

Winfield, Saturday morning

Apr 10th/58

My Dearest Wife

The sad intelligence which reached
us by the "Quarrier"¹ has doubtless also come to
distress and overwhelm you. We have only
the account of the loss of the "Sultan"² as
given in the Cincinnati papers and the
statement is somewhat confused, leaving
some room to hope that there may
be a mistake- It may have been the
wife of Albert Poage instead of Julius³
that was lost_ What a blow to your
father & mother & all the family, if
it shall turn out true_ The only

¹ "The A. W. Quarrier" operated on the Kanawha & Ohio Rivers.

² The "Sultan" burned & sank on the Mississippi River in April 1858.

³ Amacetta's sister, Sarah Laidley, married Julius Poage in Cabell County in 1850. They, along with other members of his family, including his brother Albert, were aboard when the boat caught fire & sank. Sarah Laidley Poage was drowned, as well as several members of the Poage family.

Summers, Amacetta L. from George Summers, April 10, 1858

consolation that any of us can seize

hold of, is the reflection that she

was prepared for the great change

however sudden or awful the

manner of its approach. I trust

my dear wife, that you will

call to your aid, the comforts which

religion can only afford, and that in

the face of this great calamity, you

will exact an abiding trust in God

& in his wisdom & greatness_ I wish

[p. 2]

I could be with you to sympathize in your grief

and to help bear this heavy burden_ I

have scarcely been able to put the thought

out of my mind since yesterday morning

when I heard the news. I can [illegible]

Summers, Amacetta L. from George Summers, April 10, 1858

[illegible] in the hope that we may

yet hear that she is among the living.

Don't let this event effect *[sic]* your
own health_ Constant employment
and exercise & trust in an all wise
providence, are the only relief and
protection in such a case.

We got down on Wednesday
in good time. Wm⁴ took the buggy
down by the ferry and journeyed
over. I found all well__ Jane and
Celina⁵ would be delighted to get a
letter from you. Do write them.
I commenced the trial of Eskew⁶ for
murder yesterday and did not go up
last night_ Wm went up__ It will

⁴ Wm?

⁵ Jane & Celina Summers were Judge George Summers' older sisters. They lived on the Walnut Grove property in Putnam County.

⁶ trial of Eskew?

Summers, Amacetta L. from George Summers, April 10, 1858

take all day__ We are at Mrs. F's⁷

and very comfortable.

I will send up the clover seed and

seed corn by the boat on Monday--

Jackson⁸ to look out and get them, or

[p. 3]

Billy. The [illegible] will be on board.

I spoke to [3-4 illegible words] to

to sow the Clover seed & he has promised

to do it__ I want it sowed on all

the wheat land, beginning at the

lot next to Mr Carr.⁹

Tell them if the weather continues

right to plant the corn next

week_ Make them plant the

⁷ Mrs. F's?

⁸ In a will written in 1849, Judge Summers makes provision for the eventual emancipation of an enslaved man named Jackson.

⁹ Mr. Carr is probably James Carr, who lived at Edgewood, east of the Summers' Glenwood property.

Summers, Amacetta L. from George Summers, April 10, 1858

potatoes in the patch in the

meadow next week _____I think

you had better fill up the garden

at the [illegible], with potatoes &

cabbage, &c.

It will take me most of next

week to get through here__[illegible]

[illegible] any mail.

God bless you my dearest

wife. I draw you to my bosom with

[illegible] of [illegible]. My love to all.

Richard Laidley¹⁰ brought the papers

here containing the news referred to.

Your devoted husband

GWS.

¹⁰ Richard Laidley is a cousin of Amacetta Laidley Summers.