

Glenwood February 24th 64

My dear son

I expect to go to Mason Court

tomorrow and if Hall's trial comes off,

I may be detained there a week. I wish

to put you at rest about the draft_ By

the act of March 1863, you are not liable

to be enrolled or drafted, not being 20 years

of age on the first day of July 1863_ In the

enrollment list made for this county

and posted on the court house door

you were not included_ By a late

amendment, all who have attained 20

years of age by the time of the

draft were made liable. Mr. Bowyer

told me, a few days ago, that your

name had been added to the list, but

that he had rubbed it out, they

not having been officially informed

of the passage of the amendment, and

that unless the board got official notice, they

would not restore the name__He also said that

they were volunteering pretty fast and

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that there might be no draft for this

county_But if your name should be on

the list and be drawn, I have all the arrange

ment made to pay the commutation, which

remains as before at \$200¹__So you need

give yourself no *[illegible]*, in any event,

even if you should receive a notice__

I wrote you this, that your mind may

be in no manner withdrawn from

¹ Payment to substitutes for draftees

your studies, by which you should now
be engrossed__This is the very seed time
of life with you_ My absorbing
desire is to see you, my dear and only
child, becoming fitted for usefulness
on earth, and for everlasting life in
the world to come__ Patience, industry
and determination to succeed are all
you need, with health to sustain the
effort. To this end, mingle study and
exercise in due proportion. Should
you be attacked with sickness, have the
best physicians in the place to see you at
once and take all precautions against

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colds, coughs &c_ You have never had the

measles²___ It is not a dangerous disease

unless neglected, or with exposure___ If it

is about, avoid it, especially in March.

May God have few in his special keeping

and preserve you to be the joy, pride &

support of your devoted parents.

We have no special news

here. Genl Crook³ gives general satisfac

tion. Genl Siegel [*sic*]⁴, who has been assigned to

the Dept of West Va, & suppose will

have his head quarters in the Potomac

country or N. West. It is probable

that the forces in this Valley will be

increased___ We are still in danger of

roving renegades in Putnam, though as

yet, they have not visited our immediate

² Lewis' younger brother George Laidley Summers died from measles the previous year.

³ General George Crook

⁴ General Franz Sigel

Summers, Lewis from father Judge George Summers

neighborhood_ Edgar⁵ has rented your

Aunt Millam's⁶ farm to a couple of men

named Burgess & Cottle at \$300. I expect

they are very good tenants__ I rented

what we call the *[illegible]* field, to

Stark & his brother in law John Smith

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for \$100__Smith is living in the small

[illegible] house--I thought it but to

[illegible] the ground to cultivate at the

Grove,⁷ our hands are so high.

Write me, my son in to your studies

and everything which concerns you.

Come to me and your mother⁸, above

all others, in everything which interests

⁵ Albert Edgar Summers, M. D., Lewis' cousin

⁶ Ann Summers Millan was Judge George Summers' sister

⁷ Walnut Grove was the Summers' family property in Putnam County

⁸ Amacetta Laidley Summers

you or may trouble you. We feel
a thousand times more interest in
you, then all the world beside
and can best advise & sympathise [*sic*]
with you__Write freely & fully.

Did you get an overcoat or
conclude to postpone it? Do as you
like about. You shall have the
money to pay for it, if you want it.

God bless you, my dear son and
protect you from all dangers which
may hurt the body & specifically from
everything that may taint or pollute
the soul.

Your devoted father

GWS