

your portrait Grandpa but says
that Grandpa hasnt any whiskey
I can imagine Father, George &
Mr. Ross sitting round the fire
very solemnly discussing the war
news & the hard times - Father
used always to say the Union could
not be dissolved I wonder what he
thinks of it now - We think if there
gets to be much fighting about here
we will have to leave for some other
state - John thinks with so many
children to move, it would be rather
troublesome - particularly to start in a
hurry - I feel very anxious to hear how
Capt Anderson at Fort Sumpter is getting along
Old Buck is too ~~weak~~ ^{weak} to send him
more men to help him fight his country's
battles - Give my love to Father, George,
Mary & Rita Woodbridge - Tell Rita she
must give a letter and write soon
to yours aff^r & others

Ashland Jan 7th 1861

My Dear Mother

I was happy to receive
your letter yesterday and find you
are still well - I used always to
hear of you being sick, as there is
scarcely one a winter that you escape
but you seem to be getting along
finely this winter so far - I hope
the fatigue of entertaining your New
Year callers was not too much for
you - You must write me who
called - and Mary Ross must
write who called on her - I tell
the girls I expect they will get
an answer to their letter, from her
now New Year is over - She must
tell them all her presents and
the Christmas parties - and I should
like to hear the particulars from Daphne

party - where I have no doubt Mary
got a fine dinner - My Dinner
party came off last week on Thursday
I had all the Means' families invited
and Mr & Mrs Boal - Counting the
girls we made fourteen - I had
two Turkeys - and a big can of oysters
made into a pie - and other good
things to match - Mrs. Boal was
sick the next day - Mr Boal said
because she eat so much dinner - so
you may know it was a good ~~one~~
We had church on National Fast
day, the first time for six weeks
or more - and then had church again
Sunday - so I hope now we will
have preaching regularly - I tell John
I think his \$150 - he had paying this
year to try & have preaching every
Sunday does not pay very well -
we have not had it near as often
as we used to have it -
The children all have colds - I
get up every night about midnight

hunt up my goose grease bottle
and give some of them a good
greasing - some nights one of them
the next night some of the three
they cough so I can't sleep till I
get them settled with the goose grease
The babies are on the floor so much
creeping that I suppose they take cold
in that way - Lily has begun ^{creeping}
forwards & today she goes hopping over
the floor like a frog - Rose still goes
backwards - when they both creep
fast I don't know what I shall do
they will be into everything - I shall
find it the most troublesome time
of their lives - I hope they won't
creep long but am afraid they
will - Pat is full of mischief
plagues poor Rose - steps on the
babies fingers - bothers us all -
he is wearing his red stockings
you knit & he insists upon it that
Grandpa Lilly knit them and
says he has two grandpas - he calls

Morion H Landing January 9th 1861
Mr John Meant

I in close you a letter
from John B Willman which you
will attend to by giving him a reply I think
we should put up prices at lots well advance
at Cattlets bushy if the County Seat remains
there and at any rate. If you cannot sell to
him rent or lease and have him pay the taxes
in advance you should reserve the privilege
of possession in case you should sell the lot
he may have a privilege of buying if he
should acquire it or at the purchase or pay
him some thing for what expense for fence
or improve ment he may make in case he buys
I merely submit the above you will do as
you think most advisable in the premises

Yours G. H. Foster
Thomas W. Meant

Union Landing January 26th 1861
Mr John Means

Dear Son

I have written to Portsmouth
to know what day our Bank meeting takes place it is
about the first of February (don't know what day) and
requested them to advise you and the Manchester
partners. If you could come here and spend a day
or so and go from here we could make out Mr Rat Cliffs
account so that we can understand it and take it
down and settle with him and we could then keep it
so that we would understand and know what
way to stand with him as it is it is impossible to
know how much interest he has received what
has been paid on act of interest and what on overdraft
note. Let me hear from you I look for Mr D Sinton
upon the Boston to day you can learn by the Post if
he comes. If you conclude to come let me
know and I will send a boy up for you. You can
write me by the Boston and request them to leave
it at Hanging Rock and I will receive it that eve-
ning if not up at the Rock when she comes down.

Your Father
Thomas W Means

you see her that we are all charmed
with Mrs. Warner - she is a very agreeable
lady indeed + a great addition to our society
she, or rather Mr Warner, is a cousin of Mrs
Putnam + I ~~see~~ more see Mrs Warner
but what we have a talk about the Putnam
she had a wife picked out for Ben but he
did not stay long enough to see her she said
the young lady was beautiful, accomplished,
a good house keeper + every thing desirable + was
quite disappointed that she did not get to see
Ben - Mrs Nicholls had a dinner party for
Mrs. Warner last week Thursday which I
attended - we had dinner at four o'clock
+ had every thing nice + in fine style -
this week Wednesday, I had a tea
party for Mrs Warner, we had
supper about seven and I had
fifteen at the table - Mr + Mrs Warner
Mrs Mrs. Green, Mr. Ballain - Mr + Mrs Nicholls
Mr + Mrs Martin Mr + Mrs Gore Aunt Amanda
+ Uncle Hugh &c - I had oysters tongue
chicken salad - Sally Linn hot Biscuit
Sponge cake, jelly cake, preserves + peaches

+ other good things in proportion - they had
a very lively time - as they are most of them
pretty lively people - Last night Mrs.
Gore had a tea party which I attended -
Mrs. Warner + I consider ourselves as rivals
as she has five children the eldest five
years old + I four with my oldest four
years old - Mr. Ballain kept plaguing her
asking her "what made her children so
backward about walking" - she always had
a baby that couldnt walk - Mrs Warner
says she will bring her five up here
some day to see my four + then I tell her
~~she~~ ^{they} will have what they call a "free fight" -
Mrs. Gore is a lady who has lately moved
here + she is a very pretty, pleasant
little woman - ^{the} Irish have
been having a very gay time since
Christmas Biddy has been to
three parties + dances + Emily to two
It dont suit me at all to have
Emily go out at night as the babies
cry so when she is not on hand to
muse them at night - I told her

5th July 1861
Dear Aunt Dyer Burgess

no gages round the world.
Such fuel would be fine
for the Rail Road to the
Pacific! Perhaps they may
also use whiskey in Argand
lamps, to make the Loco
motives go. Much much
better that will be, than
drinking it. A Locomotive
would go straight and a
Loco fire would go crook-
ed, if ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~he~~ ^{it} went ^{at} all.
Pray let your letters be
as frequent as you can
afford, and as circum-
stantial as possible, ~~and~~
especially about your
friends and your affairs.
Our best respects, and
more Our Love to you
all
on behalf of self and
your Aunt Dyer Burgess

U. S. A.

[Feb. 5, 1861]

Constitution 2 mo. 5. d. 1861
John the 1st. Dear Nephew.

We duly received ~~and~~
~~of~~ your kind letter, and were
very glad to get it. I assure
you As little Lizzie goes to
school to Miss Lucy Dawes
at Merritts I go there often
and often see Dr. Wilder's
and his family, or, at least
some of them. I was there
yesterday, and though I did
not call on the Dr. I called
at Mr. Ross' Store on purpose
to be able to send you the
latest news from your friends.
They are all well. Mrs. Wild-
er's enjoys better health
this winter, I believe than
she has been accustomed to.
The Dr. appears as young
as a boy. Dr. George appears

as grave as a Judge!

The Methodists have finished a new Meeting house, opposite that of the Universalists and dedicated it last sat. and on the same day took subscriptions to pay for it amounting to us seem over the amount required sufficient to make improvements around it.

Dr. Selon of the Church south and Bishop Ames assisted in the ceremonies of consecration Mr. M. Coy was here from Hamer this morning and gave us all the particulars

I was yesterday at Mr. Newtons and saw John and James Means. They are all well there.

Yours Aunts health is improving. She goes about finely, and even walks to Mr. Cutlers. Mr. Cutlers Family are pretty well. Their young daughter is well, and grows finely.

Cate Dawes, and Maggie have gone on the Car, to day, to Mr. McClures. Mrs. McClures has gone to New Orleans, and is selling out at great prices.

