

Ashland went all over the house
it is built exactly like the old one only
the finishing is handsomer they
are not to go in until July they are
now staying in the house intended
for the servants.

Mother is ready to go to town &
I must bring my letter to a close.

All join in much love to you and
dear brother the servants have so
many messages that I have not
time to write them.

I remain your devoted sister

Ellen Duncum

April 23rd 1836

My darling sister

I received your welcome letter
dated the 17th & was very glad to hear that you
well but I am very sorry that you had to
have all the filling taken out it is as you
said terrible to think of Mother ^{dear} that she
would have written to you if she thought
you would have received it in time not to
have the filling taken out.

You say that Aunt Dory must have
a grate many chickens when you
come home I have a hen with
fifteen chicks & three sitting one with
ducks & the other two with chickens
she hatched two little D's you
will now have to guess whether it
be dogs, devils, or ducks, we will

have chickens big enough to eat in a week
We have been living on fish for a bout two
weeks Mr Scott Mrs Flint & cousin Eliza
Arnold came up yesterday at twelve o'clock
cousin Nannie went to Louisville to day
& cousin Eliza went home at two she has
moved in to Paris Aunt Fumble came
up with Mr Scott & cousin Nannie
she is going to stay all summer with
his daughter as she cannot live in
Louisville in summer.

You spoke of the pines being so much
larger than the ones at home it was
not the largest ones we have some that
I dare say are as large as the ones of
Mrs Norton's.

I did finish my letter last night as it
was so late before I began to write I did
not tell you that I received brother's letter last night
& yours in the morning I will answer his on Friday
or Saturday.

I have been watching a dove building
his nest in the sugar tree at the big porch
& a jay in one in the yard there are two
red birds building in the tree with the jay

Oh! how sweetly, how sweetly the bird flies!
To his home in the tall forest tree;
Oh! how sweetly, how sweetly he sings all the day,
And is happy as happy can be!

'Tis thus he tells of favours given,
And while he sings he vows to be:-
Oh! how sweetly, how sweetly he sings all the day,
In his nest in the tall forest tree.

Mother is going to town to have his dress fitted
to get my bonnet she got three caps the
other day they are very pretty will you
please bring me a shaker bonnet when
you come home I would have gotten one
here but they ask so much for them three \$
it is outrageous & I would do without
before I would give so much.

We went out to Mr James Clay's at

Pitt Home. I would say that plain furniture - was more suitable than extravagant - and increase as you are able to receive more aid hereafter. It is in mind that I am preparing to aid your sister being in the purchase of property for her Lexington Home. I am about to expend ⁱⁿ in improvements upon my own lot which we shall commence so soon as the weather permits. One hundred more cattle to buy & pay for at Bedford - till these drafts upon my purse I shall be able to use most of my available means. Any engagements are made. Your suggestion of directing to objects of improvements funds that were intended for a different purpose - is all wrong, and



Lex Mich 23rd 1870

My Dear Ellen

Your letter of the 19th inst is at hand - also one seven or eight days ago - the first informing me that you had abandoned your project of renting and settling in Chicago - or at Decatur or elsewhere - But that you had determined to settle upon the farm - when your interests were - I was more than gratified - at this most most sensible of all the proposed arrangements - you have acted in this - like a wise man of Judgment & good sense - In this you consult the interests of your family and children - avoid heavy expen

= can and can so manage your affairs - As soon to make you not only comfortable, but rich Economy & good management is all that is needed to assure this result

When you parted with me your idea was to expend in furnishing your Chicago home some \$2500 - which I supposed was a full amount - Now that this scheme has been abandoned you - seem to think - that this fund should be employed for the improvement of your Hill home, in extension, porches &c. &c. Now my dear child this was not in my contemplation or your own, when I parted to furnish to that extent, your Chicago House - This string of improvements - was arranged

between yourself & your Brother but fell - that I gave up all the lumber I had accumulated & agreed to pay \$100 - each towards the improvements 3 in no - or if you preferred - to use to all in one building the extensive & improvement of your residence all the lumber could be used for that purpose & I to pay the \$300 to that one object - The 2 extra improvements to be abandoned - This Henry was authorized to attend to & advance the means

