

# Preface

The following letters were written by my great great grandmother Nancy Chapman Jones to my great grandmother May Jones McCarthy (Gibson) during the Civil War. They were transcribed in the 1930s. I have the originals and I know what a difficult job that must have been! Many were written at night, light was poor, paper was scarce so every possible bit of it was used.

I felt it was time to share their contents with the people of Boonville, Missouri and the world. I hope all those who read them will treasure them as I do.

The memoirs were written in the 1930's at my childhood home by my great uncle William Justin McCarthy. He was my great grandmother Mary's eldest child and only son. He lived in Boonville in his youth and always considered it home.

Perhaps I have some relatives living in the Boonville area today but I'm sorry to say that I don't know any of them.

Nan O'Meara Strang  
September 30, 2001

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# Prologue

Caleb Jones was born in Baltimore, Maryland on March 11, 1805, a son of Captain Joshua Jones, who during the War of 1812 when Baltimore was bombarded by the British, helped in the defense of the city. About 1815 Joshua Jones moved with his family to Cynthiana, Kentucky. When Caleb Jones was 21 years of age, in 1826, he came to Missouri on horseback, swimming his horse across the Missouri River at Franklin, Missouri. With such meager resources as he could command, Caleb Jones put his credit to the test and was able to secure a small stock of merchandise with which he opened a store at the landing at Arrow Rock. This venture was the beginning of the successful career. From the very beginning his affairs prospered, his mercantile venture presently was expanded to include banking and he thus became one of the pioneer bankers of this section of Missouri, his operations necessitating the removal of his base of operations from Arrow Rock to Boonville. He invested largely in real estate and was at one time the owner of about 6,000 acres of land in Cooper County, the greater part of his holdings lying in Blackwater Township.

On November 10, 1831 Caleb Jones married Nancy Chapman, who born 06 Apr 1814 in Howard County, Missouri. She was a daughter of Squire George Washington Chapman, a Kentucky frontiersman, and a pioneer in Missouri, Illinois, and Kansas. He was a noted border character who spent his life in advancing the outposts of civilization in remote and unsettled regions.

The above information, taken from local histories, gives the background of two of the main characters in the letters of Nancy nee' Chapman Jones. It is now 1861 and Caleb Jones has amassed a fortune. "When he had made a hundred thousand dollars he said that was enough to satisfy any man, so he disposed of his business and became a retired merchant." The money was invested in Missouri farmland and Caleb played at farming. Nancy nee' Chapman Jones always said, "it took Caleb Jones, the merchant, to keep up Caleb Jones, the farmer."

When Caleb Jones was a merchant, he lived on Spring Street in Boonville, later the home of Dr. Charles Swap. After his retirement he built a house on one of his farms about three and a half miles west of Boonville. The house was soon destroyed by fire and when it was destroyed. It was replaced by a brick house. Nancy Jones never liked the house so it was sold and a third one about a half a mile further west was built. This home was called Oakland because of the many oak trees on the ground. The house is just in the final stages of being finished when the Civil War began to unfold.

The Caleb Jones' had three children. Addie "Ada" Sands Jones, the oldest child had married William D. Muir on January 1, 1851 and had a large and growing family. Mary Levinia Jones was the middle child. When she had finished her schooling in Boonville, the family had taken a trip to San Antonio, Texas. There she met and fell in love with Justin McCarthy. The corresponded and Mr. McCarthy came to Boonville in a rush and married Mary. As Nancy Jones begins her letters, her daughter is returning with her new husband to San Antonio. George Chapman Jones was the youngest child. As the letters start he is at home with her parents. So with this information let us start with .....

# The Letters

Boonville April 6, 1861

My dear daughter<sup>1</sup>

I received your letter from Baltimore this morning, and as I expected you would write from Washington you may guess how impatient I have been to hear from you. I am staying with Ada<sup>2</sup>, she gave birth to a fine boy<sup>3</sup> the Friday morning after you left, she says you made a narrow escape, and that Mr. [Justin] McCarthy<sup>4</sup> will now understand why she did not have invited company. Mr. [William D.] Muir<sup>5</sup> become so uneasy about her that he left his business with Mr. Draffin<sup>6</sup> [James Wellington Draffen] and came home Thursday, he also wished to be at your marriage. Ada was taken sick Thursday evening and the babe was born at 2 o'clock Friday morning. She has been very ill, on Sunday night after her confinement she thought herself dying. Dr. [F. E. G.] Thomas<sup>7</sup> was up to see her three times during the night, until after the ninth day is considered the most critical period, this is the 9<sup>th</sup> day and I hope she is safe, but she will require very careful nursing, the weather has been very favorable. It has rained almost every day since you left, Ada thinks her confinement is fortunate for me as she thinks I am so much occupied with her and the children that I cannot think about you, but I find time to think of you night and day. I know you think I did wrong to oppose your marriage as I did, nor can you ever understand how hard it is for a mother to give up a daughter to the protection and companionship of a stranger, until you have a daughter married then you will know all about it, and not till then. I hope Mr. [Justin] McCarthy will bring you back soon and stay long enough for us to get acquainted with him. It seems strange for me to say I am not acquainted with my daughter's husband, but such is really the fact, I don't think I was ever in Mr. [Justin] McCarthy's company half an hour at any one time and scarcely knew how he looked until I saw him last. I hope you will enjoy your northern tour very much be very careful not to take cold by getting your feet wet this rainy weather. I am not with you to watch over you but I cannot keep from thinking about all these things. I suppose you will visit the museum and picture galleries, and see the statuary and works of art on exhibition. I wish I could be with you at Niagra as I have always had a desire to witness the grandeur and sublimity of the falls. I wish you would keep a diary and when you have leisure write me a minute description of your trip. I sent your guitar to Mr. Harper with a request for him to mark and forward it as you directed. Dr. [F. E. G.] Thomas prohibits company therefore I have not seen any of your friends, nor heard any thing new to write to you. Douglas [Douglas Muir] says poor Mr. Revis has been sick. Tommie Russel [Russell] is at home. Minnie [Muir] says if Aunt Mary knew we had a baby here she would come back home, the children are delighted with the babe and Mr. [William D.] Muir makes as much ado as if he was the baby, he looks like Minnie [Muir] and is named Caleb [Muir], your Pa has not seen him yet. I expect to be home tomorrow, Mrs. [Maria] Muir is coming to stay with Ada next week, I need rest very much. Mr. [William D.] Muir leaves in a day or two to be gone three weeks. I am writing in Ada's room while she and the babe are sleeping, and the room is so dark I can scarcely see the lines. I sent the "Observer", with the notice of your marriage in it to brother Jack<sup>8</sup> [Chapman]. Ada sent a slice of cake to both the editors. The notice was written by Mr. Hall. I wanted to send you one of the papers but could not find one at Mr. [William D.] Muir's. I suppose they were left at the office. We all want to see very much the servants and all Mrs Wiggs included she says you was always so friendly that she liked you better than any young lady she ever knew.

This is my birthday I am 46 years old. I think Mary you ought to come see us before you go to San Antonio, I cannot bear the thought of that Gulf. I feel as if I would never see you any more when you got so far from me, you must be sure to write every week, if you know with what anxiety I shall look for or a letter you would not neglect it, for I cannot live at all if I do not hear from you once a week. Ada sends her love to you I pray that you may be kept from temptation and delivered from evil, present my regards to Mr. [Justin] McCarthy and tell him not to forget the promise he made me at parting. Must close for it is nearly dark.

your mother

Boonville April 15, 1861

My Dear Mary

I am again writing in Ada's room having returned yesterday to stay with her this week, she is getting along very well, has been sitting up half the day for two or three days, she intends writing to Mr. [William D.] Muir tomorrow, he will be so much better reconciled (as he is compelled to be absent) if he knows she is able to sit up and write a few lines.



**OAKLAND**  
**Photograph from Library of Congress**

I asked Mattie<sup>10</sup> [Muir] what I must tell aunt Mary about her and the baby she said tell her I will give you a piece of paper and let you wrap the baby up and send it to aunt Mary, she seems to think it can be done up in a paper parcel like the doll babies that are bought for her.

Minnie<sup>11</sup> [Muir] insists that if you knew us had a baby you would come straight home. I received your letter of the 9th yesterday, and am very glad you are so much pleased with Mr. [Justin] McCarthy's relatives and that you are going to stay with them during his stay in Boston, you would be so lonely and unprotected at a Hotel. You doubtless see many things in New York that are new, strange and interesting to you but donot let the things of time and sense engross too much of your thoughts and affections, for after all they are but vanity and vexation of spirit. Could you not find a more rational and instructive place of amusement for some of your evenings than the Theater, you donot speak of having attended any other. I congratulate you in being so fortunate in the mantau makers line, how do like your black silkscasque? How does it fit and how nearly was it finished? I hope you will at last get your flounced silk made wearable, it is certainly an expensive dress. Present my best regards to Mr. Vaughn and tell him I think the medical profession will suit his admirably he will make such a capital nurse, he will never allow has patients to become low spirited, which I think does as much good as medicine. Mr. Jones<sup>12</sup> desires me to give his thanks to Mr. [Justin] McCarthy for New York papers.

George<sup>13</sup> says I must tell you something for him he is taking much more interest in books than formerly, he studies and recites his lessons every morning and works in the afternoon. The week I spent in town your pa prepared quite an agreeable surprise for me he had all the stumps taken up and the yard nicely soded around the house, he procured pears, catalpa's, snowballs and a large black honeysuckle from the nursery, and Oakland is beginning to assume quite a home like appearance.

How strange a thing to hope, and how utterly miserable would we poor mortals be without it. When you left I thought I would never take any more interest in any thing earthly, and felt perfectly Indifferent about our house ever being finished, my work basket I thought would have rest, now I find myself planing and thinking about what I will make and fix up for you by the time you got home again, and how nicely I will have your room fitted up and arranged for you and Mr. [Justin] McCarthy, I have not been down street since you left, yesterday I ventured to Church and how I missed your voice in the singing, brother [J. R.] Hall<sup>14</sup> preached an excellent sermon Miss Anne Andrews and a young men I did not know joined the church.

A dispatch has been received here that Sumpter is taken, these are indeed perilous times we know and what a day may bring forth. John Howard<sup>15</sup> is going south to join the army he may possibly distinguish himself.

I saw Tommie Russel<sup>16</sup> [Russell] at church but did not speak to him, he looks quite as thin as when he left home does not appear atall improved by his trip. Present my compliments to

Mr. [Justin] McCarthy and tell him if he wishes to sustain the favorable impression he made in Boonville he must not keep you away long goodby dear daughter remember me in your prayers your name ascends every night from our family altar and all the time from my heart.

Your mother  
N. Jones,

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Oakland April 22, 1861

My Dear Mary

You see I have taken your place as "family amanuensis", perhaps I will learn how to write again, for I have written so little of late years that I have almost forgotten how, you know your pa's aversion to writing anything but a short business letter. I fear Ada will not be well enough to write you soon, she had been suffering from ascid stomache and she thought a little magnesia would correct the ascid, a dose of one teaspoonfull of salts and magnesia threw her into moste violent pain the Dr. [F. E. G. Thomas] gave her morphine to relieve the pain and that night blue pills and the next night calomel and opium, when I left her yesterday she was some better, Mrs. [Maria] Muir<sup>17</sup> will stay with her this week, she had been sitting up part of the day for more than a week, I fear she will now have a long spell of fever, she is thinner and looks worse than I ever saw her, the babe is well and grows finely, he is a beautiful child.

Your friends in town and country make many enquiries about you they all send their love to you, Miss Jo Knily says Mr. [Justin] McCarthy has made one enemy here that she does not like him atall for taking you away. Miss Kate Nelson. thinks you deserve credit for taking the people by surprise. I had no idea you was such a universal favorite, everyone I have meet regrets your leaving Boonville. You know "blessings brighten as they take their flight," even now every letter I get the children and servants ask when you are coming home. Lizy thinks she was as sorry to see you leave as I was, Ann looked very much flattered when I toled her you missed her so much, I wish you had her with you.

I presume you find San Antonio as dry, dusty, and ugly as ever. Be sure to tell me about all our acquaintances their, a letter came last week to you from Mrs. [Peter 'Dom Pedro'] Ghalager<sup>18</sup> [Gallagher], I didnt recognize the writing and took the, liberty of opening it. I did not send it to you because I thought you would reach San Antonio as soon as the letter, she remarked in it that I did her great injustice to suppose she corresponded with you to advocate Mr. McCarthy's suit knowing her great partiality for Mr. McCarthy as well as your self it was a very natural conclusion to arrive at, if I have done her injustice either in word of thought I am sorry for It, and ask her pardon.

Write every week and tell me every thing you are doing or are going to do anything from you will interest me. The people here are in a state of great excitement. The court house was crowded last saturday, Mr. [George Graham] Vest<sup>19</sup> made a secession speech the palmetto flag was waveing over Boonville and the secession feeling, is gaining ground very rapidly. You have doubtless seen Governor Jackson's<sup>20</sup> reply to the Presidents call for troops, that not one man would Missouri send in any such unholy crusade. I fear we will have need for all the troops here on our own border. You know I always take trouble on interest so I imagine the postall arrangements will be interfered with and I will not get letters from you regularly, and I be punished for the wicked wishes I made, when you and Mr. McCarthy were corresponding I would not of course intercept a letter but I did wish most sincerely that they would be lost or destroyed In some way.

George says I must tell you he has something to write about but his pet colts one is black the other bay he wants to know which collar you prefer the one you choose he will have broke and trained to kneel for you to get on, I hear nothing talked about now but the war news Mrs. Cope says she has changed her prayer book and instead of praying for the president of the U.S., she prays for Jef Davis of the southern confederacy she desired to be remembered to you. We know not what will become of our distracted country but we do know that the "Judge of all the earth will do right". I send you some California periodicals from Mr. Dameron they come directed to Miss Mary L. Jones I suppose he will soon find out their is no such person here end stop

sending them best regards of all the family to Mr. McCarthy except our prayers and best wishes for your health happiness and prosperity, good by my dear daughter affectionately your.

Mother.

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I wrote twice to New York and last week to San Antonio did you receive them?

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Boonville May 4, 1861

Dear daughter

This is the fourth of May, just two months since Lincoln's inaugural, and in what a deplorable condition is our great country, once so prosperous, united and happy, now in a state of anarchy, confusion and run, and when, where or how, it will end God alone knows. The accession feeling prevails here almost universally and the flag waves over our town, Mr. [George Graham] Vest says he is for an armed neutrality until we are well armed then he is for casting, them all on the south side.

The trunk full of presents arrived this morning and will form quite an era in our household history, your selections give universal satisfaction. Ada is delighted with Minnie's [Muir] hat, the baby's is just the thing she wanted but could not get in Boonville, she is very much obliged to Mr. McCarthy for it and wonders how he ever thought of buying such a thing. George was in this morning. I gave him the cravats and your pa's book which I know will please him very much. They are very tired of keeping "bachelors hall" as George calls it, I expect to go home tomorrow, Ada has been riding out every day this week and is slowly improving, she says you must tell her how to arrange her hair for the head dress she does not know how to put it on, I am very much pleased with my caps I will keep the one Mr. McCarthy bought to wear when he makes me a visit, I beg leave to differ with him in relation to the pictures being the worst investment you made, for I had much rather have them than any thing you could possibly send me, Ada is particularly glad to have your likeness because Mr. [William D.] Muir has never seen Mr. McCarthy and this likeness is so perfect that it is almost equal to seeing him personally, Mr. [William D.] Muir left home again yesterday to be absent ten days, you doubtless think yourself fortunate in not marrying a lawyer. Your friends make many inquiries about you, just consider if you please that every body you know sends their love to you, for the request "give my love to Mollie" is too frequently made for me to particularize, the servants are delighted with their presents, Mattie [Muir] has not seen hers yet she is staying at Mrs. [Maria] Muir's, she fights and scratches Eliza<sup>21</sup> every day until she makes her cry and then laughs heartily over it, so you will perceive she is not growing more amiable, Ann<sup>22</sup> has promised Douglas<sup>23</sup> [Muir] to read his book for him. Our quarterly meeting commenced today, Mr. and Mrs. [William M.] Prottzman<sup>24</sup> are here Mrs. Prottzman sends her very best love to you, she thinks Mr. McCarthy is a fine noble looking man, the glass of one picture was broken to pieces the other cracked Lizzy took the broken one to Mrs. Benson<sup>25</sup> who repaired it in a short time. Minnie [Muir] says she kissed Aunt Mary and Mr. McCarty so many times, excuse this paper as it is the only kind in the house and I am writing under disadvantage rocking the crib with one foot. Do not fail to write once a week, our best regards to Mr. McCarthy and love to yourself Affectionately

your  
Mother,

PS. The days are very long to me now, write write

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Oakland May 11th 1861

Dear daughter

I delayed writing until today because I have been expecting a letter from New Orleans, and thought I would reply to it. I have not received any, this is Saturday and as I promised you a letter once a week, I can delay no longer. I came home last Tuesday, found the house full of workmen, and your pa more firmly convinced, that he cannot live in a house without a woman in it. The house is all plastered and ready, for the paint and paper. The times are so gloomy, that one has very little motive, to make improvements, for our house may be burned by a mob, or our property confiscated, war is a great leveler, and unless peace is soon restored all men will be on an equality. In a pecuniary sense, your pa became so much excited the other day while reading a paper, that he said Governor Jackson might have all his horses, cattle, hogs and money, I advised him to keep cool, that he would be called on soon enough, he regards Missouri as out of the union now for she ignores the authority of the President, and at St. Joseph, Hannible and Boonville the people have refused to receive the newly appointed postmasters Henry Clark is still our postmaster.

The man appointed to the land office in Boonville is a relative of a prominent abolitionist on his arrival a committee waited on him, and informed him this climate would not suit him, and as they were so solicitous of his health, he left in a hurry, just as I finished writing this sentence, your pa came in with the news that war had begun in St. Louis, the rain this morning prevented our sending for the papers as usual, Dan Wooldridge<sup>26</sup> brought the news that a dispatch had been received in town, that the state militia, which had encamped at Lindel grove, for the purpose of drilling (an account of which you will see in the republican of the 8th which I send you) had been surrounded by Frank Blairs<sup>27</sup> dutch regiment and taken prisoner. I hope it is a hoax. We cannot see where all these wars and rumors of wars will end, the "Lord God omnipotent reigneth" and all things will work together for good to them that love him and keep his commandments." Miss Kate Nelson. joined the *Methodist Episcopal* Church on probation last Monday night at love-feast, Brother J. R. Hall is growing more popular every day, his fearless independent course, is winning him many friends, he always enquires very affectionately after "Sister Mollie". . Mr. [William M.] Prottzman says he indulges a hope that Mr. McCarthy will turn protestant as William Morrison of St. Louis did, you remember he married Kate Seinney.

