Ashland Jan 9th 1867 -

My Dear Mother

I was much pleased to get your two letters in such quick succession and find you were still in good health this very cold weather - I believe you have had colder weather than we have as our thermometer has not been much lower than five above zero - and the papers say in Marietta it has been twelve below - I hope from the way the sun shines today it may soon get warmer - The children are very much obliged for their stockings which they admire very much - Elipa Coles gave them a Christmas present

Mrs. Gatrill had a dancing party for the children on Saturday afternoon My four went & John went over to tea & to assist in the dancing - She took up her parlor carpet & had a fiddler & a fine supper & they had a grand time The toms kept the floor all the time. Biddy is dreadfully disappointed that she cant be in Marietta at the time of the hanging - She would see her chance of the sight out of your third story windows, I expect, if she was there - I suppose you will go visiting on that day -

The children enjoyed their Christmas & New Years very much - So many toys & candy by the wholesale - They were days long to be remembered - & they have toys enough left to last them a year - Love to George - Mary & Mr Ross & all inquiring friends I wrote to Rila & Sis last week -

Yours Off Hattie -

of some beautiful mittens - Lily & Rose wore white with red cuffs & red spots worked on them & Bessies were brown so they will not need any more - But Bessie is very anxious to have a pair of white stockings - So if you have any money left you can buy white yarn & knit her a pair by the pattern I send in the letter - & she will be delighted - as she is getting some of Mary Ross' notions about white stockings - You had better pay the postage out of some of the money as it seems to be considerable -
I wish you could be here to enjoy Grandmother Ellisons tea parties as she seems to be having a gay time - I made her one & Mag has had two or three small ones for her
I dined at Uncle Hughs with her New Years day on Roast Goose Mrs. Cartiell had a splendid supper when we took tea there on Wednesday - And Mrs Coles had another elegant supper on Friday when she gave Grandmother a party - She seems to enjoy it very well though it has been so cold I have wondered it did not make her sick - We go early & come home early so she is not hurt by late hours - She is remarkably spry about walking and does not seem to mind the cold at all
Mother Wilson is feeble this winter and perfectly tied down to Amanda's little squalling baby - She thinks she can't leave it a minute & it is hard on the old lady - I tried to persuade Amanda to hire a wet nurse for it as there was a good one she could get - & the little thing is half starved as she has no milk scarcely & it dont like to feed it is a very puny baby & dont seem to grow at all - and is awful cross

Ashland Jan 8th 1867

My Dear Mother

I was very happy to receive your letter last night and find you still in such good health. If you can only keep close to the fire this winter and escape your usual sickness it will be wonderful.

I should indeed like to have the children stand at your window and watch the sleighs go jingling by. It would be a treat to them such as they have never had. We have had no good sleighing as yet. And there are only about three sleighs in town so there is no possible chance of any of us getting

not take cold. So I conclude she must be pretty tough.

We are having some very cold weather. It seems to me this is the longest, coldest winter I ever saw. Tell Mary if she will come down next summer I will make her some more ice cream with salt in it. If she was only here she could skate well on the pond. All the Colis girls have their skates & use them now to little Anna. Mr Condit also goes skating with the girls. So she could have plenty of company. I had a nice long letter from Sis Kye. Give her my love. Love to George Mary. Mr Ross Rita and all inquiring friends. And accept much love yourself.

Yours aff. Hattie

a ride - Though the children are
daly crazy for one - They never have
had a Sleigh ride with sleigh bells
& it would be a delightful thing
to them - I suppose Mary Rose
enjoyed her trip to Newport very much
more than the many who paid the
bills I expect - Hildreth was delighted
this afternoon when I found his
mittens - I put them away so
carefully that I could not find
them before - Bess is pleased
with the prospect of some as what
they have, are so fine they cant
wear them every day - What era
would fit Bessie Smith would
fit the twins also - I wish
you could get George to send me a
prescription for some kind of
medicine that would strengthen
Hildreths bladder - I have so much
trouble with him at night - Since
he was at his Grandpa's he seems
to have lost the power of waking
up when he ought to & I have to
wake him three or four times
every night & if I oversleep my
self he is sure to wet his bed -
If I could get him cured of his
weakness it would be a great
comfort to me these cold nights
and to himself also -
Grandmother Ellison's tea parties
still continue - The last was at
Mrs. Page's - full a mile from
Mrs. Lampton's - When we came
home we found it all sleet & ice &
I could hardly keep my feet - &
we had no umbrellas & my head
got right wet - Grandmother did

I send you one of Bessie's Mittens, & wish to know if you would like the Twins off. on sled as the white soils easily. Lay one of this hands on your letter mark it around, I can cut it out after reading it.

Mr. Maxwell has left us, he died last week after a few days illness; he was a very good man, died a very triumphant death.

B. Putnam & wife have gone to Cincinnati to purchase furniture for their house.

S. P. is keeping house, he & wife call occasionally.

D. P. was in last w. much opposed to have the little boy parted to them, he was very sick.

Maria & Sis L. was in to see me night before last very well & bright. The other Sweetlings are fine Sleighriding. Lucy P. has been ind, the lame knee better, the other much worse goes on the crutches.

Col. Crieg is here, he & wife leave soon for Mexico.

I believe I have told you all the news. My health is very good keep close to the fire don't want it at all. have Mr P. with me yet. Mother

Marietta Jan. 29 - 1867 -

Dear Hattie,

Your letter of the 29 - came safely to hand. I was very happy to hear that you are all getting along so nicely this cold weather; really it seems we have to pass for winter here, we have not had such steady cold weather for so long a length of time for many years, and so many weeks of good sleighing; it looks now as if it might continue some time yet. Sleighbells are ginging finely here at Com. writing, every body out for a ride. We have been taught to say a word about the weather here, when we hear the accounts of the deep snow at the East.

I have a letter last eve from Mr Tinney in Cincinnati, his description of the weather is really frightful. I will quote a few sentences.

He commences with a quotation from Thompson, "gustiest kind of winter. Snow & sleet & wind & storm". drifts twenty feet & in the ascendant at that. 12. noon Irishman - spade in hand, clearing the track for the long delayed locomotive 4 days out. 20 M. from Boston Cars filled with passengers, Snow as high as the top of Engine. Those out can not discern an object three feet ahead for the driving, drifting & flying snow. &c. - We had a rough time complain here. I don't know but this severe winter has had some effect on the Old Widows as so many have gone East for wives. Mr. C. Prossers ~~[illegible]~~ with his Miss Webster. Mr Stearns with his New wife - Mr Douglas Putnam is expected this week with his New wife - I don't know but it is mean to speak - he was to be married last Thursday in Springfield to a Mrs. Dimon, Lizzie went on with him they left here a week last Friday. We fear the snow might trouble them, they have not heard from them since they left.

30. Callers prevented my finishing this letter yesterday" - 7 o. clock this Morn. Thermometer stood 12° below zero. I hope you did not wash the Children all over this Morning, too cold for that.

