

MOLLIE WOOD PAPERS (addendum)

3/8/1868 Letter to Mrs. Mollie Wood (6/20/1836 - 8/18/1914)

from (step)daughter Mollie

The letter is largely personal, referring to the affairs of relatives and friends. The writer of the letter is so ashamed of her own "bad writing and spelling" that she requests her stepmother to burn the letter after reading it.

[The reason the sixteen-year old writer, whose full name was Mary Mollie Crutcher Wood (7/5/1851 - 8/4/1881), begins the letter with "Dear Aunt Mollie" rather than "Dear Mother" is that her second mother until recently had been her widowed aunt, i.e., the wife of her father's late younger brother who had died in 1865. Two years after his death the widowed aunt married the young letter writer's widower-father Robert Field Wood (1812 - 1896).

The young girl's rural upbringing and faulty penmanship, fortunately, would not extend to one of her granddaughters by the name of Virginia Wood Davis (12/7/1919 - 2/1/1990). The latter, enjoying a greater degree of proficiency, became a newspaper reporter and editor; and upon death bequeathed more than \$276,000 to the Department of Journalism, Western Kentucky University.]