

Waysville Jan 4th 1880

My Dear Son

I have just finished a letter to your Pa, and as I am so little accustomed to writing, my hand feels considerably cramped to begin another letter, but as your Pa wrote you through the week from ~~Frankfort~~, and fearing he may not think to write again today, think I had better write a few lines.

Your Pa expects to come home next Saturday for a few days, as his business will require his attention. I hope he will be able to come home frequently during the session, and stay over Sunday. It is not very pleasant having him away.

To have you and your Pa both away at the same time, makes quite a big hole in our family circle.

It seems like we are not to have any

winter weather, still continues raining, and so warm, we can scarcely hear a fire.

We may expect it to turn suddenly cold any time, though, and may have very severe weather yet. I don't think this warm damp weather is healthy.

The children all have very severe colds. Horace has had sore throat for several days. They are all impatient to have snow. I have had the piano moved into the library this last week. It is of no use to us in the parlor in the winter, as I don't keep any fire there.

I think you said in one of your letters, you had a singing class in college now. I hope you are attending to the cultivation of your voice, don't use it in the open air as you did.

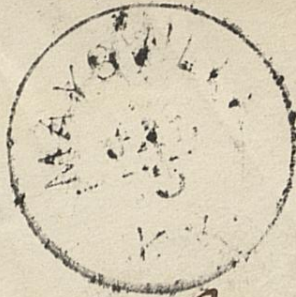
We are going to have an addition to our choir, in the way of a Cornet accompaniment. I heard it tried this morning after church, and it

sounded first-rate. The performer is Ella Matthews brother, and he plays very well.

I believe Mr Witherspoon has determined to leave. I have not heard any expression of opinion about it, but I suppose his congregation are loth to give him up. He wanted them to build him a church, and I wonder they don't do it; as they are able.

Robbie I must close. I don't know of any news to tell. I pray that this New Year may bring to you the choicest blessings of a kind Providence, that the influences thrown around you may direct your mind and heart to choose those things which will make for your eternal peace, and that we may all be spared to meet as a happy family at home once more.
Love from all to you. Accept a large share from your
Affectionate Mother

Jan 5th
1880



Robert A. Cochran Jr.

Amherst

M. A. C.

Mass

close by committing you to the care of
of that loving Saviour, through whom,
I pray we may all be kept unto sal-
-vation, and that we may testify in our
lives of his great goodness unto us.
Love from all.

Your loving
Mother

Mayville Jan 11th 1880

My Dear Son.

I have just finished a
short letter to your Pa. His being away
causes you to get more letters. Though
he may write to you at the same time
I do, I feel that his letter does not
answer in the place of one from home,
and for this reason I write you every
week.

We looked a little for your Pa home
last night. He did not come, but I sup-
-pose he will certainly be here Tuesday
or Wednesday, and stay a few days.
It seems he is to have plenty of work
to do in the Legislature. Important
positions have been assigned him. He
is competent, I know, to fill any place
they may give him, but I did not
want him to have so much to do. He

works so hard at home. Robbie don't fail to appreciate and reverence your dear father, and try now to fit yourself to be a joy and comfort to him as he advances in years. He has toiled so hard, and is still toiling more than I am afraid his physical frame will be able to bear up, under, and nothing will repay him for all he may undergo, like seeing his children form characters that will make them good and useful men.

Yesterday was a beautiful day, and I had a number of calls, among them Mrs Sam Poyntz, Lottie and Miss Bessie Thomas. I never met Miss Thomas before, she is quite a pretty girl. Speaking of her brother George, she said he was tired of going to school. This notion he has taken since the holidays. It seems so strange when young people do not appreciate their

advantages, and improve the opportunities they have.

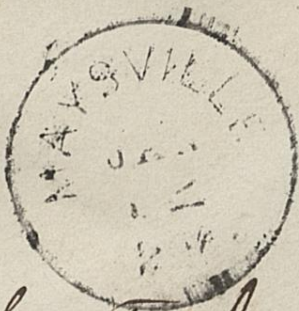
I am anxious to see the photograph you spoke of in your last letter. You promised when you left home to have your picture taken in your uniform, why have you not done it?

You speak of the Republican, as having changed into such a mean paper. The pieces, which referred to your Pa and the water works were written by Col Stanton. They were mean as could be, and not truthful either. Mr Campbell does not edit the paper now.