Mr Putnams Dimon is said to be a very literary character, has written a book, he came to see me the day before he left, presented me a book with a note in it, giving me all the particulars of his marriage, it seems she was a widow, has three children one married, one daughter 15. & a son 10 years. She was the author of the book he gave me, it is very good indeed I expect she will be quite an acquisition to the Literary Club here. I will write you in my next how she suits us all, I am glad to have him married again, he seemed so lonely, young folks no company for him. Parties in contemplation. Cards of invitation beginning to circulate, gay times expected

Mrs Mary A. Dunn
Care of Mr. Geo. E. Dunn
Fine old Lady Omaha Nebraska
Care of Mr. Ham Estate and

Ashland Feb. 8th 1867

My Dear Mother

I was very glad indeed to get a letter from you and find you still well. It will be owing solely to the good care you are taking of yourself if you do get through that winter without your usual sickness. I am glad you have Mary Dabolt with you as she will take all the care of the house from you. I expect you will have to amuse yourself this winter, as I found your friends Mrs. Wilson & Mrs. Carter the other day, both making Log Cabin bed quilts, which they produced for me to admire, and I think they will be quite pretty when finished. Since the Mond-

ining Dunn said, three old widowers went East and married three old maids & they came out & set up a theatre (Mrs Ward A. Nye & Wickes) As they learned the young folks how to play Charades & Tableaux — contrary to Mr Dunns methodist notions. Mr Putnam's house will be gay with three young ladies in it. The river has been closed for nearly a month and John has been obliged to stay at home a wonderfully long time for him. The Telegraph came up through the ice this week & was five hours getting from here to Cattletsburg & was cut up badly by the ice but if they get her repaired will go down again Monday. It seems gay to hear the steamboat whistles again. Aunt Amanda's baby is still lively they set up all night & rock it — take it turn about. Mrs. Coles says she didn't treat her thirteen babies that well. Love to Mary, George, Rita, Lis — and all inquiring friends. Yours ever

Hattie

melted away from our streets
We have had the most astonish
ing quantity of mud - I never
knew ~~to~~ Ashland to muddy before
and this has kept the ladies
closely at home - I have how-
ever been wading around in it
the few delightful days we have
had this week - And Thursday
evening went to hear Mary Ross'
friends the Misses Tucker & brother
give a Concert. As they intend
visiting all the small towns on
the river & give concerts
perhaps they may
visit Manistee and give a Concert
before they quit. I shall expect
Mary Ross & her friends to patronize
them if they do - They look very pretty
& sing very well - They have given two
concerts here & two in Pattersburg -
I was very much interested in Theseda
sketch of Pres Droll's life - I would
like very much to have one of the
pamphlets - will send up the money
for it if you can get one one -
Pres has written it in very good style
It was copied into the Cincinnatti
paper - I would like to know the
title & subject of Mr Putnam's Dimond
book - The first I heard of his
marriage was John's reading the
notice in a Cincinnati paper -
John bet she was a young widow
without children & pretty fast -
I bet she was an elderly lady
but I did not think of his marrying
a widow with children - I wonder
how Lippie & Mary like it - Who
made the match? And where did
he get acquainted with her? -
And as I suppose you have seen
her by this time - How do you like
her? Is Silas Bloomb's new wife
young or old? - I expect there will
be plenty of partys for the three
brides - It reminds me of the time when

seem very long until you really get here - I shall write to Pres as soon as John gets home from Frankfort &c - he will be gone nearly two weeks - If his children would not worry you too much I should like him to bring them with him as I never have seen them - I shall try to get my house cleaning and sewing done so that I shall have nothing to do but to entertain you and hope you will have a pleasant visit - Write soon to

Your Hattie -

Love to all my friends & George & Mary -

Your namesake Cooke can unlock nearly all the doors & wears boots -

Ashland Feb 26th 1867

My Dear Mother

I was highly delighted to receive your letter and find you were seriously thinking of paying me a visit in May - I was telling John the other day I believed I would send Pres some money and ask him to spend it in visiting me & bring his family with him & I thought maybe you could arrange to come down with him - so it seems we both had the same plan in our heads except that yours was for him to come after you & I wish George could leave long enough to come down with

you - and I dont see why he
cant - Bessie says tell Grandma
to be sure & come & bring Cousin
Mary & Uncle George & Sarah Dabolt
You dont say any thing about Mary
Ross so I suppose she got enough
of Ashland last summer - But we
should be happy to have her come -
As to Sarah Dabolt you can do as
you please about bringing her - I
shall probably send the children to
school to an old lady who is to
teach a select school of little girls
sewing & reading &c - If I went up
to Commencement I would leave the
children with Mrs Rock to take care
of them I would not trust them with
any one else - Still if you can get
no other company on the boat Sarah
would be better, than for you to come
alone, and I could make her useful
after she gets here - So you can give
her an invitation - But I should
like very much to have George come
Margaret Gaylord and I had quite
a fight over your visit - the other
evening at Capt Coles tea party
She wanted you to make her a
visit in the spring & I said
I would not tell you, unless you
would promise to visit me first and
make me a long visit & not spoil
it by spending a third or haly of your
time in Portsmouth - We had
quite a small fight over it -
She only stayed two days & it
was so muddy & rainy that I
did not get any visit from her -
She had quite a nice young gent
leman visiter with her Mr Gaylords
nephew & neice Flora & Fred - So we
had a gay time at Capt Coles -
I do hope nothing will prevent your
visit in May - The time will

[25 March 1867]

I John C Easthan Sheriff of Boyd cnty Ky certify that Thomas Mans become the purchaser of the following described lands this day sold by me under an execution which issued from the Clerks office of the Clark Circuit Court on the 1st of January 1867 - in favour of Joseph Bondurant against the Kentucky Iron Coal & Manufacturing Company - which had been duly levied upon by ~~me~~ as shewn in the return of said fifa & sale by me - to wit

Forty five acres of land in Boyd Cnty Ky - bounded on the Ohio River - the lower line by the Poage farm & joining the lands of Ward Eldridge & others by the County road and lands sold to the Ashland Coal Company extending far enough up the river to make Forty five (45) acres the upper line to be run parallel to the numbered streets in Ashland & the deed

J. C. Easthan 1867
Certificate
to
Sale
Thos Mans

from R B Poage & others to said
company recorded in Deed Book (L)
page 197 in the Greenup County Court
Clerks office — purchased by said Adams at the price of
Four thousand dollars — also
one other tract containing seventy
(70) acres bounded by the line of Garland
extended the line of the road to
Catlettsburg the upper line of the
company land which were bought
of Savage ~~extending~~ back far enough
to make seventy acres the back line
to be parallel to the line on the said
County road & the same now occupied
by R A Biggs the said land was
conveyed by N Savage to the said
Ky — Iron Coal & Manufacturing Company
& deed recorded in Deed Book (L)
Page 162 in the Greenup County Clerks
office — purchased by said Adams at the price
of Five thousand dollars — all
of which is duly certified by me
on the said execution witness my
hand as Sheriff of Boyd County State of Kentucky

this 25th March 1867
D C Earthman S.B.C

Ashland March 29th 1867

My Dear Mother & Mary

I was happy to receive your letter and find you well but was sorry to hear of the accident to your ancle I fear it will trouble you a long time, probably all summer – I hope it will not interfere with your visit to Ashland – We will try to have Dan in order, so that you can ride, to all the tea parties & out calling – As I expect you will have a great deal of that business to do. I have two barrels of white sugar now in the house & if you will only come as her eyes get well – They have been much inflamed for three weeks, from cold settled in them – I suppose you are nearly through house cleaning – We move slowly have six rooms cleaned & are waiting for warmer weather to finish I am trying to get the children's spring & summer clothes arranged half three women sewing for me last week & still find an ocean of sewing to do – I am trying to learn to take the world easy as you say is best – I was much amused with Mary's account of the battle with Mr Moore I suppose she & Laura have a heap of chuckling to do over it Poor man he must have suffered in the flesh – I suppose Mr. Titus will now be the head teacher – Give my love to George & Mr Rice – Nita Sis & all other friends – Hoping Mary & your visit will soon come I am Yours

Hattie

before they are eat up I can give
you a big party to give you a fair
start - We have a young calf now
and the children bring in from twelve
to thirty eggs a day so I hope
butter & eggs will be plenty also -
(as the calf will most likely die
before you arrive) - Biddy is planning
how she will entertain Sarah and
thinks likely there will be some
dancing parties on hand -
You did not tell me how large
your party was - nor how the
bride was dressed - She must
be having a gay time with so
many parties - We are having
quite a quiet time now - Three
of our ladies Mrs Callahan, Mrs
Andrew Biggs & Mrs Voris are going
soon to move away but as they
all stay at home very closely
I dont think we shall miss
them much - In their places we
hear of three other families coming
who I hope will be more sociable
Mr Bayless will move on his
farm in April and his daughter
Mary will marry next week a
young farmer from near Lexington
she will be married at home & make
no wedding at all - Mary Ross
will miss Carrie Callahan & Helen
Bayless - The Misses Turner are to
leave also - so the young ladies
will not be so plenty here as they
were - Hildreth has commenced
going to school and likes his
teacher very much, because she
dont make him stand in the
corner, as much as Mary Hilton
used to, he says - Rose & Lily will
go next week & Bessie as soon

General Balance, Apl. 1st. 1867

Pine Grove Furnace, Ohio Furnace, Cin. House and H. R. Coal Works.

