

**Lewis Summers from Amacetta L. Summers, December 7, 1864**

Glenwood Dec 7th 1864

My Dear my very dear child

We have had

no letter from you for some time, and I

am feeling more than ordinary solicitude

for your health and safety; we are having

many cases of sickness and death around

us, and it alarms me for you; we must

hear from you sick or well, you must not

neglect writing us\_\_ I have not written for

a longer time than usual, but Syd<sup>1</sup> has

written\_\_ Your Father<sup>2</sup> has been engaged in

a court martial, in the case of Capt Notts<sup>3</sup> [*sic*]

a Confederate charged with being a spy &

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<sup>1</sup> William Sydney Laidley, Amacetta's brother & Lewis Summers' uncle & close friend.

<sup>2</sup> Judge George Summers, Lewis' father

<sup>3</sup> Captain Absalom Knotts was a Confederate soldier in the 14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, Co. E. He was captured in 1864 & court-martialed. Judge George Summers defended him; he was acquitted. Judge Summers' notes on the case are in his files in the Glenwood Collection Archives.

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 of recruiting in the federal lines; he has

been engaged in it for two weeks & have

not finished it yet, the Superior Court

is also in session\_\_\_ I am very much

afraid they will shoot Capt Notts. I think

it will be a most cruel & unjust thing

he is only a prisoner of war

*[p. 2]*

My mind is very much turned

upon solemn things, we have had

the king of terrors, Death, among us\_\_\_ Poor

M<sup>rs</sup> DeLinire<sup>4</sup> ~~has~~ yesterday buried her

little Hulda,<sup>5</sup> she died of diphtheria,

Mary<sup>6</sup> has it, but I hope she will recover

she was buried outside the upper corner of

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<sup>4</sup> Prosper & Hulda Delineire, along with their children, Mary, Madeline, Hulda & Paul, appear on the 1860 census for Kanawha County.

<sup>5</sup> Hulda Delineire's age was given as four on the 1860 census.

<sup>6</sup> Mary Delineire's age was given as ten on the 1860 census.

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 their garden fence in the vineyard\_\_ M<sup>r</sup>

Chapman our new hand has a very sick

child\_\_ William Jones<sup>7</sup> is very low\_\_

I have been stirring about some too\_\_

last Thursday Mary Van<sup>8</sup> & Sally Fry<sup>9</sup> &

Lewis Wilson<sup>10</sup> came down to spend the day

Irene<sup>11</sup> was down at D<sup>r</sup> Patricks<sup>12</sup> & I sent for

her & Vene<sup>13</sup>, they came & brought a M<sup>r</sup> ~~Bairst~~

~~rias~~ Bristorias with them, they had a pleas-

ant day, the next day i went to town to

spend the day with M<sup>rs</sup> Capeheart at D<sup>r</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> William Jones & his wife Harriet are mentioned in several of Amacetta's letters.

<sup>8</sup> Mary Van Fry, 32, married Lewis Wilson, 61, in 1870 in Kanawha County, WV.

<sup>9</sup> Sally Fry is Mary Van Fry's sister.

<sup>10</sup> Lewis Wilson is listed as Deputy Postmaster on the 1860 Kanawha County census & his age is listed as 57.

<sup>11</sup> Irene Estill was a friend of Lewis'. She was born about 1844, the daughter of Davis & Maria Estill. She married John Woodward in 1868. In 1880, John & Irene Woodward can be found in North Liberty, Adams County, Ohio. An Irene Woodward who was born in WV was listed on the 1900 census at Dayton State Hospital, Montgomery Co., OH. She was about 51 years old and a widow. In 1905, Irene Woodward (widow of John) is listed on a city directory in Hamilton County, OH.

<sup>12</sup> Dr. Spicer Patrick was a prominent Charleston physician & politician. He lived to the west of Glenwood in the area of the current Patrick Street.

<sup>13</sup> Vene was a nickname for Lavinia Patrick, daughter of Dr. Spicer Patrick & a friend of Lewis'. She is mentioned in several letters. She married Major William Gramm in Kanawha County in 1865. He served in the 7<sup>th</sup> WV Cavalry.

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 Hales,<sup>14</sup> I also called on Emma Lovell

found her very much changed\_\_ had a

splendid dinner at M<sup>rs</sup> C's, M<sup>rs</sup> Patrick<sup>15</sup>

& M<sup>rs</sup> Lucy Donnally<sup>16</sup> were there; Sunday

I enjoyed a greater feast in heaven, a

*[p. 3]*

a first rate sermon from a

gentleman from New York who

has been sent on here to attend to the

Bruen lands\_\_ & on Monday M<sup>rs</sup> P

and I accomplished the remarkable

feat of walking up to Joel Ruffner's &

back in the evening, but it was proved

rather too much for me, for I have not

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<sup>14</sup> Dr. John P Hale was a prominent Charleston citizen.

<sup>15</sup> Virginia Harvie Patrick was the third wife of Dr. Spicer Patrick. She & Dr. Patrick were married in Richmond in 1852. She died of "old age" in 1915.

<sup>16</sup> Lucy Donnally was the wife of Andrew Donnally, according to the 1860 census. His occupation is given as "salt agent."

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recovered from it yet\_\_ we had a very

pleasant day, I wish you would call on

the girls when you come home, I like them

very much, Kate is quite pretty\_\_

Yesterday I was with poor distressed M<sup>rs</sup>

DeLinieri\_\_& now i will have to close

this for M<sup>rs</sup> Light<sup>17</sup> is up stairs waiting

for me to show her about the room

with the new furniture\_\_ and I must

send this by Jimmy<sup>18</sup> when he goes up

with the horse for your Father\_\_

I am counting the days until you

come. I hope Addie<sup>19</sup> will come, we

have not heard from her yet

*[p. 4]*

Your affectionate

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<sup>17</sup> Mrs. Light's name appears in several letters between Summers' family members. Apparently, she is employed as domestic help at Glenwood.

<sup>18</sup> Jimmy?

<sup>19</sup> Addie?

**Lewis Summers from Amacetta L. Summers, December 7, 1864**  
Mother