

## Lewis Summers from Amacetta L. Summers, April 8, 1866

Glenwood April 8th [1866]<sup>1</sup>

My dear Louy

I have a few moments that I can devote to you and I write in a hurry, but I have been wanting to write to you for some time but have not had an opportunity\_ I am so afraid you will not be confirmed when the Bishop<sup>2</sup> comes, I want you to so much, I want you to start out for Heaven, to serve God, to be a Christian all your life\_\_ and still I am afraid to urge it too much, for fear you might not hold, but if you could only feel the importance of the undertaking and the great end to be gained or shunned,\_\_ and I pray God to strengthen you in all good resolutions, to do His Will & to make you His faithful follower, His child\_\_

Mr. Jacobs<sup>3</sup> is still sick, the doctors think he is getting better, but very slowly, I am having a real time, and I have to remember constantly that he is a minister of the Gospel, a servant of God

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And for His Master's sake I must do everything I can, and do it without complaining, but he is hard to please, and it is a great deal of trouble, but I think

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<sup>1</sup> The Newton Sims murder trial took place in 1866 so this date can be inferred from the contents of this letter.

<sup>2</sup> Probably the Reverend John Johns, who was the Episcopal Bishop of Virginia during this time.

<sup>3</sup> The Reverend William Fenton Mercer Jacobs was the minister at St. John's Episcopal Church after the Civil War. Poor health led to his resignation from that position & he died in 1867 at Alexandria, VA.

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suppose Louy was sick and those who nursed him  
 did it grudgingly, & unwillingly, and then I go on & do  
 everything in my power, with a better grace\_\_ I do not know  
 how much longer he is to be in bed, he has been there two  
 weeks\_\_ my evil genius M<sup>rs</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Jones<sup>4</sup> has just  
 made her appearance and wants me to hire her, I can  
 not do it, she is just in from Monroe, she says the  
 Joneses are very much dissatisfied and are all  
 coming out this fall\_\_ Your father has been engaged  
 to prosecute Simms<sup>5</sup> the murderer, or rather was assigned  
 by the court at the request of Hindman,<sup>6</sup> they finished  
 his case last evening, the jury brought in a verdict of  
 guilty of murder, every one was afraid he would be  
 cleared, but the evidence was so strong, there was nothing  
 else to be done, poor wretch he well deserves hanging, the  
 other\_ Blundon<sup>7</sup> has not been tried, he is as guilty as

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Simms, but he not did not do the act\_  
 I know you will be distressed to see the death of

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<sup>4</sup> Mrs. William Jones from Monroe is mentioned in several other letters. Her first name is Harriet.

<sup>5</sup> In March 1866, Newton G. Sims was going to Charleston, Kanawha County. He said, "...on the way fell in with one Alexander White, and killed him, and I was tried for this in Charleston, W. Va., and sentenced to 18 years in Moundsville Penitentiary. I was pardoned out Feb 16, 1881...."

<sup>6</sup> William L. Hindman, Esq. was a Kanawha County lawyer who served as prosecuting attorney & president of the county court at various times during his career.

<sup>7</sup> Blundon is apparently Newton Sims' accomplice in the Alexander White murder.

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your friend Charley Quarrier<sup>8</sup> notice in the Republican<sup>9</sup>

Your father has directed your cousin Edgar<sup>10</sup> to send  
you the paper regularly, I believe he is to take charge  
of the paper\_\_ Poor Charley, you know he had been wounded  
in the leg, it became necessary to extract the bullet, he was recov-  
ering from the operation, and fell from his crutches, &  
hurt his leg over again and caused his death\_\_

We had a snow this morning, the peach, pear, cherries  
are blooming & covered with snow\_\_ I have made some  
garden M<sup>rs</sup> Light<sup>11</sup> & I at little odd scraps of time,  
my hyacinths are beautiful\_ and old Mother Earth  
is putting on her beautiful changeable dress again\_

Irene Estill<sup>12</sup> was down to see M<sup>r</sup> Jacobs last week she  
said she had a nice letter from you not long before  
several other things I wanted to say but dinner &  
M<sup>r</sup> Jacobs have just been attended to & they have flown  
like the black birds off the birch tree.\_

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I am so glad that time is near at hand to have  
you at home for good, I need you, you can be a

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<sup>8</sup> Charles "Charley" Claudeus Quarrier enlisted in Co. H, 22<sup>nd</sup> Virginia on May 8, 1861. Sgt. Quarrier was wounded in right leg below his knee & taken prisoner at the Battle of Winchester, VA on September 19, 1864--the same battle in which his colonel, Col. George S. Patton, was mortally wounded. He was exchanged from Baltimore Hospital at Point Lookout, MD in October 1864. He was paroled on May 10, 1865.

<sup>9</sup> *The Kanawha Republican* was published from 1841 to 1871 & was originally edited by Enos Newton.

<sup>10</sup> Albert Edgar Summers, MD was the nephew of Judge George Summers.

<sup>11</sup> Mrs. Light is mentioned in several letters between Summers' family members & is apparently domestic help at Glenwood.

<sup>12</sup> Irene Estill was the daughter of Maria and Davis Estill. She was born in 1845 & married John P. Woodward on July 8, 1868.

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great comfort to me\_\_ Your Uncle Theo<sup>13</sup> wrote me  
his usual birthday letter, & Jeannie his wife<sup>14</sup> wrote a  
most pressing invitation to visit them this summer  
it is perfectly out of the question for me to think of  
it, but she extends the invitation to you, & says she  
wants you to see Jenny the daughter,<sup>15</sup> \_\_

Good bye this time give my love to sweet Lucy<sup>16</sup> I  
wish I could send her a bunch of hyacinths\_

Your affectionate

Mother

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<sup>13</sup> Uncle Theo is Amacetta's brother, Lt. Col. Theodore Thaddeus Sobieski Laidley. He had an illustrious military career, primarily in the field of ordnance.

<sup>14</sup> Jeannie is the nickname of Theodore T. S. Laidley's wife, Jane Webb Averill Laidley.

<sup>15</sup> Jenny is Jane Averell Laidley, 1849-1933. She married Rev. Henry H. Oberly in 1871.

<sup>16</sup> "...sweet Lucy" is Lewis' future wife, Lucy Woodbridge.