Assets.

Cash	at	Pine Grove Furnace	75	
"	"	Ohio "	34 95	
"	"	Cin. House	16.769 61	
"	"	Means, Kyle & Co (office)	8.041 53	24.846 84
Individual accts.	"	Pine Grove Furnace,	16.110 28	
" "	"	Ohio "	2.318 50	
" "	"	H. R. Coal Works,	2.028 57	
" "	"	Cin. House,	40.576 49	
" "	"	Means, Kyle & Co,	6.383 87	67.417 71
Real Estate	"		227.886 40	
" "	"	Cincinnati	1.065 94	228.952 34
Personal Property	"	Pine Grove Furnace	22.083 80	
" "	"	Ohio "	27.596 01	
" "	"	H. R. Coal Works,	65.894 75	
" "	"	Cin. House,	999 65	
" "	"	Means, Kyle & Co	1.179 00	117.753 21
Iron on Hand	of	Pine Grove Furnace	6.576 75	
" "	"	Ohio "	6.405 29	12.982 04
Bills Receivable	at	Cin. House	53.570 59	
		Means Kyle & Co	16.988 99	70.559 58
2nd Nat Bank Dronton		Collection acct.		11.795 56
George Slizner,		"		1.018 24
R. D. Lewis,		"		1.609 56
Mary A. Hempstead,				6.716 10
Stock Dividend		March 20th /66	155 00	105 00 00
Cash "		Feby 1st /67		50 00 00
				698.651 18

Liabilities.

Individual accts	at	Pine Grove Furnace,	5.968 73	
" "	"	Ohio "	5.825 66	
" "	"	H. R. Coal Works,	1.095 88	
" "	"	Cin. House,	36.312 45	
" "	"	Means, Kyle & Co,	1.263 62	50.466 34
Thos W. Means,				730 33
Wm Means,				473 86
Bills Payable	"	Cin. House,		4.000 00
Capital Stock		Thos W. Means,	130.000	556 70 53
" "		M. A. Hempstead	135.000	
" "		John Means,	50.000	
" "		Wm Means,	70.000	
" "		John Kyle,	50.000	
" "		George Slizner	50.000	
"		R. D. Lewis,	15.000	500.000 00
Balance				142.980 65
				698.651 18

Balance, Excess of Assets over Liabilities	142.980 65
Deduct Gains to April 1st 1866	38 063 42
Profits for Year Ending April 1st /67	104.917 23

Ashland April 12th 1867

My Dear Mother

I was much pleased from your last letter to find you were still well and your uncle gaining strength so finely — If you can walk to the Stores I think it must be much better — I should have liked very much to have heard Fred Douglas — Biddy was quite shocked, when I told her, you had all been to hear a nigger speak & that Mr Putnam had invited him to stay at his house — She thought it was awful! — I should think it would have been, Mr David Putnam he was always so fond of the darkeys — You say you were invited to spend

clean work when they do begin —

The children have to each make a speech at school, today — Rose has Cock Robin — Lily The three little Kittens — Dessie The Alphabet in poetry & Hildreth a selection from Mother Goose — I expect they will make a sensation — I send you a sketch of the excitement at the Political meeting the other night Mrs James Haskell was the lady who made the speech — And it raised quite a whirlwind of applause — I suppose you will like her if she stands up for the Yankees —

We are having charming weather now peaches & cherries in blossom & yancinths & daffodills — Please bring a slice of your striped Dahlia roots to Mrs Wilson & me — She kept some roots you sent her — under her bed all winter John is in the City this week —

You & Sarah must hurry down as soon as possible — Love to George Mary & Miss Jones Off & Attee

the day at Mr Putnam's & You ought to have gone while Mr Fred Douglas was there too — You say if you dont get to Ashland you hope it wont damage the town But I think it would — Mrs Nicholls & Mrs Davis are expected in May and tea parties have to be made for them and if you could all happen in town at the same time why the same set of tea parties would do for all of you — which you see would make quite a saving of cake & preserves — So I hope you & Sarah will "come to time" — Cohn's Big Sandy & Pomeroy line of steamers bought the Ohio & have put the St James in her place — She is a nice boat, but they have made a mistake in putting Old Capt Blagg on her — he keeps such a dirty boat & has such impudent chamber maids always — Capt Houshak intends trying to manage to get some one else in his place though & I hope he will succeed — The St James gets here in fine season Wednesday about One in the afternoon — The Children go to school & Fany & Ella Cooke stay out doors all day so my house is so quiet, I can hardly believe it is my house — & when I clean it it stays clean & in order — which is perfectly delightful — I am about done house cleaning — John thinks I must furnish another room for you & Fred & Lute — So you see if you dont come there will be a damage worse than "sour custards" — I suppose you have your garden all made or will have, by the time you start — all in order for old Stramon & George to hoe the flowers & things up as fast as they sprout up George & Stramon generally likings make

Ashland May 1st 1867

My Dear Mother

I was very glad to find from your letter that you are well & you & Sarah still have "Ashland on the brain" as you have all your work done I dont see why you cant start Mrs. Nichols & Mrs Davis are here now and I am getting in a hurry for you to come - I shall look for you, on the St. James the 14th of May as you propose - She gets here early in the afternoon and I hope will arrive safely when you patronize her - She used to be a nice boat but under Capt Blagg, I expect wont stay clean very

at 6 o'clock in the morning & will be here on Wednesday - I hope he will come that way for if he comes by Manilla he may be several days on the road & I should lose so much of his visit - ~~Hoping to~~ If you write again to him just mention it if you please Be sure & bring "Mamma Wilson" a striped dahlia - She knocked her spectacles into her eye & has had a dreadful time with it for three weeks - Hoping to see you soon - I am yours aff Hattie -

long. We have all been
well since I wrote last.
Ella Cooke fell down out doors
and run a big stick down his
throat it bruised his tonsels &
the inside of his mouth very much
so he could not swallow pale
night - but the Dr gave him
something to take down the
inflammation, so he soon got better
The next night he fell out of bed
& knocked his two front teeth loose
& bruised the front of his mouth
so I thought if he kept on there
soon would not be much left of
him Yesterday he climbed over
the fence for the first time & I
felt quite discouraged - Fanny runs
off every day, if the baby can get
over the fence, of course they will
travel off together & no one knows
where they will go too -
I took tea last night at Mrs.
Patrick's - A tea party for Mrs.
Davis, but as there came up a
heavy rain no one went but John
& me - Mrs. Patrick says she
wont have any more tea parties
till you come down - So you
see you have one tea party
promised - John has gone to
Hanging Rock to day - Last
week he was at Catlettsburg
all the week, nearly, night & day
He is gone more than half the
time lately - Love to George Mary
& Mr. Ross - Biddy is making great
plans for entertaining Sarah -
John says if Pres will leave home
Tuesday on the cars he will get to
Cincinnati in time for the Telegraph