We had quite an exciting election on Monday for City officers. The results suited us all very well. You will be glad as we were to know that Harry Taylor was reelected.

My Dear Robbie I have no news to tell you. How I wish I could have you with me to talk to a little while. I will

Jan 12th
1880



Robert A. Cochran Jr.

Amherst

M.A.C.

Mass.

and family are boarding with them. I have just found out Andrew is going to the Country this evening, and I must close to get my letter mailed before he does.

You inquire about the servants. We have the same, unless it is since you went away, that I made a change in the laundry department I have a white girl now to do the washing.

Your brothers send you much love. Accept an overflowing heart of love from

Your affectionate
Mother

Wayville January 25th 1880

My Darling Robbie

I feel such a longing to see you sometimes, that I wonder how I can wait for the time to roll round for you to come home. On the Sabbath-day, I particularly think of you. When I sit in church with four boys around me, my mind will wander off to the fifth so far from me, with perhaps no religious influence around him. Why is it, my dear child, that in all your absence from home, you will never tell me once you have been to church? I don't want you to become indifferent in this matter.

Nothing you may learn will compensate for a neglect of your obligations to your God. You are under the same protecting care, and I am

you to the guidance of a living Heavenly Father. Acknowledge him in all your ways, and you will have nothing to fear. I can but speak from the fullness of my heart.

I was so glad to get the photographs you sent me, and enjoy looking at them very much. I wish you had been sitting in your big arm chair, the picture would then be complete.

We all recognized Horace's little picture on the wall, it is very plain.

I wish you had left the door of your bedroom open, to have given us a peep into it.

Dear Pa's visit home seemed a very short one, and he was so busy all the time, we could not see much of him.

He thinks the Legislature will not close before the first of April, there is so much business to be done.

You will be glad to know the

election on the water works question resulted in favor of the plan advocated by your Pa. There was a good deal of excitement over it. The men who came out with a new proposition were those who had never done any thing in their lives to advance the public interest, and who only rushed out now, under the pretence of protecting the interests of the town, their motives being entirely selfish, and a determination to defeat your Pa and Mr Barbour. They were overwhelmingly defeated however, and I rejoice over it.

Mr Witherspoon preaches his farewell sermon tonight, and the other churches will be all closed to give their congregations an opportunity of hearing him.

John Blaine and his family are neighbors. They have taken Dr McGranaghan's house, and the Dr

Jan 26th
1878



Robt. A. Cochoan Jr
Amherst
Mass

M. A. C.

161020

OXFORD

I suppose your cousin January will
be down some time this month, likely
next week when your Pa is at home.

I must close for tonight, with wishes
of love from us all. Imparting a
blessing from Heaven upon you, my
dear child,

Your affectionate
Mother

Wayville Feb 1st 1880

My Dear Son

I hope you are having the
nice weather we have today. It is much
colder than we have had for some time,
but very clear and bright. We may yet
have winter enough to give us ice.

Andrew promised to send you an Eagle,
this week, I hope you got it. He is so
busy since your Pa has been away, having
double work to perform. It is as you
say, the Republican is very little account
since it changed editors. I hardly ever
see the Eagle and dont know whether
it is much better, but the Republican
acted so meanly in the water works
question, I dont feel like patronizing
it. The excitement on this question is
over, the opponents of the project were
so overwhelmingly defeated, they were

compelled to outside very suddenly.

I will try to attend to your requests in your last letter, this week. Don't feel disappointed if I can't get the letters worked on the pillow. I may not be able to do it, but will send the things to you as soon as possible.

Do you hear from Anna Douglas? I never do, except through others. I understand Maggie Swearingen is to be married soon, and Anna Douglas and her mother are to attend the wedding. Julia Chenoweth and Mary Baskelow are still in Louisville, where they have been all winter.

I see from the paper that Mrs Chenoweth came near losing her house by fire last week. I did not hear how it originated, but understand that the roof was damaged a good deal. It is well the fire did not get the upperhand, or the house would have been totally

destroyed.

Your Pa writes he will be home the last of this week to stay a few ^{days} ~~next~~. He says he is kept very busy. They are showing their appreciation of his ability by giving him a great deal of labor.

I have no doubt there are many of the members having an easy time.