Oil, appears to be King! in this region. Oh, how rich the people are agoing to be! It seems as if every sand of them was soon to get more oil in one day than could be used in an ordinary way in a century. They will be obliged to burn it for fuel in making

we send many
kisses to the little
twins, Nora & Billy
with a portion
to the rest of them

Marcella. Feb 14. 1861

My dear Mattie -

Fearing you might feel
uneasy at the long silence of your mother
from the receipt of your last letter, I must
inform you, that after all our care & cau-
tion to keep away her winter attacks, of
chills, neuralgia &c. that have followed her for
many years, last Saturday night, the 9th, was
it came on at midnight, with a hard dull,
pain in the side - head & face, of the usual vio-
lence, but shorter duration, for by the 11th day
after she was quite comfortable, & is now, ap-
parently, recovering - It was brought on I think
by extra labor in the kitchen Saturday forenoon
The rest of us are well, & as this is "Valentine's
day" - Mary Robt is quite busy with her pen -
B. Putnam, is here to see his wife & son, both in
good health - will return in 2 or 3 weeks - much
love to yourself, John & the children - mother will write
as soon as she is able - your affectionate S. P. Hildreth

self the handsomest kind
under the sun Poorfoot!
Mr. Cutler's family are
all well, except that Julia's
not to be oset done by my
wife, has very badly sprained
her ankle. Marion Robert-
son has a very bad cold
so as to keep her room.
Little Anne and Sarah
look very well and very
pretty. Mr. Cutler's R. R.
finds good custom etc.
Old Mr. Bailey is dead!
Williams has a very lame
leg; and Tom still goes
it Bachelor like on crutches.
It seems ^{are} ~~are~~ still in the
U. S. A. What do you think
of Fort Sumter? will they fight
You may answer that six
months hence. They will still
be threatening. Affectionately
D. B. Cooper

Constitution Nov. 12/61
Sir John 1st.

I was at Dr. Hildreth's
last Saturday. Mrs. Keil
with, and Mary Ross gave
me ample entertainment
Dr. Hildreth, D.D. and Sir
George, came in; and then
our Committee of the whole
being complete of the whole
being complete, I enjoyed
the hour, as I always do when
at, what I will call, Mrs.
Hildreth's Loose. Miss Mary
was making, what I think they
called Tattling; I don't find
the word in Webster; so he must
write another Dictionary, and
give the picture of Mary, spina-
ting, so as to produce the mys-
terious little ornament.
The intention of the whole
concern, was to assist in

Maggie's Cutler is clumsy and pretty.

creating a fund, to help
to sustain Miss Fay in
keeping a charity school!
The Old Dr. was a going to
give his Grand-daughter, a
dollar for a certain amount
of cutting; and that dollar
was then to go into the chari-
ty fund. It seemed to me
to be a scientific interprise
of much more importance
than Spirit rappings, or
Phrenology, or Ephraim Jenkin-
son's Cosmogony; or, as it
now is called Geology.
Dr. Hildreth is nimble as well
Mrs. Hildreth is just as smooth
as eels; and Dr. George ap-
pears as studious as eels,
and Mary looks as much
like her Grand Mother as
eels.

Mrs. Newton and her two

boys appear remarkably healthy
and fine. I think I never
saw your Aunt Jane, look
better.

Little Linn is still going
to school in ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{Mrs. Dawes} ~~the~~ ^{school}
says she is doing finely,
and I guess she is; though
Mrs. Dawes says that of al-
most every body's good
woman!

Your aunt, and cousin
in Maggie, are pretty well;
though your aunt's knee
has not got well yet, and
Maggie sometimes has
the head ache. Williams
and Kate, still render
us very good assistance.
Gubelo is getting old, but
does duty pretty well yet.
The peacock still struts in
the yard; and thinks him

[15 March 1861]

Know all men by these presents that we William
T. Nicholls, and Frances A. Nicholls his wife of the
town of Ashland, County of Boyd and State of Kentucky, for the
sum of One hundred and seventy five dollars and
ninety eight cents (\$175⁹⁸/₁₀₀) to us paid by John
Means of the town, county and state aforesaid, the
receipt whereof we do acknowledge; do hereby sell and con-
vey to said John Means his heirs and assigns for-
ever all that parcel of land in the county and
state aforesaid, bounded and described as follows
namely, beginning at a stake, in the back line
of the fifty (50) acres lot sold by Matthew Bellamy
to the Kentucky Iron Coal and Manufacturing Comp-
any; from which an Oak stump bears N 70° W 13 Links
thence South forty eight degrees West (S 48° W) sixty
nine (69) poles twenty three (23) links to a stake in
front line of the Wilkes 35 Acres from which an
Oak stump bears S 20° W, 24 Links, thence with
said line South Thirty seven and one half degrees
East (S 37½ E) fifteen (15) poles twenty three (23) links to,
a stake, from which a Beech bears S 70° E 9 Links
thence North forty eight degrees East (N 48° E) seventy one
(71) Poles to a stake in the first named line, from
which a Beech bears S 48° W, 13 Links, thence with
said line North forty one and one half degrees West
(N 41½ W) fifteen poles twenty (22) Links to
beginning, containing seven (7) Acres more or
less, to have and to hold said premises to the
said John Means his heirs and assigns their use
and behoof forever, And we the said

Over.

William J. and Frances A. Nichols, do warrant and defend the same to said John Means his heirs and assigns forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons claiming by through or under us.

In testimony of which we have herunto set our hands and seals this the fifteenth (15) day of March — in the year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred and sixty one (1861).

W. J. Nichols { Seal }
State of Kentucky }
F. A. Nichols { Seal }
Boyd County } Scts

I J. M. Ridy clerk of the Boyd County Court and state aforesaid do hereby certify that the ~~following~~ ^{foregoing} deed of conveyance from W. J. and Frances A. Nichols to John Means was this day acknowledged by the said W. J. and Frances A. Nichols ^{his wife} to be their act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth. Whereupon said deed together with this certificate have been duly recorded in my office. Given under my hand this 15th day of March 1861.
J. M. Ridy C/S

Deed }
Wm J. Nichols wife }
John Means.

Acknowledged in full
And filed for record
this 15th day of March
1861. J. M. Ridy, c/s

Recorded in Deed
Book No 1 Page 114
and Examined

File No 160 1/2 by J. M. Ridy

now - no preaching for a month or more
not even a reading meeting - Mr Bayless
is some better though & I hope may be
able to preach some before long -

Mr Burgess & John Corcoran & Mr
Burgess always gives me the last news
from you - His last letter was a
description of his last call on you
attending Mrs Lilliths letter - He called it
& contained a full account of Mary Boss
making tating - I think her Grandpa
had better send the dollars worth down
to me after he buys it of her - I should
have more use for it than he would -

Give my love to Father George & May -
And write soon to your aff
Father -

Ashland March 30, 1861

My Dear Mother -

It is Saturday night and
about time for me to be going to bed - but
I think I must write you a very few
lines to let you know that I and my
numerous family are all well - I should
have written to you before - but I have
been so very busy in that very interesting
business of housecleaning and after I
had nearly completed that Mrs. Adams
and Little May Means came up and
made us a visit and since they
have left us - I have been in a terrible
way making Lilliths clothes for
Spring & Summer - I am putting him
into waists & fly jackets instead of
sacques which he has worn all winter
I have borrowed patterns of Mrs Boals,
and have some quite pretty ones - I
also borrowed the pattern of her boys little
breeches - which fit to the waists better
than the pattern which you cut

Last Spring - which I have been using
ever since you cut it - I am getting
economical lately and make his common
breeches out of his old ones & find by a
little continuing I can get him out quite
nice ones - He wears them out so fast it
seems I do nothing else but make little breeches
its a good thing I havent four boys -
I wish every day you were here to help me plan
if I only once could get patterns to fit why
then I could go ahead - I wish you would
cut me out the pattern of that little blue
fly jacket Hilark Cross was wearing when
I was home last fall and send it to me
in a letter - I think it was different from any
worn here & very pretty - I am afraid I shall
go crazy on fly jackets if I dont get him
fixed before long - I am very sorry you
continue so weak & feeble - I feel very
anxious to see you this ~~spring~~ spring
I didnt suppose though until your last
letter that there was any hopes of your
visiting me this spring - I supposed
if I saw you at all I should have to
go to Manilla myself - and it seems
quite an undertaking - though I

Suppose if I could get off with Emily
and the babies and stay a week with
you - John & Pat & Biddy could get along
if I could get a woman to keep house &
watch Pat & Biddy - Belle says she would
keep Bessie - still I would be most afraid
to risk it - and I should feel afraid
of your coming on the boat while you are
so weak - I will make John go home
with you though - or if he cant, I will -
I would not have you go home alone again
as you did last year - possibly George or
Lester might be induced to accompany
you - or Aunt Lane Newton will likely
be coming down this spring - Tell Mary
that if she comes I will make her a party
party and Grandma one too - having
the Oyster Supper for the twins got my
hand in you see so it will come easy -
You must write me your plans and
what you think we will be able to do -
whether you can come to see me or
whether I shall have to go and see you -
Tell Father our crocuses are now in full bloom
peach trees are blooming today -
Tomorrow is Sunday & we have dry times

We had a letter yesterday from Mary Smith
saying that she should leave Springfield Ill.
for Mo. on the second or sixth so she may be here soon.
I say nothing at present about visiting, but we will
decide on that, at some future period. Mary Goff
has had what you may call the double yells since
she read your letter - she has just been in & says
so write to Aunt Fattie not to come here for I want to come
down so much, I have got my heart so set on it, & then to
think of losing that party is more than I can bear,
any how I will go home with her if he does come up.