The Episcopal minister and his wife, attended a masquerade ball at the Thespian Hall after Easter orlent, which some of his members did not like. George Spear is doing worse than ever, he is laying about the streets drunk. I think he had better join his cousin Frank Blair, he would help to fill up a ditch. I am truly glad to know, that you are tired of theatricals "distance lends enchantment to the view". I thought you would soon tire of them, such pleasures cannot satisfy an immortal mind, the path of duty, is the only path of safety. Your request, that your likeness should be hung where none would see it has not been complied with, there is a great deal of curiosity manifested by your friends, to see the man you were willing to leave all for. I believe they all agree with you in thinking him handsome, is he the least bit vain? If he is don't tell him. Fanny Fern says the man is not living that is not vainer than a woman, and she sometimes speaks the truth. Mrs. [Maria] Muir is so angry with you, because you would not marry Jim<sup>28</sup> [James M. Muir] that she would scarcely look at it, she had it all so nicely planned in her own mind, that she cannot get over the disappointment, Ada cross questioned her until she did admit he was right good looking, Jim poor fellow cannot talk about you at all, I know you will think this all imagination, but Ada sees it as plainly as I do. I hope Ada will soon be able to write you she is improving slowly, the babe grows so fast that I can almost see him grow, he has the right name for he is very much like your pa. Dr. [F. E. G.] Thomas first proposed the name, he said on account of the resemblance, which I at first could not see, but he grows more like him every day. I intend making you some drawers soon, you have some made off the same piece of linen I will make them, and have them nicely done up, before I put on the trimming, they will be ready for you when you come home, The country is looking very beautiful now, what a lovely world is this, and but for sin what a Paradise it would be, how true is the sentiment expressed by Burns I believe, that "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn", Our best regards to Mr. McCarthy, of course he was only jesting about going to the war. I know he would not take you among strangers and then leave you do not fail to write once a week, your pa would

be glad to have a letter from Mr. McCarthy if he has leisure to write. Except a mothers -prayers for your happiness and welfare.

Affectionately your mother  
N Jones,

Ann saw me writing and said please tell Miss Mary I want to see her mighty bad.

Your letter from New Orleans just received, I am thankful for your safe arrival there. I think you did right in not going to Niagara. I had many fears you would encounter difficulties and inconveniences on that northern rout, but to think of your being so near home as Cario, when will you be that near again?

Another letter from Mr. Dameron, what a fine opportunity you have missed of going to Europe or perhaps to congress, it is certainly the most ludicrous and bombastic production I ever read. Poor fellow his airy castles are demolished. Again good bye.

George has just returned from town, the news of the war in St. Louis is true, about thirty killed, Boonville is in a tumult Mayor McDearmon<sup>29</sup> was shot this evening by old Mr. [William Raley] Raily<sup>30</sup>. The telegraph wires have been cut between St. Louis and Jefferson, I have no doubt the war has commenced with us and will be carried on to the bitter end. Your

Mother

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Oakland May 20, 1861

My dear daughter

I wrote you last week but could not send the letter, owing to the mail between Boonville and St. Louis having been suspended, you can imagine how your pa missed his "Republican" rumor says that some men, were caught in the act of planting a cannon at the Osage bridge, The gun was taken possession of by the citizens of Jefferson, and the mail agent on the cars, suspected of aiding, in planting the cannon, was ducked in the river, until nearly drowned, in consequence of which, the mail was suspended until the Gov, had the transgressors arrested, and protection assured to the agent. After the surrender at camp Jackson, a dispatch was received in Jefferson that the U.S. Troops were on the way to attack that City, Gov Jackson very promptly had one span of the Osage bridge removed, to retard their progress, and give him time to prepare a warm and cordial reception for them.

Military companies have gone from this and adjoining counties, to aid in protecting the Capital against any attack from the hired assassinations stationed at the St. Louis Arsenal. Such usurpation of power as Gen Harney<sup>31</sup> has assumed is unprecedented, or rather I suppose Lincoln has assumed the power and Gen Harney is his agent, how the people of Missouri can submit to such insult I cannot imagine, yet their does not seem to be a spirit of submission, those who talked the loudest are now as meek and quiet as lambs. You know your pa has always been for peace and the dear Union, but he is so exasperated at the proceedings of Lincoln that he is now for fighting for the rights of Missouri. He says he will leave Missouri if she submits to black Republican rule, I think we are too old to give up all, now that we are getting a little comfortable again. My Grandfather<sup>32</sup> fought for American Independence, he lost his property and health, in the struggle, and I am not at all inclined to run from the Lincoln rabble, I cannot believe Missouri will submit to disgrace, the unjustifiable course pursued by the Administration to force her to remain in the Union will certainly drive her out

I suppose our Legislature, holding a secret session was considered Ominous, Gen Harney denounces the Military bill (which by the way was not passed until after the outrage at St. Louis) as a secession act. These military bills are right for the other states but wrong for Missouri, where in our boasted "Democracy", if this is not a despotic Government I do not understand the meaning of words. Missouri is isolated, cut off from communication by land and water, the Telegraph office, railroad depot, all are in possession of the Government troops at St. Louis, we only hear what they choose we shall. Lane<sup>33</sup> and Montgomery<sup>34</sup> are in Kansas, and our people

on the border have as much as they can do to repel invasion, last year Gen Harney was sent to capture this robbers and murderers and bring them to justice, now they are coworkers. I am very uneasy about Mother and brother Jacks [*Chapman*] family, Mr. Jones thinks they are as safe there as here, but I fear not, I know brother is a prudent man and has warm friends, around him, but nothing avails against these bandits. Our people are without provisions, or munitions of war, and if they do have to apparently submit to the Dictator Harney, the time will come when they will assert their rights. We knew a trying time was coming, but we regarded it as something in the future, it is hard to realize that it is actually upon us. I think some patriot, ought to immortalize himself, by hanging Frank Blair, for he is the prime mover in this attack against Missouri, he has removed his family from St. Louis and is afraid to walk the streets alone. Mr. James [*William*] Harper<sup>35</sup> says if Mr. Jones leaves Missouri he is going with him, even Mr. [*William D.*] Muir is almost willing, and you know how he is wedded to that pet farm of his, Jim [*James M.*] Muir wants to take his mothers negroes to Arkansas, George says the yankees cannot drive him from this farm, he intends to stay here, he gave ten dollars for a pair of pigs, and he is busily engaged nursing and petting them, None are exempt from trouble in this world poor Mrs. Wiggs<sup>36</sup> has hers too, the violent rained drowned fifty young chickens, and the hawk have taken half the young turkeys, she says she has the "powerfulest wurst luck". Their is but one step from the sublime to the ludicrous, I talk about things of state awhile, then come down to pigs and chickens, I suppose I may as well laugh as cry for I cannot remedy the evils. I wish I could.

Mr. Jones a few days since gave the Editor of the Boonville Patriot Mr. McCarthy's address, and ordered the paper sent to him, so you might know how we are getting along here. I hope you will receive it regularly, the "Patriot" in a much better paper now than the "Observer" Mr. [*Augustus W.*] Simpson is in Jefferson engaged with the public printing, the paper contains none of his spicey editorials, it is mostly made up of scraps and clippings from other papers. Have you seen Harpers "Weekly" lately, some of the articals are outrageous, no true Southerner will ever patronize him again, I was expecting Ada out this evening, to stay a few days, but she has just sent me word, she cannot come, Mattie [*Muir*] Is sick. Mr. Reavis has quit teaching school, and Douglas [*Muir*] is staying with us. Dear Mary I hope the mails will not again be interrupted, for I am so anxious to hear from you, to know of your safe arrival in San Antonio, to write to you, and receive a letter from you once a week in one of my greatest pleasures, if I am deprive of this how shall I pass the long long days. I see that Capt McClean of the U.S.A. has resigned and gone south. What has become of Mr. Graham? And of Mrs. Pierce? I send you three "Republicans" by this mail. Goodbye my dear daughter, if I had more faith, and more religion, I would have a more resigned and submissive spirrit.

Pray for your  
Mother,

Our best regards to Mr. McCarthy. Mr. [*Thomas P.*] Campbell is now post master in Boonville.

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I send you a little scrap from a paper. Poor old General Scott must be in his doatage,

Oakland May 27, 1861

Dear daughter

Two months today, since you left your home in Missouri for your home in San Antonio (it seem almost an age to me) which I rejoice to know you have reached in safety, I have traveled enough to know how pleasant it is to feel settled, to unpack ones trunks, hang up dresses, and get free from the dust of travel. Mr. Jones has a cold sore throat and hoarseness, he felt so badly that we did not go to church in town yesterday, last night as I was about retiring Ann knocked at the door, and said Aaron had brought out a letter from Miss Mary, she thinks every letter we receive must come from you. You may imagine how thankful I felt that you had reached your destination without any serious accident. After receiving your letter from New Orleans, in which you mentioned your unpleasant trip from Cairo. I was fearful you would be sick. I dreamed twice

of seeing you lying in bed sick, you know how much faith I have in my dreams I even dream about you when I am taking my afternoon nap. A mother is always thinking most of the child farthest from her, and the most exposed to danger, if you was with me, and Ada or George away, I would suffer a great deal more uneasiness about them than you, last night long after your pa was snoring soundly I lay awake thinking of you, and of the little petty trials and annoyances, incident to housekeeping. The first year is always the most trying to a young wife, Ada thinks you will make a splendid housekeeper, you certainly will make a model one, if you only have half the determination to be one, that you had to marry Mr. *McCarthy*. I hope, however, you will not meet with so many trials and obstacles in the one, as you did in the other. Yours was certainly a case of "perseverance under difficulties", write me all about your house keeping arrangements, I would like so much to send you some preserved and pickled fruits this fall. You did not give me a description of New Orleans, nor tell me how you liked the City, I some think I would be glad if Mr. *McCarthy's* store was there Instead of San Antonio, I would then have such a good excuse for claiming you, at least three or four months in the year, What selfish mortals we are. If the contemplated rail roads were completed, and peace again restored to our distracted country, a visit to San Antonio would merely be a pleasure trip. If Missouri does not join the "Southern Confederacy", we too, may take up our abode in Texas time will tell. I have sent you papers almost every week, if you have received them, you know that Mag Kiel<sup>37</sup> [*Margaret A. Keil*] and Ben Withers are married, I believe it was a runaway affair, Ada met Nellie Mitchel<sup>38</sup> a few days since riding out with *George Spear*. I have not seen Mollie<sup>39</sup> [*Mary Jane*] Harper or *George Branch Harper*<sup>40</sup>. I have not been in Mr. Lincoln store, nor made a visit anywhere since you left. I stopped at Mr. [*George T.*] Hardcastles one morning on my return from church, and had a little talk with Tommie about San Antonio, he told Mrs. Capt Howard that had he known Mr. *McCarthy* was coming to Boonville, he would have hurried home but Mr. *McCarthy* cheated him so completely, that he had not the least idea that he was coming to Boonville, he did not like your being stolen away during his absence. As you would not waite for Tommie I think he will have to waite for Minnie [*Muir*], he sent her a nice box of candies, and she goes to the store to see him. Mattie [*Muir*] has been quite in with lung fever she is now convalescent, Ada says I must make her apology for not writing, you must not think the least hard of her, for since she has been able to write. Mattie [*Muir*] has been sick, and she is by that like everything else she does not want to write until she can write right.

I have written to you every week, but in consequence of the suspension of the mail I could not send one letter, Mr. James [*William*] Harper made many enquiries about you and desired to be remembered to you. Yesterday your pa felt better in the afternoon, and we went up to "Jones Chapple"<sup>41</sup>, the circuit rider preached a very good sermon, it has been two or three years since I was there and I was almost as much impressed with the ludicrous in the manners and appearance of the congregation as I was the first time I saw them, as John Howard said there is a fine Missionary field in that neighborhood. Lieutenant Howard has returned from Jefferson (You see something has turned up for "Micawber") the Governor only retaining eight hundred men in the City. Dr. [*George W.*] and Mrs. [*Jessie*] Main<sup>42</sup> made us a long visit this afternoon, they think Missouri will succeed, I was going to add I hope so, but as hope consists of desire and expectation I will say I desire it but hardly expect it. The "Republican," I intended sending you by this mail your pa gave to Dr. [*George W.*] Main I send you an Advocate in the place of it some of McAnally's<sup>43</sup> comments on the times are very good, he cannot disguise which side he is on. Rumor says that Colonel Ellsworth of the Zouaves was killed by the land lord of a hotel in Alexandria Va., for tearing down a secession flag from the top of his house. Poor simpleton he immortalized himself in a different way from what he expected. Our compliments to Mr. *McCarthy* does he receive the "Boonville Patriot" regularly, I trust our war difficulties will soon be adjusted, the South is in the right and right must prevail. Good by my dear daughter you have a mothers prayers for your health and happiness.

N Jones,

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Oakland June 14, 1861

My dear Mary

I have just received your letter informing me that you have not heard from home since the evening of your arrival. It is very strange for I have written every week since you left except the last, and Ada wrote then. I hope you will get it, as it was the first she was able to write. I promised to write you or have a letter written once a week and I intend to keep my promise as long as there is any possibility of sending them. I expect to send this to Neosho directed to your uncle Dick<sup>44</sup> [Chapman], requesting him to mail it in Arkansas, if he has an opportunity, it is the only way I can think of at present. Do not think you are forgotten, for there is scarcely an hour in the day that your name is not mentioned. Minnie [Muir] enquired why I did not send the carriage for aunt Mary to come home she seem to think you are on a visit, and it is quite time you was coming home, this is the third week that Ada and family have been staying with us. Your pa frequently says when we meet in the dining room, now, if we had Mary and Mr. McCarthy here we would have all our family together, how sad I feel when I realize how uncertain our meeting is, in the present distracted condition of the country.

June 15 1861

Dear Mary I began writing yesterday, but stopped to await your pa's return from town. He went in to see what could be done to repel invasion, for the war is upon us, even now, they may be fighting in town. Mr. Jones. Mr. [William D.] Muir, and George went in this morning. George was so determined to go, that your pa took him with him. The Governor and General Price. went to St. Louis and had an interview with Lyon and Blair, offered to suspend the military bill for the present, and disband the State troops, if they would promise not to invade the state or arm their home guards. Lyon and Blair said the only condition of peace was the unconditional surrender of the whole state, and they would take military occupation as in Maryland, which of course will never be submitted to without a struggle. Gasconade bridge has been burned, and the rail road torn up to retard the progress of the black republicans, they now have to come by water which will give us more time to prepare. I believe the reception will be a warm one, Gen Price. , the Gov, and suite arrived in Boonville yesterday, it will be the head quarters for the army and the temporary seat of Government. I cannot think Missouri will be subjugated, but my heart aches to think of the loss of life, the blighted hopes, and the many sad mourning hearts that will be left desolate. Ada the children and I are here alone, those who left us this morning we may never see again alive and well, imagine our feelings. I force myself to write because I want you to know the state of affairs. I believe I am almost a Quaker when I think of the horrors of war. Mr. Jones says he is as much of a Union man as ever, but he now wants a union with the southern Confederacy, your Uncle Ben [Jones] and William [Jones] are spoken of as rebels, the "St. Louis Democrat" says their store is the house where all sorts of treason is concocted. Mr. [William D.] Muir taken a very gloomy view of things, Mr. Jones is rather more hopeful. Brother [J. R.] Hall feels a deep interest in your welfare he was much pleased when I told him how much you wanted to hear one of his good sermons, himself and family are staying out at Mrs. [Maria] Muirs. I believe all the families who could conveniently do so have left Boonville, of course I mean the woman and children. Ada said this morning she was so glad Mary was in Texas, and I am almost reconciled because I know you are safer there than here. Armed men have been passing by since yesterday on their way to Boonville. Rumor says that Kansas City and Independence are in possession of the Federal troops they were resisted at Independence and Colonel Holloway one of the best officers in the state killed. St Joseph is also filled with federal troops. If Jef McCutchen tells the truth he performed quite a feat yesterday, Gen Price. , sent him with a message to Randolph county, he made the trip of 80 mile in 10 hours on the same horse, and crossed the river twice. We received a letter from Kentucky a few days since your Grandma is in her usual health. Mrs [Mary Ann nee' Jones]. Musser's<sup>45</sup> house was burned with much of the contents, the same day that Ellsworth was killed at Alexandria. Mrs. Boon your uncle Dicks[Chapman] step-daughter is dead. I also saw the Obituary of Mrs. W. M. Morrison of St. Louis. Our best regards to Mr. McCarthy. I regret to hear of his indisposition, hope he is quite well long before this. He is much mistaken about my not reading all your letters. I read each one over about three times, Minnie [Muir] says I must tell "Uncle Carty" that she hurried for Jef

Davis when a party was passing this morning. Douglas [Muir] is all excitement about the war. Mattie [Muir] and Caleb [Muir] are very well. Present my compliments to Mr. Jeffry McCarthy I presume he will make one of your little household, he will be an agreeable acquisition to a family circle good bye dear daughter you have the prayers of your

Mother

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Oakland June 25, 1861

Dear daughter

More than a week of Intense excitement has passed, since I wrote you and I have not had an opportunity of sending the letter. I continue writing, however, hoping that something may occur to enable me to send them. Gen Lyon, the hero who distinguished himself at Camp Jackson, and was promoted for the murder of women and children, has his head quarters at the Fair grounds. A little battle was fought 5 or 6 miles below Boonville the 17th inst, the date of the battle of Bunkers hill and the burning of Charlestown. In consequence of the suppression of the Press in Boonville I cannot give you a Newspaper account of events, I have to rely upon Madam Rumor. The State troops had very little time to prepare. Their was some officers in Boonville, late of the U.S.A. who were requested to take the command, they declined doing so, I presume they were unwilling to risk their reputation with such raw material. Gen Price. was quite ill, and Colonel a young graduate of West Point, took command. The State Troops had planted a few small pieces of cannon about 4 miles below Boonville, to prevent the boats ascending, Gen Lyon burned this, and landed his boats 3 in number, 2 or 3 miles below them, and consequently draw our party from their little strong hold. Frank Blairs company led on the attack. They were met by Coles company of rangers-whose fire toled with terrible effect, so much so as to break their ranks, "Old Sam Cole" as he is familiarly called, is an old resident of this county, who assisted In driving the Indians away. He has a company of 100 men who fight in Indian style, each one being Capt. I believe all our Boonville boys belong to his company, the Muirs, Howards, and Harper. Blair in conversation with a gentleman of Boonville complimented this company very much, he said they fought like devils, and with a courage worthy of a better cause. Colonel Marmaduke<sup>46</sup> drew his men (who were raw undisciplined Malitia) out in an open wheat field, with no arms but old shot and squirrel guns, to stand the fire of the enemy's artillery, which any old woman knows was perfect nonsense, and just as the fight commenced ordered a retreat, which was by some very reluctantly complied with. The greater part of the State troops did not reach the battle field at all. The only company that was well armed, was stationed at Walnut Grove Cemetery, and had nothing to do but follow the retreating party. It was more properly speaking a mob attacking the federal troops. I have not the least doubt but the mob would have gained the victory, if they had just been "let alone". We had 2 killed and 7 wounded. The enemy 23 killed and about 30 wounded, Dr. [William M.] Quarles of Boonville and a man from Tipton were killed. Jef McCutchen was shot In the leg, it was amputated the day after, but gangreen soon took place, it was again taken off higher up, but poor follow nothing could save him, he was buried to day, how deeply I feel for his afflicted mother, the family too were very dependent on him for support. The other wounded I hear are doing well, they are strangers to us, but there are mourning hearts some where for them. Mr. [Joshua L.] Tracys old school house (where you have had so many romps, and happy hours) is the hospital, a number of ladies are in attendance, as nurses. Miss Lucy Nicholson, is the Florence Nightingale of Boonville. Lou Boyle and about 40 of his company were taken prisnors, they were kept on a boat two days and nights and were given a little crackers and coffee twice in that time, and made believe they would be shot. Lou doubtless began to think, "the way of the transgressor to hard". They, however, took the oath and were released. We have no law, but a military despotism. [Henry] Boernstein a dutch infidel is provisional Governor. Gov Jackson with about 500 men is on his way to Arkansas, rumor says to prevail upon Ben McCulloch to return with him, and drive the black republicans from Missouri. I have come to the conclusion that the ubiquitous Ben McCulloch in a myth. Messers [William Raley] Raily, [James Wellington] Draffen, Marshall, George [Branch] Harper, Porthress Muir,

John and Billy Howard, left with the Governors party. Mr. Marshall has returned, he says they have too much whiskey, and too little discipline in the company. Jackson is evidently not the man for the times. When Dr. [William M.] Quarles was killed, his horse ran home, Mrs. Quarles went with her negro man and searched the battle field, but with out success, he was not found until late in the day. Her brother-in-law Dr. [Preston] Beck<sup>47</sup>, is here taking quite an active part on the side of Lyon and Blair, how contemptable that fellow makes himself on all occasions. A great many citizens have been arrested, houses searched, and other outrages committed. Gus [Augustus W.] Simpson was knocked down, and a dutch Capt cut him on the head with his sword because he called them a set of robbers, Gen Lyon toled Mr. [Augustus W.] Simpson, that he would tolerate a freedom of the press In St. Louis, that would not be allowed in Boonville. Dr. [George W.] Main went to town and was arrested twice, he was marched between two files of soldiers over to the fair grounds, the charge brought against him was that he had said he would like to have a shot at Frank Blair, he replied that he had said so, Gen Lyon said words did not constitute treason, and as it was not proven that he had committed any overt acts he was released. Soon after another party arrested and marched him over a second time, the Dr., made his bow to Gen Lyon, and said "I hope sir you will give me your abject slave a pass that I may not be subjected to the humiliation of an arrest every half hour." You can imagine how precise and dignified the Dr. looked. Mr. Jones has not been in he says George Spear is said to have done some of the finest running that was done on the battle field he hid himself at Mr. [William D.] Muir's farm where he remained for two or three days he threw away his gun and coat, so as not to be encumbered, in the race. If they arrest him they shall have the honor of escorting him at least 4 miles. The post office, and both printing offices are in possession of Gen Lyon, we are even deprived of a local paper. We hear nothing by mail but what our master allows, of one thing, however, we feel assured, that as long as we hear nothing, all things are right. For so soon as any thing unfortunate to our party occurs, we will be sure to hear it. Ada and family went home yesterday, they have been with us several weeks, Douglas [Muir] stays all the time. George says it makes him heart sick to go to town and see the streets full of dutch soldiers, and in every store one or two stationed as spies, is it not humiliating? Mr. Frank Mitchel brought his wife and two little girls out here the day before the battle, the next day they went on up the country. Miss Nellie Mitchell, stayed several days with us she has had another severe spell of sickness, and is so nervous, that her friends feared the consequences of the excitement in town, she requested me to give her best love to you. I discovered, during her stay with us, that she has very little memory, I would not be surprised, if these spells or fits she has continue, that she becomes partially insane. O how sad, sad that would be, she is a pretty girl and an only daughter, at present she is very much in love with Capt George. K. Dills<sup>48</sup>, he played a conspicuous part in the battle, acted very bravely, and is now with Gov Jackson.