Robbie, how do your underclothes hold out? your drawers and undershirts, and nightshirts. I was in hopes they would last through another winter, but if they look like they would not last, you must let me know.

I have let Fannie and Willie have your bracket saw. I suppose you have no objection. They have fixed it up in their workshop, and think they will be able to use it.

I expect you have gotten a letter from Aunt Lovie by this time. When I saw her a few days ago, she said she had written and was waiting to learn your address.

Feb 3rd
1870



Robt. A. Cochran Jr.

Amherst

M. A. C.

Mass.

passed a bill, allowing back pay. Her portion amounted to over \$200. This she got, and in addition to what she had before makes her very comfortable and independent. She wanted me to tell you this, as she thought you would be glad to know it. The priest annoys her to death through running to her for money for every thing, and trying to make her give just what he thinks she ought. But she is more sensible than the rest of them, and is not afraid to speak her mind to the priest, and only gives what she thinks is right. Send her a message occasionally.

Our service was at the Chapel to-day, and we had such a good sermon. Mr Alderson is constantly improving, sometimes preaches splendid ^{sermons}. He is very popular too, has fine congregations.

I cannot write more, it is growing dark. Love from all.

Lovingly

Your Mother

Robbie dear, don't forget to read your Bible, it is the only sure guide

We all feel we would like to have heard your speech to the farmers.

Mayville Feb 8th 1880

My Dear Son

If you were only at home today, we would have what Willie calls a "concentration" of the family. Your Pa came home yesterday morning, and Cousin January with him. Last night, when the boys went up to bed, I was chiding them for not having gotten any of their lessons. Willie says, "well, Mama, the cause of it, was the concentration of the family, I could not leave." I felt that he was rather excusable that time.

I do not have any trouble, though, with either of the boys about their studies. They are very ambitious. I suppose you have noticed the school reports in the paper. They have neither of them been lower than 98, one month were 99. And

I think would have been 100 last, if they had not lost several days from school on account of sickness.

Your Pa's visit will be a very short one, he says he must return tomorrow afternoon. It is pleasant to see him, though, if, but for a little while. He is well, with the exception of rheumatism in his right arm, has had it more or less for three weeks.

The children are delighted to have him take a walk with them this afternoon. Johnny will stay until the middle of the week. He left his family ^{well} except the children had colds.

We have had quite a snow this last week, enough to give the boys a good deal of fun. They say, your old sled, the "Black Douglas" is one of the best on the track. I have no doubt you have plenty of skating and sleighing with you now.

Robbie, I am real sorry not to have been able to send you the picture ever before this, but I could not get any thing, I thought suitable, of which to make it. White & Co. sent to Cincinnati to get me a piece of goods, and I did not receive it until yesterday. I will get it done as early in the week as possible, and send it to you with the hat.

Why don't you have your picture taken in your uniform and send me? The Society met here last week, and I was showing the ladies the photograph of your room. Mrs. Peen asked if I had your picture in uniform and said Mr. Peen had told her you had promised to send him one. Julia has been here all afternoon. She inquires for you every time she comes, which is every week. You know she has been getting a pension for some time, and in the last few months; Congress

Feb 9th
1880



Robt A Cochran, Jr
Amherst
Mass

M. A. C.

Maysville Feb 15th 1880

My Dear Son

I hope you have received the box containing your hat and pillow cover, in good order, by this time. With the papers, I put in to fill up the box, was a Louisville Commercial, which contained part of Mr Wadsworth's speech at the opening of the Green-Hangis trial. That is in progress now, and is of course creating a great deal of interest. If I can get hold of the conclusion of Wadsworth's speech, I will send it to you. Andrew loaned it to some one, and it has not been returned.

We are having a tremendous river. Heavy rains with the snow melting in the mountains, will cause a

great frost; I am afraid.

Drays are busy today removing grain from the Wall Street corner. It is almost surrounded, and a greater rise is expected.

Aunt Louis has her house full just now. Mrs Andrew's is there with her three children, and Mrs Anna Belle Pearce. She thinks Anna Douglas will be here the last of the week. Miss Swearingen's wedding takes place Tuesday the 18th. Anna Douglas, I believe is to be one of the attendants. This I hear through others, as they have no communication with me.