I was much amused with Mr. Burgess's love here as he
did not stop to eat with us, the the only guest, but
we know that he is a host of himself.

Miss Maria's H. I expect is well, as they are shaking
caspets over this, & I guess they need it as the dust is
flying as high as the smoke from a steam boat.

Our garden is looking finely, in prospect of apples
and pears, quinces also. Mr. Tenney is going East which
I regret very much on the children's account. He will come
here for the present if then I can get the pattern for you.

Much love to all. Yours, L. W. Hildreth

Yours
myself
myself

Harriet April 5 - 1861.

My dear Fattie,

I received your letter last
evening, was very happy to hear that you are
all still blessed with good health.

I think more about than as that dreadful
complaint prevails the Diphtheria.
It is abating here, tho' some cases still, in Helps
& Warren. I am told it is prevailing with the adults, &
leaving the children. I have a great dread
of it, O what would you do if it should attack your
children? it must be heartrending to parents to see them
suffer so much.

My health is poor yet, & particularly at this
time, as I have a very severe cold, which brings
on Neuralgia pains in my head, so between
sneezing & using my handkerchief I can write
a few lines, not saying anything about overseeing
workhands. you will think we are very shoe hands to

clean house when I tell you that we are still engaged in that beautiful employment; but we are giving it some of the last touches; such as furnishing, repainting, white washing etc.

The girls thought that they could paper our eating room if I would get them some paper and they got it completed yesterday & it looks very nice; yesterday I had four wash hands to oversee, two girls & two white washes one inside & the other out "I suppose your father thought it would be as good as medicine for me" as he knows my partiality for the fine arts.

I had to dismiss Mary for a few days since we commenced on this account of cold weather & snow storms.

You know I like to commence early as we are so liable to company in the spring; even yesterday when Billy Green was white washing my sitting room in came a whole mess of babies from the before we could get the steps out of the room; I took a rainy day to clean the room to avoid company.

O, I must not forget to tell you of a visit I had last week, it was Monday Morn. the girls were just making arrangements for washing, & I was partly dreg'd "as I had not been able to go down to breakfast with the family since I was sick" — when Bob Williams and his new wife arrived, to spend a few days with us.

He had been married nearly three years & had a great wish that we should see her, but never could make it convenient before. he was nearly 40 years old when they were married & she was not quite 30. a very interesting & pretty girl as we may call her with her hair curled in her neck which made her appear still more graceful, & she dresses very neatly, & would appear well in any company, quite intelligent; we all like her very much, your father thought he had not seen so interesting a lady for a long time; I don't know when I have seen a couple that appeared so fond of each other; he said if he had made her himself he could not have made her so suit him better. She has improved him, he appears much better. We had a very pleasant visit on both sides, enjoyed it very much. You must tell of that."

I am going to Newton Monday to
try and get some kind of a bonnet
or my old one renewed - We have so
little preaching lately I shant spend
much on it till I cant go backheaded
till May I have not got my new
summer house made yet but will
try & have it done ~~in~~ in May in
time for her visit -

Aunt Jane Newton has probably given
you all the news in regard to
us - as she made us a flying visit
Poor Maggie Coles had a doleful
time - sick nearly all her visit
she got well enough to spend one
day with me & that made her
sick again - Much love to Father
I wish he could be coaxed to come
with you - love to George - Mary &c -
Write soon to yours by Hattie -

Ashland April 13th 1861

My Dear Mother
I was very happy
to receive a letter from you yesterday
and find you still improving in
~~health~~ health and hope by the time
this reaches you, you will be enjoying
your usual health - I feel so
anxious to know which of us
is to be visiting this ~~spring~~ ^{spring}
that I write again immediately
so if you have made your
mind up, and come to any
definite conclusion on the subject
you can please let me know -
it is now the middle of April
and if you come to see me

or I to see you, on your account &
and on the babies account & she
isn't falling in June - we ought
to choose the month of May -
As the heat of the boat made you
sick last year - I would not like
to have you risk it or the babies either
in June - Perhaps if Cousin Mary
Merrith is with you she can come
down with you & help take care of you
on the boat - I could accommodate you
all well, and would be very happy to
have her make me a visit - or if
she wants to spend all her spare time
in Manitoba she might keep house
for you while you & Mary ^{stay} come - &
if Cousin Mary can't come with you
maybe Rita Woodbridge would come
~~along~~ & stay a few days if she
couldn't stay as long as you do
and George might come after you or
John or I would go home with you
but if all these plans wont work

why I want you to let me know
so that I can come up & see you
I could not stay but a short time
but I could bring Emily & the babies
up on the Cricket - & try & find some
body to keep house for John & Tommy
Fildouth & leave Bessie with Belle
I shall have some sewing to do this
spring though I intend not to hurry
but take it easy - I have been out
shopping this afternoon & bought
clothes for the children & - so now I
have nine dresses to make for the babies
Bessie is to have five new ones - & four
right new waists and four new pair of
buckles - besides the ten pair I made
last summer some of which can be altered
over - Mrs. Adams sent him up
last night ~~me~~ an entire suit of her
little Lons clothes of last summer which
fit him perfectly & will be splendid
patterns besides bring nice for him
to wear - I was delighted to get them -

and they were very much frightened
but the Ablandites had no other idea
Give my love to Mr John George
& Mary and write soon to yours aff
Hattie

Ashland Wednesday April 24th 1861

My Dear Mother
I have been putting
off answering your last letter, thinking
I should soon visit you, it was
hardly worth while to write - But
since there is so much war & rumors
of war - John feels afraid to have me
start on a boat by myself, for
fear the boat might be fitted into
& pushed by one side of the river or the
other - or that I might have some trouble
in getting home - So I suppose I
shall have to wait a week or two
longer until we see how things will
turn out - John has been blue
enough for a few days - If Kentucky
secedes - he expects he will lose all
he is worth & will have to leave
here & go somewhere else to live -

If she don't succeed, there is a little
more hope for us though we shall
still lose a good deal - John
thought if we had to go away he would
send us up somewhere about Jamesville
and board us on a farm - Granville
he thought would be as apt to have
fighting going on, in & around her as
Ashland would be - The two Mrs Magrath
& their children & Mr & Mrs Martin left this
afternoon to go to the interior of Ohio to
stay with their friends till the danger
is over. John has wanted me to be
ready to start at an hour's notice
with every thing packed that I could
take with me of clothing for the family
but I am hoping to night that things
may not be quite so bad as we fear.
Uncle Hugh has just returned from
a trip to the interior of Kentucky
and reports that they seem strong
for the Union every where he had
been - a company of secession troops
from Cynthiana passed through

Frankfort and were ordered there
& no more will be allowed to pass
through there at all - Gov. Magrath
is drunk most of the time - thinks
now he will keep the state neutral
& not fight on either side nor let
troops of either party pass through the
state - we are hoping much he
will continue of this mind -
I want very much to see you and
hope that in a few days things will
be more settled so that I might come
& stay a few days with you -
I suppose Marshall & like Ashland &
nothing done but talking over there -
John hardly eats or sleeps he has
been so discouraged - but tonight he
feels a little better - We have the
home guards here & regiment has joined
The people of Wornton part been in a
great excitement - 300 have volunteered
they had a big fight a few nights
ago some body told them that Ashland
people were coming over to mob them

Linton Apr. 27-1861

Dear John
I have yours of yesterday.
I rec'd today 4 Revolvers - 3 Navy
and 1 Gasket - All good weap-
ons - You will please come down in
the morning and I will let you
have what I can spare -

They are wanted here - They shoot
well having been tried this p.m.

Yrs haste

W. Means

excited about the war there
Talk + think of nothing else - Mother
Means had read newspapers day
& night till she ~~was~~ could hardly
see - + Mary Ann had one sore
eye - I must not forget to tell
you that the babies are now walking
Rose walks very well but Lily still
walks as if she were "a little tight"
Rose has walked a week - + Lily three
or four days - Our monthly roses
are blooming now for the first time
and also the white peony they
are all of them covered with flowers
our grass seed we sowed has all
come up pepper grass + other weeds -
with one in a while a ^{small} tuft of grass
mixed in - but we have a splendid yard
full of weeds they are high enough to mow
Give my love to Sarah Lorch + Rita +
tell them now the boats are coming
& seem likely to run I want them to
come + make me a visit - Love
to Father, George + Mary - Yours
Hattie

Ashland June 1 1861-

My Dear Mother

I must write
you a few lines this afternoon
to keep you informed of our
wellfare - though I don't think you
keep the bargain, of writing once
a week, very well - but I suppose
as you have been visiting in
the country I must excuse you -
Hilarkh must have enjoyed the trip
very much - I was very glad to
hear that Mr Ross had concluded
to send him to Mr Maywells - I
should think it would be a good
place for him this summer and
he likes to stay there so well -
Ashland is as quiet now as if there
was no such thing as war - It

would be rather more interesting to
be when there was a little more
excitement. We have sent off some
volunteers - forty ^{from the county} I believe, though I am
not certain - any how four of them
have come back again because they
couldn't all be Captain - I pitied
one poor fellow. he + his girl were
wishing to be married the morning that
they started, but they were not able
to get a license + parson, they were so
hurried for time - so she had to
go without being married + the girl
was in great distress about it -

