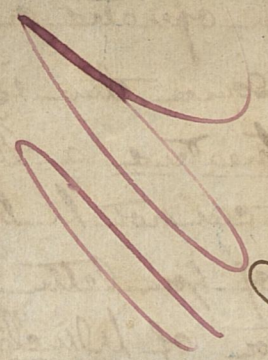


I trust my remarks are properly understood & my feeling duly appreciated
I want to see you, my only brother, to talk to you about matters and
things - I have been so interrupted by company & business matters
that I hardly know what I have written - My love to Sarah
all the family and friends & believe me to be your affectionate
brother Thos. A. Rufess



Col. William H. Rufess

Letter

ballance book
Ch. Rufess



My dear Mother
Ash Hill - Dec. 29th 1848
I received your kind & affectionate letter of
the 1st inst. and would have answered sooner, save for the almost
daily expectation of seeing you at my house - The weather for the
last several weeks has been intensely cold - so much so, that I
imagine the River, are blocked up with ice, and steamboat
navigation impracticable; & for a time may be disappointed in your
anticipated visit - Hence to day, although not very well, I have
concluded to write to you - My letter has and Ann Maria
have gone to town for the 2nd or 3rd time for the purpose of
making preparations for Spot's approaching nuptials - I would have
gone myself but was under promise to meet several gentlemen
at home, to day, concerning the hiring of Negroes - You no doubt
have heard that that Spot on the 8th day of January, married the
the youngest daughter of James Matson of Bourbon County - He
has only two children (daughters) and both to be married the
same evening - the elder to a Mr. Burbridge of Scott -
great preparation is making on both sides of the house - Matson
is quite wealthy, and Sarah, in behalf of Spot, is disinclined
to be out done - I had to try my first wedding stockings on
tick, to be paid for afterwards, and here an infatuation to a son
will cost me \$600. or more - It is true that Spring bottom mologany
chair - pier table, looking glass - Parquet carpeting (\$100) - Mantle
ornament - room papering &c. may be considered as indispensable &
permanent articles of furniture - I do not so consider it, but
as it is Spot under all the circumstances of the case, I submit
to it - but occasionally heave a little sigh, at the way the money goes