Our winter has been so open and mild, the spring bulbs are some distance above ground. If it continues mild, the crocuses will soon be in bloom. I am afraid we will have

a freeze that will destroy them.

I will be greatly disappointed if this should happen, as I bought new hyacinths and tulips in the fall, hoping to have a fine display in the spring.

Robbie, I have not been able to find my spectacles since yesterday, and I can scarcely see how or what I am writing. It hurts my eyes to either attempt to read or write, so I must bring my letter to a close. Your brothers all send love.

Your affectionate

Mother

Feb 16th
1880



Robt A Cochran Jr
Amherst
Mass

M. A. C.

Unless we have a cold March, we will
have had a very short winter. I hope we
may not have cold weather enough to
kill the fruit.

With a prayer for your safekeeping,
and that you may always seek guidance
and direction from a living Heavenly
Father,

Lovingly,
Your Mother

Wayville Feb 22^d 1880

My Dear Son

I was in hopes your boy
would have reached you in time, for
you to tell of its safe arrival in your
last letter. I could not help fearing, that
it might not reach you in good
condition.

Andrew made a trip to Frankfort last
week on law business. He was gone three
days. I had Julia come down and stay
with us during his absence. He and
Wat Sudduth have brought suit against
Seth Shackelford's estate in John Por-
ter's behalf. Mr Shackelford, you know
was John's guardian. The amount
involved is about \$15,000. Andrew says
your Pa looks very well. I hope he will
be home by the end of this week to
make us another little visit. These

flying visits are better than none at all, and yet they are right tantalizing. I feel as though I could not let him go back at all. Your Pa is kept very busy, and yet it is a change for him, and I hope it will do him good. He has not complained near so much of his head since he has been away.

Willie has had quite a sick spell this last week. He had an ulcerated throat, and a good deal of fever with it, is about over it. Fannie has a severe cold and cough. Horace, I believe misses less time than any of them, from school.

Last Friday, he says, Mrs. Harmon told him, he excelled all the class in his second reader.

I had Uncle Horace, Aunt Louie, Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Anna Belle Pearce, Foster and Lizzie to take dinner with us last Tuesday. All seemed to enjoy the day very much. Mary Andrews has three such

pretty, interesting children.

Foster Barbour has gone to New York on business. I suppose will only be gone a few days.

Mr. Richem has moved to Chester to the house Foster built. They will all like this place better than the one they left, as it gives them more ground.

Mollie Richem is down visiting her relatives, and has promised to spend a few days with me. Lizzie Ryan is in Richmond, where she has been for some time.

The Mason Co Guards were out on parade yesterday, to celebrate Washington's birth-day. They do not drill with much precision yet, according to my judgement.

Horace is standing by me, trying to read what I am writing. He says, tell Robbie he would like to see him drilling, also that he will soon be in the Third Reader and will write to him before long.

Feb 23rd
1880



Robt A Cochran Jr.
Amherst
Mass

M. A. C.

Wayville Feb 29th 1880

My Dear Son.

This is the last day of the last winter-munch, and it has seemed a short winter because we have had so little cold weather. In the last day or two we have had heavy rains, and today it is much cooler. I would not be surprised if we have quite a cold spell next munch. If it should freeze our fruit would be much injured, as the buds are much swollen.

It is nearly time for your spring vacation. After that, it will be but a little while before the end of the term. I hope you may be prospered in every way, during the rest of your absence from home.

I was much disappointed that your Pa did not get home last week. He

thinks now he will be down next Saturday, to stay until Monday, but that it will be another month before the session closes. I have felt his absence very much, as Willie said yesterday, it is mighty lonesome with-out Papa and Robbie too.

Your Pa thinks the change has done him good. He certainly has not suffered so much with headache since he has been away. I ought then to be reconciled somewhat to his absence.

Andrew and I spent a pleasant evening with Foster and Lizzie on Friday.

Mr and Mrs Alderson, Aunt Louie, Anna Belle Pearce, Mollie Richeson and Cousin Jane Ann were the rest of the company. Foster went to New York week before last, on a business trip.

Miss Mollie spent two nights and a day with me, this last week. She goes to Louisville this week. Mr Richeson

and family are delighted with their home in Chester.

I received a paper last week announcing the death of Mr Sanalden. He died on the 21st, and was in the eighty first year of his age.