The Home Guards have just received
two hundred guns so I suppose they
will have more fun drilling - than
they have had without them -

Belle + Mrs. Nicholls have had a
political discussion and got quite
"by the ears" - Belle is strong for the
union + Mrs Nicholls is rather on
the secession side though she don't

like to acknowledge it -

I am invited to a tea party this
afternoon at Mrs. Bartons -
On Wednesday I attended a
fish dinner - at the Hotel given
by Mr. Bay - we had a nice
time ~~and~~ nearly all the Ladies
in town were invited + most
of them were present - I suppose
you would not care about attending
a fish dinner, as you had
enough at our house once to last
you all your life time -

I made calls yesterday and among
the rest at Mrs Charles Wilson who
inquired most particularly after
you + sent her love - + showed me
the "Lactonia" which she still has
growing in for you the house is
surrounded with flowers + bird
cages + looks quite romantic -
I had a very pleasant visit at
Lark (Means - They are much

Ashland May 8th 1861-

Dearest Mother

According to request
I write you a few lines to let you
know I have safely arrived at
home - I reached Ashland at
Midnight and found John
waiting for me on the wharf
he reached Parkersburg about
dark - Sam introduced me to
the Capt. of the Ferry boat &
he put me in the care of a
nice young man who saw me
safely on the Ohio - The bank
at Parkersburg was horribly muddy
and I had a hard time to get
on to the boat - The Ohio laid
at Parkersburg until midnight
and took on 1700 barrels of

Coal oil - and at Pomeroy
we made an everlasting long
stay also - Mr & Mrs Jones &
their daughter Mrs. Fisher were
on the boat & we became quite
intimate - two young ladies for
Ashland and of course at
Gallipolis - Judge Wash came
on & gallanted me out to tea -
Mrs Wash was with him this
time - I found them all well
at home - seeming to have
got along without any quarreling
the babies look beautifully in
their new hats Bessie has
been parading in her union brocade
this morning - Gus has been
reading his new picture book &
hugging round his new stockings
I think I shall go out to Star
Luncheon tomorrow & down to Father
means next week - My housekeeper

has made me a dress - But a
jacket - the babies three dresses
finished - so I have got more
done than if I had been at home
sewing all the time myself -
Love to Father - George & Mary
& remember me to Sam Putnam
if you see him again -
I think it is a kind of an aggravation
to go home I feel so badly
always to come away again -
Lawson I suppose I ought to be
thankful that I was allowed
even so short a glimpse of
Paradise - Give my love to
Sis Nye & Peta & tell Sarah ^{my} I was
sorry I had not gone in to bid
her good bye as I would have
had plenty of time - the cars did
not leave for more than half an
hour after we got on them -
Write soon to your Father -

ladies would surely all be by the
ears with each other by dark -
I wish if Father has time & he would
write to Aunt Day & find out for certain
if Mrs Jeff Davis & Mrs Beauregard are
spending the summer in Salem -
Mrs Nichols & Mrs Wris would not believe
it - & I want the word straight from
Salem - Tell Father we are having
the Army worm here - We had a
splendid field of wheat this year
but while John was gone last week
the Army worm got into the field &
it is nearly ruined I am afraid they
will get into the garden next -
We are having very warm weather
now - The children & Emily & I sit
out doors all the afternoon when it
gets shady - The babies walk & begin
to talk - Old says "How are do" & Lily
by by - they talk plain what they do say -
Give my love to Father, George & Mary -
& write soon & please send Bend address -
Yours aff
Hattie

that we saw & long & many days
- oh how in the evening yet -

Ashland June 15/1861

My Dear Mother

I write you a
few lines this morning to let you
know we are all well and that
Bessie and I are very much
obliged for the "railroad hose"
which came safely in your
last letter - They fit to perfection
and look so cool & comfortable
that I would not object to a few
more of the same sort - Tell Mary
Ann she had better knit some
for the babies - I never had seen any
before & couldn't imagine what
they were till I read the letter -
John was in a great hurry ^{for me} to write
as he wants you to please to send
him, Benjamin Putnam's post office
address - I never can remember it & he
wants ~~to~~ ^{to} write to him about

some land of his father in Iowa
You must be having gay times
in Manitta with so many soldiers
I think I should enjoy being there to
see the fun - Mrs. Nye + Mrs. Andrews
battle was quite amusing - But you
didn't tell me whether Mrs. Cadwallader
resigned or not - I want to know -
Pita wrote to me that Mr. Slack had been
sick ten days but she did not say
whether he died or not - please write
to me if he is dead - I pity Fanny if
it is so - Will Sarah Lovell spend the
summer? I do wish she + Pita could
come to see me - The Cricket is
running now - you might let Mary
Boss come down + see me -
We are having very quiet times in
Ashland so quiet that we can
hardly realize the excited state of
the country in other places - The
nearest war we can come to fighting
is to get up small fights among

ourselves - ~~It~~ I have kept clear
so far but Belle + Mrs. Nicholls
have had a political discussion
so warm that they hardly speak
now - Belle on the Union side +
Mrs. Nicholls + Drusey for secession
Whoree owns any darkie here, seem
to think they must be for secession
or at least "they have their sympathies
with the south" - Mrs. Nicholls thinks
that she is unpopular + thinks she
won't call much this summer for
fear people won't want to see her -
She says most everybody in Ashland
is from the free states - I thought
the town pretty equally divided but
she says not - I would not dare
to give a large party now, for fear
the ladies would all get into a free
fight - It is a blessed thing we
have no sewing circle - We would
hardly dare to get up a picnic
party for the fourth of July for the

Mrs. Andrews, seems to be bringing herself into
 practice daily. "Mrs. Ward accepted of the President's office
 that she is to leave on Monday for the East so I suppose that
 Mrs. C. can take it again." - She had a fight with J. Crav
 in greater battle with Dr. Cotton, she came very near spitting in
 his face. J. C. has been very sick & Mrs. Nye hasn't had an
 opportunity to finish her battle with her, as she intends to do
 she told me last night, she is not going to have her rule the town
 I believe I told you about Mrs. W. Thomas, battle with her
 But the ground fight was on Wednesday up at the hospital
 she spoke in to Mrs. George Woodbridge, & she got her
 match there she gave her as good as she sent. I wish you
 could hear Mrs. W. tell the story, it beats all the battles
 that we have had since she was common to. If she keeps on
 I think she will make the observation good that Mrs. Ward
 was overheard to make once at a party, to his house, as Mrs. A.
 entered the room Mrs. Dana asked who that lady was Mrs. W. answered
 Mrs. D. the lady one that quarrelled with almost every lady in town.
 Hatty, is as well as here on a visit. His L. spent an hour with me last eve.
 She is gaining, & looks quite like herself, says she would like
 very much to visit you. Love to all Affectionately yours. Mother

Dear Mother
 I received your letter yesterday, was
 very happy to hear that you & your family are still blessed with
 good health which is one of the choicest of the mercies blessings.
 The weather with us for a few days past has been very
 oppressive which makes me feel very weak - other wise
 I should be quite comfortable. The thermometer stood at 98 yesterday.
 It is so warm now that I shall condense my topics in as
 short sentences as possible, as I have so many things to touch upon.
 In the first place Lucy Smith's children have the whooping
 cough, three of the youngest ones, her health is very poor
 so she took Mary & they have gone over the mountains
 to spend the summer. Maria keeps little Lucy with her these
 the day, but it troubles her Mother so much that she takes her home
 nights. Mr. Smith is trying to stay in Cincinnati, he came up since
 Lucy left & is here now, perhaps he thinks it is as well to have
 one of the family at home, & assisted in the night to see to the children
 it takes all kinds of people they pay to me. I do. What would induce
 you to so near under such circumstances.

My dear Hattie;
 I received your letter yesterday, was
 very happy to hear that you & your family are still blessed with
 good health which is one of the choicest of the mercies blessings.
 The weather with us for a few days past has been very
 oppressive which makes me feel very weak - other wise
 I should be quite comfortable. The thermometer stood at 98 yesterday.
 It is so warm now that I shall condense my topics in as
 short sentences as possible, as I have so many things to touch upon.
 In the first place Lucy Smith's children have the whooping
 cough, three of the youngest ones, her health is very poor
 so she took Mary & they have gone over the mountains
 to spend the summer. Maria keeps little Lucy with her these
 the day, but it troubles her Mother so much that she takes her home
 nights. Mr. Smith is trying to stay in Cincinnati, he came up since
 Lucy left & is here now, perhaps he thinks it is as well to have
 one of the family at home, & assisted in the night to see to the children
 it takes all kinds of people they pay to me. I do. What would induce
 you to so near under such circumstances.

