter - I shall write to Miss.  
Mary P. Shelby -

I have yours of the 1st inst  
I have four pairs gloves and from them  
I trust will be able to select some  
thing appropriate.

I will look at the  
Anniversary as I am on my way to  
you. I will have dinner on the  
train. I really have not had  
the time here!

Your most sincere friend  
L. M. ...

All of your life shall be the all of mine  
 In the many ventures and struggles of a  
 mans life the important events do not  
 so entirely absorb the mind of a man  
 as they do of a woman for the reason  
 that a woman as a general thing has  
 less of the other affairs of life which  
 make up a mans life.

But so far as we are concerned  
 we will be one.

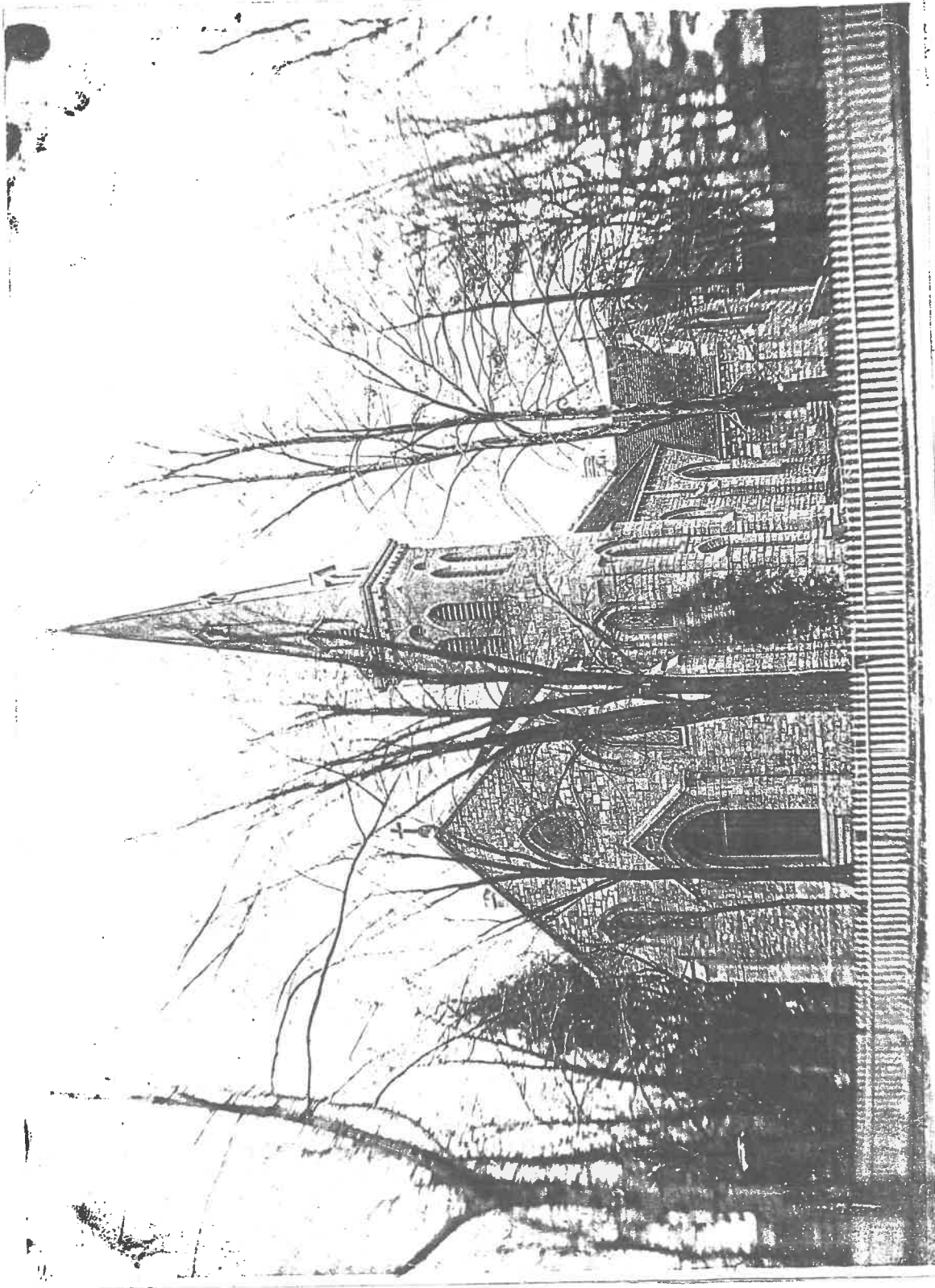
Good bye till I come  
 Truly yours  
 J. W. C.

O. I expect I will get them before this  
 letter does. yet I hope to get another  
 from you in the morning before I start  
 Col. Gigsby died this morning - died of  
 sickness contracted on his trip in Summit Co.  
 "When I was killed to speak the week I ~~was~~ was  
 to see you how different our fortunes -  
 J. W. C.

**NOTE:** These are the ribbons that bound these two packets of courtship letters, his and her's. What a delight to transcribe. He kept even her calling cards, she only the letters. Also, and a calling card from their Denver address; 725 Curtis St. **Dating 1880 11/5**



**NOTE:** This is a picture of Grace Church, an Episcopal Church in Kirkwood, Missouri where the Stallcup's were married. It still stands today in 2005. This picture is in Mary Pindell's scrapbook. Dated November 9<sup>th</sup> 1880.



*Grace Church - Kirkwood Missouri -*

**NOTE:** This is a picture of Rev. George K. Dunlop, the minister who married John Calhoun Stallcup and Mary Pindell Shelby. This picture is in Mary Pindell's scrapbook. Dated November 9<sup>th</sup> 1880

