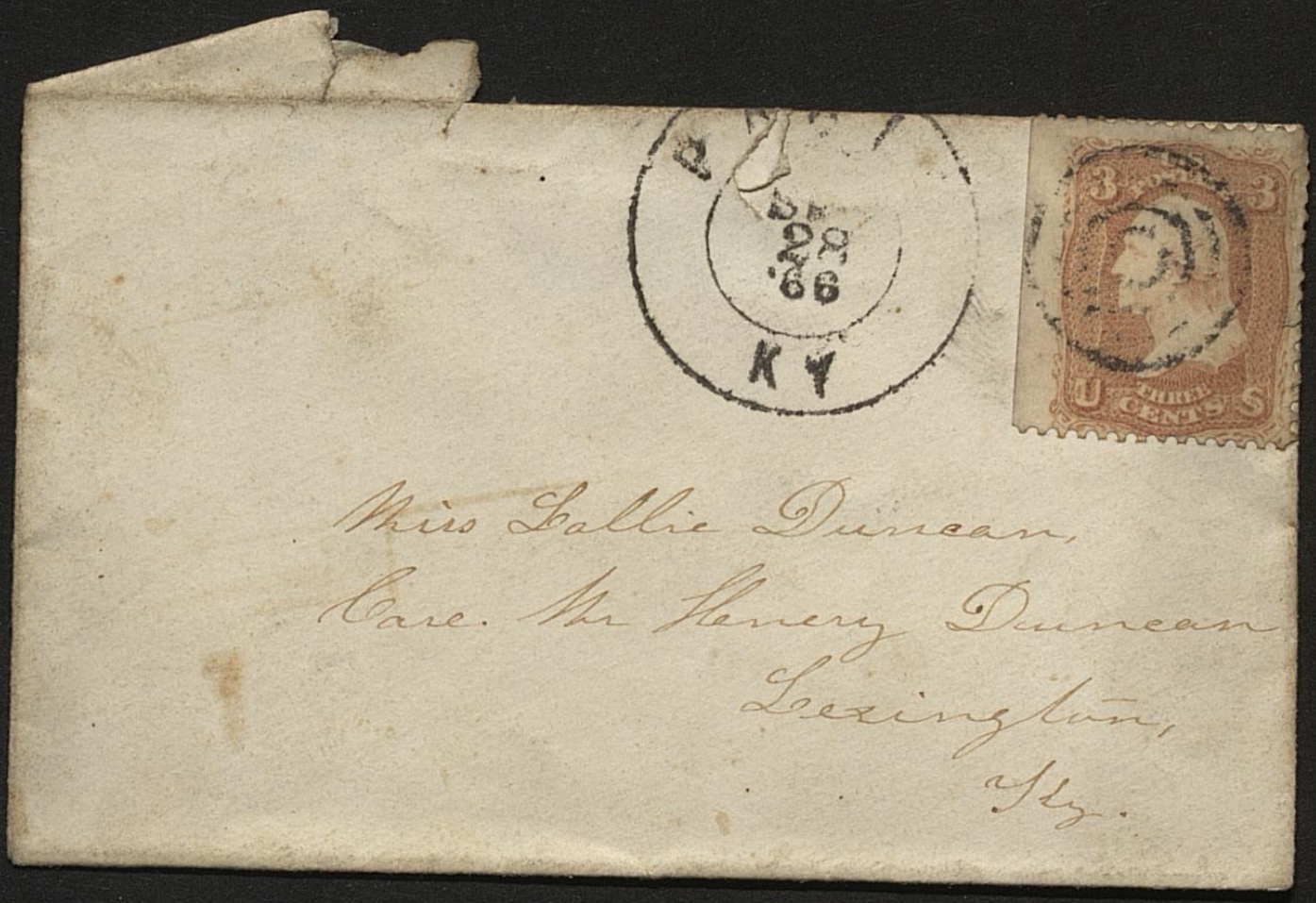


Miss Lallie Duncan,
Care Mr Henery Duncan
Lexington,
Ky.

May 11th 1874
Sunday –

Dear Lily – As Miss Julia has just decided to go to Cin. for a few days, I have only a moment to drop you a few lines; as she leaves in a few moments.