Ashland July 6th 1867

My Dear Mother

I have been intending to write ever since I came home - but have been so busy - and I supposed Mary would keep you posted as she commenced writing before we were out of sight of town - We had a gay time sticking on the sand bar in front of town for three hours the pilot was drunk I believe - and must have taken considerable pains to run us on to the bar as it seemed to be quite out of the channel - however we did not stick again as I suppose he

neighbors - mine are so unsociable I was down to see your friend Mrs. Charles Wilson this afternoon She was very anxious to hear all about you & was much obliged for the lily roots - John was away last night - Mary was up to Mrs. Hiltons till 12 - Biddy at a dance till two - and as I didn't sleep very much I'll quit writing now & go to bed - I hope you will keep well - Write soon to your

Hattie -

learned to be more careful —
It was awful warm on the boat
I felt sometimes, as if I could
not stand it — The heat was
much greater than it was going
up — I was glad to get home
& cool off — I found the children
all well & glad to see me — we
got home at 9 o'clock P.M. & John
not expecting me — we had to find
a lantern & leave on the wharf
boat — The fourth of July we spent
at home — There was a picnic
& free dinner at Coalton but it was
so warm I did not care to go out —
The new kitchen is progressing —
They are digging out the cellar
& two carts are going with the dirt
all the time — So I have at
least a dozen frights a day ~~for~~
thinking Fanny & Ellie are either run
over or else have fallen down in the
cellar — The cow yard is full of
stone so we cant get out either
of the carriages & for this week
Mary has had to ride on horse
back, when she ains herself —
Mr Berry is mending slowly & John
has Mr. Casebolt hired in his
place — I made 42 bowls of Grape
Berry Jelly yesterday and to day
had to boil it over as it wasn't
stiff enough — So I didn't have quite
so much — I expect to give Mary
a small party next week — The
weather is too warm to get up
much of a supper though —
I expect you have a nice quiet
time — Tell Sis & Mrs. Nye I wish
they would move down here for

Ashland July 20th 1867 –

My Dear Mother

I was much pleased to receive your letter to day and find you well & having such a nice quiet time & your house so clean, you had nothing more to do – I dont expect to find mine that way very soon – My house is quiet this afternoon as the children and Biddy are out visiting and it does seem pleasant to get such a chance to write a letter – Mary Ross, does not, in spite of her youth & beauty, create half as much of an excitement in Ashland as her Grandmother – She has not had any parties made in her honor as yet except the one I made her – I invited 46 & had

for two weeks afterwards brought on the thought by overheating herself at the cooking stove cooking to get ready for you – If I had known they were so anxious for your visit I would have tried harder to have got you down there – Mrs Sam Hempstead regretted that you did not get down to visit her – The Dr & wife were not at home – Harry was thrown out of a buggy & the wheel ran over him the first day we were there – We were very much alarmed sent for a Dr – but he was not much injured, at last – only he & we were all scared to death – nearly – The cellar is nearly finished & nobody but the duck, has fallen in it as yet – Mrs Wilson was expatiating on your beauty the other day – Mrs Hildreth was by, & said she had such a fine figure – plump arm – diamond like eyes – So lively & cheerful – Company for old & young – altogether she most remarkable woman for her age, she ever knew – Tom Hattie She sends you her love & thanks for the roots –

Affectionately & fondly yours
Mary Ann E. Lawrence

P.S. Send more eggs to us
P.S. Have a turkey this fall for us
P.S. Mama has taken & done a
golden star to watch and pray & fight against
sin – Love again –

a nice entertainment - though not
a regular meat & bread & butter supper
Coffee Cake & Ice cream &c only, as the
night was so warm - Mary beat
most all the eggs for the cakes
so her arm was almost lame - We had
some amusing charades & they stayed
till one o'clock so I suppose they had
a good time - Mag - Mary Ame - Tom
Adams - Mit & Jane were all here -
Mag stayed several days - Wednesday
Mary & I & the children got up
early & went down to Father Means
on the Victor & stayed till Friday
evening - Mary & Hildreth were having
such a gay time that I left them
there - Mary will come up Monday -
We were invited to Mrs Bartons
in Trenton, to spend the day Thursday & so
ten of us went - in two carriages

She has children the ages of mine &
so they enjoyed it very much -
Yesterday we were invited to Mrs Sam
Hempsteads to tea & to wait for the boat
there - so fifteen of us accepted the
invitation - two young gentlemen who
were spending the day at Father Means
among the number - The children
had a delightful time as the little
Hempsteads have a playhouse &
swing & every thing that can be thought
of - Mother Means was very much
disappointed that you & Prescott
did not get down to visit her - she
looked for ~~us~~ you all the week Pres
was here & Wednesday invited friends
to tea to meet you & sent the carriage
down to the river to meet you & worked
so hard to get ready that she made
herself sick & had intermittent fever

L. D. Morrison Mortgage

J. Means
Ino Means & Wife

Filed for record August 12th 1867

Recorded in Deed Book 43 Page 253.
Examined
Jas. Lee Jr. C.

Know all men, that I L. D. Morrison of Lawrence County Ohio: for Twohundred ($200.00/100) Dollars received from, do sell and convey to, John Means and Harriet Eliza his wife, of Ashland Kentucky, Lot number forty (40) Range Two (2) West in Ashland Boyd County Kentucky; bounded, beginning One-hundred (100) feet Southeasterly from the Easterly corner of Fourth and Winchester Streets, thence with Winchester Street Southeasterly fifty (50) feet, thence Northeasterly Onehundred and forty two and one-half (142½) feet to an alley, thence with alley, Northwesterly fifty (50) feet, thence Southwesterly Onehundred and forty two and one-half (142½) feet to the beginning; with all privileges and appurtenances thereto, to have and to hold to said John and Harriet Eliza Means their heirs and assigns forever; and the said L. D. Morrison will warrant and defend the property hereby conveyed. In testimony whereof the said L. D. Morrison and Margaret J. Morrison his wife who hereby relinquishes her rights of dower in said premises have hereto set their hands and seals this Second day of August Eighteen hundred and sixty seven A.D. (1867).

L. D. Morrison {Seal}
M. J. Morrison {Seal}

State of Kentucky
Boyd County } Sct

I W O Hampton Clerk of the Boyd County Court do hereby certify that the foregoing deed from L D Morrison & M L Morrison was this day produced to me in my Office and acknowledged, duly by them to be their act and deed for the uses and purposes therein contained

Given under my hand this 2nd of August 1867

W O Hampton Clk
By C W McCoy Deputy

State of Kentucky
Boyd County } Sct

I W O Hampton clerk of the County Court of the County aforesaid do certify that the foregoing deed from L. D. Morrison & M. L. Morrison his wife to Geo. Hamilton Elizabeth Means was on the 13th day of August 1867, produced to me in my office, stamped as required by law and lodged for record. Whereupon the same together with the certificate of authentication thereto attached, and this certificate has been duly recorded in my office.