But I have brought me out here so many things, I am sure
that the end of our address should be "gentlemen and ladies"
and I have written on the envelope "gentlemen and ladies"
and I have written on the envelope "gentlemen and ladies"

John's twin have the whooping cough too.

The war excitement does not diminish at all here:
I wish sometimes that you could be here with your
family just to see our town & see how scarcely could realize
that you were in our quiet Narragansett. I know the men
would enjoy seeing them as well as the rest: Men, women & children
are almost crazy. - Sarah is up bright & early to get her work done
so that she can be ready to see any new arrivals or departures.

I will give you a little history of the week "the troops
were all called off after day from Camp Pettaquamscutt. Sunday quiet.
Monday Noon: ^{1,040} landed wanted breakfast, they were
expected, so they were prepared for them; they were all Germans.
they caused a great excitement from that class of course.

They had a good many old veterans among them that had
been in several battles in their Country, & their tactics were
so different from ours they caused large crowds to see them
manoeuvring; they had a shame fight & took George Wells's
Crossed flag, that he brought up from the death that he had to
sail under there to save "the ship" - Tuesday Noon they had orders
to march in a great line which you could have seen them

as they came down Pettaquamscutt. 11. 3 am on 5 horses to each
two or three on the horses with haverlocks flying in the wind
& they almost flying too. baggage wagons, with all their
equipments & provision etc. Soldiers marching, drums beating,
such a sight as I never saw before, they had more than
100 horses, the railcars & two steamboats took them away.

The same evening about sundown great booming of
cannon, all the rest run again, here were 11. 11. boats coming
loaded with troops; such a sight was never seen in Narragansett
& one boat still behind which made out the 12 gave a most "boom".
Charles Barker was with them, Capt. of a Company he came
& dined with us the next day; in about an hour orders came
for them to march, & all the Cars & some of the boats & away
they went. - the other boats were left here for more troops from
the West that were expected last night; part came in the
night & they had to send the Cars back for the remainder as it
is said there were 5,000. - 12. 12. carried to our hospital.
Bro. Mack died at the time you heard of his sickness, he
was buried the same day Mrs Cotton was, Chad Colden he
took tea with us that afternoon; he has gone down there for
good. ^{from} _{the} ^{place} _{of} ^{his} _{burial}

Barber's time given to the Museum

Dear Sir
July 5 - 1841

Mr. T. P. Means

Dear Sir

The night you left
I was taken quite ill and have only
to day been out of the house since I called
on Mr. Hughes and he informed me he
had this day written the Bank that he
would lend them 10 Thousand Dollars
for one year at 10 percent with conditions
that what he now holds of the Bank's paper
is additionally secured I saw Mr. Kinney
and submitted to him your proposition
as to 6 months with proposals to the latter
he decidedly objected and to the former
did not give a direct answer I did
not push him on this point as I know it
would not suit your purpose Mr. Latham
of Whittier had offered Kinney his claim
on your Bank of some 4500 Dollars at 20 and 25
percent discount This might have had

some influence I leave on Monday
for Cleveland if my health permits
and expect to be gone 10 days or 2 weeks
If you from the amt^t from Hughes will
assure your present purposes and in
the meantime should any thing, favorable
occur I will advise you

Y^rs
Yours
David Sinton

getting hard to tell who is on the
Union side here - where either they
or their grandfathers were owned a
darker - then their sympathies are sure
to be for the South - if they don't dare say
they are not for the Union -

Mr Stinson paid Father a very hard
some compliment in the Register
so there was one dinner you got well
paid for - If Judge Wash did as well
Father would have been vain by this time -
I wish I was in Manilla to eat
Huckleberries they ask 40 cents a gallon
here for them which is most too high
for war times - Blackberries are selling
for ten & fifteen cents a gallon I have
made a good quantity of Blackberry
Jelly - I wish you could come &
make me a visit this fall - Money
is so much plentier in Manilla
than here that you might come
easy & it seems such an undertaking
to bring all the babies & nurses &c -
If you can come down you & May on
the Cricket I think the trip would do
you good - Write & tell me how Mrs
Andrews & Mrs Pyles battle terminated -
Love to Father George & Mary yours
Hattie

Father reading the Home News
wonder how they get the Home News
-

Ashland July 12 - 1861 -

My Dear Mother

I believe I have
been owing you a letter for some
time but I have not written
hoping for something interesting
to write about - but as nothing
seems to happen in our quiet town
I may as well write and let you
know we are well - which is the
best news after all - I believe I
have the healthiest children in
Ashland this summer none of
them have been sick at all - and
the paragonic bottle has had a fine
rest - The babies are cutting teeth too
still it does not make them sick
in the least - They eat but very
little but I only supply the most
of their living - which accounts for their

good health I think - We had a little excitement here day before yesterday when six boats of Union Soldiers passed on their way up the river I did not hear of it only in time to see two of them - John was away & I could not imagine what the shooting & firing was about until I went over to Uncle Fights & found that + Aunt Amanda & I rushed down to the river & had the pleasure of waving our handkerchiefs to two Steamboats. They looked very pretty & I could imagine how grand it must have been when the eleven boats all came in to Marietta at once. We were glad to see these soldiers as they are going after McClellans Secession camp & he has vowed to burn all the houses on the Ohio river as far down as Portsmouth & we would be much pleased to hear of his hanging -

Yesterday volunteers from the gunnaces & here left, and they had an exciting time again - Some Guards parading with them &c - What does Father think of the war now? When I saw him in April he thought the matter would be settled by a peaceful separation this fall - I think he must certainly have changed his mind by this time & gone back to his old belief that the Union cannot be divided - Has Douglas & Sam Putnam gone yet to the war? & what regiments are they in? - We are getting to have so many Secession Ladies here now - that it is really getting to be disagreeable - One cant help discussing war news when they meet a lady & then to have them take up the Secession side makes me awful wroth - The Ohio Ladies are all right yet and a few Kentuckians - but its

They all felt his death as much as if he had been a relation, at Father Means - Belle's girl that had been sick at her house so long, died about ~~three~~ four days before him - She had been in the family ~~seven~~ nine years & they felt her death very much too - Belle is a very strong Union woman she says she dont want a secessionist to come into her house no dont want to go to see one. So Mrs. Nicholls & Drusey & several other ladies will, I suppose have to keep away. The young man that was engaged to Esther Means has volunteered & will start with a company of a hundred on Monday - Last week Friday I went out to Star Furnace to see Mag Sampson I had not seen her before for some time & have not been to see her for five years. I went out in the morning & came home in the evening. Mr & Mrs. Nicholls went with me. I ~~went~~ left John & the children at home. I enjoyed the trip very much & ~~we~~ came back the same evening - Mag is living in a very nice house now & has

You dont say whether you could visit me this fall or not - I would see you come down with Mary - I would see you here I could leave John children for two or three days to no that.

Ashland July 27th 1861.

My Dear Mother

I was very happy to receive a letter from you again and sorry to hear that you have been sick - I was in hopes you would be able to pass through the summer without any illness - We were very sorry to hear of the defeat of the Union men in the great battle lately at Manassas Belle & old Mrs Wilson came in to see me, & were both crying about it - I didnt think it worth while to cry though, hoping for better luck next time - We felt last week ^{last} like we were almost in a battle ourselves - having the Guyandotte and Barboursville fight so near us - only sixteen miles off -

So many of the Boston & Ashland
men went up to see the fun -
and some of the ladies went up one
day to see how Guyanotta looked
after the secessionists were cleaned out -
Mrs. Haskell gave an amusing account
to me of her visit to the camp -
she said there were chickens heads
& feathers from the river to the
camp a mile off - The soldiers
helping out their breakfast with
very chicken, duck & Turkey they could
catch in the region - Among the
rest of the subjugated was Mrs. Nicholls
sister Mrs. Smith - she let her tongue
loose on the soldiers, called them
abolitionists, & black republicans &
abused them & to pay her for it
the soldiers went in her house tore
up her silk dresses, broke up her silver
spoons cut up her bacon ham
smashed her furniture & broke out
the windows & banged up every thing

as much as they could - Mrs. Nicholls
thought it was dreadful - but I thought
it served her right - The ladies there
whose husbands were secessionists
& who were polite to the soldiers were
not disturbed except to search their
houses for weapons - I believe the
officer told her they would pay her
for the damages - but they ought not to -
another ^{Grand} secessionist lady who is visiting
her sister here in town has got to be
a very good union woman since she
has been scared off -
We were very sorry to hear of the death of
John Robbins a young man who
Father Means raised & who has been
in their family for ten or twelve years
I believe - he volunteered a two months
or so ago - he came home on a visit
^{left} on Wednesday & Sunday night was shot
in the head by some of his own company
in the dark - owing to a false alarm
thinking the secessionists were upon them

every thing very nice about here
a good garden, plenty of fruit &
Yesterday John took Elizabeth &
me down to Father Means &
spent the day, & came home at evening
Father & Mother Means were at home,
but Mary Anne & Lane & May had gone
for blackberries & did not return
while we were there I was so sorry
not to see them & they would be so
miss us. They dont talk of any thing
else down here but the war
Mother Means nearly spoiled her
eyes reading so many newspapers
She is afraid to come over on the
Kentucky side for fear we will
succeed while she is here -
I dont believe the war troubles you
much in Manitta - you never say
any thing about money being
scarce there - here half the people
cant get enough to pay their hired
girls - in Fronton girls are getting