Some one wrote me from Lexington this past week, that you intended leaving for New York nothing the next ten days. Now Miss Julia and I would be so glad if you could stop a few days here on your way north. I am anxious

to see you and this may be the only opportunity for a long while. The regular mail-coat leaves Lex. every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at twelve o'clock connecting with the Ky. railroad and arrives at Bellevue at half past three or four the same evening. If in leaving Lexington you would arrive here the same day. If you couldn't remain longer, ~~check~~ your trunks up and run down for a day. Think it over and see if you can't arrange it.

I was so glad to hear from you but have been too much worried about them all down home and too busy to write to any one. Why don't you write one something of Sister M. Mother H. and the children.

With much love for all in which Miss Julia and Sallie join me —

believe me —

your sincere friend

Louisiana H. Litton

TIGERVILLE
MAY
28
LA.

Miss Lily Duncan
care R. P. Duncan Esq
Lexington —
Kentucky

are ripe! I do want to be home when all those good things are ripe –

The other morning when we were at breakfast, we heard Mr O'Neill call, and when Louisa went out to him, he found a great big snake crawling across by his tea.

It was twenty feet, and so we all felt it was the great snake Jesus saw, and it was best to let him go, for when we tho[illegible] it would take us all to kill him, and a snake as this would

I would like to have a good time.
But you all will not know
me when I come home. I am
getting fat, and growing to-
wards home. I feel very thankful,
and they are big gun than when
I left Fruitland.

I wonder if the church

Oak Forest
May 25th
1877

Dear Aunt Lily

You would have received a letter before this but I wrote the outside day and lost my letter.

Uncle Sim is coming out next week.

Aunt Sarah told me that she had received a letter from Uncle Sim

time at the tower with Mrs Russell. I told Sister I had been down three months but I have not but it seems like it.

Well it is might so I will have to stop and the mosketos are eat me up.

Love to all and remembrances from your loving niece

Mattie

saying that uncle
Silas wife was going
to Sentinnie in the
middle of next
month so we have
hope up with her
whether I dont like
her or not—
and any
and thinks I am so
growling in music
I have just taken
the 3rd Chateau—
you
All think I never will
know anything about
music I will surprise
you All when I go

home—
ask Mama for
the money for us to
home home on and
we want some to bring
a few things to you
All—
Send me some
stamps when you
write.
I am getting
fat they say well
really my leg is a
great deal larger.
did sister have a nice

after matters for the evening. I missing that part of the pleasure, but not assuming I made up for it later in the evening. Every one being acquainted I did not have to exert myself the second evening, to make them enjoy themselves. Both clocks and all the watches among the gentlemen were set back nearly two hours. The worst task I have had for years was getting the watches of two young ladies. Finally I succeeded, and then the boys were happy. We had two violins and the piano. What do you think of me dancing ten young dances in one evening? Anyhow, I did it, and enjoyed it as much as a young man of twenty. Really I am coming out in my old days.

Do you think, it not worth while to mention my lady friends in Kentucky to me, as I no doubt long since have made other lies. Well, Miss Willie, I did not think you gave me credit for so little stability of character.

Greenwood, Ia;
May 27th/879.

Dear Miss Willie

Your kind letter of the 11th inst came duly to hand, and would have been answered sooner, only for a press of time.

I am indeed sorry to hear of Mrs Duncan's continued sickness. Hope she has passed through the worst part of it. I know what it is to have a sick Mother. Mine has been more or less an invalid for two years. She is now at the "Hot Springs", and I hope will be greatly benefited.

What in the World do you allow yourself to get the blues for? That will do for some people, but not for Miss Willie. I deeply sympathize with you, and your Father's family in your financial troubles. We have known nothing else in our home

for years. Misfortune seems decidedly partial to us. "It is a long lane that has no turn". Cheer up my good friend, and hope for the best. Who knows, but what it is all for the best? Let us at least hope so.

You ask, if I see much, of the good people of "Oak Forest". I have been quite devoted of late. "Down Bayou Black" has been lively enough. Last Friday week, we had thirty young people from the upper part of the parish to come down and remain until Sunday Morning. My friend, Mr Jno Scannell of Ohaus, was also with me. When we stowed them away, and how we fed them so nicely, I can scarcely imagine. All fared well.

We commenced Dancing at 8 o'clock each evening, all dancing all night. We had no set-table either evening. The dining room door was thrown open at 10 o'clock and the guests went in and out at their pleasure. We had nothing warm but coffee. Had two kinds of ices, and other nice dishes, all of which were gotten up at "home". I mean "Oak Forest".

