

Summers, George from Lewis Summers, February 25, 1866

Marietta Feb. 25th 1866

My Dear Father

I have received several letters from home this week. Mothers¹ of the 11th, yours of 18th & Syd's² of the same date. I was glad to get them all, and still more so to hear of your increasing good health_ I hope it may continue to improve, and the spring weather soon set in, so that you can go & come at all times, with enough exercise. We have very fickle weather up here, and I suppose also at home. One day is no certainty of bringing another like it, and the rule seems to be for tomorrow to be as unlike today as possible. I hardly think we will have much more hard weather, and with that idea in my in my head, only provided enough coal to last a few weeks longer.

I suppose before ~~you~~ this, you have heard of the burning of the "Winchester,"³ a fine new sidewheel

¹ Amacetta Laidley Summers

² William Sydney Laidley was Amacetta's younger brother & Lewis' uncle & close friend.

Summers, George from Lewis Summers, February 25, 1866

steamer in the Pittsburg [*sic*] & Parkersburg trade. I am

unable to learn any particulars, save that some

25 lives were lost. One man on board saved

six ladies lives, under the impression that one

was his wife; but unfortunately he did not save her_

One man from this place escaped, but returned to

get his money; while looking for it the floor fell in

and he was precipitated to the lower deck among

some horses. One of them fell on him and almost

[p.2]

crushed him. He finally managed to get from

under the horse & escaped. It is awful_ these

accidents, and so many of them too. I heard a

rumor today that [*two illegible words*] river boat had been

cut down by ice, and twenty or thirty lost there_ It is

indeed perilous to travel, and I have more par-

³ The steamboat, "Winchester" caught fire & burned on the Ohio River near East Liverpool, Ohio, on February 23, 1866.

Summers, George from Lewis Summers, February 25, 1866

ticularly realized in the last year than was

before the meaning of that part of the Litany that

pray to “preserve all who travel by land or by water.” ⁴

I feel thankful that all of us have so far escaped.

I thought you said you were going to send

me the Republican.⁵ It has never come to hand. I

should like to see it, for I have no opportunity of

getting any W. Va news. Syd says Marden⁶ turns

out as bad a Republican as Moore,⁷ and says it

is a sell on the Conservatives who paid for his press.

Well it is a joke on them, they ought to know that

Connecticut Yankees are slippery characters.

Let them beware hereafter.

What do you suppose is the chance that

Charleston may ultimately become the Capitol?⁸

⁴ From the 1789 edition of the Episcopal Church's *Book of Common Prayer*

⁵ *The Kanawha Republican* newspaper was published from 1841 to 1871 & was originally edited by Enos Newton.

⁶ Marden?

⁷ Moore?

⁸ West Virginia's first Capitol was in Wheeling, WV. In 1865, the WV Legislature voted to move the Capitol to Charleston, which occurred in 1870. The Capitol moved back to Wheeling in 1875 but its stay was temporary. Charleston became the permanent Capitol in 1885.

Summers, George from Lewis Summers, February 25, 1866

As there is such a long time given before deciding
the question some wise-working may be
done. I hope it may be done and successful-
ly.

I've got a joke on you, and will tell it by giving
you a piece of advice__ Don't in future put a
five cent internal revenue stamp⁹ on your
letters in place of a three cent postage stamp.

[p. 3]

We are having a good time in Mineralogy.
We are testing minerals for ourselves, and find
it a very nice study. Our acids & blow pipes & other
fixings give our room quite a mineralogical
appearance__ We will go into Geology this term,
and I hope I will like that as well. If I get into
it pretty well, I hope Will¹⁰ & I may take a tour

⁹ Revenue stamps were government-issued stamps verifying that taxes have been paid on a variety of items, including alcohol & tobacco. Documentary revenue stamps were used on documents to show that taxes had been paid on legal transactions. Neither was acceptable as postage.

Summers, George from Lewis Summers, February 25, 1866

around the country and experiment somewhat.

It is rather early in the term to say anything about money, and I wouldn't do it, but for one reason. This is my last term here, and I have a better opportunity of getting new books at lower figures than I can have at home. There are a great many books that I want, but I have not the money to get them. If you will adhere to your old agreement of investing \$40 or more in books, I promise that it all shall go in that way. I have some money yet at hand that will keep me along, but not to get books. I have paid out a good deal as you will see by the enclosed acct, but you must remember that a great part of it was these large bills for board, room, tuition, fuel &c. On the whole I don't think I have been very more (or as much) extravagant as last term. After this term I don't propose to be much expense to

¹⁰ Will?

you.

I hope Mr. Jacobs¹¹ will succeed in his plans
about the Sem.¹² Do you know that I have already
determined what to do when I get to be worth a

[p. 4]

million? The interest on that will be \$60,000
a year, and I suppose I can live on 10,000 very
comfortably__ Well, I'm going to build a nice
large Episcopal Church at a cost of somewhere
near \$20,000__ put up an Academy, and if Mr.
Jacobs hasn't succeeded by that time with his
Seminary, I will build that too. Good idea?
Guess you needn't draw up the papers just
yet, something might turn up to prevent.

I hope the harsh weather is over, so that I
can hear from home regularly again.

¹¹ 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.

¹² seminary

Summers, George from Lewis Summers, February 25, 1866

Glad to hear of Mothers increased good

health.

Love to all

As Ever

Lew