Less wages + some from the Country
are working for their board + clothes -
When the babies are wanted I shall try
getting along with Emily alone but expect
it will be hard work! The children
all keep well - The babies are beginning
to talk - Mary Ross would have a
heap of fun with them now - I believe
they will talk sooner now than Hildeth
+ Bessie - Tell Mary that Biddy
is expecting a letter from her in answer
to one she wrote her - Has Lucy Smith
returned yet? - and how does Maria come
on nursing the little whooping coughers -
Tell Sis Nye not to leave Manetta
unless she leaves it ^{to} come + see me
+ not to worry about Lot he is doing
well enough - I was amused hearing about
Mrs Jackson + Mrs Lovell maybe they
will be good Union women yet - What
does Father still think about the
Union that it ^{can} or it can't be divided? -
I asked you in my last letter but you
didn't tell me - I was sorry to hear
that the prospect of a baby boy at Prescott
was a mistake - I am afraid the Hildeth
name will run out, yet - Give my love to
Father George + Mary + write soon to yours
Hattie

19 Aug 1861

Know all men by these presents that we David D. Keizer and Anne his wife of the county of Boyd and State of Kentucky for and in consideration of the sum of Fourteen hundred and fifty three (\$1453⁰⁰/₁₀₀) dollars to us in hand paid the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell, and convey, to Thomas McMeane, of the county of Lawrence and State of Ohio, his heirs and assigns forever, all our right title and interest in and to Six (6) lots in the town of Ferrispolis, County of Boyd and State of Kentucky, marked and numbered on the plat of said town as follows, one numbered fifty five (55), one numbered forty one (41) one numbered twenty nine (29) one numbered twenty five (25) one numbered sixteen (16) one numbered eleven (11) bounded and described as follows - namely - Lot numbered fifty five, (55) beginning at a stake in line of Center Street one hundred and twenty (120) feet Northerly from the Northerly corner of Center and Buena Vista streets, thence with the line of Center Street Northerly Sixty (60) feet to a stake, thence easterly one hundred (100) feet to a stake in line of Front Street, thence with Front Street Southerly Sixty (60) feet to a stake, thence Westerly one hundred (100) feet to beginning, - Lot numbered forty one (41) beginning at Westerly corner of Center & Buena Vista Streets, thence with Buena Vista Street Westerly one hundred (100) feet to the Northerly corner of Buena Vista Street and Diamond Alley thence with Diamond Alley Northerly Sixty (60) feet to a stake, thence Easterly one hundred (100) feet to line of Center Street, thence with Center Street Southerly sixty (60) feet to beginning - Lot numbered twenty nine (29) beginning at the Westerly corner of Buena Vista Street and Diamond Alley thence with Buena Vista Street Westerly one hundred (100) feet to the Northerly corner of Broadway and Buena Vista Street, thence with Broadway Street Northerly Sixty (60) feet to a stake, thence Easterly one hundred (100) feet to Diamond Alley, thence with Diamond Alley Southerly sixty (60) feet to beginning - Lot numbered twenty five (25) beginning at the Westerly corner of Washington Street and Diamond Alley, thence with

Over

Washington Street Westward one hundred (100) feet to the Northernly corner of Broadway
 and Washington Streets, thence with Broadway Street Northernly Sixty (60)
 feet to a stake, thence Easterly one hundred (100) feet to Diamond Alley, thence
 with Diamond Alley Southernly Sixty (60) feet to beginning—, Lot num-
 bered Sixteen (16) beginning at the Southernly corner of Broadway
 and Buena Vista Streets thence with Broadway Street Southernly Sixty
 (60) feet to a stake, thence Westward one hundred and Sixty (160) feet to Chestnut
 Street, thence with Chestnut Street Northernly Sixty (60) feet to the Easterly corner of
 Buena Vista & Chestnut Streets, thence with Buena Vista Street, Easterly
 One hundred and Sixty (160) feet to beginning—, Lot numbered Eleven
 (11) beginning at a stake on Westward side of Broadway Street one hundred
 and twenty (20) feet Northernly from the Westward corner of Reiger and
 Broadway Streets, thence Westward one hundred and Sixty (160) feet to Chest-
 nut Street, thence with Chestnut Street Northernly Sixty (60) feet to a stake
 thence Easterly one hundred and Sixty (160) feet to Broadway Street—
 thence with Broadway Street Southernly Sixty (60) feet to beginning; and
 all the estate title and interest of the said Reiger and wife either in law or
 equity of in and to said premises; together with all the privileges and appur-
 tenances thereto belonging; to have and to hold the same to the only proper
 use of the said Thomas W. Meaus his heirs, assigns, executors and ad-
 ministrators, forever; Provided however that if the said Thos W. Meaus
 his heirs or assigns, or any person or persons holding or claiming said prem-
 ises, or any part thereof by through or under him shall at any time here-
 after, sell, suffer, or permit to be sold upon said above described premises
 any ancient spirits or intoxicating liquors, in any quantities whatever,
 either great or small, then this said deed or conveyance and the estate
 hereby created shall be thenceforth, and thereon wholly void and for-
 feited and the said Reiger may immediately thereafter reenter
 into said above granted premises, and hold and enjoy the same as an
 estate in fee simple as fully and absolutely as though this conveyance
 had never been made; Provided however, that in the event of any such
 forfeiture of and reentry into, the above granted premises, by the said Reiger's
 said Reiger's shall be liable to pay to the said party of the second
 part his heirs or assigns, one equal half of the true value at the
 time of said forfeiture of said premises with the appurtenances

to be ascertained by the appraisement thereof, under oath of three disinterested men to be selected by the said D. S. Geizer, and provided also that if the said party of the second part his heirs or assigns shall in faith lease the whole or any part of the above granted premises to any person or persons and shall insert in said lease, that the said lease and the interest and the estate thereby created shall become void and forfeited, in case the said lessee or lessees, or he or those claiming under him or them, shall sell, or permit to be sold therein, any ardent spirits, or other intoxicating liquors, in any quantities whatever, either great or small, and shall, in case of any such forfeiture for said cause, immediately take the necessary and proper steps to enforce said forfeiture, and enter into the possession of said premises as soon as practicable; then and in that event the above granted premises shall not be forfeited to the said David S. Geizer but the title thereto shall remain in full force and virtue; also provided, further, any forfeiture and penalty shall only attach and extend to that Lot upon which the selling of the ardent spirits or intoxicating liquors, shall have been done, and shall not attach or extend to any other Lot.

And the said David S. Geizer and wife for their heirs, executors and administrators, covenant with the said Thomas W. Means and his heirs, and assigns that they are the true and lawful owners, and have full power to convey the same; and further that they will warrant and defend the same against all claim or claims of any and all persons whatsoever — In testimony of which we have hereunto set our hands and seals this the Nineteenth (19) day of August Eighteen hundred and Sixty One — A. D. (1861)

D. S. Geizer Seal
Ann E. Geizer Seal

State of Kentucky }
Boyd County } set

I J. W. Riley Clerk of the Boyd County Court & State
appraised do certify that the foregoing deed of conveyance from D. S. Geizer & Ann E.
his wife to Thomas W. Means was this day produced to in my office & acknowledged
by the said grantors to be their act & deed for the uses and purposes therein
mentioned — Whereupon said deed together with this certificate has
been this day duly recorded in my office — Given under my hand
this 13th day of October, 1861

J. W. Riley Cl. B l e l e

Deed

David D. Geiger and wife

to

Thomas Willcutt.