Dear Mary I received your letter of the 27th of May several days since. I regret exceedingly, Mr. McCarthy's difficulties, and hope long before this, he has things settled to his satisfaction, and that all things have become quiet. Mr. Jones thinks it likely this difficulty was gotten up by some designing, envious person who wishes to supplant Mr. McCarthy in business, or his army contracts. You should not make your self so unhappy about it, for Mr. McCarthy has lived there long enough, to know exactly, how to manage such people, you need not give your self any fears about his personal safety. The instigator of such a plot is too cowardly to be dangerous, I think he must be a stranger, for certainly if he had known much of Mr. McCarthy, he would not have relied upon scaring him from his home. When shall I hear from you again, it is really too hard not to receive a letter once a week, I feel like it is more than I can submit to. I presume you are housekeeping, and are as busy as you ever were fitting up a play house, for your dolls. I have no heart to do any thing, in the way of fitting up our house, the furniture we bought, has been standing in the hall for weeks, we have stopped all improvements, our house would have been painted, papered and furnished, and the yard fence and gate all finished, had it not been for the uncertainty of Missouri's position. Time proves all things, we must wait and see. We have a great abundance of fruit this year, bushels and bushels of cherries, Ann is "so sorry Miss Mary cant get some".

Please remember me to all enquiring friends. Our best regards to Mr. McCarthy, I dreamed the other night of seeing him, I thought he looked very much troubled, and was sitting

alone in a room, waiting for you to come to him, my dream was doubtless the result of thinking about the conspiracy you mentioned.

Affectionately

Your Mother,

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Oakland July 11, 1861

Dear daughter

Your letters of the 9th and 16th have been moste joyfully received. We had all been greiving because we thought communication by letter had been cut off for a time; therefore you can imagine what an agreeable surprise your letters were. Mr. Burress and family, passed here on the 3rd inst, on their way to Texas, they stoped to enquire about the road, and when Mr. Jones learned their destination, he requested them to take my letter which fortunately I had ready, and mail it the first opportunity.



**Nancy nee' Chapman Jones**  
**Courtesy of Nan Strang**

Mrs. *Burress* toled me she had been living near San Antonio for twelve years, I really wanted to go with them. Soon after they passed George was arrested by a Capt, of *Frank* Blairs regiment. I will tell you how it happened; that morning George had gone in search of now missing cattle, and returned just as Gen Lyon with 2,000, troops was passing on their way to the South West, he stoped at Mr. Wiggs to leave "Brownie", and seeing the troops he ran down to that part of the fence (which you remember is some distance from our house) to got a good look at them.

The soldiers were hurraing for Lincoln and the Union, and George said hurrah for Jef Davis; he says he was like the little school boy who said it whistled its self, for he was so angry at the thought of our State being over run by such a dutch rabble, that he said it before he was aware of it. One of the Capt rode up to the fence where George was all alone and putting a pistol almoste touching his head, asked if he said hurrah for Jeff Davis. George said he did, the Capt then ordered a guard to march him off, and threatened to shoot him if he took one step backwards. George demured a little, but says he knew how they had been shooting people in St. Louis, and as the fellow had a very red face he thought he would not resist, but if he was to do over again he would. When the dinner hour arrived without George making his appearance I felt uneasy, but tried to quiet myself by thinking he had stoped at Howards mill. Mr. Jones laughs at me much about making a baby of George that I was ashamed to confess how anxious I was. Mrs. Wiggs heard late in the evening that George was not at home, she then toled us that he returned before dinner, and had called her attention to the troops as he passed the door, that she saw him sitting on the fence, and afterwards saw his walking up the road with them, but never thought of it again until she heard he had not come home. Mr. Jones ordered the carriage and sent for Mr. Brown our new neighbor at "Waverley", to go with him. They found the troops encamped near Pilot Grove, and passed the gaurds without much trouble. I suppose they thought two gentlemen traveling in a close carriage with lighted lamps, and a negro man driving, did not look very suspicious. They stoped at Dr. [*William Henry*] Harrimans whose house was about the center of the encampment. Very early in the morning Mr. Jones made his business known to an officer who had slept at the house, he said he had not heard of any arrest, but would

see Gen Lyon and enquire; he soon returned saying that no arrest had been reported therefore none could have been made. Mr. Jones, however, continued the search and at last found him guarded by two soldiers, they doubtless arrested him through sheer wantonness, and would have released him as soon as they thought him sufficiently punished. Mr. Jones was treated very respectfully by all, excepting, the officer who released George, he taunted him by saying he guessed he would not hurrah for Jeff Davis again. Mr. Jones toled him by making such arrests he was pursuing the right course to make Davis man. I felt so indignant at the outrage, that I did not shed a tear until I saw the carriage coming and knew that George was in it; we tease his very much about joining Blairs company. I wrote you in my last about the battle of Boonville. I have not seen any correct newspaper account of it, a reporter for the St. Louis Republican was here and had written the result and incidents of the fight, when Blair had him arrested, his papers taken from him, and sent him a prisnor to St. Louis, they broke the press of the "Observer". The editor of the "Patriot" is with Gov Jackson. We have very little reliable news of any kind. McAnally calls the telegraph the tell-lie-graph which I think very appropriate, where are our boasted institutions of free press and free speech? Rumor says our Gov is near the Arkansas line with the State troops, large bodies of troops are moving from Tennessee and other points on the frontier to join them, they are also in communication with Ben McCulloch. I fear the south west will be the field of many bloody battles. The U. S. troops holds all the rail roads, and moste of the large towns in Mo, their is from 8 to 10,000 Federal troops in the south west, principally dutch. Our Gov is indicted for treason. The convention is called to meet on the 22nd inst, the object is to ordain a provisional government and order an election for State officers, the convention will be surround by Federal bayonets during its session. I fear the result Dear Mary I fear it will be a long long time before we meet again, you think you cannot come home this summer, and indeed under the present circumstances it would be wrong for me to wish it; because traveling will neither be safe nor pleasant.



**Caleb Jones**  
**Courtesy of Nan Strang**

Mr. Jones says let what may hapen he is tied here for a time, in the first place we are too old to move to a new country with the hope of living to enjoy any improvements we might make; here we are comfortably situated, having a good farm, stock, real estate would not sell for one third Its value, our personal property would be sacrificed, it is impossible to make collections, and by remaining here he may be able to realize something from debts and stocks, which would probably be lost if we were to move at present, he is also unwilling to abandon the state when the services of every man is needed. A few weeks will determine the fate of Mo. Ada is very anxious to spend a winter with you, but it is not probable that she will do so this coming winter, so you need not be fiting up rooms for your Missouri friends. You will find a small house much less trouble than a large one, I have tried both. I hope you will get good servants, the fewer you have the better, I wish you had Anne and Ike<sup>49</sup> with you, if a safe opportunity offers we will send them to you. Ann is delighted at the prospect of going to you. You are getting such fine furniture that you will be obliged to have those linen covers you dislike so much, they will be indispensable where there is so much lime dust, they are also a preventive against moth, our new furniture is standing in the hall. We do not know what to do, Dear Mary knowing that you are so happy and contented, reconciles me to the separation, for I can moste cheerfully submit, to any personal privation, to secure the happiness and welfare, both temporal and spiritual, of my children. I hope, you will join the Church soon. I know *Brother J. R. Hall* would willingly send you a letter if you prefer, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you", 6. Mathew, 33d. I have stayed so closely at home since you left that I know very little about the young people, some of them, however, are for the Union. Scott Benedict and Miss Williams , (niece of Amanda Kelly) were married a few days since. John Brand and Miss Kinney, Billy Edwards and Mary Mack, Maria

Muir as usual doing nothing. I have not seen Mollie Harrison but presume she has the responsibility of the present political and military crisis on her shoulders. The Harpers feel great anxiety about George [*Branch Harper*] he is with the Gov, from the last news that we have of John and Billy Howard and Ports Muir, there friends think it likely they are in Texas. Mr. [*William M.*] Johnson and Julia<sup>50</sup> [*A. nee' Trigg Johnson*] are at Dr. [*William Hodge*] Triggs. Tommie is very well, your friends make many enquiries about you. Mrs. Draffen has been staying with Ada since her return to town. Mr. D [*James Wellington Draffen*], not having returned from the wars. George has a new sweetheart Nannie Trent<sup>51</sup>, she is staying at William Howards<sup>52</sup>. Aleck Howard was frantic when he heard that George was a prisoner. Ada and children are very well, Mr. [*William D.*] Muir thinks the baby a perfect prodigy. you cant imagine how sweet he looks with his lace cap on, it is so becoming. Ada has sent him out visiting two or three times. Minnie [*Muir*] is as coquetish as ever, and Mat [*Mattie Muir*] as mischievous. Douglas [*Muir*] is as much excited about the war as any one, they all talk a great deal about you, and are very anxious to go to Texas. Sometimes your pa says if he could realize one half the value of his property he would leave Mo, to the black republicans. And perhaps we may be compelled to leave in a year or two money or no money, he has not received the "Herald", there is no chance of sending a paper when it is so difficult to send a letter, we can only trust in Providence and hope for better times, the darkest hour is just before day.

Our best regard\$ to Mr. McCarthy, our love, prayers and best wishes for your self,

Affectionately your  
Mother

Many thanks to Mr. McCarthy, for his kind invitation, how gladly would I avail myself of it if I could. Crops were never more abundant in Mo, please don't give up music. What a literary gem Lincoln's message is.

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Oakland August 25, 1861

Dear daughter

It has been so long since I wrote you that I really forget the date of my last, of course you know the reason was because there was no way of sending a letter. Mr. Thomas Tutt was in Boonville and very kindly took my letter to St. Louis, and said he would try and get it to Memphis, by private conveyance. Your last letter was the 16th June, we have not heard a word from you since, neither have we received a paper. I try to console myself by looking at your picture, and thinking you are at least well, as San Antonio is a healthy place. I am exceedingly anxious to know all about your housekeeping arrangements, and how you like a Texas summer, is it not too hard that we cannot even hear from each other. If you have not received my last letters you doubtless think we are all killed; we are still alive and as well as usual. I am creeping about as I always am in warm weather. Ada and family are very well, they with Mr. and Mrs. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. [*William Raley*] Raily, and Mr. Henning, spent last thursday with us. Mr. Hemming is disposed to renew his old friendships, before leaving that evening he made a beautiful prayer, mentioned your name, and prayed for every blessing on you. Mattie [*Muir*] is entirely well of that eruption on her face, she says you must bring her a boquet of flowers. Minnie [*Muir*] says if she could see aunt Mary she would be happy. Caleb [*Muir*] has outgrown all his clothes, he is much larger than either of the other children were at the same age, he is almoste too lazy to cry, occasionally, however, he shows temper enough to prove that he is a chip off the same block. Douglas [*Muir*] thinks about nothing but the war. Indeed that is the all engrossing topic with everyone. I presume you get the southern account of the battles, and know all about our victory at Springfield, which considering the way our troops were surrounded and surprised, was a great victory. I think the surprise shows culpable negligence on the part of the commanding General. The defeat of Lyon's forces created quite a panic in St. Louis, Gen [*John Charles*] Fremont proclaimed martial law, and had cannon planted so as to rake the streets, all secular papers that made any pretentions to telling the truth suppressed, and a number of City officers arrested and placed in confinement. I fear there will be great slaughter at St. Louis, it is generally believed that

will be the next point of attack. O why will they not stop? There certainly has been enough blood shed to satisfy the most blood thirsty war partisans, what dreadful loss of life there was at Mannassas. I read an account of a Georgia regiment, all unmarried young man of education and fortune, who went into the engagement with 600 and come out with 60. In my estimation the lives of all the wooden nutmeg yankees at the North, would not compensate for those. Rumor says Ben McCulloch has orders to reinstate Gov Jackson, and also that the Texans made sport of the Missourians for allowing [Franz] Sigel to escape them at the battle of Carthage, they dubbed them the "blackberry Cavalry", instead of pursuing [Franz] Sigel they went to picking blackberries. I suppose the Missourians tried to retrieve their characters at Springfield for they are said to have fought like tigers, Capt [Charles B.] Alexander<sup>53</sup> of this county took seven prisoners at one time who were well armed, he dined here yesterday, and I asked him if he surrounded them as the Irishman did, he said he simply presented a revolver, and they surrendered without any resistance, they afterwards said they thought there was a Jackson man behind every bush. George [Branch] Harper was slightly scratched on the neck by a grape shot, and at Carthage a cannon ball passed so near him that he could have reached it with his hand. He was connected with the artillery at Carthage, and when wading became scarce he took his shirt off and used it, when Ben McCulloch heard that one of the men had torn up his shirt to wad the cannons he desired to see him. George was presented to him, he took him in his arms and toled him that he should have any office in that army that he wanted. George declined, saying that he aspired to nothing more than a high private. Ports Muir is with the army, Jim is staying at his mothers, he has never had anything to do with the war. Billy Howard is in Texas, John [Howard] has not distinguished himself yet, he returned sometime before the springfield battle, he says he is going to join the army. Capt Howard's son Gus<sup>54</sup> has gone. Mrs. Henry Clark, Mrs. Horace Brand, Mrs [Michael] [Mary R. nee' Murphy]. Barron and Mrs. F. E. Brent, have gone to Springfield to nurse the wounded, all the ladies except Mrs. Brent have husbands with the army. Dr. Boreman<sup>55</sup> [Charles S. Boarman] accompanied them, he has acquired a fine reputation as a surgeon every one of the wounded from the Boonville fight under his care recovered. You remember how much you were pleased with the speeches made by William Douglas last winter, he has turned traitor, and is as black a black republican as can be found. Mr. Hogan is a Union man. Miss Barron and little Mary Hogan stood at their fence with boquets for all the officers, when Lyons marched by an his way to Springfield.

Richard and Robert Jones<sup>56</sup> are both Union men. Robert was shot by a secessionist and badly wounded; he to recovering. William<sup>57</sup> [Jones] is a rebel he was arrested and taken to Jefferson City, where he was detained a few days, and then released without any trial. Ben [Jones] went to Kentucky about two months since, I doubt If he ever makes this his home again. John<sup>58</sup> [Jones] is ultra southern, and your pa is marked as a rebel, he denies the right of secession, but thinks our grievances justify rebellion and revolution. Truly this is a fratricidal war brother against brother, that we my soon have peace with an honorable adjustment of all our difficulties is my prayer.

August 27, 1861

Yesterday was quite an exciting day in Boonville. A boat bringing a number of soldiers landed early in the morning and they began arresting citizens and plundering stores, or as they call it confiscating property belonging to rebels who had been lending aid and comfort to the enemy. Last week several wagons were loaded In Boonville with supplies for Gen Price's army, and every house that sold them goods is proscribed, I send you the proclimation of the Federal officer, he confiscated the goods of [George T.] Hardcastle [Mercantile], [William] Johnson, the tailor, Richy and Kirton<sup>59</sup>, Barton S. Wilson<sup>60</sup> and [John] Houx and [David] Andrews, packing up and taking to the boat such things as they wanted. They left this morning taking five prisoners with them, if we have been correctly Informed they are Benjamin Thompkins, John Porter Capt [Joseph L.] Stephens, tailor [William] Johnson and Dave Andrews, we expected they would rob the banks, as they have done at other places. We heard this morning one of the Banks gaurded against that by burning their paper and hiding the gold. They took with them the steam ferry boat and every skiff, so their is no way now of crossing the river at Boonville. I could talk to you a week telling of the outrages committed by the home guard. Dick Henning is in from Neoshoe, he says we have suffered nothing here, compared with the south west, the country is devastated, the two armies took about 5,000 dollars worth of goods from your uncle Dick [Chapman], the state

troops giving scrip, and the others nothing, although he is a prominent Union man. Dr. [William Hodge] Trigg is a Union man, it seem so absurd to hear people talking about the Union, when their is, nor ever can be again, a Union of the North and South. Dr. Trigg, said to Mr. Jones that he would be willing to take 30,000 dollars, less, for his property now, than he valued it at the first of last January. Mr. Jones said he could beat him, for he would be willing to take 50,000 less for his. Dr. [Preston] Beck is keeping house in Boonville, he has Mr. [George Graham] Vest's house, he and family having gone to Kentucky.

September 3, 1861

Mr. [William D.] Muir talks of going to Texas. Ada is exceedingly anxious to go, and stay at least until things are more quiet here. If they do go they will start as soon as they can get ready. Very likely in company with Mr. and Mrs. Bell<sup>61</sup>, Mr. Jones says nothing less than an army can move him just now, and I must stay to take care of him and George. Dick Henning will take this to Neoshoe, and try and have it mailed in Arkansas, Good bye.

Your Mother.

We have just received a letter from Kentucky, your grand ma<sup>62</sup> died on the 23rd Aug, being confined to bed but two days, she left all her property to Nora Malone<sup>63</sup>. It is doubtless a happy change for her she would have suffered so much care and anxiety about her boys in these perilous times. Our best regards to Mr. McCarthy. Our best love to you.

affectionately your  
Mother,

Lou Jones of Pettis and Mr. Field, lawyer, are married. Mrs. Holman died at her daughters in Hannibal a short time since.