Given under my hand this 13th day of August 1867,

W. O. Hampton C B C C
By J. W. Thornton D C

Ashland Aug 5th 1867

My Dear Mother

I have been waiting until Mary Ross left, until I answered your last letter. She started for Portsmouth this morning before six o'clock & I suppose is safely there, by this time. She seemed to enjoy her visit very much. She had a very pleasant visit at Father Mears - also at Buena Vista - I went out with her there with the three little girls & John & spent the day. Mary & I stayed all night. Jane had quite a little dancing party for Mary - Six musicians from Catlettsburg - There were about twenty there & Sam & Lizzie & the Rogers - Also Sis & James & the Bombaugh -

larger than I supposed it would. The Ashland ladies all send their love to you & wish you would come down again -

Mrs. McFarell says Mrs Davis often speaks of you in her letters. Martin did not get to bid Mary good-bye this morning - which quite broke his heart - he was feeding the horse when she left & he said "Dog on Dan" Biddy says for the first time in his life -

I wish you could see how gay my yard looks with Zenias & your balsams & portolacca &c - it makes quite a show in the morning -

Aunt Amanda had her baby out here for the first time last week - She is so careful of it that she let it in the baby carriage fall off the steps last week & hurt it considerable - She wont let the girls pule it - Mile down to Jones aff Hattie -

right stayed all night besides the musicians – It was quite a gay party – Mary seemed to enjoy the dancing very much – Mrs Alphonso Haskell had a party for Mary last week ~~the~~ ~~A~~ on Monday evening – Tuesday we were invited to Mrs. Coles to tea & Mrs. C. Wilson had a party for Mary also on the same evening which was quite a pity as parties were not plenty enough to have them all at once – Wednesday Mrs. O. Fanell invited us all to tea – and Saturday afternoon we had a picnic in the Park of all the ladies & children & many in town some fifty one present as I started it, John said no body would be there but me – so I quite crowed over him when it proved such a success – Mrs. Coles had 1st coffee & we had a splendid supper – The girls played croquet – & after supper – John & Mary and a few more had a dance on the grass with Dr. David Wilson to play on the violin – So Mays picnic was a very lively one – She was very uneasy though, for fear Mr Condit, would scold her, for making his church members dance – Hiram is still at Father Means' he finds it so entertaining there – he cant make up his mind to come home – Our new building is flourishing finely – They have commenced laying the brick & it makes quite a fine appearance – looks much

Ashland Aug 25th 1867

My Dear Mother & Mary

I was happy to receive both your letters Mary's from Portsmouth & Mother's from home. There are so many inquiries made of me as to "when I heard from Mary Ross" that she will have to write soon, so I can have something to answer. Mr Abe Lamell regretted very much that he did not have a chance to take Miss Mary on horseback to Belle Point. And there was a little party at Mrs Biggs on Saturday, where they had a dance & all regretted very much that Mary could not have been there. There have been two young ladies & a young gentleman here from Gettysburg visiting at

gone up much faster than we expected. They think now they can plaster by October.

I had a letter from Prescott last week giving me an amusing account of his trip home in the rain. He says he enjoyed his visit to Ashland very much which I was glad to hear. The Cincinnati gentlemen were all up last week but this time stayed at the Hotel & took dinner & tea with Mrs Coles & me, just enough to keep us in mind. The ladies all send their love to both of you. Hildreth is still down at Grandpa Means. I am so afraid of his getting hurt by the bricks falling on his climbing up, that I prefer his staying there a little longer. Love to George & Mr Ross. Mile Love to you

Father

Mrs. Biggs and them have been several parties for them - Monday I was invited to Capt Coles - at a party for them - and to night I am going to Mrs. O'Faulks party in their honor - Last night I had a tea party, myself - for the strangers in town - Grand mother Ellison - Mrs Derby - Mr & Mrs Nicholls, Susie Smith John & James Means - Miss Biggs & Miss Robinson - & their friends making 26 invitations There were 20 set down to supper - I had to bring in the Quantette tables & seat some of them at them - I had the best ice cream John says, I have had this year - & elegant peaches & cream - fried chickens - stewed peaches & pears - bread & butter & hot biscuits - cheese tea & Coffee & five kinds of cake - So I thought I had a good supper - would dare liked to have had you both here to partake - What a nice time you would have if you were only both here to eat peaches - We have such loads of them - They fall off all over the ground & the children & the chickens have a grand time eating them - We have a field full of sweet corn I eat twelve ears a day sometimes & the children eat in proportion - & so far we keep pretty healthy The men who are working on the house have a good time looking ripe peaches - I wish you could see how nicely my new house looks - The brick work is nearly all done - We had such a long spell of dry weather that they did not have to quit a day for rain - and it has

We John Rhoden of Boyd County Kentucky, and Thomas W. Meaux of Lawrence County Ohio, do hereby agree that John Rhoden hereby sells his entire interest in the firm of Meaux Rho— and — H. Meaux Rho— for five hundred 00/100 ($500 00/100) dollars to Thomas W. Meaux who assumes all the liabilities, and is to receive all the benefits thereof. In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hand this 28 of August 1867

Thomas W. Meaux

John Rhoden

Agreement with
John Rhoden

Ed F. Dulin 20 Sept 1867 Ed F. Dulin 20th Sept 1867 Ed F. Dulin 20th Sept 1867

This Indenture made this 20th day of September A D 1867 by and between Ed F. Dulin of the first part and William L Geiger and John Means of the second part Witness that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of Fifteen hundred Dollars in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged does bargain sell and convey confirm & release to said parties of the second part their heirs and assigns forever all those certain lots in the Town of Ashland, Boyd County, numbered on the plat thereof and described as follows. to Lot No 43. beginning at the easterly corner of Grenup and C Streets, thence with Grenup Street South easterly (50) fifty feet thence north easterly (92½) ninety two & half feet. thence northwesterly 50 feet to C Street & ~~thence fifty feet~~ with C Street South westerly 92½ feet to the beginning. being lot No 43. Range one east. also Lot No 1 Range seven West. and part of No 7. of same Range. and bounded as follows Beginning. at the westerly corner of

of Broadway & Carter Street. thence
Southwesterly with the line of Broadway
One hundred & forty two & half feet. to an
alley. thence Northwesterly with the alley
fifty feet and thence North easterly
One hundred & forty two & half feet
to Carter Street. thence South easterly with
Carter Street fifty feet to the begining
Also lot One hundred & sixteen. Range
two west being fifty feet on Grump
& running back 142½ feet. Southwesterly
side Grump Street. Also lots Twenty,
Twenty one, & Twenty two Range four
West. being One hundred & fifty feet
on Carter & One hundred & forty two
& half on third Street. Also No.
sixty six, Range one west. being fifty
feet on front Street & running back
Ninety two & half feet. Also No.
sixty seven & sixty eight being
One hundred feet on front Street
and running back one hundred & forty
two & half feet. Also No seventy
one being fifty feet on fifth (5th)
Street and running Northwesterly one
hundred feet. Also lots thirty one
thirty two. thirty three, thirty four
& thirty six Range five west
being Two hundred feet on Rail

Way street and running back
Southwesterly One hundred forty
two & half feet. being part of
the lots conveyed to the party of
the first partly John B Temple
& Lipo by deed dated 27th March
1865 and recorded in Boyd County
deed book No 2 pages 241 & 242.
with all of the privilege and
appurtenances in any way belonging
But this conveyance is made &
the parties of the second part take
said lots subject to the conditions
restrictions & reservations contained
in the deed of the Kentucky Iron
Coal & Manufacturing Company to
said Temple. Also the said Dulin
for himself, his heirs does will
forever warrant and defend the
title to the same to said parties
of the second part their heirs & assigns
forever against all claims & incumbrances
whatever. except the conditions
above stated. In testimony said
Dulin put his name & delivers
this deed date first written

Ed F Dulin

State of Kentucky
Boyd County Set

I W O Hampton the Clerk of the Boyd County Court State aforesaid do hereby certify that the foregoing deed from E F Dulin to Wm L Geiger and John Means was this day ~~produced to~~ me in my office and acknowledged by said Dulin to be his act and deed. I further certify that said deed was stamped as required by act of Congress - Given under my hand this 20th day of Sept. 1867

W O Hampton Clk
By C. M. Wilson Deputy

Deed
E F Dulin
To
W L Geiger & John Williams

Filed for Record Sept 23rd 1867

Examined

Recorded in deed Book No. 3, pages 277 & 278

Jas T Lee
for Rec. Trans.
W O Hampton Clk

State of Kentucky
Boyd County Set

I W. O. Hampton Clerk of the County Court of the County aforesaid do certify that the foregoing deed from E. F. Dulin to W. L. Geiger & John Means was on the 23rd day of Sept 1867 lodged in my office for record being stamped as required by law and together with the certificate of authentication thereto attached and this certificate has this day been duly recorded in my office.