Acknowledged by both
D. D. Geiger + Ann E
Geiger this 19th day
Aug 1861. D. McKibben, clks

Filed for record
this 18th day Oct 1861

Recorded in deed Book
No 1. Pages 193, 94 + 95
+ examined

Dup 160 said McKibben
by D. McKibben

Earthquake that shook George out
of bed here - it waked me up &
scared me most to death our
windows rattled fearfully - I never felt
such an Earthquake before
Give my love to Father George
Mary Rita &c & write soon to yours
Lottie

Ashland Sept 20th 1861-

My Dear Mother

I expect you think
I am a long time answering your
last letter - but indeed I have been so
busy that I have hardly had time
to draw a long breath - This you
know among the ladies is the busy
season - I have been putting up
tomatoes & peaches - and cleaning
house - shaking carpets &c - and
wearing the babies - Emily has been
gone about nine days - and so
far the babies have done nicely
they cried considerably the first
night - but not at all in the day
time and now they sleep very well
at night much better than they
did before they were weaned -

Emily got very tired of nursing -
and was anxious to get to work.
I am very glad I did not keep her
to do the housework - for I should
have ~~had~~ ^{had} so much trouble to learn her
and then she would not have suited
me near as well as Biddy - She took
a mad fit about two weeks before she
left in the heat of summer & started
off one morning at four o'clock ^{for} good
but John persuaded her to go & ask
advice of the priest and a good old
Irishman & he told her to come back
& stay till I was done with her
so I let her go just as soon as I
thought the weather would be at all
cool enough - and I am very glad to
get rid of her though she was a
very good nurse - yet I felt so uneasy
always for fear she might leave in the
heat of the summer - as sure enough
she came very near doing - So now
that I have her work to do & the babies

to take care of I am kept very busy -
Though the twins are not near as
much trouble as I expected - I believe
Hildaeth & Bessie are the most ^{care} trouble
as they are always in some mischief -
I should was very sorry to hear that
Father had been so sick it must
have been much such an attack
as he had in ^{at} Lanesville -
Give my love to Cousin Linnie - I
should like very much to come up
& see her but the river is too low yet
I don't want to start until the boats
begin to run with some regularity
again - which won't be before Oct
I suppose - I hope there will
be some soldiers to see in Camp Putnam
I would like to be when there was something
going on - we have a prospect of
having a camp near Ashland
which will make us a little more
lively - though they may look ^{out} ^{for}
chickens - We had the same

This Article of agreement made and
entered into this eighth day of October in the
Year One thousand eight hundred and forty nine
by and between Tho. W. Means of Lawrence County State
of Ohio of the one part and D. D. Geyer of the
County of Greengrass and State of Kentucky of the
second part Witnesseth that the party
aforesaid of the first part agree to sell the
party of the second part the one eighth part
of Breuna Vista Furnace in the County of Greengrass
and State of Kentucky being two shares of said Furnace
together with all improvements lands tenements and
appurtenances connected therewith for which the said party
of the second part agrees to pay to the said party
of the first part the sum of Five thousand dollars
It is further understood between the parties that
the party of the first part will convey all his interest
in the debts and liabilities of said concern to the
amount of the one eighth part thereof
said D. D. Geyer taking the Furnace property just
as it stands discharging the liabilities and receiving
the assets to the amount of the one eighth part aforesaid
placing said Geyer on the same footing as the
other partners - It is understood between the parties that
the Capital Stock in said concern is fixed at Sixty
two thousand dollars and the said two shares are paid
up

Thomas W. Means
D. D. Geyer

Articles of Agreement
Between
J. W. Meigs & D. D. Gager

Martha Oct 7th 1861

Dearest John

I will write you a few lines to let you know we are all here safe & sound. We arrived in this city Friday morning at nine o'clock. I met Mr Jas Holden who kindly carried up one of the babies for me & we arrived safely. Babs hat blew down the bank & Boat Shipman rushed down & caught it so the young man felt much better than if he had arrived in his bare head - Somebody stole Biddy's blanket shawl on the boat she being careless enough to leave it in the cabin all night - The young lady will be apt to look after her duds in the future -

Martha
of the Oct 7/61

The babies are better of their Summer
Complaint but everybody says "how
pale, they look - are they sick?"
Till I get quite ashamed of them
I went to Church yesterday & heard
George Maywell preach a good
sermon & what was still better make
a good union prayer, in which
he wasnt afraid to pray, particularly
for the president, & the war & every
thing else that ought to be prayed
for - and what our faint hearted
fellow dont dare mention -
I find here Libby Thomas - Martha
Owls - Sis Uye - Hat & Bet Ward &c
& I calculate on having a good
time - Father has been saving pears
for me so that I cant eat just

as many as I want to & the
grapes are in great abundance
plenty of green corn & every thing else
that is good - Dont you wish you
had come too? Do write & tell
me the news particularly Biddy
says, if there is a fight -
People here think I have come
up to get away from the secessionists
Libby says the Crayon fight made
a great sensation in Portsmouth
greater than in Oakland -
Write soon to your loving wife

Mauietta Oct 18th 1861-

Dearest John

I will write you a few lines to let you know that we are all well. I received your letter & was quite provoked at you for not writing sooner. I was beginning to feel quite ashamed when people asked me if I had heard from Mr Means & I had to answer no. Today is Friday I shall stay through next week & leave for Ashland on Monday of the week after next - on the Ohio - so you

Wm. Means
1876 Oct 18 61

will please watch that night
& be ready to receive me if she
gets there at midnight as she did
last spring & have the house
warmed so it won't be too damp
for the children - I have
been to a wedding since I have
been here - to tea at Mrs
Polstone - and a party at Pita's
& yesterday Aunt Jane - Mrs. Evans
Pita & I spent at Aunt Burgess -
it rained very hard we started
at ten minutes after six in the
morning & ~~got~~ stayed till seven
at night so we made a day
of it - we went & came in the

cars & had to wait half an
hour in the rain & mud for
them last night - I hope
the cow will have a calf before
we get back - If you haven't
written again I suppose I shall
not get any more letters from
your able pen -
Yours very truly
Hattie



much bread & milk as they
did in Manila - two quarts
of milk instead of one -

Tell Mary Ross, & Eduth enjoy
the chair she gave him very
much & woud let any of the
rest sit in it when he is about -

We have plenty of soldiers here
now - they have just been out
to Prestruburg to fight - John
has been out ^{to the Barbages} trying to get soldiers
~~to go with~~ Arch - & to night he has the

64th man come in which
makes him a company - & it
is likely he may soon be called
off - Will expects to rent her house
in a week or two - Give my love to
Father I hope he feels a little stronger
by this time love to George & Mary -
Kate & I say bye - Yours Hattie -



Ashland Nov 6th 1861

My Dear Mother

I must write
you a few lines, though I
hardly think it worthwhile
as I suppose Mrs. James has
given you the full particulars
of the return trip - I met two
old friends of yours on the
boat - Mrs. Foster & Miss ^{Phelps} Lushington
of Gallipolis - They inquired
very particularly about you
Mrs. Foster said she & you
were girls together & that
I looked something like
you but I wasn't near

as pretty - and that her
brother thought a great deal
of Rhoda - but he wasn't quite
ready to marry her - It was
a pity you didn't get to see the
old ladies they would have
enjoyed seeing you so much -
Mrs. James was quite disappoint-
ed in her trip - she only
got a few things Garrison
having sold the rest to
two gentlemen & taken their
notes & I think it doubtful
whether either of them will
give him anything more as
they are both poor hands
to pay their debts & already
owe a good deal ~~to~~

I was sorry for her but
she ought to have come down
sooner to have looked after
things - I invited her home
with me & did the best I could
for her and she did not leave
for home till Friday -
I found the house very dirty
and have been very busy
house cleaning ^{ever} since Mrs.
James left - I should have
written sooner but I supposed
she would see you sooner
than a letter would reach
you by mail - The babies
are very well & grown quite
fat since they got home
they eat just twice as

Maricetta, Nov. 11. 1861.

My dear Mother,

Your letter of the 6th came safely to hand Saturday eve & late to read, but I was wicked enough to read it Sunday Morning.

Mrs. Jones was kind enough to come to see me on Monday, & gave me many particulars: I think you must have treated her very politely, as she speaks so highly of the good behaviour of your children particularly on the boat. She seems very grateful to you for your kind attentions.

I think it must have been rather a rich treat for you & Mrs. W. to have her come in & report progress. She told me I might depend she was made when she found out all the particulars: I guess Mrs. Warner had a small piece of her mind whether he deserved it or not: I think it was well that she did not find Mr. Garrison, he would have found hard in her hands, she would have handled him without Mittens: she is determined to come & fight against him, I don't know as any one could blame her.

We were very lonely, after you left as the house
was so still & quiet; I kept Mary & that week to
straiten up a little; & then I had to go out calling
to amuse myself, we have had some delightful
weather since you left & to day it is as warm as spring.
Among my rambles I call'd on Mrs. Craig had a
very pleasant time, she is very easy & social she has
her Mother & Grandmother come on to live with her
they are fix'd up very beautiful, far surpassing
any one here; I want to send words to Eliza Gatum
that she must whip up as they are cutshin' her,
their parlour is far the handsomest in town.
I shall have to take you up there when you come
here again; they have about 100 work hands daily.
Johnny Macomb said he had 50. under him, the
old saying "Money makes the Mare go".

Soldiers are still plenty here, filling up the
two Regiments in our two Camps several hundred
were out yesterday attending the different Churches
one side of gallery was fill'd.

Sarah & Maria are much as usual, Lucy
& Smith is still in Camp very delightful

one of her last letters mention'd that Mr. Smith
had to sit up one rainy night to keep a big fire
and moving her beds & drying their clothes.
O how delightful it must be; I think she will
be well enough by spring to come home without
going to N. York.