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Oakland October 3, 1861

My dear daughter

We received your letter Via Louisville most joyfully. It Is the first we have had since June, the one you sent by express we have not received, that mode of conveyance is prohibited. I am really glad I did not know of your illness until you was able to write me you were well again. I would have been so perfectly miserable. My greatest consolation has been that you was in a healthy place, however, I donot know of any country that is exempt from a certain kind of disease. I would gladly accompany Mr. Bell's party if I could. Mr. Jones thinks it would be a very hazardous trip just now, as the country between here and Lexington is full of Federal troops and the Kansas "Jayhawkers" are committing all kinds of depredations. If I can get to Texas, with any degree of safety, either by land or water, I will do so sometime during the winter, however, if I cannot be with you I hope Mrs. [Peter 'Dom Pedro'] Gallagher will supply my place. I would greatly prefer your coming home, were it not for the unhappy condition of our State, and the great danger attending travel at present. Exercise In the open air, without fatigue, is very necessary for you now, do not sit down to embroidery and stitch stiching, as I fear you will, nothing is more injurious, please tell Mr. McCarthy, I particularly request him not to allow it. Your health in after life depend very much upon your passing safely through your first confinement, therefore I hope you will be very careful and prudent. Julia Trigg [Julia A. nee' Trigg Johnson] has a daughter a month old, named Annie [Johnson]. Tommie Russel [Russell] spent a sabbath evening with us, not long since, he says Mr. [William M.] Johnson is the proudest man he ever saw, he is out of business now, and has nothing to do but nurse the baby. I hope the dear little thing has'nt ears like its pa. They are still at Dr. [William Hodge] Trigg's. Mr. [William D.] Muir was preparing to go to Texas, but has given it up for the present, he has taken his family to Kelly Ragland's, several miles below town. We are in a very exposed situation here on the main road. Troops are passing almost daily, thousands have marched by, they take every horse, mule, ox, saddle,

bridle, wagon and harness, they can find, we have so far escaped better than our neighbours, owing to our having all such things hid out, we keep nothing in the stable but Doubloon, and no one but Speed can go near him. They forage entirely upon the "State Rights" party, last week they arrested Goodrich Wilson<sup>64</sup> and sent him to Jefferson, and took from William Howard a negro woman and girl, and a man belonging to *George Branch* Harper. Gen Price has gained one of the most profitable victories that has been achieved in the State, between four and five thousand *Federal* troops had taken possession of the Masonic College, and grounds, at Lexington, and entrenched and fortified themselves very securely, they were a mile from the river and Gen *Price*, cut them off from water, thus compelling them to surrender. They marched out to the tune of *Dixie* and stacked their arms. The spoils were seven pieces of canon, two mortars, six thousand stand of arms, twelve hundred horses, a quarter of a million in specie, a great quantity of ammunition, and two or three boats loaded with government stores. Gen *Price*. is at Lexington preparing for another battle, he has thirty thousand State troops. Gen [*Franz*] Sigel of the Federals, is concentrating his forces about Georgetown, there is five thousand soldiers in Boonville at present. Last week three boats loaded with troops left Boonville, to disperse a rebel encampment, they had heard of near Arrow Rock, they landed late in the evening at different points and marched out to surround the camp as they thought. They met and fought, until one party retreated to the boat, they returned to Boonville and said they had met the enemy, and routed them, and so great was their fright they immediately sent a company to the Lamine, and burned the bridge, fearing an attack. When the other boats returned bringing their killed and wounded, they found out they had been fighting each other, they seem to be working out their own destruction. I think so far Providence has very manifestly favoured the South. Some predict we will have peace in three months. I wish I could think we could, but I am not so sanguine. I fear there is no compromise in the North. The Boonville Banks and nearly all the others in the State have been robbed, and the money deposited in the mother bank in St. Louis, to be convenient I presume to Gen [*John Charles*] Fremont. Some of the home guard come out here for oats. Mr. Jones was in the garden, and one of them laid his gun on the fence and took deliberate aim at him, but fortunately missed him. Mr. Jones inquired why they shot<sup>65</sup> at him, they said he did not halt when they commanded him, and he had not heard any order to halt, the discharge of the gun was the first intimation I had of their being on the place, so you may form some idea of the state of things here. Tommie Russel [*Russell*] is very anxious to go to Texas with Mr. Bell, but his friends oppose it, he is fearful he could not get a clerkship there, and he is not able to be a gentleman of leisure, he is with Mr. [*George T.*] Hardcastle, Jennie [*Virginia 'Jennie' nee' Crenshaw*] Harper<sup>66</sup> is at Mrs. [*Maria*] Muirs, and will remain there until after her confinement, she was afraid to risk staying in town, as a battle may be fought there very soon. Harriet [*Rebecca*] and Sallie [*Worsham*] Harper<sup>67</sup> say they will not leave home until the town is on fire. George Jones says you must pick out a sweetheart for him, with black hair and eyes, a blond need not apply.

October 15, 1861

Dear Mary I began this letter, expecting to send it by Mr. Bell, he has been delayed by the difficulties here, I have not heard from them for several days, and do not know when they will start. Mr. Jones spoke to Mr. Bell about taking Ann and Ike, he said he would consult his wife. I do not care much if they don't take them, for I, as usual, "hope against hope" and if I do get off, I will need them on the road. Mr. Jones seems unwilling for me to go without him, and he cannot leave at present, you know what a poor widower he makes. If I cannot get to Texas, I trust Mrs. [*Peter 'Dom Pedro'*] Gallagher [*Gallagher*] will be kind enough to take good care of you. Jennie [*Virginia 'Jennie' nee' Crenshaw*] Harper has another boy, Mrs. [*Harvey; Mary Ann nee' Lawton*] Bunce, (Lawton) has a daughter, rather a singular freak of nature. Ada and children are well. I have not seen them for several weeks, they are at Mrs. Muir's. I am a prisoner at home, I am afraid to go any where, for fear the mules will be taken out of the carriage. Mr. Jones rides to town occasionally, George walks. If Gen *Price*. gains the next battle. I hope we will have a little more liberty in this part of the State, at least until spring. I send you an account of the last "Boonville battle" which is nearer the truth than any thing I have seen published. The writer, however, neglected to mention, that three runaway negro's<sup>68</sup> joined the home guard and told them of Col [*William G.*] Browns plans, which was the cause of citizens being arrested as hostages. These negroes were in the entrenchments during the fight, they had guns given them, and are said by

the prisnors who saw them, to have fought bravely, one of then in a splendid shot, he knew the Browns [*William H. Brown and G. Mason Brown*]<sup>69</sup>, and claims the killing of them. Col. [*Joseph A.*] Eppstein retains those negroes, and refuses to give then up to their masters, you can well imagine what a corrupting influence that has on others. Goodrich Wilson is at home, and Mr. [*William*] Howard has recovered his servants. Mrs. Dr. [*Preston*] Beck died very suddenly a few days ago, it is supposed from an over dose of opium, which she was daily In the habit of taking. I have not learned the particulars, Enoch Edwards toled me all that I have heard about it, his mother and family are boarding at Mr. [*William*] Raleys, his sister has married a Mr. Stuart of Alabama, she is with her mother, her husband has gone south. It was all a hoax about Billy Edwards and Mary Mack being married, as I wrote you. My dear daughter if this cruel war continues, I fear it will be a long long time before we meet, again, but we have the privilege of meeting daily at a Throne of Grace, where there is One who is ever ready to hear our petitions, how comforting the thought, "The Christian, hope is an Anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast". I had an attack of asthma last night, and am scarsely able to write this morning. Good bye dear Mary I doubt not you have many kind friends who will be attentive to you, and I fancy Mr. *McCarthy* will make a very good nurse, our best regards to him, and all other inquiring friends, except our love, best wishes and prayers for your welfare and happiness.

Affectionately your Mother,  
N. Jones,

November 12, 1861

Dear Mary I am expecting Mr. and Mrs. Bell to stop here in the morning on their way to Texas, Mr. [*C. H. F.*] Greenlease is going with them for his health, he will perhaps be In San Antonio. Mr. Bell has had everything packed and ready for the last month they have been spending the time with their friends. Mrs. Bell toled me all that she had heard from her children since leaving them was what you mentioned in your letter, of having spent the day with them. I donot wonder at her being willing to risk the dangers of the road, we hear their is trouble now in the Nation, among the Creek Indians. I would be willing to under take the trip, although Mr. Jones thinks it would be very hazardous, the greatest hinderance I have is leaving George, like all other boys, he is exceedingly anxious to join the army. I quiet him by telling him that he is the only child we have with us now, and his father and I am two old to be left alone, that he must consider him self a home gaurd and protect us. I fear if I was to leave him he would go to the army, which would not suit him at all, he is so near sighted, when much exposed to the sun he is almost blind, he is such a great big soft baby that he could not bear exposure, however, I do not entirely dispair of getting to San Antonio this winter, but donot expect me, and then you will not be disappointed. "When I think how easily I might have gone, had not railroad improvements been checked, I feel as if I had the power, I could severely punish, the instigators of this unnatural, cruel, war. You know "what cant be cured must be endured", but we have the promise that "All things will work together for good, to them that love and fear the Lord" let us claim this promise. Ada and family are well, their is not the least danger of the children forgetting you they talk a great deal about you. I am very sorry that a part of your furniture was lost, particularly as it was bought In setts. I Infer you have Mr. [*Peter 'Dom Pedro'*] Gallagher's house, by your saying Mrs. Groesbeck is a near neighbor. I am so sorry I did not get the letter you sent to New Orleans I know you toled me a great many things in that I would like to hear. Your letter via Louisville is the only one we have had since June, and you did not mention in that, having received any of my letters this summer. The 2nd, of this month was your birth day, and the 10th, the anniversary of my marriage, 30, years, since, that- seems a short time to look back, but a very long time to look forward to. For fear I may not be with you, must give you a little advice in relation to your approaching confinement, which I hope you will attend to, in the first place do not become low spirited, as the manner of some is, think how many have passed safely through the same ordeal, and you must remember too, this is only the beginning of a Bakers dozen. Take as much exercise, both riding and walking, as you cam bear, without fatigue. Gaurd against constipation of the bowels, which is so apt to cause fever. your diet should be cooling and nourishing. And after the birth of the little Irishman put it to the breast at once, some ladies think they have no milk at first and begin feeding the child, which of course makes It sick, and then they must give it medicine, a moste

barbarous practice. Ada has never had any trouble with her breast, which I think is owing to her pursuing this course, of putting the child immediately to the breast. The second or third day there is a rush of milk in the breast, and if the child has not been drawing it out, they are sure to become inflamed, and they sometimes rise and are very painful. To prevent this get some one to draw all the milk out for a few days, to prevent sore nipples begin at least a month before your confinement, to wash the nipple once a day, either, with a little camphor, or a little alum dissolved in whiskey, this hardens the skin, and prevents them becoming so tender and sore, from the child's sucking. Do not get out of bed until the eleventh day of course you can change from one side of your bed to the other, and have things arranged about it, but you must not get out of bed, to sit up or dress until after that time. If Mrs. [Peter 'Dom Pedro'] Gallagher can not stay with you, be sure to hire an experienced nurse. Dr. [F. E. G.] Thomas does not allow Ada to leave her room for one month. You must not laugh at all this, for I have suffered so much, through ignorance that I want you to profit by my experience. Tell Mr. McCarthy he must take good care of you, for I am hardly in a good humor with him yet, for taking you so far from me, and he must bring you, and all the family home as soon as traveling is safe again. May God bless and direct you my dear daughter, is the prayer of your

affectionate Mother,

November 13, 1861

Mrs. Bell staid with us last night, I will send this by her. Mr. Bell is not with her, having gone up the country to marry a couple, he will join her to day. I wish I could go with her, I fear Mrs. Bell has a fatiguing trip before her, she has no servant with her but little Anna, Betsy Ann's child. The Confederates have just gained a complete victory over the Federals, at Belmont, a little town opposite Columbus. A correspondent of Brother J. R. Hall, writes him from Virginia, that so far, the confederates have been successful there. We are all well, good by Dear Mary,

your Mother

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Oakland March 6, 1862

My dear Mary

This is the first opportunity I have had of writing you, since Mr. Bell left. Dick Henning is visiting his friends in Boonville, he will take this on his return to Neosho. He thinks the one I sent by him last summer, must have reached you, as he gave it to a gentleman, who was going to Texas. I can only hope it did, for I am anxious you should hear from us, if we cannot hear from you. Oh what would I not give to receive one line from you, assuring me that you was well, and had passed safely through your confinement. We have not heard one word from you since your letter of the 5th of Sept, via Louisville Ky. You can well imagine what a state of suspense and anxiety, we are in, it really seems more than I can bear up under. It is eleven months since you left us and six, since we heard from you. I frequently dream of you, and even that, is some consolation. I now regret not starting with Mr. Bell, although we have never heard how he succeeded, in getting through. Mr. Jones, seemed so unwilling for me to go without him, (and he could not leave at that time, without a great sacrifice) that I was unwilling to urge it, lest something unfortunate might occur, and then I would reproach myself for it. I have been hoping, from day, to day, that some way would be opened for me to go, until I am almost in despair. Your pa says I have but one idea, and that is going to Texas, every snow that falls, he insists on my starting in the slay, but I think it doubtful about my reaching San Antonio in that kind of conveyance, I decline. The Indian troubles in the Nation, makes that rout unsafe, and the "Jayhawkers", are worse than they have ever been. All the country between here and Arkansas is infested by them. Gen Price . has left Missouri, and I see no prospect at present, of a speedy termination of this unnatural war, the most we hear, however, is through Federal papers, and they are not guilty of publishing anything that will give aid or comfort to the enemy. The name of Daniel Musser<sup>70</sup>, is in the list of wounded at Fort Donaldson, we had not heard of his leaving Glasgow, but presume he

went to Ky and their joined the Confederate army. If the surrender of that Fort was a victory, it was very dearly bought. Mr. Jones, met with a second cousin, in the Federal army, a short time since, he is from Cincinnati and is Capt of the Ohio battery, his name is Francis Caleb Sands<sup>71</sup>. We have just received the Message of President Davis, or rather his inaugural address it is a most beautiful piece of composition, and breaths a true Christian spirit. Ada and family have been here about two weeks, she and the children have bad colds. Minnie [Muir] wishes she had Aunt Mary here, to learn her to sing "Dixie". I said to her Christmas, that you had no one now to prepare presents for, she replied, 'Why Grand ma she has Mr. Carty. Ada made you two Strawberry pincushions, like those Maria Muir made for her, a very pretty needle book, and two round pincushins one large one for your toilet, and one little one for a little toilet. I have them put away in a nice box. Mattie [Muir] is as fat as a pig, and as bad as ever, she has learned to cut with sissors, and she exercises her talent on whatever she finds most convenient, she thinks if she turns her apron on the wrong side and cuts it, it makes no difference. Caleb [Muir] is a fine little fellow, but is not walking yet. Douglas [Muir] stays with us, he is his Grandpa's shadow, following him wherever he goes. Mr. Jones and I are teachers and George and Douglas [Muir] are our pupils. Mr. [William D.] Muir has rented his house in town to Mr. Draffin [James Wellington Draffin], reserving one room, to store his furniture in, and has taken a room in his mothers house, for the present, he has no over-seer this year, and he wants to be near his farm to superintend things himself. He refused to take the oath of allegiance to King Abe, and is therefore no longer circuit attorney, he and Ada still have the Texas fever. Things remain in Status quo at Mrs. [Maria] Muir's, except that Jim [James M. Muir] occupies the rocking chair in the parlor, instead of Ports [Porthress Muir]. Jennie [Virginia Jennie' nee' Crenshaw] Harper has named her baby George Muir [Harper]. Gus Howard with a number of others who were trying to get to Gen Price's. army were captured and taken to St. Louis where they were kept in prison some two months, and then sent to the Alton Penitentiary, when fearing they would either die from disease or starvation. Gus and a number of others took the oath and were released. W. H. Howard has returned from Texas, he come through Gen Price's. army, and saw Porthress Muir and George Branch Harper, they are in better health, than when they left home, and intend fighting to the end. Tommie Russel [Russell] is living at Arrow Rock. Mr. James M. Nelson. is a good Union man. Dr. [William Hodge] Trigg has bought a stock of goods and Messrs [William M.] Johnson and Tiggott are with him in business. The Dr. has all his children and grand children living with him, I almost envy him. Miss. Mary Taylor, and her brother have gone to California. None of the young ladies of Boonville have married since I wrote you. Dr. Boreman [Charles S. Boorman] and Miss Sloan [Pauline Sloan] were married last summer and I only heard it -very recently. The renowned Dr. [Preston] Beck is married again, and it caused more talk than his first. There was a widow Broadhurst, and her daughter, an only child, living over in Howard County, and "Madam Rumor" says the Dr. heard of her wealth (she has sixty thousand in money, beside law mothers, in perspective) and as he was not acquainted, planed an introduction, he took a trunk or two with gold coin and bullion (which he brought from Santa Fe) in a buggy, driven by a black man. He riding on horse back, when near Mrs. Broadhurst house, his horse, threw him, some say he tied the horse to the fence, before he fall, and others that he went over the day before, and chose a nice place to fall, be that as it may, he fell, and was carried into the house in an unconscious state, by two of the widows negro men, to each of whom he afterwards gave a \$20 gold piece, he soon revived, but remained speechless, though perfectly rational. He opened a splendid gold watch and pointed them to his name engraven on the inside, he then by signs made them understand he wanted a paper out of his trunk, which proved to be his will, in which he had willed away hundreds of thousands, he added a Codicil giving Mrs. Broadhurst \$25,000, for her kindness to him, and then gave it to Mrs. Broadhurst, to read she supposed him a millionaire, and of course was very favorably Impressed for notwithstanding their wealth, they are vulgar people. In a few days from the kind nursing of the ladies, he was sufficiently recovered, to return to Boonville. In a short time he went back to renew his thanks, the result was that Mrs. Broadhurst and her daughter about 17, came over with him, and stopped at the City hotell, after supper the ladies changed their dress, and drove with the Dr. to his house, where the Revd Mr. [L. M.] Painter. performed the ceremony, in the same room, where his first wife had died, just one month before. The half has not been toled, but I have wasted too much paper on them. I must leave the next page for Ada. Your pa is almost as anxious, about you as I am. Our best

regards to Mr. McCarthy he must bring you and yours home as soon as it is safe, may our Heavenly Father bless and protect you all, your Mother.

My dear sister

I have only written you one letter since you was married, and I am affraid you did not receive that. We have been so situated here, that it has been impossible for us to have any communication with the south. Boonville is full of Federals, and has been ever since the first battle was fought near there. You can not imagine a more disagreeable place. The Federals do not turn aside for any one, but rudely push by ladies on the side walks, and allmost ride over them when crossing the streets. They are constantly making arrests and searching people and homes. We spent most of the summer at Mr. Kelly Raglands. Mr. Isaac Lionberger. died about three weeks ago. Uncle Ben [*Jones*] is in Georgetown. I think, if I was a single gentleman I would be in the army. The Federals passed here yesterday on their return from Saline with several prisoners, Stephen Trent<sup>72</sup> was amont them. Mrs. [*Harriet*] Bowman<sup>73</sup> who lives next door to Capt Howard's is a regular spy. The Rev James Mitchels [*Mitchells*] has joined the army and Nellie and her brothers are with him. Mrs. *Mitchells* and youngest child are boarding at the Berger's. Their friends pay their board. Their negroes, furniture and clothing have been confiscated. I cannot become accustomed to your absence but miss you more now than when you first left home, I anxious to see you and Mr. McCarthy and the dear little stranger which you will be entertaining I expect before this letter reaches you. Present my kindest regards to Mr. McCarthy I hope you will be very careful after your confinement, do not leave your room under month. Oh! how I wish Ma or I could be with you, but that In impossible. Ma is so anxious to be with you that she will be certain to go as soon as there is any probability of reaching Texas. The children talk so much about you, I do not believe they ever could forget you. The servants all send their love to you and want to see you so much. Good by my dearest sister

Ada Muir.