Given under my hand this 15th day of October 1867

W. O. Hampton Clerk

Ashland Sept. 1867

My Dear Mother & Mary

It had
been so long, since I had received
a letter, from you, that I was
getting very uneasy and had just
made up my mind, to write to
you, tonight, and find out what
was the matter & when I received
your letter, saying that Mother
had been so very sick - I was
very sorry to hear of it indeed
I was in hopes she had outgrown
the Neuralgia & was cured of the
chills entirely - I do hope you have
now got over them and will never
have any more - We have all been
so healthy this Summer - the Dr has
not been called in, since Prescott was
here & the children eat fruit all

the Morning & Great time mon so long
and pantaloons & jacket & jean coat - a big
hat - the latter pulling the twins coat - the baby
has been & does show & Mattie likes it & tell
me grows & looks as fine as the dickens
& talks & talk & walk & talk & talk & talk
him & stop at all times but & anymore &

Martin wrote to Prescott & Mary & Mrs Hickey
there are vineyards in some watermelon & Hickory

the tin plate - a Blanc Mange mold & a very
large Cake pan - She had an Elegant Supper
everything you could think of & pears peaches
grapes & melons besides - She wore the single
tin earrings - tin bracelet tin rings &c & looked
quite gay - Every body in town was
invited & a great many were present -
As it was the first tin wedding in town
it made quite a sensation - The boys
"billed" them thinking it was a real wedding
I suppose - Rose wanted to know if Mrs
Haskell had been married ten times -
Our new house is growing finely - the
Carpenters keep an awful hammering all
day long - They will lay the floors next
week - I have to watch the children
close to keep them from getting hurt -
Mr. Condit goes to housekeeping next week
and Mrs. Coles & I are going round tomorrow
among the ladies to get them all to help
furnish his kitchen & preserve closet
We will buy him a Stove & everything we
can think of to cook with & to eat & I think
we can raise something for the poor preacher
I hope you will soon be able to write to me
tell Sarah she must not think of going away

day long & I have frequently taken
nothing but turkey eats of corn & water
melon for my dinner & never have
been at all sick from it – I wish
you & Mary could be down here now
to eat peaches – If they were only white
clingstone good size I would send
you some – but all my good sized ones
are yellow & I dont think they are nice
enough to go abroad – However they
will do for the children & I can't eat
next winter – & with what I shall
put up to morrow I will have canned
fifteen bushels – Biddy & I canned
five bushels to day – I use mostly
half gallon cans & have now put up
~~sixty~~ 65 cans – ten of them gallon
cans – Some of the clingstones I can
with the stones in them which is
much less work – My sugar barrel
got empty so fast that Biddy & I
was sure somebody must have stolen
it – but as we could see no traces of
a thief we concluded we were mistaken

I never saw anything to equal the peaches
in Ashland this year they are selling
now for fifty cents a bushel Mr. Riggs
has had a hundred bushels some of them
sold for dollars – The man who hires in
Mr Fletcher's house has canned 800
quart cans of fruit off of that small
lot – Mrs Poage has been canning
to sell also & Mr Miller – The tinner
has run himself to death making
cans & sealing them up for other people
There never was such a year for fruit
before – I am trying stone's yellow ware
cans this year & as I had 150 cans I
thought I had enough but I have only
four empty ones left to day & have no tomatoes
& quinces yet to put up & there is not a
can in town – as I have been all ~~over~~
~~all~~ the stores to try & buy ~~some~~ some without
success – So of course I am in a desperate
condition – John is spending the week
in Cincinnati – Mrs Alphonso Hasker gave
a tin wedding Monday night which I
attended – She had a great variety of presents
quite a good assortment – Mock du a

[illegible] on her way rejoicing.

A New Furnace.— We understand that John Peters, Esq., of Ironton, has purchased a tract of land opposite Ashland and leased the iron and timber privilege all around the purchase, and has commenced the erection of a large stone coal furnace on the foundation laid many years ago for a similar establishment, just below the Coal Grove Fire Brick Works.

Every one acquainted with Mr. Peters knows that he does nothing by halves, and from what we have gleaned in a second-hand way of his intentions, we shall expect to see a young town loom up around the new furnace in an incredibly short time. The coal to run the new furnace will be furnished by the Ashland Coal Company. We wish Mr. Peters abundant success.

Loose Item

Ashland News. — Our sister town is not standing still, by any means. Mr. John Means is having a large addition built to his elegant mansion, and Capt. Coles is having 200,000 brick made for building purposes. He is also preparing to extend his coal operations so as to meet the growing demand for the excellent quality of coal produced at the mines of the Ashland Coal Company.

Ashland Oct 18 67

Dear Mother Sister Brother & Sister

My Dear Mother

I was very much pleased at last, to receive a letter from you - it seemed a long time that I did not hear from you - nearly four weeks - I think Mary Ross was real mean not to write sooner - after writing to me that you were so sick - sicker than you had been for three years & then leaving me so long without hearing a word from you it was really too bad - and I was very uneasy - and much provoked at her - She might have found time to scratch me a line telling me how you were anyhow - I have had some little musing to do lately - Lily was sick first but did not go to bed much of the time - & in the Park all summer training horses - But the last day of the fair he was driving a very wild horse - & ~~just a the last~~ it became frightened & threw him out & broke both his legs & kicked one of them ~~in smash~~ all to smash - Dr Spaulding says he never saw such a bad fracture - They thought at first he would not live - but he now seems better - To day Fanny is sick broken out red this afternoon with the Scarlatina - I hope though he won't be as sick as Rose was -

I don't know when I will get up to Manila The Children keep getting sick one after another & I must oversee the closets in my new house or they would be sure to make them not to suit me - And a New York artist is at Fisher's Means taking portraits of all the family & purposes when done with them to come up & take Schuyler & mine so I suppose I shall have to wait a while on him as it takes him a week to paint one portrait - I shall try & get up to make you a short visit though before winter fairly sets in - Give my love to Mary George & Mr Ross - John Megus told me that Frank Ross was married - Whom did he marry? - I hope you will be well enough to write soon to your

Off Hand

Sister Brother & Sister
as I consider them

last week Rose was sick precisely the same way, Lily had been only much worse - Dr. Mont Holden could not determine what did ail her - but I am sure it was some form of Scarlatina - first her throat was very sore - tonsils ~~on~~ ulcerated then in a day or two she broke out with a red eruption all over which lasted several days & ~~had~~ she had high fever all the time & as that wore off she has had a stiff neck - & swelled behind her ears - & lost her hair. Skin begins to peel of her hands as I remember mine did after I had the Scarlet fever. The whooping cough is in town & I am so uneasy for fear the girls will have that next - I wish you could have been here last week to our fair - We had by far the prettiest fair we ever have had. The table of fruits & jellies & preserves was splendid & all so nice - Mrs. Garlitz had eight kinds of jelly - Aunt Amanda's jelly & Quince preserve took the premium - Bessie made a fruit cake & a loaf of corn bread - Rose a sponge cake & Lily a jelly cake & as there was no competition they each got a premium on their loaves of cake - They made the cake all themselves - beat the eggs & pounded the sugar Bessie stoned her raisins & washed her currants herself & they worked hard - & had very nice cake all of them - I think they are smarter than I ever was for I never made a loaf of cake when I was ~~seven~~ or nine years old I dont believe - They had so many fine horses at the fair they had to keep it one day longer in order to have them all exhibited - There were fast horses here from Covington - Lexington Portsmouth, Gallipolis Groton &c - The first time received $50. & they made up a purse of a hundred for the first time & donated it to ~~the~~ poor Mr Hoffman. Mr Hoffman poor man ~~they~~ has been