Occasionally we have a little excitement of a wedding
I suppose you see by the papers; it is said there
is to be another soon Dr. David Cotton to Miss Mary
Stocomb. The Ladies benevolent society here is
flourishing, I suppose you see by the papers.
I am going in this afternoon to see them & get some
yarn for knitting.

We had a letter from ~~Mr. Smith~~ since
he has moved back to ~~the house~~
into the house he bought

The says they have fix'd
he said Sophia founds it
have so large a family, & that
in cold weather & also for
Give my kind regards to Mrs.
to come alone & make us a
Effect

barfoot & with his two rails all
knocked off from running in the
woods. It made a great excitement
here our town was alarmed in about
two hours after Jenkins was in
Guyandotte - Sunday night about
midnight Jenkins attacked Guyandotte
about half past eight. They left early in
the morning as soon as the Boston
came in sight - We feel some little
fear that the secessionists may burn us
up some time to pay us for the burning
of Guyandotte & Arch has raised his company
and is now in Louisa. 300 sick soldiers
came to Cattleburg last night for the
people to nurse them there - Lenny
Biggs Groomsman, Mr Trust, was killed
in the fight at Prestonburg - he was a
Capt on the secession side - & got five
bullets in him - Biddy sends her love
to Mary Ross & Sarah and says she
will soon write to them. She has been
house cleaning or would have written sooner.
Give my love to Father George & Mary
and tell Peta I will soon write to her
Love off Hattie -

Ashland Nov 20th 1861.

My Dear Mother
I will write you a
few lines this afternoon so you won't
be getting uneasy about us - not because
I have anything very interesting to write -
I went to house cleaning after Mrs
James left us - & took cold and it
settled in a big tooth that Dr Sumner
plugged while I was in Marietta -
and I had a most horrible jumping
tooth ache for ten days & nights - could
hardly eat or sleep - I finally concluded
I must have it pulled so I went
up to Cattleburg to a dentist that
lives up there and he made a hole
in the ~~cut~~ cost of the tooth which
seemed to give it some relief & took
out the plug - and told me to come
in a week & have it refilled if it
got easy so I went up again this

morning and had it plugged again
and hope I now shall have some
peace of my eye with it though if
it aches again I suppose I shall
have to go up & have it pulled -
It is the first time I have been to
Cattlettsburg since I moved away from
there four years ago - The cold seemed
to settle in my eyes too, for I can scarcely
use them at all in the morning - and the
days are so short now that it seems as
if I never would get any sewing done
and I have so much to do for the
children before the weather gets cold
that I am nearly hurried to death
I am glad Mrs James thought my
children behaved well - Mr Garrison
talks of suing her for taking his
things away & so if she sues him
they will give the lawyers something
to do - Mr Garrison might as well
have given her the things for he sold
them for almost nothing - The
Russels Carpet for \$12 and a
handsome marble top bureau for
\$6 - a nice mosquito net for twenty

cents and very thing else in that
proportion - I dont wonder that
Wames wanted to hold on to them -
Mr Garrison was in town the other
day - it was such a pity that he &
Mrs James did not meet -
I suppose you read in the Trenton
paper the full account of the Luzandotte
fight & the burning of the town - It meant
to have written you the full particulars
but found the paper had them all -
They say the town is an awful sight
& the bridge had as much blood on it as
a slaughter house - One lady came to
Ashland with her family from there -
she has three little children and says she
lost every thing ^{was} couldnt save their clothes
her husband is a secessionist and as
soon as they got settled here the Ashland
soldiers made a prisoner of him for
several days - when they let him off he
left town in a hurry - The Union soldiers
gave them ten minutes to leave the house
before they burned it - Col Whaley at
last got away from Mr. Leppkins
band and Saturday reached Cattlettsburg

John Means
11th Decr 1861

Conf. Hallam, Ky.
Decr 10th 1861

Mr. John Means.

Dear John:

I heard this morn-
ing that the border was again excited by
the reports coming from this vicinity, of a
large force marching upon us. — Perhaps
I do not get all the facts, but so far
I am unable to get alarmed. — I
believe that about Seventy cavalry men
rode into Paintsville on Sunday, and
rode out again, and of course that
was sufficient for a panic. — Some
reports say that there is large force
near Paintsville with artillery, but I
doubt the truth of it. — It is no
doubt true that the Cavalry above spoken
of are a portion of Johnson's command,
under Capt. Sticher, but I think they
are now on their way back to Virginia,
they were reinforced by 400 men of the
4th Virginia last night.

I have received "Allotment"
Rolls. — It is necessary that some one

Man be named as a Receiver of the
money set apart by the men to be
distributed to their families. - I have
not named any man yet, not knowing
what responsible men would be willing
to stand to it. Yours
I am very well. Arch. McLean

If any packages should be put
off at Ashland to my address
please have them sent to me first
opportunity

Camp Wallace Ky.
Decr 12th 1861

Mr John Means

Dear John:

I have about finished making out an Allotment Roll for my Company. It is necessary that some responsible man is named as a Distributor of the money, and the Company are unanimous in favor of either you or some one as high as that man. — It is a thankless business, and does not pay, but it is necessary that somebody should attend to it. — You will be the man named. I will enclose you a Copy of the Roll as soon as I can make one out. — I get but two blanks, one goes to the ~~Adjutant~~ ^{Adjutant} General, and one is retained by me. — I will try to get another, and send it filled up properly if not I do not. I will make one like the Blanko and fill up.

It is believed here in Camp that Humphrey Marshall is at Prestonburg with about 1400 infantry, and two Cavalry, — the Cavalry is a part of Jenkins' command.

at least a man by the name of Hitcher
who was captain of a Company under
Jenkins, is with the Cavalry at Pastorsburg
and is believed to be in command of them,
from all I can learn I have no doubt but
there is a force there, — He got a pris-
-oner yesterday who belongs to the rebel
army, who says that there is a force there
of about 2000, and that they are waiting
for another force of 2000 men with clothing
and supplies to come from Virginia, they
were expected in four ⁽⁴⁾ days from last
Sunday, — He says that some of the
men told him they were going into
the interior of Kentucky, others told him
they were coming down Sandy, —

We have a good many reports every
day, about them coming here, but I do
not put any reliance on stories anything
I hear, — we are preparing the best we
can, and will try to keep them out of
this place, — We were turned out this
morning about 3 o'clock with the alarm
of Seesh coming, after standing in position
nearly an hour, we learned that one of
the pickets fired upon a man who would
not halt when commanded, — My Company
traced out satisfactorily, and were the first to

this position I believe. — some of my men who were
sent for duty during the day, were in the ranks,
the four Companies of Virginians will leave us in
the morning, but confidentially I do not think it
will be but a day or two until we have enough
force to go after them ^{Securely} if they do not number
over 2000. —

A. U. S. mustering officer arrived here last
night and will commence mustering us in, in
the morning. I think I will yet get it fixed
so that I will receive pay from the 15th Oct
instead of 15th Nov. the date of my commission. —

I wish you would enquire on the Boston
if there was a package came up on her for me, on
either of the last trips, — if there was, what
was done with it. —

The officers of the Regiment are
anxious to get away from this country
and go down in the interior of the State, —
the Companies are not yet lettered, and I
cannot finish my allotment Roll until it is
done. — Remember me to the little folks,
and Hattie.

Yours truly
Arch

Camp Temple

Dec 28

1861

Mr John Means

Dr. Sir

We have reliable information that there is now at Pantoville one Regiment of Rebel troops, — one about 2½ miles above, and another at Sallisville 10 miles from Pant., — all infantry. — also about 1000 Cavalry scattered about in different squadrons in the neighborhood of the infantry. — We have information that a part of the Cavalry are at or near West Liberty, but this is not very reliable, yet may be true — We have here about 1700 all told, and feel very safe from any attack. — The Rebel force is composed in part at least of Jenkins's or Floyd's forces. — The 42nd is a good Regiment, — the men being mostly educated and are above the average for intelligence for soldiers. — Col Garfield is Col. Commanding. He arrived last night. — Five of my men were fired on from the Va. side of the river, (they were on the Ky side), yesterday morning

"nobody hunt," five shots were fired, - none of my
men were armed, - I have got pretty near well,
but have not done anything since I came
back - front of the 42nd will be encamped
on the opposite side of the hill from this
place, on the road to Paintsville, -

Sandy river is getting so low, that it is
going to be very difficult to get supplies
enough, without a further rise - The
notorious fact^{er} Marston, paid this town
a visit after we had left it, and he
was permitted to ride through this town
accompanied by but one man, in broad day
light, and no one attempted to take him.

Yours truly
Archibald McLean.

P. S. - The Band of the 42nd have just
commenced playing "Dixie", - they have got
out on top of the hills back of town, and
the Secesh around for several miles can hear, &
I have no doubt appreciate fully