I must say my dear Ellen that this engagement - specially made is the only one I can recognize - to which you must be satisfied

I enclose you my check for One Thousand Dollars upon the "Manufacturers Bank" to aid you in furnishing your

I was thrown directly between the front wheel
Mr. Martin accident in turning the beam almost
in an instant the door having jumped off
I ran to the side walk the girls said Mr. Martin
was thrown under and only had by the ankle, he
not being much of a grazier the only damage
I sustained was a hole in my dress.
There is a regiment passing at present going
east just passed there at least a night
that we have not done fifty or sixty muzzles
incamped in the street in front of the
but a three weeks since by a regiment that
passing a lady spent here and her head
out of the window & offered a hundred dollars
for Buckners head when one of the soldiers
broke up & the girl whom I spoke of (I think)
when you write tell me how many teeth I live
& what new word he has learned tell me how little
See is it he looks so much like me as ever.
With much love to all, I am as ever your
affectionate daughter Ellen Duncanson

Saturday Jan 17th 1806 A. M.
 Cousins M. & Alice send love
My Dear Mother I have just come down
stairs & as breakfast is not ready I
have a little time to write.
We were up last night till two o'clock
there being a dance at Mr. Reynolds
for Lizzy Hunt Alice, Maria Crakes &
myself, went in that dress Mr. R.
having said that as it was a children
party we could not unless we wore
short dresses I tucked my pink
Gaunder, & Alice & Maria wore white muslin
I curled Alice's hair all round & Maria & I
wore our flatted in too long braids my
was tied with pink ribbon & Maria's
with black velvet - My dearest Mother
you speak of the length of time it seems
since you saw us, indeed you cannot
imagine how long it appears to me

I do not believe anyone was ever more glad
to get home than I will be, I never saw
any one so distressed at going home, as I have,
I could have gone when she did without
a single regret although I never enjoyed
myself more pleasant time, it seemed an
age since I had seen any of you. I never
want to go again unless I have your likeness.
I have been thinking since I have been
here of my wanting to go to Europe with
the Athinsons, but I do not think any
thing could induce me to go so far from
you. About my going home, I wish
you would tell me in your next, in
Lily's letter I mentioned the only two places
I cared to spend any time besides this.

How are the sick Soldiers getting along in
of course nothing is said of the death in the
papers, but they are dying here constantly I
have seen as many as four or five two horse
waggon pass here, with the dead, & they
were always filled. Lily asked me why I had
said nothing about my accident, the reason
I did not was for fear of making you uneasy,
you need not be afraid of its happening again
I think I had better tell you how it happened
The first Sunday I was here, after church I
was walking home with me, when we reached
Broadway there was quite a number of Army
waggon passing, men & Alice were over & not
wishing to wait for the whole train to pass
we thought we could get over safe, the waggon
having stopped, just as I started the waggoner started
the mules, I was almost across when one of the
mules trampled on my dress &

Better, though thinner — I hope
you have taken good care of Willie
Has he been a good boy? Poor Laura
I am so glad to hear that she is
better now as sister Maria I think
the old lady has been quite frisky.
What has become of Mrs Russell &
Lou join them my love —

I felt very sorry for Amanda &
Mr. Winston, about the fire, did
he lose much? Has Larp changed
much since we left?