Mr Hal Minor sent me down a nice roasting pig and two fryers of cream. It was real kind and thoughtful of her. Hal and Miss Kate honored us with presence. Hal was flirting with the girls all the while.

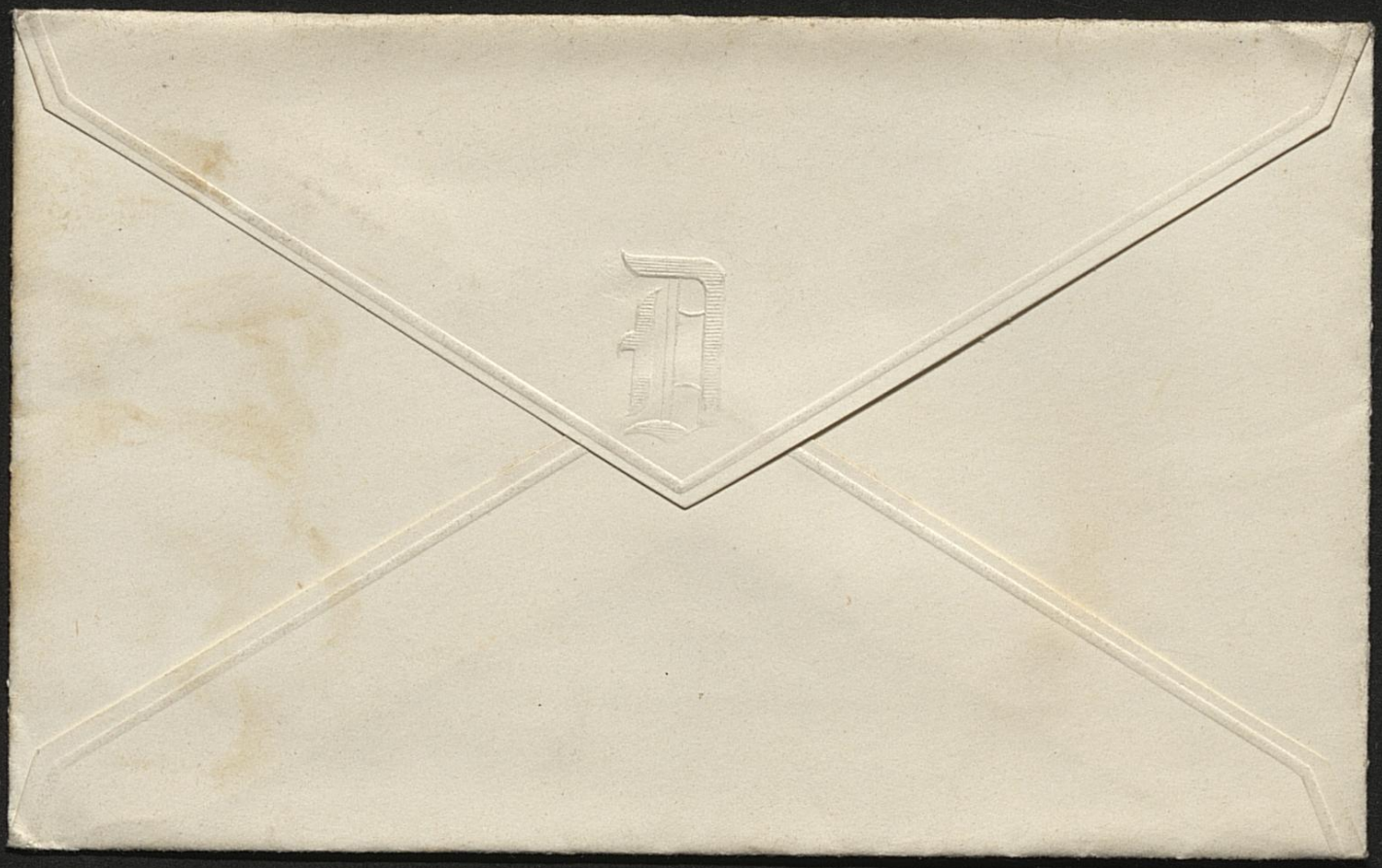
On Saturday we went to Col. Johnstons (who lives at the Blackford residence) on a fishing excursion. To say we caught plenty of nice fish only half expresses it. We caught them by the hundreds. Briefly, lots of dry-land fish were caught.