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Oakland March 27, 1862

My dear daughter

This is the anniversary of your marriage. Where are you? And how are you? are questions I would gladly have answered, how much longer must I bear this suspense. I am in a gloomy mood to day, Ada and the children have gone home, after staying nearly a month, which makes me more lonely than ever. I thought this time last year, that being separated from you, with the certainty of hearing from you frequently, and perhaps seeing you soon was more than I could live through, so you must not laugh at me for being gloomy at the present prospect of affairs, every thing seems to indicate a very protracted war, of course the whole country will be ruined, and all traveling facilities lessened. If I could only hear that you were all well I could be reconciled. I try to say, not my will, but Thine be done, O God, but I fear I have a very rebellious and selfish heart. You doubtless have so many new and interesting duties to occupy your time that you cannot realize my feelings, I am cooped up in the house, and nothing to do but think about you.

March 28, 1862

Just as I had written thus far yesterday George come in with a letter from you, which of course stoped my writing for that evening. I could do nothing but cry over it. Yours is the 24 Nov Via Russelville Ky., and was post marked St. Louis March 24 which made it four months on the way, it is, however, two months later news than we had, and of course gives one much satisfaction, but makes me more anxious than ever (if that were possible) to be with you. When George saw the post mark he thought you was in St. Louis, on your way home, and so eager was the poor fellow to know, that he broke the envelope, but when he saw San Antonio Nov 24 his hopes vanished, he dreamed the other night that you was at home playing on the piano, and the parlor was full of company, so when he saw the post mark, he thought he was getting to be a dreamer too. Apropos of dream, you know your pa has always ridiculed the idea of any one believing in dreams, but he is now like a drowning man catching at a straw, when I say in the

morning I dreamed of seeing Mary last night, he will ask anxiously, how did she look? was she well? I can appreciate his feelings so well, that I have not the heart to laugh at him, for his inconsistency. You urge me so much to come to you that I know if I had received your letter in due time, I would have started regardless of consequences. Mr. Jones still thinks the trip almost impossible. Mr. [C. H. F.] Greenlease's family have never heard directly from him since he left, neither has Mr. Bell been heard from. I am sorry you have suffered yourself to become low spirited, as most ladies do, and hope that long before this reaches you, you will be in fine health and spirits, and so busy nursing and carressing the dear little one that you will never find time for another fit of the blues. Oh how I wish I could see you all, I know you will be a most devoted mother. I fear Mr. McCarthy will bring the same complaint against you that Mr. [William D.] Muir does against Ada, he says she makes herself a perfect slave, and thinks of nothing in the world but her children. Ada says she does not know what a married woman has to think about but her home and children, language that would sound very strange in the ears of some fashionable mothers. I fancy Mr. McCarthy will find amusement enough for his leisure hours, without the trouble of petting dogs and horses. You have a good physician and many kind friends with you, and I feel so sure that Mrs. Ghalager [Peter 'Dom Pedro' Gallagher] will nurse you through your confinement, that I send her a mothers thanks. Mr. McCarthy assured me that he would take good care of you, and I have never once doubted but he would do every thing in his power to make you happy, but still I want to be with you. We are so glad that you have joined the church, for the path of duty is always the path of safety. May you live a consistent number. Mr. Jones did say that he would not shave again until peace was restored, he has always opposed secession, but at the same time he is an advocate for state rights and opposed to any encroachment on them. I told you in my last letter about the beautiful pin cushions Ada made for your Christmas present, lest you should not receive that I mention it again, two large strawberrys with two or three emorys attached to them, to hang on either side of your mirror, one large pincushion for your toilet, and one small one for the dear little ones toilet, and a needle book. I have since I wrote last, knit you three crotchet mats for your wash stand, one large one for the basin and two smaller ones for the soap dish, and brush stand. Ada intends to have the children likenesses taken as soon as circumstances will admit and send them to you the first opportunity. I fear your artist cannot make much out of your pa's likeness and mine they were so much defaced and faded<sup>74</sup>. Gus Howard and Alice Albertson<sup>75</sup> rode out one day this week, and called here, she wanted to buy your saddle. I toled her it was not for sale. I have it put away up stairs, and hope you will get it and brownie too, someday. George wants to have his likeness taken with all his pets around him, he has a cat he calls "Dixie" a pet lamb that follows him all about and other pets two numerous to mention. Your pa is having an asparagus bed made to day. Your friends In Boonville are all well, Sallie [Worsham] Harper toled me she would not be surprised if Miss Mollie Harrison and Mr. Russel [Russell] were married soon. Mr. Russell is an uncle of Tommies. George [Branch] Harper is a Capt in the Confederate army, he was slightly wounded in the Cate battle of Pea ridge. Torts [Porthress] Muir refuses promotion, but is willing to share in the fighting. John Howard, Wilson Trent, and a number of others that have been hiding about in Saline, to keep out of harm -way were arrested by a party of home gaurds, and released, on their promising to go to Boonville and take the oath which they accordingly did. John is now loafing about Boonville in the same old way, I have been greatly disappointed in him, when the war first broke out I thought John Howard had at last found something that he could do, for I was sure he would fight. I never was more mistaken, he has never been in a battle yet, he was listed lieutenant of the voluntiers in Boonville, but when the troops were reorganized at Springfield he failed to get an office which some think made him leave, and others say that simultaneous with the giving out of the whiskey, John's courage oozed out. George Spear has also returned safe and sound. Mr. Reavis your old admirer, died about three months since with congestive chills, his brother has been all winter trying to raise a brigade of Union troops. If he succeeds W. Douglass is to be Colonel, and he Capt, I hear he has about 20 men. Mr. [William D.] Muir is the only lawyer in Boonville that has not taken the oath of allegiance, they are not permitted to practice in any of the courts without taking the oath. Mr. [William D.] Muir was retired to the shades of private life as I wrote you in my last letter, he has taken a room in his mother's house, to superintend his farm. In St. Louis Gen [Henry Wager] Halleck requires all lawyers, magistrates, and ministers, to take the oath, rumor says the Revd Mr. Marvin would not submit, and left between two days for "Dixie".

Judge [*Benjamin*] Thompkins says he disgraced his children, by taking the oath of allegiance. We brought your piano home when Ada moved, Mr. Draffin [*James Wellington Draffen*] occupies her house, I saw an obituary of a little child of Mrs. Tunstall's<sup>76</sup> sisters, and knowing how difficult it is to hear from friends I send it to Mrs. *Tunstall*. If you can let me know when you will come home, for it would be a sad mistake for you to start home, and me to Texas at the same time, how pleasant it would be, if you could spend the summers with us and we the winters with you. If I could send you hams of our good bacon, and fruits, and sweetmeats, I put up several jars for you last summer, when Oh when will you get them.

Our best regards to Mr. McCarthy, and all friends a thousand kisses for your self and the dear little one, how I wish I could hear you singing to it, do not give up your music. I hope and pray that we may all soon rest in health and peace. May He who Tempers the wind to the shorn lamb, sustain and comfort you in every hour of trial and suffering. May he guide, guard, and direct you all along the journey of life and at last save us all in Heaven where there will be no more parting, is the prayer of your

Mother

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Isabella has a daughter two weeks old

Oakland April 22, 1862

Dear Mary

I have not had an opportunity of sending the letter I wrote you a month since, until now. *Horace Hutchinson Esq* has kindly consented to take this to Neosho, from thence they have frequent opportunities of sending letters by private conveyance. I hope you will hear from us if we cannot from you. We are looking for the return of Mr. [*C. H. F.*] Greenlease with great anxiety, hoping to hear from you then. I have indulged the hope, that it was possible you might come with him. Your pa says he is surprised at my being so silly, as to imagine such nonsense. You know we are not much inclined to hope things may occur as we wish them too. Ada, and family are well, I think of going over this week as I have only seen her at church since she went home, we have had a very cold backward spring, with almost incessant rain, we have comparative quiet here now, there being very few soldiers in town. Col. [*Joseph A.*] Eppstein is there yet with a small company, enough to send scouting parties through the country to arrest any one suspected of giving aid or comfort to the enemy. Brother [*J. R.*] Halls Louisville correspondent has a son, one of Beauregard's staff, who writes him, that they took at the battle of Pittsburg 13,000 prisoners, 86 pieces of artillery, the munitions, commissary stores, and camp equipage of 13 brigades. The federals will have to recruit, and get a new outfit, before proceeding south, they are making such slow progress, that the weather will soon be too warm for them. We had a letter from Mrs. [*Mary Ann nee' Jones*] Musser, she cannot learn where her son *Daniel* is, or to what prison he has been sent, he is known to have been among the wounded prisoners at Fort Donelson, poor fellow I wish we would know that he was at least comfortable. The last we heard of Dick [*Richard H.*] Musser<sup>77</sup>, he was with Gen Price. We have heard that Joshua Jones<sup>78</sup> was arrested for harraging for Jef Davis. The bill for the emancipation of slaves in the District of Columbia has passed and been ratified by the president, and I suppose the next thing will be to pass a similar one for all the border States. The future of our unhappy country looks dark and gloomy, yet we know that "One rules who is too wise to err, and too good to be unkind," which should support and comfort us. Your friends in Boonville are all well, and every thing going on in the same old hum-drum style. I went in shopping a few days since, I saw Tommie Russel [*Russell*], he is living now at Arrow Rock, he promised me he would write to you the first opportunity he had. You can't imagine how handsome Tommie has grown, he has a moustache and whiskers, which improve his appearance vastly. Mr. [*George T.*] Hardcastle has sent a stock of goods to Arrow Rock and Tommie has charge of them, Lewis Miller is with him. I have not been to see Mrs. [*James M.*] Nelson, since you went with me, she has been here twice, I give this as a specimen of my

visiting. I have dined once at Mr. Harper. I wrote you some time since about Dr. [Preston] Beck's singular marriage just one month after his wife's death, of course no one called on them, and they have left Boonville in disgust and are living in Howard county with Mrs. Broadus, the Dr. said his wife was not appreciated in Boonville. I believe I wrote you that Mrs. Brown had brought the remains of her mother Mrs. Linn, to Cape Gerideau, to be interred in the old family burying ground, last fall, she came under a flag of truce from Virginia, bringing one of Dr. Brown's daughters with her, leaving the other at home, the Dr. and his sons being in the confederate army. When she returned she found her house burned to the ground, the negroes gone, and the daughter missing, and not long since I heard that Mrs. Barr too was dead. I have not learned the particulars, Ada tolled me just as I was coming out of church that Mrs. Brown was dead. Col [James] Quarles has been unfortunate in his family having lost his son Dr. [William M.] Quarles in the first Boonville battle, and now his son the Revd James Quarles has been sent to Fort Warren, for refusing to take the oath of allegiance, and giving bond and security for his good behaviour. Maria Lou [Harrison] is still at Capt Howards. Dr. Harrison you know was about the first one in Boonville to sport a secession cockade, and also to return from Gen Price's army and take the oath, and resume his loafing. Mrs. Wiggs has been for some time "mighty poorly" as she expresses it, in getting over the fence with an arm full of straw she fell and hurt her self very much. Mr. Jones, George and Douglas [Douglas Muir] have gone fishing this evening. They want to catch some fish and put in a pond we have made. Ike is white washing our yard fence, we have three sides of it pailed in, we have a very fine prospect for fruit again this year, we will have plenty of strawberries, raspberries, and black berries in our garden, that were only put out last spring. My Dear Mary if you could only come home and spend the summer with us how much more I would prize all these things, our ice house is full of ice and you should have ice cream just whenever you wanted it, tell Mr. McCarthy I think if there is any safe way of coming, he had better bring you and the dear little one home and spend the summer with us, I see no use in gentlemen confining themselves so closely to business. Mr. Jones has been working hard all his life and now, owing to the change in times, will hardly be able to collect money enough to pay his taxes this year, how much better it is for people to try and do all the good they can, and take time to enjoy some of the good things of this world as they pass through it. You cannot know, how much I want to see you, but if I could only hear from you and know that you was well, I would try and be contented, Our best regards to Mr. McCarthy and love for your self. Kiss the babe for me.

Affectionably your Mother

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Oakland Oct 16, 1862

My dear daughter

It is now half past ten o'clock P. M. the family have retired including the Misses Tunstalls, who are passing the night with us, late this evening some travelers stopped to get corn, and we soon found they were going to Texas, and who they were, Dr. Philips and Mr. Tunstalls sons were of the party. Mr. Bell's family have just returned and brought me a letter from you, which is the first I have received since Mr. [C. H. F.] Greenlease came home, we are all so delighted to hear from you once more and know that you and yours are well, when Mr. [C. H. F.] Greenlease returned and I heard that you had passed safely through your confinement I was so perfectly happy, that I thought nothing ever could trouble me any more, but you mentioned at the close of your letter that the baby was a little sick for the first time, and after the excitement wore off I soon found myself grieving about the baby, for fear he might not recover, (poor human nature) your last letter, however, assured me that you are in perfect health, how I wish I could see your darling little Willie [William Justin McCarthy], the children talk a great deal about Aunt Mary's baby, you can't imagine how much excited they were this evening when I told them those gentlemen were going to your house. One of their favorite plays they call going to Aunt Mary's house. Ada, is staying here at present she has been for a few days suffering with the weed in her breast and tonight she has a soar throat, she is so anxious to send you a suit of baby clothes but the young gentlemen cannot take them, I send you some little trifles I had made for you, I know you will prize them

because they have passed through my fingers. Ada send you a little shirt that was made for Frank, and Caleb [Muir] was christened in it she had just drawn off a little bib for me to overcoat for little Willie [William Justin McCarthy], not dreaming that I would soon have an opportunity of sending it. It is to be made with a little white cord around the neck. I am reluctant to send you the sack pattern for fear you will ruin your eyes. Tell Mr. McCarthy he is not forgotten but we could not send him anything that he would prize for want of room, Mr. Meier wishes to go to California if he can get off. Ada will stay with us, things here are in an awful condition and growing worse daily. I know you will be pained to hear of Dr. [George W.] Main's untimely death, some two months since a party of men two of whom were dressed in the federal uniform went to the Dr. house about midnight and by representing themselves as friends gained admittance, and then took the Dr. to the river hung him and threw him in the river his body was recovered the second day after in the same place they had thrown him. He seemed also to have received a blow as one of his eyes was knocked out. Mrs. [Jessie] Main tried to follow him, but they drew a pistol on her and forced her back, the citizens dare not make an effort to ferret out the murderers, because the Dr. was a southern sympathizer, Mrs. Main has been staying with Mrs. Hogan since. Dan Wooldridge, Justinian Williams, A. and D. Lincoln, and Hardige Andrews have gone to Nebraska. Your friends are well. Maria Lou Harrison has a little girl she has named Virginia Lee, they are living out at Mrs. Harrison. Mrs. Hand, Miss Mollie are visiting in Fulton, rumor says Lizzy Howard will soon be married to a gentleman in Hannibal. Mr. [Alexander] Dixon has married his house keeper Mary A. Lamb his children were much opposed to it. Tommie Russel [Russell] and Miss Bradford of Arrow Rock were married a few weeks since, they come down on a visit and are staying at Mr. [James M.] Nelson. , Ada called on them I was sick and could not go, Minnie [Muir] was so anxious to see Tommie's bride that Ada took her with her she is very small and dumpy and rather pretty, and very rich. Julie [Julia A. nee' Trigg] Johnson has lost her baby it died with diphtheria. Mr. Jones was telling Ada a few days before that she, must write you what a nice little sweetheart they had for your little boy. Brother [J. R.] Hall has left Boonville and gone to Philadelphia. Mr. [H. M.] Painter has been banished to Massachusetts, for preaching a sermon on Thanksgiving day last year, that did not suit the powers that be. Oh when will this cruel war end, and when will we meet again, your Pa regrets not having gone back to Texas instead of improving this farm our family is too small to be so far apart. Mr. [C. H. F.] Greenlease will not go to Texas this fall unless he thinks he cannot get through the winter here, he gives a most glowing account of you and Mr. McCarthy, I he says he could not have been more kindly cared for by his own brother and sister than by you, he says he does not think you have a wish ungratified, and that Mr. McCarthy is the kindest and most affectionate husband he ever saw, and the best merchant, he talked so much about you to all his friends that Col [Peter] Pierce, and old Tom [Thomas Withers] Nelson. were going about town telling every one that Mollie Jones had married better than any of the Boonville girls and saying Mr. McCarthy was a southern nabob, and lived like a prince, just, in the strain you can imagine they would talk better than I can describe. You know how much importance Mr. [Thomas Withers] Nelson. attaches to wealth. Mr. Jones thinks of taking George off and leaving him at school, he has not decided when or where, their is no security here for life or property. I am truly grateful to "Him who doeth all things well," that we hear from you as often as we do your letters afford me so much satisfaction, the letters Mr. [C. H. F.] Greenlease brought me I was reading over about the third time when your pa came in the room, said he are you reading those letters over again, there is nothing in them but a baby. I find he is as anxious to hear about the baby as I am, for as soon as he heard through one of the servants that Mr. Bell had come he rode over to see, if the report was true, and come back with a letter which by the way he had taken time to read. I pray that we may all soon meet again in health, peace, and happiness. Douglas [Muir] is going to school to Mr. Kenedy, Minnie [Muir] is as good as ever, Ada is teaching her, Mattie [Muir] is the same little original piece, the other night after she had gone to bed, she began fretting and crying. Ada asked her what she was crying about, she said she was crying because she was getting to be a great big girl and would soon be so big she could not set on her Ma's lap, and Caleb [Muir] would be a great big boy, and her ma would have nobody, you have been so fortunate in getting such a good nurse, give my love to all inquiring friends it is after 3 o'clock and my eyes have given out as well as the paper. Our best regards to Mr. McCarthy. And tell him he must bring you home if we have a home as soon as he can with safety. Kiss the dear little babe for us all. Ada and all toled me before they

went to bed that I must give their love to you a thousand times. I fear you will never be able to read this letter for which the pen is partly to blame, Good by my dear Mary, may the Lord continue to bless and protect you.

Affectionately your Mother

Mollie Silber is living in St. Louis her mother Mrs. Lewis the county, a letter I wrote last spring is in the work box. I forget what is in it and have not time to read it over will send it any way. I have so many things I cannot send you.