I have found my glasses, Robbie, but the boys have spoiled my pen, so I can scarcely write. The church bell is ringing, and warns me to close.

May your prayer with mine be, that the loving Spirit may guide us in the way of all truth, and make us "wise unto salvation". Accept much love from us all.

With sincere affection,

Your Mother

treat this week. Henry Ward Beecher is to lecture Wednesday evening at the Washington.

I hope this letter will reach you before you start on your projected trip.

I suppose you will give me in your next, a programme of your travels.

You must write often and let us hear of your whereabouts. Pa and all send you much love. Commending you to the safekeeping of the living Father who notices the fall of a single sparrow to the ground, I am,

Your devoted Mother

Mayville March 7th 1858

My Dear Son

We are enjoying a flying visit from your Pa. He came down yesterday, and leaves tomorrow. This is better than no visit at all, but I shall be glad when he is permanently at home. He is looking well, though complaining a little of rheumatism. I went with him down, since dinner, to see Cousin George, and Uncle Grace and family. Aunt Louie sends her love to you, and says she enjoyed your letter to her very much.

Your Pa tells me you write to him for permission, and he has granted it, to go to Boston and Salem. I feel glad that you are going to have a little change, and trust you will enjoy it. I want you to have every advantage for improv-

ing yourself. A large city affords a great deal that is entertaining, but one needs to exercise discretion and good judgment in selecting that which will be beneficial to the mind and heart. Always avoid any thing that is not elevating and refining in its tendency.

Why do you go to Salem? Have you any college mates living there? I suppose it is quite a place.

I hope you will have an opportunity of hearing some first-class music in your travels. By the way, how are you progressing in the music line? Do you practice your flute? I would love for you to become proficient on that instrument.

We had a treat last week, in hearing Gen Cary from Cincinnati lecture in answer to the Ingersoll doctrine as to the claims of the Bible. He was very able and interesting. How puerile it

seems, in a man like Ingersoll to attempt to refute the authority and claims of the Book that has stood the test of ages. Its wonderful preservation ought to be enough for a discerning mind, and the reforming power ^{of its teachings} on the lives and hearts of men. Were the light of this blessed volume to be extinguished, human reason could not restrain the evil passions of depraved nature, and we would soon revert to the darkness of heathenism. Read its precepts to thy heart my darling child, and make it the man of your counsel, for it is the only infallible guide. Gen Cary spoke also, while here, on Temperance, through the earnest solicitations of some old friends. He is considered the ablest speaker on that subject who has ever been here. I remember hearing him when I was a little girl, speak several times, advocating the cause of temperance. We are to have another

Mar 5th
1880



Robt A Cochran, Jr.

Amherst

M. A. C.

Mass



armor that will resist the snares and enticements of an evil world, and with principles which no temptations can overcome, then can I bid all go forth into life to perform their share of its duties and obligations, and I can lay down my life in peace.

I hope your trip will have invigorated you so much, that you will be able to resume your duties with renewed earnestness. Committing you, my dear child, to the guidance of that Spirit, who will lead you in the way of all truth, I will close. Love from all.

Your devoted

Mother

H. F. Cochran



Wayville March 21st 1880

My Dear Son

I expect it seems a long time to you, since you heard from home, but you have been travelling about so from place to place, I did not know how to direct a letter so that it would reach you. Thinking you will be back again by the middle of the week to your old quarters, I write today, as usual to Amherst.

You have no doubt had a fine time. It has done me good to think of you enjoying yourself, as I know you always do in traveling. You have had an opportunity of seeing a great deal that is interesting, and different from what you have been accustomed to see. I hope you have gathered up a great deal that is good and worthy of imita-

tion. Perhaps in visiting round
amongst different people, and observing
their manner of living, you may have
noticed some things that would be of
advantage to me in housekeeping and
family training. If so, I would like
to have the benefit of your observations.
One is never too old to learn.

When your first letter came, your Pa
was at home. He came down unexpected-
ly, to attend to some business, was
only here two days. It seems harder
for him to go back, or for us to let him
go, every little visit he makes. They
are having a long tedious session.

Your Pa thinks he may be absent nearly
another month.

Anna Douglas has been in Lexington
nearly two weeks. She will be down
sometime this week, is going to stop
with Aunt Louie. I suppose she will
be willing to stay some with us.