At 4 o'clock we had a fish fry. The Johnstons contributed to our basket, which made it a success. We were two hours at dinner. When we had finished dinner, most of the crowd got into the boats and started down that beautiful stream. There being two guitars and many sweet voices in the company, it was a most enjoyable scene. Poor me! I had to come home early to look

Hem, I find myself on the second sheet of paper. Pardon me kind friend I did not so intend to intrude upon your generosity. But as I have commenced giving you the news of Tombonne, I will continue. We danced until two o'clock Sunday morning, and many of them wanted to finish the night. Being the old-man of the house, I had to stop the music. Then it was — who shall get ready first and get off —. You can imagine what a nice time I had having all those vehicles properly hitched and brought to the door. Each young man wanted the last word, style of some other fellow's outfit. Even Joe Humphreys was there, just as day was breaking, pleading in the most earnest manner to a young lady who is engaged. That is, was engaged. It is rumored she is now disengaged, and a may-man hunting

the "Colonel" with a "sixteen shooter".
Miss Callie was the "Belle" of the occasion. Really I could scarcely realize that it was Miss Callie, who was flirting with so much grace. I was aware, that it was the great failing of the numerous family, but never dreaming that the quiet angelic little creature of "Oak Point" would go life with the unfair.
Miss Lucy — last to be mentioned — but not last in my estimation, — held her own, in that fine, easy, dignified manner which has ever characterized her. More than one young man left that house feeling that it was dangerous to tarry long.
As for me, and what part I took in the play, I shall not mention. Suffice to say — I was there.
My friend, Mr Ocammell, went away — more than pleased with Miss Callie. Dan Hinds is inducunable. Hays Cage is badly wounded. John Birkhead also has the fever. "Be still mine heart sit down"
Miss Kate Minor came down with a young gentleman, (no name) who she likes right smartly. He has been in love with her for years. Out of eighteen young men, I was the only one who did not get up a bad case.
This old heart of mine, is not as elastic as in former days. As we set the ball rolling, Mr Nolan Williams followed last week by giving a most handsome party. We danced until the "linen-out bell" day next morning. The young ladies did not go, but spent the night at Colonel Johnstons. Joe and I went together and had a most charming time. The Colonel again devoted himself to Miss Mollie Cage. There now, I have gone and let his secret out. Too bad, too bad.
The "Colonel" has just put in an appearance, and talks about challenging me for telling you down about his little affair.
You asking me, — if I was getting ready to

Mrs. Lilly Duncan.




Lizzie D. Chambers.

Mrs. G. Durrett,

At Home,

Tuesday Evening, Oct. 16th at 8 o'clock.

[illegible] myself [illegible] and [illegible]
Mr. Duncan, and he [illegible]
[illegible] could [illegible] and I [illegible]
[illegible] in the morning."
had a [illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible] the other [illegible]
[illegible] perfectly [illegible]
[illegible] I wish [illegible]
[illegible] enough to have [illegible]
what I wanted with [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] & [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] as [illegible]
let [illegible] little [illegible] again
& again and she is [illegible]
with all her heart & soul
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
the Omnibus and I could
[illegible] [illegible] that I [illegible]
he [illegible] his [illegible] [illegible]

Tuesday
5 o'clock

Just in from the farm
my dearest Lilly, and started
to tell you that under the
door
[illegible] at [illegible] [illegible]
we had walked in [illegible]
found a card "Mr. & Mrs. Duncan-
[illegible]" I [illegible]
[illegible] Virginia. This is
Henry's [illegible], &
[illegible] [illegible], when
he [illegible] to visit us, &
he will come again [illegible]
[illegible] in the [illegible] home".
[illegible] Virginia [illegible]
"Stop the carriage [illegible]
[illegible], [illegible]
[illegible] the hotel and
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

open arms by each & all of my little household who love him so tenderly & speak of him so often. Mother's singular ignorance is also explained since the receipt of your letter. For several weeks I have been trying by word & message, to induce an old Mr Duncan, who lives near by and has done a great deal of blacksmithing work on the place, to come and do some special job for me before cold weather.

Yesterday about one or two o'clock I was in the kitchen when baby came in, half said "Mama." I heard some body hallooing, and went to the