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Oakland March 9, 1863

My dear daughter

Yesterday our hearts and eyes, were gladdened by the receipt of your moste welcome letter, and Willie's [*William Justin McCarthy*] likeness. I think him a perfect little beauty. Your pa says he is a very fine noble looking child. From the expression of the mouth, should he live to be a man, he will have a great deal of firmness, and decision of character. I believe I would like It better without the cap, I want to see his hair, but he is perfectly beautiful. Mr. *McCarthy* and you may well feel proud of him. Ada and the children saw him first, from the size of the envelope they guessed what it was, and could not refrain from opening it, and then sent it out. Ada sent me word I must bring it in for she wanted to look at it every few minutes. Your pa and I, were talking about you and he had just registered the baby's birth in our old family Bible, (which we had neglected) when the letter came, Ann took the likeness down for Mrs. Wiggs to look at, she is always to delighted to hear from you, she says It looks just like a picter, send her some little, message when you write. It gives her so much pleasure. Oh how much we want to see you and the dear little one, I can scarcely contain myself, when I think how long you have been gone; and we know not what awaits us in the future. We can only hope that we will soon have a happy reunion. I hope ere you receive this that Mr. *McCarthy* will have returned, in health and safety. Your pa has taken Waverly back Mr. Brown was owing \$5,000, and five hundred, on it and rather than take green backs, he took the farm. Mr. *Brown*, will remain there until November, then I expect Mr. [*William D.*] *Muir* will move there. At present prices I cant see how poor people manage to live in Texas. I wrote you a very long letter after the receipt of the one you sent by Mr. *McCarthy* but did not get it off until after I received the one you sent by Dr. Slocum, acknowledging the receipt of the little things we sent by the Messers Turnstall. How very fortunate we have been In hearing from each other. I told you about all the young people and gave you all the news I could think of in that letter. Your pa expects to start in the morning to Jacksonville Illinois to see George, he has been there at school since last fall, and is learning very well, he is anxious for me to come too, he says he knows I would feel better satisfied if I could see how comfortably, he is situated. I am writing this for your pa to take with him to St. Louis, and there he may find an opportunity of sending it by private conveyance, to New York. Ada wrote you a long letter expecting to send it by Mr. [*C H. F.*] *Greenlease*, when he declined going I kept the letter here hoping that a Kind Providence would favor me with some opportunity of sending it, I laid it in your large Bible, and not long afterwards we packed a box of valuable thing, with your Bible (and other books forgetting the letter was in it) if the box was here I would unpack it, and send the letter. The roads have been almost impassable for some time. *Mattie* [*Muir*] is just recovering from an attack of catharral fever. Ada has been suffering with her tooth all winter, she intends going to St. Louis soon to have them attended to, Dr. Sample had a stroke of paralysis, more than a year ago, and has not recovered. When I tell you that I am writing this huridly, at night, I know you eill excuse all blots and mistakes, remember me to all my friends, kiss dear little Willie [*William Justin McCarthy*] for me, May the Lord bless and protect you and yours is the prayer of your Mother,

I sold Waverly for \$13,060 received \$9,600 in Specie fund in part pay get it back by paying \$4,500 on Try notes-price \$10,000=One note & Interest \$5,500.

C.J

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Oakland April 13, 1863

My dear daughter

Mrs. [Jessie] Main will leave in a day or two for Scotland, and I am writing this to send by her to New York. I have written you twice, via Matamoras, but know not that you have received my letters. Fearing you have not received the one I wrote the day after we received Willie's [William Justin McCarthy] likeness, I will repeat that we all think him "perfectly beautiful." Your pa is very proud of him, he says he is a fine noble looking child. To preserve it I have had it framed, and a glass put over it, so that the children can kiss him as much as they please, the frame is a very handsome gilt one. I went in yesterday to bring "my baby" home but Ada, prevailed on me to let her keep him a little longer, as Julia [A. nee' Trigg] Johnson (who with her liege lord, has just returned from New York,) was coming to see it. Indeed the young gentleman, has had quite a reception, at Ada's Ada. If the Prince of Wales, with his bride were to arrive In Boonville, I donot think your intimate friends would be more anxious to see them, than they have been to see "Mollie Jones' baby", as they all call him, he has been very much admired and complimented. I think Mrs. Wiggs' criticism the best, after all, she says "he dont look like a natural child, but just like a picter", for really their is something so noble looking, and beautiful, in the expression of his face, that it does look more like a fancy sketch, than a life likeness. Tell Mr. McCarthy, I fear he will be a little vain when he hears that we all think Willie [William Justin McCarthy] more like him than you. There is an artist in town who thinks he can take Ambrotypes from Willies [William Justin McCarthy] likeness if he succeeds, I will send mother one, and George one. George is in Jacksonville Illinois at school he writes home regularly once a week, and seems to be as well satisfied as he could be away from home, as much as I want to see him, I would not have him at home at present, for any consideration. We miss him very much. Your pa and I, are very lonely, the days seem longer to me, than they ever did before. I try to amuse myself in the yard, and gardens but the prospect ahead is so gloomy, that we have no heart, to do any thing in the way of improvement. I wish I could be the "Government", for a little while, I would at least make an effort, to have peace on earth, and good will amongst men. Comparitively, things are quiet in this immediate neighborhood, but I am afraid they will not continue so. We can only hope for the best, and put our trust in "Him who doeth all things well", in my other letters I gave you all the news about the young people in town, the only change that I know of since is the marriage of Mr. Jake Spahr [Jacob W. Spahr], and Miss. Lizie [Elizabeth] Sloan. Mr. Mat Wilson, with his wife and six children, stayed all night with us last week, on their way to Fayette, whear he is going for the convenience of schools, having been burned out at Sarcoxie, he had a very fine dwelling house handsomely furnished which, with his store house, was burned by the State malitia, they saved a part of their furniture. There was a fire in Boonville recently, destroying the entire block of houses in which was Mr. Lionberger's store. He saved the moste of his goods and is now in the house formerly occupied by Ritchy [Ritchie] and Kirton. Mr. David Andrews was the greatest looser, he owned two of the houses, and saved nothing out of his shop, but his books, and money, he had no insurance. Ada has been trying to get likeness of Caleb [Muir] to send you, but failed in getting a good one, he was taken in Lizy's lap, as they could not keep him still any other way, the likeness does not do him justice, for he is really a fine looking child, Mattie [Muir] has a sore on her face, so that she could not have hers taken now. I think, however, we will send you Douglas [Muir] and Minnie [Muir], she has on a basque, made of some scraps of your velvet cape, which takes better than I thought that color would. Ada has weaned Caleb [Muir] at last, and if you do not get home before next November, their will be another little stranger, to greet you. Oh how earnestly I pray for our speedy reunion, if it were possible, I believe I want to see you all more now, then I did before I saw dear little Willies [William Justin McCarthy] likeness. I

hope Mr. *McCarthy* has returned in health and safety, long before this. Your pa was in St. Louis a few weeks since and called to see the Misses [*Lee*] Conrad and Tast, they were well and very pleasantly situated in their uncle's family, they were delighted to hear from you, and were laughing about the way you treated poor old Mr. Hedges. Frank Conrad is in the rebel army. Your cousin Herb Jones joined the 8th Missouri volunteers, thinking he would not have to leave the State, but he is now with Gen Grant's army. Robert Musser<sup>79</sup> is also in the Federal army. I have a thousand things to tell you, but I must stop, as I have to go to town this morning to get the children pictures to send you, in this letter. Mrs. [*Jessie*] Main may leave tomorrow, she expects to return here if we ever have peace again. Mr. Jerry Kingsbury of Howard died very recently. Mrs. Dr. Kingsbury of San Antonio is his daughter, I write this thinking she might not have an opportunity of hearing from her friends. Mr. Adkin Lee of Howard, and Judge [*Abiel*] Leonard of Fayette, are dead, their is a great deal of sickness in Howard. Give my best regards to all inquiring friends, kiss Willie's [*William Justin McCarthy*] sweet little mouth for me, and teach him to say Grand ma and pa. Good by my dear Mary may the Lord bless you and yours, may He guide, gaurd, and direct you all along the journey of life, is the prayer of

Your Mother.

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Oakland May 18, 1863

My dear Mary

Your moste welcome letter via Pittsburg has been received. When Ada saw the post mark she was silly enough to think you was in *Pittsburg*, but when she opened the letter and saw San Antonio March 8th her bright visions fled. We have great cause to be truly thankful to our Heavenly Father, for permitting us to hear from you as often as we do. It is strange that we should get your letters, and you not get ours. I have written you three times via Matamoros, as you directed. I had written you a long letter, just before receiving yours, informing me of the safe arrival of the Messers Tunstall. Then I wrote on the receipt of Willie's [*William Justin McCarthy*] picture, I was so anxious you should know it had arrived safely. Again, I wrote telling you how perfectly beautiful, we thought the dear little one, and what a levee the young gentleman or as George calls him, "little *McCarthy*", had, had, at the residence of W. D. Muir Esq., how much he had been admired and complimented, should I reiterate it again, and you got my previous letters, I fear you might think, "Ma was in her doat-age," Mrs. [*Jessie*] Main took one letter to New York, with a likeness of Minnie [*Muir*] in it. The last letter I sent by Mr. Bradley, who was going to Texas, if he could get permission to pass the lines, he promised to call and see you. I am very anxious about Willie [*William Justin McCarthy*]. I had remarked to Ada the day before the receipt of your letter, that I was afraid he would be sick teething, as this was his second summer, and he was weaned so young. I think children have less trouble teething that are not weaned until they are at least one year old. I am so sorry you could not bring him home this summer, where he could have ice, and fresh ripe fruit. We have a great many straw-berries. Mr. [*William D.*] Muir, Ada, and the children were out last evening, and how happy we all would have been, had Mr. *McCarthy*, you and Willie [*William Justin McCarthy*], been with us. Oh what I would not give to see Willie [*William Justin McCarthy*] in the garden, picking off the berries with his own sweet little fingers, and putting them in that pretty mouth of his. I do not enjoy our luxuries, because you and George are not here. I know such repining is very sinful, for we have great cause for gratitude to the "Giver of every good and perfect gift", that it is as well with us as is. George is quite homesick, but under existing circumstances, we think he had better remain at school another year. I have just received a letter from brother Jack [*Chapman*], informing me that Mother intends spending the summer with us. Dr. Harrison, his brother and Gus Howard, have gone to Pikes Peak. *James M.* Muir intends going. There is quite an Exodus from this State to the land of golden dreams. Mrs. Harrison and Mollie, are boarding at Col. [*Peter*] Pierce's, we are very much pleased with our new minister, the Rev. Mr. [*W. M.*] Pugh. I hope he may be instrumental in doing much good in Boonville. He had a large congregation last sabbath, and preached a good sermon. The Corronation hymn was sung, which filled my eyes with tears, because I missed your

voice, it is a favorite hymn of mine, and I think you sing it more beautifully, than any one I ever heard. The Rev. J. Lewis was to see us not long since, he had been visiting his mother. I showed him the picture you sent me from New York, he thought yours a perfect likeness, and Mr. McCarthy, very good looking. Mr. [J.] Lewis, lives at the Parsonage, a few miles from St. Louis. Mrs. Schoolfield is keeping house in the City. Mrs. Silver spends the winter with Mollie, and the summer with Mrs. Lewis. Captain Silver has just returned from Santa Fe, he is not married, he and Dr. [Preston] Beck, seem to have much trouble settling up the estate of the elder Mr. Beck<sup>80</sup>. Dick Henning returned a letter, a short time since, which I gave him more than a year ago, thinking he would have an opportunity of sending it from Neosho. Find in it some clipping from papers which I send in this, and a description of Dr [Preston] Beck's marriage, which for you amusement, I will transcribe, in my next letter. Your Uncle Willam [Jones] and Ben [Jones] are living in St. Louis. Jennie [Virginia 'Jennie' nee' Crenshaw] Harper has been there two or three weeks visiting her friends, she is expected home tomorrow. Our roses and flowers are in full bloom, the country is looking very lovely now I intend sending the carriage in for Mr. and Mrs. [W. M.] Pugh and their two children to come out and spend a day with us, perhaps this week. I am preparing to make Willie [William Justin McCarthy] a nice comfort, out of that delain dress of yours with the palm leaf figure. I will tack it with narrow green ribbon, and bind it with ribbon about an inch wide. I will make it large enough for a pair of boys. Ada expects to be confined next fall. If you donot get home before that time, there will be two little strangers for "Aunt Mary" to see for the first time. As slowly as time passes with me, I can scarcely realize that you have been gone so long. O that this cruel, unnatural war, could cease, and we all once more, have a happy reunion in health and peace. I feel perfectly satisfied that you will be well taken care of by Mr. and Mrs. [Peter 'Dom Pedro'] Galagher [Gallagher], and will have every comfort that money or friendship can bestow. If I could know that Mr. McCarthy had returned, with improved health in safety, I would be much better reconciled to our separation, we can only hope that he has. I wrote you that your pa had taken Waverly back, Mr. Brown will remain there until fall. Except the love of the whole family, and kiss dear Willie [William Justin McCarthy] for us all. Our kindest regards to Mr. McCarthy, and tell him I say he must not leave you any more. May the Lord bless and protect you, and deliver you from evil.

Your Mother.

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Oakland December 11, 1863

My dear Mary

Your moste welcome letter was received yesterday, It was written the same day that our dear little Mattie [Muir] died, I know how your heart will ache, when you read this. She died the 11th Sept., and was buried on the 12<sup>th</sup>, which was Mr. [William D.] Muir's birth day. Minnie [Muir], Mattie [Muir] and Caleb [Muir] had whooping cough, and Matties [Muir] constitution was too delicate to battle with the disease, you know what weak lungs she had. The dear little one was so sprightly and cheerful, that we did not realize how ill she was. Mr. [William D.] Muir thought Ada was unnecessarily alarmed, and said he went for the Dr, just to please Ada, Mattie [Muir] was the first one to meet the Dr. [F. E. G. Thomas] at the door. She took him in the parlor, and showed him Willies [William Justin McCarthy] likeness, "toled him that was her aunt Marys baby, her little cousin Willie [William Justin McCarthy] in Texas". Ada says she never heard her talk sweeter, she was very fond of the Dr. , and seemed to be trying to entertain him. She was so cheerful that I believe the Dr. was deceived, for he only advised giving her a little soda water, for an ulcer on her tongue which he said was caused by acid stomache. Ada says it must have been a kind of mothers instinct, for she felt that Mattie [Muir] was dangerously ill. Wednesday night the Dr. gave her a little medicine, Thursday I went to see her, and when I left I thought she would be much better the next day, what poor short sighted mortals we are, the next day her pure spirit took its flight from earth to Heaven, to join her little brother Frank, she so much loved to talk about. The immediate cause of her death, was congestion of the liver, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." Ada cannot feel resigned, I never knew

any one to grieve more for a child, for a time I feared she would by her excessive grief bring on brain fever, or something worse. Mattie [Muir] had improved so much, and become so interesting, that she was twining herself around our hearts more, and more every day. Minnie [Muir] too, seems lost without her, they went to Sunday school together, and were so much company for each other. You have the only good likeness of Mattie [Muir] their is, be sure and preserve it, if you can, have a photograph taken from it and send it to Ada, she Intended having Matties [Muir] taken at the same time Minnies [Muir] was that I sent you. But she had a sore on her face, and the artist said it would spoil the picture, it was then put off from time to time until it was too late. I had two pictures taken from Willies [William Justin McCarthy], I gave Mother one and sent the other to George he is at home now and Ada insists on keeping the original picture at her house. I have looked at Willie [William Justin McCarthy] so much that I believe I would know him any where. The letter containing Minnies [Muir] likeness, was taken by Mrs. [Jessie] Main to Liverpool, and their mailed. Mrs. Main has returned from Scotland, bringing with her, a little nephew, she prefers her own little quiet home, in the country, which to me, seems strange, for the United States is not a desirable place just now, for any one who loves peace and quiet. You remark that Mr. McCarthy -will probably go to Europe to reside six months in the year. I wish you were there now, for then I could hear from you regularly. Mother spent the summer with us, she is looking very well for one nearly eighty years old, she is very active, and can walk as far as I can, she went home a few weeks ago, brother Jacks [Chapman] family were well when I heard from them.

December 12, 1863

This is George's birth day, he is nineteen, to-day he came home in vacation, with very weak eyes, and we thought it best for him to remain at home, he relieves his father greatly on the farm. A recruiting office was opened in Boonville for soldiers of "African descent", and Speed<sup>81</sup>, Ike, and Willie, enlisted, Aaron would not go. Speed and Will cried like children when they left, I suppose Sally, Caroline and Ann will not leave before spring. Three hundred negroes have been sent from Boonville to St. Louis, and the office is still open and as Sally says the negroes keep "roling". Ellis left home some time ago, and was employed as teamster, he returned a few days since quite sick, minus the money he took with him, but wiser if not better than when he left home. All but two of Mrs. [Maria] Muirs negro men have left her.

Your pa would willingly leave Mo, if he could sell out to any advantage, for it will not be a desirable place for a white family for the next half century.

What has become of Judge Howels family. I am sorry Mr. and Mrs. [Peter 'Dom Pedro'] Ghaleger [Gallagher] have left San Antonio, for I have always felt that should you need true friends, during Mr. McCarthy's absence from home, that you would always find them in Mr. and Mrs. [Peter 'Dom Pedro'] Gallagher. I hope that Mr. McCarthy, has his business so arranged by this time that he will not have to leave you so much alone. Tell him he must not think of joining the army. Messer [William D.] Muir and Draffin [James Wellington Draffen] have again opened their office in Boonville and are getting a fair share of business.

For some weeks past your pa has been confined to the house with rheumatism in his back, he goes about half bent, which with his long white beard gives him a very old appearance, his general health, however, is as good as usual, he is very anxious to see you all, and talks frequently about you, from your description he thinks Willie [William Justin McCarthy] must be quite a prodigy. Oh how I wish this cruel, war would cease, and we could once more be a united family in health and peace. I have made Willie [William Justin McCarthy] a comfort, out of that light colored delain of yours. It is tacked and bound with green ribbon, and large enough for a pair of boys. Dear little Mattie [Muir] talked so much about her "aunt Mary and cousin Willie [William Justin McCarthy] in Texas," I would often ask her what pet names she had for them, she would reply, Douglas [Muir] was mad turtle, Minnie [Muir] rose bud, and me blue eyed daisy, and if aunt Mary was here she would call Caleb [Muir] Dixie. Ada has another fine boy he was born the 4th of November, his name is William, he has blue eyes and light hair, is more like Dug [Douglas Muir] than either of the other children he is very healthy. I never saw a child grow as fast as he does, Ada is very well, she got about sooner this time than she ever did before. Jennie [Virginia 'Jennie' nee' Crenshaw] Harper has another son born the 4th December she had named a girl Mary Lee [Harper] and was quite disappointed, she has four boys. Julia [A. nee' Trigg] Johnson has a son, she and Mrs. Piggott still live at the Dr's. Tommie Russel [Russell] too, is a

father, he is farming in Saline, Douglas [Muir] and Minnie [Muir] are staying with us because the scarlet fever is in town. Mrs. [Frederick T.] Kemper has lost her oldest child with it. Last summer her two little girls died within a few hours of each other with cholera infantum, they were buried in one coffin, she has one child about five months old. Mr. Brown has moved to town. Mrs. Steel has gone to Kentucky, her sister, the wife of Bishop [William] Kavanaugh<sup>83</sup> died recently in Kentucky the Bishop is in feeble health. You spoke of Dr. Kavanaugh having a daughter living in San Antonio. Miss Jo Raily [Jo Raley] is teaching school near Franklin. Miss Em is going to Saline to teach, Mrs. [William - Sarah Raley] Railey will break up housekeeping and board, her three Negro men have left her she has rented her farm to Parson Sloan, a refugee from one of the borders counties. If we can rent this farm we will move back to Waverley, then if you can get home we will have room enough for your family and Ada's. There is now nine families living on the two farms, your pa expects them to cultivate his fields, and the grain rent he receives from them, will be sufficient for him. You have doubtless heard of the dairing raid made by Jo [Joseph O.] Shelby, in to Mo, they dashed into Boonville robbed the stores of whatever they wanted, then came out and camped at Waverley, made their camp fires out of our fence rails, used our corn and oats, and out of a fine crop of oats only left us enough for seed, killed two fine Durham heifers, and as many hogs as they wanted, and then to cap the climax took Brownie. Your pa tried very hard to get him from them but they would not give him up. Dug [Douglas Muir] says Brownie went south for his health, loosing him broke up our team, a runaway negro stole our best mule and we have nothing left that will work in harness but one mule. Mr. Wiggs has an old horse blind in one eye, and of these we some times make a team for the carriage, the rebels took a fine mare from Mr. Wiggs. I rode Jenny to town last week, I wrote you more than a year ago that old Tom had died of old age. I am writing with ink that has been frozen, and I fear you will not be able to read my letter

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January 6, 1864

Dear daughter,

I have been waiting for an opportunity to send the letters, (one to Mrs. Bennet) by private conveyance, to New York, but will have to trust them to the mail. Ada and family were with us during Christmas, and Oh how we wished for you all. The Sabbath school teachers of the Methodist Episcopal church had a christmas tree, and supper at the Thespian hall, to replenish the S C, library. Harriet [Rebecca] and Sallie [Worsham] Harper and the Misses Albertson<sup>84</sup> had been very busy making presents for the schollars, but owing to family affliction neither family were present. A dispatch from was received from pike peak announcing Mr. Albertson's<sup>85</sup> death, and little George [Muir] Harper died with scarlet fever and was buried the day before Christmas. Eliza Torbert, and Minnie [Muir], had scarcely thought or talked of any thing also for the last month but the Christmas tree, but owing to the scarlet fever being in town they had to stay in the country. Ada went, however, and got the childrens presents, which were hung on the tree. Minnie's [Muir] a starch bag, and Elizas, a pin cushion Dug's [Douglas Muir] a cravat, all very pretty, Amanda K., made Minnies [Muir].