We had quite an intellectual
treat this last week, in hearing Henry
Ward Beecher. He lectured on the
Reign of the Common People. We
have so little opportunity of hearing
any thing refining or cultivated in
the way of entertainment, this lecture
was much appreciated. I was so glad
your Pa happened here just at the time.

Yesterday was Jamie and Willie's
birthday. They had George and Jamie
Barbour, Wilken and Andrew to spend
the day with them, and you may know
they had a fine time.

The years fly so quickly by, and
children grow so rapidly, my boys will
soon be all men, and I will not be
able to hold them all to my side or
by my knee. If I can only have the
comfort of seeing each and all of you
growing up
with characters based on the only sure
foundation, supplied with the

Mar 22
1840



Robt. A. Cochran Jr
Amherst
Mass

M. A. C.

I am anxious to get your next letter

Mayville March 23rd 1880

My Dear Son

I suppose by this time, you are back at headquarters, and going through the old routine. In your letter written last Sabbath, you did not say when you expected to return to Amherst. I was getting a little uneasy before getting your letter, as it seemed long between your writing at New Bedford. I am very glad you have enjoyed yourself so much, and found the people you have visited so kind and clever, and hope you will be able to return the hospitality you have received by having your friends at some time visit you.

Your Pa is still tied at Frankfort. He is getting very tired being from home so long. He is kept very busy

has always to write his letters home at eleven or twelve o'clock at night.

He is very much annoyed just now, with a change that is to be made in the Factory. Leonard Piester was offered the position of first clerk on the steamer Potomac. The inducement to take this, was supposed to be an increase of salary. Mr Wood and your Pa agreed to raise the amount he was getting, to the same offered him by the Captain of the Potomac, but still he has determined to accept the latter. I am very sorry for this, as I think it will be very hard to fill Leonard's place, and get one as efficient as he has been. It will give your Pa extra labor and care.

I hope it may turn out for the best, and that Leonard will not regret his move. He is certainly a worthy young man, has been faithful in his position, and I want him to succeed.

We may look upon the water works and as a certainty. The ground has been bought, broken and the reservoir under way. It is situated on the hill back of Mr Colter.

Yesterday afternoon the house of Mr George Wood, in the country was burnt down. One of our engines went out to try and save the barn, as there was a high wind, they feared the fire might be carried to the barn. The house was entirely demolished, and every thing in it. I understand it was insured to the amount of \$5000. I don't know the cause of the fire.

Anna Douglas, I suppose will be down the last of this week. She has staid in Lexington longer than she at first intended. Willie went over from Danville and spent last Sabbath with her. With much love from us all, I must close and get ready for church.

Affectionately, Your Mother

March 29th
1840



Robt. A Cochran jr

Amherst-

M. A. C

Mass.

April
Wayville ~~March~~ 4th 1840

My Dear Son

We have your Pa with us today. He came down yesterday to spend the Sabbath; is compelled to go back again tomorrow. He does not think the Legislature will adjourn much under a month yet. He took a severe cold the day before he left Frankfort, and is very hoarse. I am suffering very much with cold also, have a cough which is very troublesome. I never was so sensitive to cold as I have been this last winter.

Anna Douglas and Fannie Norton came down last evening. Anna Douglas stopped with your uncle Horace, but will spend some of her time with us. Fannie is here, and wished for you as soon as she came. I do not know

how long she will stay. Anna Douglas is looking better than I ever saw her, she has grown much more fleshy.

The weather is very bright today, but very windy. Yesterday evening was oppressively warm, and through the night we had a terrific thunder storm, just like it had been midsummer.

We have had so much rainy weather, that it has put back gardening, and we have very little seed in the ground.

This was our day to have had service at the Chapel, but it is in a state of repair. We are having it cleaned and painted, so we had no church at all.

The other ^{sides} had a strange minister preaching for them today. I don't know whether he is a candidate for the pulpit or not. They are still without a pastor.

Our church is in a flourishing condition, I think. Every once in a while, we have additions, without any extra effort,

showing that Mr Alderson's preaching and pastoral work, is having good effect.

We have a missionary society, as well as our sewing society in the church, and we have undertaken to do something towards the support of the gospel among the heathen in the mountains of our own state. The women of our church in our country are doing a great work and in the cause of missions throughout all the world.