[17 Oct 1867]

Know all men that I John Rhoder of Boyd County Kentucky for Twenty five hundred 00/100 ($2500 00/100) dollars, received from do sell and convey to, Thomas W. Means of Hanging Rock Ohio, all my right, title and interest to the Buena Vista Furnace property being the one undivided sixteenth (1/16), described in the following deeds reference to which is here made, and for description the same are made a part of this deed; viz deed from Thomas Moran and wife to, John Culbertson, James W. Means, John E. Clark, Hugh Means, Samuel McClure and Wm Foster, 19th November 1847 recorded in Deed Book I page 184 Gallia County Court; deed from Wm H. Patton, George Watts, John S. Patton Edward Gibson and wife to Hugh Means and others, 15th March 1849, recorded in deed Book I page 388 Gallia County Court; deed from Richard Shelton and wife, 20th October 1852 to Hugh Means, recorded in Deed Book K. page 459 Gallia County Court, deed from Hugh Means and wife to John Rhoder and others, 4th September 1861 recorded in Deed Book page 303 Boyd County Court, deed

from Francis Fairbain and others by Thos Joyce their attorney in fact to Thomas W. Meaux and others 29th November 1864 - recorded in deed book No 2 pages 66+67+68+69, Boyd County Court, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto to have and to hold the same to said Thomas W. Meaux his heirs and assigns forever, and the said John Rhoder will warrant and defend the property hereby conveyed against all persons claiming by through or under him but against another persons nor claims,

In testimony thereof the said John Rhoder and Louisa Rhoder his wife who hereby relinquishes her rights of dower in said premises have hereunto set their hands and seals this Eighth day of October (1867) Eighteen hundred and sixty

John Rhodes
Louisa M Rhodes

State of Kentucky
Boyd County } Set

I W. O. Hampton the Clerk of the Boyd County, Kentucky State aforesaid do hereby Certify

that the foregoing deed from John Rhoades and Louisa Rhoades his wife was this day produced to me in my Office and duly acknowledged by said John Rhoades and Louisa his wife to be their act and deed and I further certify that the same has been duly stamped as required by act of Congress Therefore the same and this certificate are are certified for Record

Given under my hand this 8th day of October 1867 W O Hampton Clk

By C M Wilson deputy

State of Kentucky
Boyd County Sct

I, W. O. Hampton Clerk of the County Court of the County aforesaid do certify that the foregoing deed from John Rhodes and Louisa his wife to Thos. W. Means was on the 16th of October 1867 stamped as required by law and lodged for record. Whereupon the same together with the certificate of authentication thereto attached and this certificate has been duly recorded in my office. Given under my hand this 19th of October 1867.

W. O. Hampton Clerk
By D. W. Thornton D.C.

John Rhodes Hire

Deed to

Thomas W. Means

Filed for record Oct
16th 1867
W. O. Hampton Clk

Recorded in Deed Book
No. 3. Pages 279. 280

Examined

Fees. Paid
W. O. Hampton Clk

Mrs. O. Crum died last night after a few weeks sickness.

I believe that I wrote you of the death of Mrs McFaland - about that time they had the news that Mr Hickoe had a fit of Apoplexy, taken in his pulpit, has not spoken since; Mrs H. writes that his Physicians give her no incouragement that he ever will. the family is very much distress'd.

Tell Mr Means that Mr John Newton step'd into the Court room on his way down st. when they were just impanelling a jury - they turn'd the turn'd the key to let no one out; they had three Jurymen to select. Mr. N. got in a corner bow'd himself over bow; but his name was call'd & he had to submit with some others, it was Thursday noon, he was'nt dismest until Sunday after noon kept day & night it was a Murder case.

We have had some fine rains I am in hopes the roads will run soon that you can come up before winter. Love to all. R. E. H.

Marietta Nov. 4 - 1864 -

My Dear Hattie,

I have recev'd your letter of the 26. of October, was very happy to hear that the Children were all getting along so finely; it is a Matter of rejoicing when they are safely through with any of those com=plaints that flesh is heir to; they had much better have it when young as they would be liable to it tho' life.

You May remember that I had it eight or ten years ago, "tho' you was not here at the time", I always suppos'd that I took it from the Dis Clothes; I had been sick with Newralgia had n't been out of my room for three weeks; your Father was tending some patients at the time & I always suppos'd that I took it from his clothes.

I feel very sorry to hear that Thomas Means is so dangerously sick, Dr Hempstead told me that he thought it doubtful if he lived the winter through; I don't know as the Family are aware of his situation; I do pity them all very much.

Do be careful that John does not take cold, & has a cough; if he has attend to it immediately before it affects his lungs, as the family are so liable to consumption.

Dr Ho. has been here again in the famous case of Mrs. Vintons, it has excited a good deal of curiosity to see how it would terminate; it has been a fine topic for lawyers to display their talents upon, as it was a very singular case; they had three lawyers on a side.

The Dr. came up with his lawyer Mr. Moore, they had it all marshed out; I don't suppose that they had the least doubt but what they would get the case.

When the Morning came for the trial Mrs Vinton came in, with a fine story to testify I expect; but the first thing they did was to rule her out of Court, they would not have her to testify at all. I was very glad of it, as I think she would have committed herself very probably. — The next thing was to get witnesses to testify to Mr. Vintons Character they had Mrs Samuel Shipman & Mr. D. Barrette they couldn't have done better if they had taken Mrs Shepman & Mrs. — It took such a different turn from what they expected, that the Dr. look'd rather blue when he came in to dinner; the Judge decided that their was no fraud about it, & the case went in favor to his heirs.

Mr Vintons character stood so fair here that his friends have felt a deep interest in vindicating it; no Man stood higher here for honesty and uprightness. I have just stopt to have a chat with Lydia; she very much troubled with her eyes, has been to Cook for council.

present this time — Give my love to Mr Ross — May ~~Ros~~ — George & all my friends — And accept much love to yourself from yours ever — Hattie

Ashland Nov 25th 1867

My Dear Mother

According to your request I write you a few lines to let you know that I have reached home in safety —

We had the pleasure of staying at Hampden from half past ten till five — 6 hours and a half — It was rather tiresome — There were quite a number of ladies waiting with us so we had plenty of company — We reached Portsmouth at half past eight Mr Wm Lampton was on the cars & insisted on my going to his house next day — he came in his carriage, early the next morning, & as it was very foggy — we thought we would be safe in going out to make a call

so we made Mrs Lampton a call
saw her fine house & then I went
over to make a call on Mrs. Gaylord
saw old Mrs Hampstead — says she
thinks it is too bad that she did not
get to see you when you were down
I then went back to the hotel & found
I had missed a boat which was
quite provoking — At two o'clock the
Victor came & we got on her &
started for home but it was so
very misty & foggy that at eight
o'clock in the evening she had to lay
up at Groton where she stayed till
nine o'clock Sunday morning —
The Logan lay by the side of her all
night & in the morning started about
an hour before we did ran across
the river on to a snag & sunk — fortunately
though the water was not very deep where
she was sunk — We went over & took
most of her freight which put us
back an hour & it was done in the
morning before we got home — Found
them all well & much surprised
at seeing us so soon — The men are at
work to day changing the closet to a
window & window to a closet — So I had
to go to work & take the carpet up this
morning — It will take them several
days & we shall find it very incon-
venient doing without our dining room
I have been unpacking & straightening
up the house to day — every thing is upside
down — Catharines bump or order seems
exceedingly small
Hildreth has just tried on his new
boots & they seem to fit him pretty
It was so dark when I left Hampden
that I forgot my overshoes — So I went
into a Shoe Store in Portsmouth to buy
some & was presented with a pair
& Bessie with some shoes worth four or
five dollars — John buys from $8 to $1200
a year for the two furnaces & I suppose
they thought they would make us a

how I had spent the day, her Mother had been over to George's to a family dinner, then in came Mary Smith & Laura W. then Mr & Mrs Woodbridge & stayed after nine, so ended my thanksgiving.