This is the coldest winter since 1853.

Good bye my dear daughter. God grant we my all have a happy meeting before 64 passes away. Our best regards to Mr. McCarthy, and all enquiring friends, kiss dear Willie [William Justin McCarthy], and tell him that grand ma and pa will come see him the first opportunity, if he cannot come to see them.

Your Mother

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Waverley, 17, 1864

My dear daughter

Again have we had the inestimable pleasure of hearing from the loved ones from home. We have just received a very kind note from Mr. Rose<sup>86</sup>, informing us that he saw Mr. McCarthy last month in Monterey, and that yourself and son were well the tenth of March. You can easily imagine our feelings when I tell you that the last letter we received from you was written the 11th, of September, the day our dear little Mattie [Muir] died you was writing home. I wrote you all about her death and sent the letter via Matamora, but there has been so much commotion there that I fear you have not received it. Minnie [Muir], Mattie [Muir] and Caleb [Muir] had whooping cough last fall and Mattie's [Muir] lungs were too weak to battle with that disease; however, the immediate cause of her death was congestion of the liver. I never knew any one grieve more for a child than Ada does. Mattie [Muir] was growing so pretty and interesting. Mother spent the summer with us and she thought Mattie [Muir] the most sprightly child she ever saw. Minnie [Muir] and Douglas [Muir] have been staying with us this winter because the scarlet fever is in town. Mr. [James William] Harper lost one child, and Capt Howard his youngest. Caleb [Muir] is staying at Mrs. [Maria] Muirs, Ada thinks she will soon take the children home as there are but few cases of fever in town. Willie is more like Mattie [Muir] than either of the other children, he was born the 4 of November, and Jenny [Virginia 'Jennie' nee' Crenshaw] Harper's James [Harper] the 4 of December, Minnie [Muir] seem lost without Mattie [Muir] they were going to Sunday school together and were so much company for each other. They talked so often about Aunt Mary and little cousin Willie [William Justin McCarthy] in Texas, and what they would do when Aunt Mary came, and when they went to see her, they had a play they called "going to see Aunt Mary." You have the only likeness there is of Mattie [Muir] and Ada is very anxious to have a photograph taken from that, so you could send it in a letter, have one taken if you can, but keep the original do not risk that, but keep it until you can bring it, safely home.

We moved back to Waverley last week, I am very much fatigued and would not be sitting up were I not so anxious you should hear from us. Your pa has been very much afflicted with rheumatism this winter, and a colt kicked him and broke one of his ribs. He is now in his usual health. We moved here because this house is more easily injured by renting than the other which has never been finished, and to have room enough for your family and Ada's when you come home. I know Mr. McCarthy will bring you and dear little Willie [William Justin McCarthy] as soon as he can in safety, and I hope that will be very soon. Aaron is the only negro we have, the others have all gone as soldiers and camp followers, Sally and Ann left the 1st day of March. Wash Sally's husband came in a wagon with two soldiers drove to the door of her house and loaded the wagon with her goods and drove off leaving me sick in bed with pneumonia. Mr. Jones said nothing to them only asked them if they were there by authority and they said they were. I have hired a white girl. A man and his wife are living in the frame house in the yard, they have one negro woman.

Mr. [William D.] Muir has been quite sick for several weeks, with typhoid pneumonia he is recovering slowly but has a very bad cough, his negro men have all left him. James Muir's John [Adams]<sup>87</sup> is the only negro man on Mrs. [Maria] Muirs farm. Your pa was in St. Louis a few weeks since and saw Miss. Lee Conrad and Post, they were well and very pleasantly situated. Your uncle William [Jones] and Ben [Jones] are living in St. Louis. Cousin Sarah Thompson's son Willie is dead I sent you his obituary in my last letter and also a letter for Mrs. Bennet<sup>88</sup>. George is at home and is very well, he relieves his father greatly on the farm, Mr. Jones has rented his fields and the grain rent will be sufficient for us. There is an immense emigration to Idaho, this spring very few young men are left in this part of the country. I have written you so many letters that I know you never received, (because I mentioned things and persons that I know you would have replied to) that I have very little encouragement to write a long letter. Tell Willie [William Justin McCarthy] Grand ma has looked at his picture so much, that she thinks she would know him any where, I have just put away his little comfort with tobacco, that I wrote you I had made him. Kiss his pretty mouth for me. Good by my dear daughter, I pray we may all meet soon in health and peace, Our best regards to Mr. McCarthy.

What has become of Judge Howels family, and where is Don Padro. All your friends make many enquiries about you and send much love to you, and are very anxious to see you and yours.

Your Mother

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Paris Station Canada West September 1, 1864

My Dear Mary

You will doubtless be surprised to hear that I arrived here last night, Mr. Jones and George have been here several weeks. I left Boonville one week ago, in company with Mr. Benedict and family who have moved here. This morning I received a letter from Mr. [William D.] Muir enclosing your letter of the 27th June.

Oh how hard a trial it is for me to tell you not to come home. Tears blind my eyes so that I can scarcely see to write this, I will quote from Mr. [William D.] Muir.

"I enclose letter from Mollie, you ought to write to her at once and let her know where you are, I should be very glad to see her but not here, under present circumstances. We are all well, and there has occurred nothing of particular Interest since Mrs. Jones left."

This is one of the hardest trials I have had since the war, for our principal object in moving back to Waverley, was to have room enough for your family and Ada's, and to entertain your friends when you come home. We had just got the house and yard arranged, when we had to break up. If you can come here, we will still have a house large enough for you all, but it will not be our dear old house. We intend going to house keeping, your pa and George are out looking for a house with a fire place, which is rather a difficult thing, as stoves are mostly used here. We are stopping at a hotel kept by real live Yanke's. The old lady said at dinner, the potatoes were not, quite ripe, and asked me to season my tea with sugar. Mr. [William D.] Muir intends staying at home as long as possible. But I would not be surprised to see then here any day. Every boat and conveyance that leaves Mo is crowded with people, some running from the drafts, and others for fear of being taken as a hostage, or assessed as a Sympathizer, or killed by a bushwhacker. Your pa thinks between the Jayhawkers, and bushwhackers, Mo, will be devastated, and only a fit abode for the lawless, for years to come, his health has greatly improved since he come here. It is, perhaps, owing to the security he feels where none dare molest or make him afraid. It is certainly harrassing to live where you are liable at any moment to be shot, or thrown into prison without ever knowing what for. After Mr. Jones left home two of our nearest Neighbors were shot. Mr. [John Henry] Boller<sup>89</sup> our german neighbor was shot to death by bushwhackers, and Robert Sloan<sup>90</sup> living in Mrs [William - Sarah Raley]. Raileys house was severely wounded by the pursuing party, they mistaking him for one of Mr. Boller's murderers. I was so alarmed at the state of excitement in the neighborhood that I wrote your pa not to come home, and he would not consent to stay without I would come, so I packed some of our best furniture that I thought would pay to ship, sent the piano and other things to Mr. [William D.] Muirs that I thought, would be useful to them, and left a family in the house to take care of the rest. I hope and pray the storm may soon blow over and we be able to return and live in peace under our own "vine and fig tree". Do not dear daughter be uneasy about us, in a pecuniary point of view, we have saved enough from the wreck, for all useful purposes. Only to think it will soon be four years since we parted, how wisely our heavenly Father withholds the future from us. Mr. Harper is in bad health and is anxious to spend the winter in Texas. I am glad to hear that Dora Musser<sup>91</sup> is with you, and sorry that Mr. Mitchel/ is, himself and family wore out all the friends they had here, before they left, and if Mr. McCarthy does not keep his eyes open Mr. Mitchell will draw him into some financial difficulty, he can be so prepossessing and plausible. Mrs. [Mary R. nee' Murphy] Barron whose husband is in the South heard that a gentleman of the same name as her husband was killed by the explosion of a shell whilst carelessly examining it, she is greatly distressed and sent me the address he gave her, hoping to hear something from him through you. I regret Mr. McCarthy's absence from home, I fear he will risk too much in traveling about as he does. To me now, everything seems so little compared with human life, I truly realize the scripture quotation "All that a man hath will he give for his life". Kiss dear sweet little Willie [William Justin McCarthy] a hundred times for me, and tell him grand ma hopes soon to see him and hear him sing. I have his picture in my trunk. Cousin Dick [Chapman] wrote me that Willie [William Justin McCarthy] was a perfect prodigy. He feared that his mind was too strong for his rather weak body. God grant we my soon have a happy reunion is the daily prayer of your

Mother

Your pa has rented a house in Brantford a few miles from here direct your letters  
Brantford Canada West.

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Paris Station Canada West September 21, 1864

Dear Mary,

If you have received your Ma letter written from this place your are informed of our being here. We left not to soon. Our State is in a deplorable condition every crime is daily committed with impunity. Most of our friends have left. Mr. Benedict and family and Mr. Obryan [*John L. O'Brien*] who married Miss. Fanny Bosfield sister are here. Mr. Obryan [*John L. O'Brien*] family will come to him. James Bell, Barton S. Wilson, Andrew Adams, Robert B. and L. Bacon, Dr. [*Samuel*] Tutt, Mr. [*Alfred*] Slack, Sandy Brown some 50 or 60 other citizen of Boonville are in St. Louis Illinois and other places. Mr. John Taylor and his brother in law James Harris are in the Military Prison at St. Louis. Many of the prominent men of the other party are absent from home. Goodrich Wilson is at Windsor Canada. William Howard and family at Hanibal. Mr. Renshaw who bought Charlotte and children and his neighbour Mr. McClanahan were shot a few days since and many other respectable persons have been killed. Do not be uneasy about us, we are Safe living under the protection of the "best Government in the world" and have ample means to live on here or elsewhere by using due economy until the Storm subsides. Ada remains in Boonville. Mr. [*William D.*] Muir written in that he had taken an office in St. Louis. I expect he will move his family there.

We may probably yet become Citizens of Mexico and Subjects of his Imperial Majesty Max. I think the climate of Monteray would suit your ma better than any other I know of. We have no settled plans and must be governed by events - which are yet to transpire. A few months may make developments which will enable to determine on Something definite - we are now residing within two hours travel of Niagara falls.

We cannot hope to return to Missouri having any assurance of living in safety until there, is a cessation of hostilities. The war waged in that State is one of extermination. The country is overrun with Gurrellas - to whom no Quarter is shoon and they shuo none. They scalped three soldiers lately near Rouckport. Highway robbery is an every day occurrence. We are yet at a Hotel-but expect to get possession of a large House I have rented in a few days. Your Ma had her Parlor and her Chamber Furniture Carpets Books and most of our valuable household goods sent here. We will have very little to purchase to fit us out comfortably. Your Willie [*William Justin McCarthy*] picture is kept on our Table ware we can see him at all times he is a noble little fellow and we desire to see him greatly. We yesterday received a letter from your Uncle Jack [*Chapman*]. The family are all well - he still continues unlucky - he had a government contract but was compelled to abandon his work surveying by the Indian. They have driven in all surveying parties - have killed many persons who were traveling to the mines destroyed much property driven off Stock etc. We have a man by the name or Braden living in our house - he has charge of my business and is Selling my Stock Grain etc. he is competent and I think will do me justice.

Mrs. [*William G.*] Bell the Parsons wife is dead. Mr. [*James Augustus*] A. Howard and Miss. Alice Albertson are married. Mr. Ian Harper is in bad health he would be glad to Spend the winter in Texas - but I fear will not get there.

Mrs. [*Jessie*] Main is living on her Farm. Mrs. Hogan and family are in St. Louis. Mrs. Harrison and Mollie [*Harrison*] are going if not, gone to Ky. Mrs. Huff (Min Massey) who left the South to visit her mother-was arrested in St. Louis and Sent back. Her mother is dead.

Self exiled and deprived as we are of the Society of children and friends we feel profound gratitude to the Giver of every good and perfect gift - that our lives are yet Spared and we are not destitue. We trust the Same providential care will Still be vouchsafe to us and that we may yet have the happiness of being united on Earth and inseperably united in Heaven. George is with us. I propose as soon as we get to house keeping to give him daily such instructions and aid; as will enable him to advance in his Studies

You will direct your letters to us (Say to (Paris Station Canada West)

May God bless and protect you and your

Your affectionate father

Caleb Jones

My health is much improved - few men of my age enjoy better your Ma is in her usual health. George is well.

C. J.

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Paris Canada West April 1, 1865

My dear Mary,

Your letter written in Dec, and Jan, has been received, this is the first letter we have had from you for seven months it did not bring the joy your letter have always done, for we are deeply grieved to hear of Mr. McCarthy's ill health, but knowing how easily you are alarmed, when you think your friends are in danger, we flatter ourselves that he may not be seriously indisposed. I hope long ere you receive this Mr. McCarthy's health may be entirely restored, if, however, he thinks sea voyage would be beneficial, why not come here? Oh if he only knew how my heart aches to see you once more, I know he would bring you and dear little Willie [William Justin McCarthy], and spend the summer with us in Canada. We will now be all anxiety until we hear from you again. I have made up my mind to one thing, and that is, if we ever meet again on earth I will never leave you, while we both live. We would gladly have gone to you, instead of coming to this bleak and frozen country, where the snow has not been off the ground for five months, but you know the penalty would be confiscation. This is truly the "Botana Bay of America" for it is filled up with convicts and criminals from the U. S. and from every other country. To keep George from the draft is the only inducement we have to remain here. We had a letter from brother [J. R.] Hall a few days since urging us to come to Philadelphia. We have no fixed plans for the future, if Mr. McCarthy decides upon going to Europe to remain any length of time, we may go too. No one is left in Boonville whose business would admit of their leaving. A few of our acquaintances, the Harpers and Howards among them, are there yet. Mr. Harpers house was stoned one night while he was at prayers he prayed on. James [M.] Nelson, Dr. Borman [Charles S. Boarman], True Hickock, Mr. McPherson, and Mr. [Louis] Bendele, have been knocked down on the street (two of them in their houses) and beaten almost to death. Our neighbour Wooldridge<sup>92</sup> and family have gone to Idaho. Since the war all our very near neighbours have been killed<sup>93</sup>, Dr. [George W.] Main, old Mr. [John Henry] Boller and his son [John] Godfrey<sup>94</sup>, Mr. Nuff<sup>95</sup> [Jacob Henry Neff] and a young man [Robert Sloan] living at Mr. [William Raley] Raileys farm was shot at by about twenty men, he has recovered minus his eye sight. I have great cause to be thankful to Him who never slumbers nor sleeps that your pa and George have escaped so well. After we left Ada thought she could not stay there alone, Mr. [William D.] Muir being in St. Louis, so she packed up and they all arrived here safely the fifth of Nov. I have often said this winter if you and family were with us how happy I would be. Last Monday was four years since you left me, how little we dreamed of being so long separated? What a blessing that we know not what the future has in store for us? Last Tuesday Ada and her little ones left us for St. Louis. Mr. [William D.] Muir left Douglas [Muir] as a hostage and promised to bring them all back, the first of July, and then return to St. Louis in the fall and make that his permanent home. Judge Ewing and Mr. Muir have a law office in St. Louis, and are getting a very fair share of business, they will board with Ada Godden who is keeping house in St. Louis, Mrs. [Maria] Muir has taken their house in Boonville, Mrs. Stephenson and Mrs. Coleman (Betty Spear)<sup>96</sup> are staying with them. Porthress Muir was in Boonville last fall with Gen Price. , Mrs. Stephenson urged him to stay at home and toled him that her influence with the Blair family would secure his pardon and safety, he refused, telling her that he would despise himself were he to desert the South. You know how delicately he, was raised, he said he had left the track of blood from his naked feet for miles on the frozen ground,

had been in thirty two battles. At one time he and a few others were cut off from command, and their sufferings were so great, being with out food and nearly naked, that his comrades went to the Federal camp and gave themselves up, he one dark night (after being four days without a morsel of food) crawled through the camp, getting near enough to smell the meat and hear it frying, and joined his command. George [Branch] Harper is at Mobile, he was recently severely wounded in a hand to hand conflict, he received two saber cuts across the head, and saved his life by killing his antagonist, he is Capt yet, refusing promotion because his men are unwilling to give him up. Aleck Howard is with, John Howard, has joined the army in Virginia, he was at Petersburg. Some of Gen Marmadukes men were captured and sent to Alton prison whear Ed Muir is condemed to stay during the war, they told Ed that Porthress Muir was killed at the time they were captured, they knew him and saw him fall, Ed Muir believes him dead. Mr. Harper and others think he is living. Jim [James M.] Muir and Billy Henry, and Dr. Harrison are in Idaho. Mrs. Harrison and Mollie are not satisfied In Kentucky, and wish to return to Missouri. Your pa has just been reading what I had written, he says he has no notion of going to Europe, the state of his finances will not admit of it. He thinks he must stay near our "base of supplies." Mr. [William D.] Muir wants to exchange Waverly for a house in St. Louis and we all live together. If Mr. McCarthy is not willing to come here, and decides to go to Europe, I hope you will go with him, for I know you would be perfectly miserable if he was to go aloan when sick, he has been so little with you since the war, I remarked when I read in your letter that Willie [William Justin McCarthy] was becoming so fond of his papa, that it was the first time the child had ever been with his long enough to got acquainted with him. Ada's little Willie is a very sprightly child, he is much like Mattie [Muir]. Minnie [Muir], and Douglas [Muir] are to anxious to see you, Caleb [Muir] is a fine child, he is very fond of going to church, and when he first came here he thought it very strange we did not ride to church in our carriage, or in his pa's buggy. He has not learned to adapt himself to circumstances. When [Joseph O.] Shelby made his raid in Missouri he camped on our farm and took all that he wanted. Gen Price did the same, his army cleared our farm of grain, hogs, horses, cattle, fruit, fence rails and every thing else they wanted, they even took poor little Jenny. Mr. Jones estimates his losses by their camping at Waverly at three thousand dollars. They took "Doubloon" our fine young horse, worth a thousand dollars. Mr. [William D.] Muir was their just before coming here, week before last, and he said their seemed to be no wanton destruction of property, although the place was so completely stript. We have good tenants there, and at Oakland. Mr. Wiggs has moved to Illinois. Mrs. [Jessie] Main is on her farm. Barton S. Wilson has moved to Illinois, his son Jo, and Maggie Myers are married. Dr. [William Hodge] Trigg's<sup>97</sup> family have gone to the State of New York. Dr. [Elias E.] Buckner is dead. William Ragland has gone to Idaho, his wife is keeping boarding house in St. Louis. Brother Jack [Chapman] wants to go to California for his health, Mother's health is very feeble, the rest of the family are well. Give our regards to Mr. McCarthy and kiss little Willie [William Justin McCarthy] for me. God grant that we may very soon have a happy reunion, is my daily prayer. Good by dear daughter,

Your Mother.