I am so glad Dr M — has such
a good call & hope he will do
well —

I do not believe I have any
more to say & as my eyes are
getting rather heavy (the old complaint)
shall say good night with much
love & many kisses to all —

Your devoted daughter Ellen

You must excuse pencil but
the ink was down stairs & I was
too lazy to get it —

Chicago Ill
January 6th 1875

My dear Father

You must not think
I have been neglecting you all
because I have not written — for
nearly two weeks — But to tell the
truth I have been so worried I
did not feel like writing — & Elizabeth
& I have both been sick this week
I with a bad cold & she with
erysipelas — she is not entirely well
yet, but is better — I have discharged
Julia, she was so independent I
could not stand her — for several
weeks she has been so sulky that
I could not bear to go to the kitchen
to give her an order — She starts
home Monday — people here want
more in return for their money

than can be had from her —
I think I have a very good
girl in her place (but that
remains to be seen) — at least
I hope so in some respects
Julia is one of the best servants
I ever saw & at the same time
has some of the most objectionable
traits — I had a letter from Mother
yesterday & Lily last week, but as
I was in your debt, will let them
wait — One reason I do not write
often I have so little of interest
out side of home — ran & I were
out several hours today & it was
intensely cold, the wind felt as though
it would take the skin off — we
had to wear our rubias over our
faces — I do wish you & Mother & Co
were nicely fixed in a new back
boarding house, you would find so
much to amuse you when you
could not go out — I think

it is the payest street I
ever saw, from eleven o'clock in
the morning until five or six at
night — it is filled with elegant
equipages of all sorts — It is a
regular race with Mamma & me
to get across — we are so much
appaid of being run over, for they
never stop for any body —

Mother asked me what church
I was attending — I have been
going to the Episcopale — the nearest
Pres. is a little over a mile, I
did not mind the distance, but
the preacher was so stupid, & I
do hate to go by myself — The service
at Grace Church is very pleasant & the
singing beautiful — There is to
be a new Pres. Church, south of
us & I am going to see how I
like it — Lily B. said in a letter to
Mam that you have a new doctor, how
do you like him? Pa V. thinks you

go down street— I am glad
Damsen likes her veil. I was
going down in the cars & passed
a lady with one on & thought
it would look pretty with her
dress— I am sorry you are
not so well—you had better
make us a visit, you would
all enjoy it.

Willie is still in the country—
I am sorry ~~but~~ Brother W could
not come to see us—

Father you must excuse
this miserable letter but I have
written in such a hurry for
fear something else might
prevent my writing tomorrow—

My very best love to all—

Good night your devoted

daughter

Ellen D. Forbes

Chicago Illinois
Saturday night Dec 4th 1869

My dear Father

I received your welcome
^{on Tuesday}
& agreeable letter giving an account of
the wedding— it must have been a
grand affair & I am really sorry
not to have been able to present—

I feel quite flattered this morn, as
I have had three letters from home
making six since I left—

I should have answered all of
them, but as I was delayed in answering
yours, will wait until next week
for Lily's & Esther's— Wednesday I
was busy all day & Thursday we went
to see Fannie Pratt (Mrs. Butler) intending
to call on Anne Barclay— but when we
arrived at Mrs. Butler's, who should
be there but Anne Barclay— so Fannie

insisted on our taking our things
off & staying to lunch - we stayed
untill nearly half past three & had
a most charming time - She took
us all over the house & she is
so nicely fixed - I felt as though
I would like to be fixed myself
though I have no right to complain
for I am really very comfortable
Yesterday we went to see Willie
Barbidge (Mrs J Barbidge) it was almost
a days journey the line ran on
the west side - Annie went with
us - Miss Calver (Mrs John Elling) was
to see us the other day - Will Lily
she engaged most affectionately
for her - she was very handsomely
dressed & they have a beautiful
place on Calumet - she has
two children about the age of mine
(girl & boy) the gentleman she married
is Miss Raines half brother -
The children are all getting along

nicely - Elizabeth improved a
great deal, she is getting really
interesting - I wish you could
see my dress you gave me
it makes up beautifully -
I have bought an elegant suit
with the money her father
gave ^{me} to get a dress with (see)
I saw a set of furs the other day
the same kind as mine & matched
them exactly, the muff, & cape much
larger than mine for \$60 if I had
the money I should have bought
them & added to mine ~~and~~ it
would have made me an
elegant affair - such a one would
cost six or seven hundred dollars
It had been worn & the lady
wished to sell it - I suppose she
wanted to get another -
Tell sister M - I think she sets
have everything but the foot bath,
but I will look the next time I