Do write me how you spent the day. Mrs. Woodbridge wish'd me to say that she call'd to see you the day you left.

Mrs. Charles Hall call'd also.

While waiting for orders about Hi's socks, I knit a pair of little mittens, thinking they might be useful sometime to the little boy.

Tell Hitchcock he mustn't be in a hurry for his socks; Hi's Pap has sent me some yarn to knit for him & I think it very probable that he needs them more than he does, but I ask no questions.

Much kind love to all the family & all enquiring friends, Mrs Wilson in particular till the ladies want to see them all, I had such pleasant Mem[illegible] of Sefton & others. Send my love to Mrs Davis & tell her I send the best wishes of Mr Shaner, respects to Mr Marsden, yours &c.

M. E. H.

Marietta

Dec. 2. Old paper ~~October 4.~~ 1857.

My Dear Hattie,

I have received your letter, was happy to hear that you had arrived home safely, after all the perils by land & sea - almost equal to Paul's - You must have a very lively time I think with your dining room all in confusion, you had better remain here another week as I am quite enough, particularly to day, as Mary has taken her dinner to school George out & Caroline a washing.

Winter has come upon us very suddenly here, it commenced growing cold on Friday last, yesterday Morn the Thermometer was within 1° of zero. Last night some snow & also some to day. No rise in the river.

One half of the Inhabitants without Coal.

I must give you some Items from my journal since you left.

Mr. Nesmith I believe had given up his visit to Zanesville before you left, as the weather was getting so cold; so he concluded to remain & take the Cars Monday Morn; I got every thing ready that I could over night, & bid him godby as he didn't wish to have me get up so early I like'd the plan & kept in bed; Mr Pop call'd Mary at 4 o'clock, all hands up but me; & took breakfast; waited & waited, then Mr Pop ran down St. met the Bus returning, Cars gone; O, they had forgotten him intirely: Mr. N. went to bed & laid until we call'd him to dinner, he took the evening train & went off in the rain, & that was the last of him. I felt badly to see him go he has his trials I think in this world.

Thanksgiving pass'd off finely a good Sermon; invited Mr Pop to dine with us the day before on Turkey & Oysters.

Mary & I were invited to dine at Mr Nye's at their family gathering I accepted, but Mr. had to stay at home to do the honors at the table. I had a very nice time Col. Mon & lady Mrs Dr. Gilbert from Belpre.

We had a very nice dinner, three turkies I believe, a large tin pan of Chicken pie, a whole ham, various kinds of vegitables was the first course.

Then plum pudding very nice I will get the receipt for you Made of Crackers,

Then Italian cream & quince Jelly & cream then Cake & Coffee, apples & grapes.

Mary cook'd the dinner, Mrs Nye was a visiter, it was all very nice indeed.

Before dark in came Miss Maria to see

We heard the report of a pistol directly several men came to the door, with Mr. Towsley who was very badly hurt - it seem'd that a stranger from Parkersburg had been arrested for stealing & Mr. T. was taking him to jail, & he had broken away from him & had struck him several severe blows with his cane cutting his head badly. E. had quite a time sewing it up. - as the fire was out in the office he had to be in our dining room. It made quite a sensation. Men running to & fro; the fellow was pursued and caught & safely lodg'd in jail. Love to all the family to numerous to particularize as it includes Mr. Mc'n & Biddy. & also inquiring friends.

Yr Affectionately R. E. H.

Marietta Dec. 17 - 1867

Dear Hattie,

I rec'd your communication of the 7th, was please'd to hear from you but was very sorry to hear that you was so afflicted in body & mind at that time: but am hoping that you are relie'd of both tooth ache & carpenters.

Tell Mr. Means I sympathize with him too, as I expect he has had to sqa with the rest, in having a cross wife, as the tooth ache is said to produce irritation, but am in hopes she is an exception to the old adage.

We have been having very cold unpleasant weather here for a week or two past; first rain as it was very acceptable as it brought us several boats with coal.

Wm. Mc'n & Biddy & all the family
Wm. Mc'n & Biddy & all the family

Then we had Snow, Thermometer down to 10° above zero. windows well Curtain'd in a Morning; we have about Six inches of Snow on the ground now. Sleighs flying, bells jingling, lively Ladies & Boys riding I don't know which predominates, but certainly the latter are the most quick.

It would be very amusing to your Children to look out My window and See So Many moving about, indeed it is company for me as I have n't had beck few callers for a few days past. I have kept close to the fire & been very well & comfortable I was at a Circle last week at Mr Fowler's & met nearly half the Town, Mrs. F. I made it very gay & lively we had a very pleasant time Many invited guests, Strangers also.

I don't know of any news to write you; Marietta news is rather a Scarce article, all behaving themselves with propriety.

The last time I saw Maria W. She inquir'd after you, She said she expected to hear that you was making a large party. — Lucy I believe gives the Christmas dinner to the family.

I expect to have a Splendid dinner as Caroline is going home the day before but you need n't feel any anxiety about my Starving as long as we have Mary Ann; but I fear our breakfasts will be light if we depend on her.

Night before last G. & I were Sitting here by the fire very quietly when we heard an unusual noise in the St. G. went to the door, but couldn't ascertain what it was

their time — They sew for their dolls
Bessie has just made her big
doll a gored dress & coat sleeves
& cut it all herself — being her first
attempt at such large mantua making
She is very proud of it — & I think
she will soon be able to do some
thing for herself —
You can do what you please with
the yarn — One of the twins has lost
one of her mittens — you might knit
her a pair out of it if there is enough
as their hands get cold going to school —
Love to George — Mr Ross & Mary —
Rita Lis & Jennie & all inquiring
friends — Write soon to yours aff —
Hattie —

Ashland Dec 26th 1867

My Dear Mother

I was happy to
hear from you and find you
sitting by your fire comfortable &
well — Anticipating the delightful
Christmas dinner your cook May
Ross was to get up for you —
I hope it proved as good as ex-
pected — But I dont thank you
for not pitying me a bit when
I had the toothache eleven days
but only pitying John — I think
you show rather too much partiality
particularly as he went away
day times & never stayed awake
at night — However it quit aching
at last — I set up with my mouth
full of bread & milk all one day

& with a hot bran poultice at night - it gradually subsided -
Christmas is over at last & I cant say I am at all sorry - The children & Biddy have talked of nothing else for weeks - Biddy has been to a wake & sat up all night last night & till nearly four A.M. the night before - So she ought to feel better -
The children had each a basket & stocking or two stockings hung up & filled - Biddy made them hand some presents & Mr Haskell sent them a Christmas box of candies figs, raisons & nice toys - & an old dutchman sent them a barrel of brautyul Red apples - Biddy prepared turkey chicken & pies the day before & started early Christmas morning on her travels & came back the next morning
I got dinner & the children invited five little girls to dine with them and have a candy pulling after dinner - So they had a splendid time - and had of course a very merry Christmas -
John went to a Methodist oyster supper last night at the big hotel & got home after twelve
I thought they must have danced after the Methodists had gone home or else some of the Methodists ladies must have been uncommonly agreeable - I suppose Mary Smith can give you all the particulars of Mag Bowls wedding - Jane - Mag & Mary Anne went up to attend it on Tuesday, with John Meaut -
I ~~was~~ thought she might have invited me, as she was at my wedding - and I should not have gone anyhow -
The children are all much pleased with school they are having vacation this week since Christmas and hardly know how to put in