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Paris Canada West June 23, 1865

My dear Mary

We have not heard from you, since your letter of the 1st January. Then Mr. McCarthy was in bad health, and his physician had advised him to take a sea voyage, if he decided to go that you would go with him, so you can easily imagine the anxiety and solicitude we feel about you. We know not whether Mr. McCarthy has been restored to health, whear you are or what your condition may be. If we knew that you was in San Antonio your pa and I would soon be with you, now the cruel unnatural war is over, and travel can again be resumed I hope we will soon meet to part no more until death parts us. I expect to send this through the kindness of the Provost Marshall, who has bought Waverly, our dear old home, he gives ten thousand dollars for it, he will be quite an acquisition to that neighborhood for Mr. [William D.] Muir writes that he is a

gentleman and man of education, he sent a message to your pa to come back and live at Oakland, that he wanted him for a neighbor. Oakland is rented for this year, and we want to know what Mr. McCarthy's plans are for the future, before we decide what we will do or where we will go. George is tired of being idle, and his pa will start him in business as soon as he can determine on a location. I wrote you in my last letter that Mr. [William D.] Muir opened a law office in St. Louis last fall, he expects to move his family there the 1st Sept and make that his future home, our family is so small, I think we ought all to be together. If Mr. McCarthy could arrange his business so as to live in St. Louis we would go there too. Ada and children spent the winter with us here, Mr. [William D.] Muir came for them in March they stayed two or three months in St. Louis boarding with Ada Godden, they are not in Boonville with Mrs. [Maria] Muir, she has rented her farm and taken Ada's house in town. Ada was afraid to keep the children in St. Louis during the hot weather, Minnie [Muir] went to school while she was in St. Louis. You cannot imagine how anxious she is to see you, she says she is going with me if I go to Texas. George [Branch] Harper is in St. Louis. Porthress Muir was killed by a ball passing through his head, during Prices. retreat from Missouri, he had passed safely through more than thirty battles, to us, it seems hard that he should be killed just as peace was about being restored to our unhappy country. We poor short sighted mortals know not what is best for us, we only know that we are in the hands of Him who doeth all things well. I fear that dear little Willie [William Justin McCarthy] will think his grandma a myth, as he only hears of her, my daily prayer is that we may soon meet face to face. Your pa and Mr. [William D.] Muir have both written to Mr. Rose in New Orleans, to know if he had heard from Mr. McCarthy but have had no word from him, the two letters you wrote before the last, we have not received. I will leave room for your pa to write a few lines. Our kindest regards to Mr. McCarthy. Kiss the dear boy for us, and accept for yourself all a Father's and Mother's love for a child.

Mary - I have Sustained great loss - in the last 4 years - yet have fortunately been able to Save I trust a sufficiency of my property - to aid - our children in Starting a new In business - I would like to Know Mr. McCarthy's plans and weather he will require aid, as soon as possible - I have some Cash - which has been unproductive for a considerable time - which ought either to be given to our children or invested in some paying business - if possible let us hear from you. We are all well.

Your affectionate parents

Caleb Jones N. Jones

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St. Louis July 1, 1865

Dear Mollie,

We are all well and anxious to hear from you. Ada is in Boonville - will spend the-summer there. We expect to live in this city but have no definite arrangements as yet.

Affectionately  
W. D. Muir

Present me kindly to Mr. McCarthy

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## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> "My dear daughter", "My dear Mary", "My dear sister", "aunt Mary", etc all refer to Mary L. nee' Jones McCarthy; the youngest daughter and middle child of Caleb and Nancy nee' Chapman Jones. These letters

were all letters that Mary L. Jones McCarthy saved from those that were written to her in San Antonio, Texas.

<sup>2</sup> "Ada" is Addie "Ada" Sands nee' Jones Muir, the oldest daughter and child of Caleb and Nancy nee' Chapman Jones. She was the wife of William D. Muir of Boonville.

<sup>3</sup> The young boy being referred to is Caleb Muir; a son of William D. and Addie "Ada" Sands nee' Jones Muir

<sup>4</sup> "Mr. McCarthy" or "Mr. Mc" is Justin McCarthy, the husband of Mary L. nee' Jones McCarthy. He was a merchant in San Antonio, Texas. He died in that city in 1865.

<sup>5</sup> In about all cases, "Mr. Muir" is William D. Muir, a Boonville attorney and husband of Addie "Ada" Sands nee' Jones Muir.

<sup>6</sup> "Mr. Draffen" is James Wellington Draffen who was born in 1824 and died in 1896. Originally of Charlottesville, West Virginia; he was a law partner of George Graham Vest and of William D. Muir.

<sup>7</sup> "Dr. Thomas" is most likely Dr. F. W. G. Thomas of Boonville. He was noted for his "joshing with children."

<sup>8</sup> Jack is Jack Chapman a brother of Nancy nee' Chapman Jones.

<sup>9</sup> "N. Jones", "Mother", "Grand ma", etc is Nancy nee' Chapman Jones; the wife of Caleb Jones. She was the daughter of George Washington Chapman an early pioneer of Howard and Cooper Counties, Missouri.

<sup>10</sup> "Mattie" is the oldest of the two daughters of William D. and Addie "Ada" Sands nee' Jones Muir that are frequently mentioned in these letters.

<sup>11</sup> "Minnie" is the youngest of the two daughters of William D. and Addie "Ada" Sands nee' Jones Muir that are frequently mentioned in these letters.

<sup>12</sup> "Mr. Jones", "Mr. J", "your Pa", etc refers to Caleb Jones; the husband of Nancy nee' Chapman Jones

<sup>13</sup> "George" is George Chapman Jones, the third and last child of Caleb and Nancy nee' Chapman Jones. He became a prominent businessman in Cooper County, Missouri

<sup>14</sup> "Brother Hall" is J. R. Hall a Methodist minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church South (now Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church) in Boonville.

<sup>15</sup> The various Howard family members who are prominently mentioned in these letters were friends of the Jones' and in some cases were related to William D. Muir.

<sup>16</sup> "Tommie" or "Tommie Russell" was the son of Mrs. James M. Nelson. She was the widow Margaret Russell when she married Mr. Nelson with her two son Thomas and James M..

<sup>17</sup> "Mrs. Muir" is generally Mrs. Maria Muir; the mother of William D. Muir and mother-in-law of Addie "Ada" Sands nee' Jones Muir. A widow before moving from Virginia to Missouri with her family; she was a wealthy woman in her own right. Mrs. Muir lived a couple of miles east of Boonville.

<sup>18</sup> "Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher" were Mr. Peter "Dom Pedro" Gallagher of San Antonio, Texas. William Justin McCarthy, the son of Justin and Mary L. nee' Jones McCarthy was born in their house.

<sup>19</sup> "Mr. Vest" is George Graham Vest. He was a senator in the Confederate Congress and later the United States Congress. He was recognized as a distinguished orator; small in stature, he was called the little giant.

<sup>20</sup> "Governor Jackson" is Claiborne Fox Jackson; he was an early business partner of Caleb Jones in Arrow Rock, Missouri.

<sup>21</sup> Eliza is believed to be a slave belonging to Mrs. Maria Muir.

<sup>22</sup> "Ann" generally refers to the household servant or slave of Caleb Jones. Caleb Jones and his wife appear to be "enlightened" slave owners since Ann she could read and write. In 1860, Caleb Jones owned seven slaves; two (Ann and Ike) are prominently mentioned throughout these letters.

<sup>23</sup> "Douglas", "Duglas", "Dug" is Douglas Muir, the oldest son of William D. and Addie "Ada" Sands nee' Jones Muir.

<sup>24</sup> Mr. Protsman was a Methodist minister and a fond friend of which the Jones family. During a play of Bulwer Lyton's "Lady of Lyons" in Jefferson City; Reverend Protsman was invited to see the play. Knowing his religious convictions he was offered the chance to gracefully decline, to which he replied, that he would be safe wherever the granddaughter of Caleb Jones was.

<sup>25</sup> Mr. W. B. Benson was an early daguertype artist located in Boonville. Evidently, his wife made and repaired picture frames.

<sup>26</sup> Dan Wooldridge was the son of Samuel Wooldridge. They were neighbors of Caleb Jones. Dan later became a druggist in Boonville and was known for filling the prescription of the poor on credit.

- <sup>27</sup> Frank P. Blair of the wealthy and politically influential Blair family of St. Louis. He was a prominent in the early fight to keep Missouri in the Union during the Civil War. He was universally either loved or hated.
- <sup>28</sup> James Muir was the son of Mrs. Muria Muir; and the brother-in-law of Addie "Ada" Sands nee' Jones Muir. James would have been 21 years of age in 1861.
- <sup>29</sup> Boonville Mayor and Marshal, H. E. W. McDearmon along with his two sons were characters larger than life. McDearmon was described as a "tall powerful man striding down Main street with two pistols in holsters at his front, and a hand on each. He wasn't afraid of the devil." This is the only recorded incident of H. E. W. McDearmon being shot.
- <sup>30</sup> There was a William Raley family living in Boonville during this time. This must have been his father.
- <sup>31</sup> General William S. Harney.
- <sup>32</sup> It is known that Caleb Jones' grandfather, John Jones fought in the American Revolution. Nancy nee' Chapman Jones is stating that her grandfather also fought in the American Revolution. However, no one has been able to trace her lineage past her father, George Washington Chapman; and verify her claim.
- <sup>33</sup> James H. Lane, a notorious Kansas "Jayhawker" who was universally hated by all southern sympathizers in the State of Missouri.
- <sup>34</sup> James W. Montgomery, another Kansas "Jayhawker" universally hated and despised by all southern sympathizers.
- <sup>35</sup> James William Harper was a brother to George Branch Harper and operated a wholesale drug company in Boonville with his brother.
- <sup>36</sup> Mrs. Wiggs and her husband were tenants on the Oakland farm owned by Caleb Jones. She was an eccentric character whose sayings the Jones family would often relate and laugh over.
- <sup>37</sup> Margaret A. Keil was a daughter of Christian Keil; and a neighbor of Caleb Jones.
- <sup>38</sup> Nellie Mitchell was a daughter of the Reverend James Mitchell and a popular Boonville belle of this era.
- <sup>39</sup> Mary Jane "Mollie" Harper was a brother to James William and George Branch Harper.
- <sup>40</sup> George Branch Harper was a merchant and banking clerk before the war. He became a Captain in the Confederate Army, serving under Ben McCulloch. Camp Harper or Camp 714 of the United Veterans of the Confederacy in Boonville was named in his honor. He was also a partner with his brother in a wholesale drug company in Boonville.
- <sup>41</sup> Caleb Jones was a founder / elder at Jones Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church South.
- <sup>42</sup> Dr. George W. Main and his wife, Jessie, were good friends and close neighbors of Caleb and Nancy Jones. Natives of Scotland, they did not have any children.
- <sup>43</sup> McAnally was editor of the St. Louis Christian Advocate, a Methodist weekly newspaper.
- <sup>44</sup> Dick is Dick Chapman another brother of Nancy nee' Chapman Jones.
- <sup>45</sup> Mrs. Mary Ann nee' Jones Musser was a sister of Caleb Jones.
- <sup>46</sup> John Sappington Marmaduke was a Colonel of Missouri militia, Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Arkansas Battalion, Colonel of the 3rd Confederate Infantry, Shiloh (wounded), November 1862 Brigadier-General, Prairie Grove, command of a cavalry division in Trans Mississippi, Red River campaign, Price's Missouri raid, March 1865 made Major-General (while still in prison). After the war he was an insurance agent, newspaper editor, and Governor of Missouri.
- <sup>47</sup> Nancy Jones appears not to be a fond friend of Dr. Preston Beck as shown by this remark and other stories in her letters. At the time Dr. Beck was as wealthy as Caleb Jones, perhaps more so.
- <sup>48</sup> Major George K. Dills commanded Dill's Infantry Battalion which was later raised to the Second Infantry Regiment CSA commanded by then Colonel George K. Dills.
- <sup>49</sup> Ike Jones is a Negro man servant of the Caleb Jones family.
- <sup>50</sup> Julia A. nee' Trigg Johnson was the daughter of Dr. William Hodge Trigg, and the wife of William A. Johnson
- <sup>51</sup> George Chapman Jones later married this sweetheart, Nancy Trent.
- <sup>52</sup> William Howard and his wife, Ann E., was a neighbor of Caleb Jones. His children were John C., Ann M., Mary R., William H. H., Alexander G., and Goodrich Howard.
- <sup>53</sup> Charles B. Alexander was a well-known recruiting agent for the southern cause. He was quite active in Cooper County, Missouri and was often the cause celebrate of the dinner party.
- <sup>54</sup> Gus Howard is James Augustus Howard. He became a druggist and salesman. He was a cousin to William D. Muir

- <sup>55</sup> Dr. Charles S. Boarman was a brusque man. At one time during the Civil War he was called upon to operate on a Union officer. Being a rebel, he was under suspicion. It was thought that Dr. Boarman would not try to save the officer's life. So he was put under guard during the operation with instructions for the guard to shoot the Doctor if the patient died.
- <sup>56</sup> Richard and Robert Jones were both brothers of Caleb Jones.
- <sup>57</sup> Another brother of Caleb Jones, William was a Methodist minister.
- <sup>58</sup> Ben and John were the last two of the five brothers of Caleb Jones.
- <sup>59</sup> Thomas S. Kirton was a shoemaker.
- <sup>60</sup> General Ulysses S. Grant in an official war communication ordered that the firm of B. S. Wilson be paid a visit and as much goods as the commanding officer desired should be confiscated. However a record was to be kept with the value goods noted.
- <sup>61</sup> It is impossible to determine which Bell family is being mentioned. Henry Bell owned land adjoining Caleb Jones and came from a family with mixed sympathies. He was not a slave holder and, and therefore had no "servants". William G. Bell was a slave holder and a minister; so he would have "servants" and could have been off "marrying".
- <sup>62</sup> This grandmother is the mother of Caleb Jones who lived in Cynthiana, Kentucky
- <sup>63</sup> Nora Malone was a niece of Caleb Jones who was listed on census records as being deaf and dumb. The bequest of property to Nora was most likely to provide for her continual care.
- <sup>64</sup> Goodrich Wilson was a neighbor and uncle of Anna nee' Trent Jones. Anna would later become the wife of George Chapman Jones.
- <sup>65</sup> The man who fired the shot was Henry Ludwig Hoefer. He was a member of the Boonville Home Guards from 20 Jun 1861 through 24 Sep 1861. Later in the war he saw other service including being a recruitment officer in Cooper County. After the war he kept a wall paper store in Boonville.
- <sup>66</sup> Wife of James William Harper.
- <sup>67</sup> Harriet Rebecca and Sallie Worsham Harper were sisters to James William and George Branch Harper.
- <sup>68</sup> This story is not documented in any of the local histories. However, it is supported by official government documents. This letter is historically significant in that it could well be the first battle in which negroes participated.
- <sup>69</sup> The brothers Colonel William G. Brown and G. Mason Brown were both killed at the Second Battle of Boonville.
- <sup>70</sup> Daniel Musser was a nephew of Caleb Jones. He was killed at Fort Donaldson.
- <sup>71</sup> Caleb Jones' mother was Mary Ann nee' Sands Jones. Captain Francis Caleb Sand's unit was the Fourteenth Independent Ohio Battery Light Artillery which was stationed in Otterville, Missouri.
- <sup>72</sup> Stephen Trent was a brother of Wilson Trent and Nancy nee Trent Jones.
- <sup>73</sup> Mrs. Harriet Bowman and Captain Howard lived on Spring Street in Boonville below the old Gross Hotel. Their houses have long since been torn down.
- <sup>74</sup> The portraits of Caleb and Nancy nee' Chapman Jones displayed in this document were made from these photographs.
- <sup>75</sup> Alice Albertson latter married James Augustus "Gus" Howard.
- <sup>76</sup> The Tunstalls were relatives of Mrs. William Hodge Trigg and lived in San Antonio, Texas.
- <sup>77</sup> Richard "Dick" H. Musser was another nephew of Caleb Jones; he was a Colonel in General Sterling Price's army. He was Lt. Colonel of the 8<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry Battalion, CSA.
- <sup>78</sup> Joshua Jones was the son of William Jones and, therefore, a nephew of Caleb Jones.
- <sup>79</sup> Robert would be related to Caleb Jones through his sister.
- <sup>80</sup> The disagreement turned into a noted lawsuit entitled the "Beck Suit", which underwent trial in July of 1865.
- <sup>81</sup> Speed was a Negro man servant slave of the Caleb Jones family. He drove Caleb Jones, Nancy nee' Chapman Jones, and Mary L. nee' Jones McCarthy to Texas when Mary was a little girl.
- <sup>82</sup> Speed, Ike, Willie, Aaron, Ann, Sally, Caroline, and Ellis were all at one time, slaves owned by Caleb Jones.
- <sup>83</sup> The Reverend William Kavanaugh was an early minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He was from Kentucky.
- <sup>84</sup> The Misses Albertson refer to Alice and Laura Albertson. Alice married James Augustus "Gus" Howard and when Alice died Gus married Laura.

<sup>85</sup> Presumed to be the father of Alice and Laura Albertson.

<sup>86</sup> Mr. Rose and a Mr. Duff were business partners with Justin McCarthy in San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Rose was Jewish, Mr. Duff and Scotsman, and Mr. McCarthy was Irish. He often remarked that there was a combination for you, Irish, Jewish, and Scotch. Mr. Rose conducted business for the firm from New Orleans.

<sup>87</sup> John Adams was evidently a slave of Maria Muir. He and "little Ann" were married in William D. Muir's parlor.

<sup>88</sup> The Bennetts were friends that the Jones' had made in San Antonio, Texas during their trip to that state.

<sup>89</sup> The murder of John Henry Boller on July 15, 1864 caused outrage among the local citizens. Boller was an inoffensive sixty-two year old German farmer who spoke little English. He was an "across the road" neighbor of Caleb Jones.

<sup>90</sup> The shooting of Robert Sloan is a well documented event. Sloan does appear to have been the guide for the guerillas William Bill Sturat and Al Carter while they were on the south side of the Missouri River; and did identify John Henry Boller to the guerillas. Whether he was actively involved in the shooting is debatable. This may be the reason why he life was spared. Or the fact that the shooting of Robert Sloan occurred in a neighborhood of mixed sympathies may have led the pursuing party (all local Union men) to fear reprisals.

<sup>91</sup> Dora Musser was the wife of Dick Musser of Brunswick, Missouri and a niece-in-law of Caleb Jones.

<sup>92</sup> This would be the family of Samuel Wooldridge.

<sup>93</sup> This listing fails to include a Negro slave who was killed at the same time as Jacob Henry Neff. The slave, whose named has never been recorded, was hiding in a corn shock on the James M. Nelson farm.

<sup>94</sup> The death of John Godfrey Boller, the son of John Henry Boller, occurred on October 13, 1864 a little less than three months after the death of his father. In all probability this was a revenge murder by guerillas under the command of "Bloody Bill" Anderson who took the opportunity during Price's invasion of Missouri to settle a few scores.

<sup>95</sup> A Union man, Jacob Henry Neff was murdered on 10 October 1864. His wife would give birth to their last child only six days later on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October. The farms of John Henry Boller, Jacob Henry Neff, James M. Nelson all adjoined the Oakland farm of Caleb Jones.

<sup>96</sup> Betty Spear was a sister to George M. Spear, who is mentioned several times in these letters. Residents of Boonville, they were bereft of the father at an early age.

<sup>97</sup> William Hodge TRIGG left Boonville in 1864. He went to Courtland, New York, where he engaged in business for one year. After this he returned to Boonville and resumed the mercantile and banking business.