Have you gotten thoroughly in the harness for study again, since your little fly round? You must make this last three months tell in your improvement. Write me what you are studying now, and whether you are doing any class work.

I would like so much to look in upon you.

I must close now, as I want to be with your Pa all I can, his stay is so short, with love from all, and a double portion from your affectionate mother

In your quiet-hurst, read this beautiful
hymn, my dear child.

By cool Silvan's shady rill
How fair the lily grows:
How sweet the breath beneath the hill
Of Charm's dewy rose!

Lo such the child whose early feet
The paths of peace have trod,
Whose secret-heart, with influence sweet,
Is upward drawn to God.

By cool Silvan's shady rill
The lily must decay;
The rose that blooms beneath the hill
Must shortly fade away.

And even, too even, the wint'ry hour
Of man's maturer age
May shake the soul with sorrows power
And strong passions rage.

O thou whose infant-feet were found
Within thy Father's shrine
Whose years, with changeless ^{Crowned} virtue
Were all alike divine!

Dependant on thy bounteous breath,
We seek thy grace alone
In childhood, manhood and in death
To keep us still thine own.

This is my prayer, my darling child
May it also be yours, is your mother's
wish



Apr. 5th
1880



Robt. A. Cochran, Jr

Amherst-

M. A. C.

Mass

and windy, it is more like March than April. The weather is too cold to do much gardening. Vegetation seemed to advance rapidly for a few days, but in the last week it has received quite a check.

The setting of the supper Table reminds me that it is time I was closing. I hope you have made a change for the better in the new administration at your boarding house. With much love from us all dear Robbie,

Your affectionate
Mother

Maysville April 10th 1850

My Dear Son

I was so delighted yesterday to receive your pictures. They came in good order. I think they are both splendid likenesses, cannot tell which I think best. You don't know how much good it does me to look at them, and will be a great comfort to me until I see you in person. I am anxious for your Pa to see them, as I hope he will be home in a short time, will not send them to him.

The Legislature is protracting its sitting beyond all endurance. It is a great trial to my patience, and I think your Pa is tired out with the labors he has to perform. Yet he thinks his winter's work will prove of advantage to him in many ways. The change that has

taken place in the mill during his absence, has worried him a good deal.

Leonard left Friday evening to take charge of his new position. He called to tell me goodbye, and expressed regret that he felt it best for him to leave.

He expresses great regard for our side of the firm, but thinks Mr Wood did not appreciate him, and treated him rather badly. Feeling as he did, I don't blame him for wanting to make a change. He inquired particularly for you, sends you his kindest regards, and hopes to meet you sometime on his boat. The cotton mill hands, to show their appreciation of him, are raising a subscription among themselves to make him a present. The night he passed down on his boat, they were all out in force, on the bank to salute him.

Alice Norton is still with us, and seems to be enjoying herself. She is a sweet

affectionate girl, sends you her love.

She expects to go down and spend a few days this week with Aunt Lennie, and then Anna Douglas will come up and stay awhile with us. Julia Chenoweth invited the girls out to spend last evening and night with her, and brought them in this morning in time for church. Anna Douglas seems delighted to be here on a visit, as I understand she says Mayville is more pleasant as a place to visit, than as a home. I have no idea they will ever come back to live.

Your account of your dance with the girls at your sugar frolic, reminds me that it is the first time you have ever spoken of being with any young ladies since you left home. Can't you describe some of them, and tell what you think of them? We are having a spell of unpleasant weather. It is dry, but cold

Apr. 12th
1880



Robt A Cochran jr
Amherst

M. A. L

Mass

I could part with either of them. I am glad to hear you enjoyed an evening at the President's house, and should like to hear and see you, performing a la Thomas.

Our Chapel is undergoing repairs, so that we could have no service today, as this was our day to worship there. It is being cleaned and painted, two things it needed very much.

The weather yesterday and today is very warm. We had a warm rain last week, which has made the leaves come out almost like magic. Our yard looks beautifully now. The grass is so green, and the tulips and hyacinths so brilliant. I have filled my page and must stop. Pa unites with us all in much love to you my dear boy. Affectionately, Your mother

Mayville April 18th 1890

My Dear Son

We are having the pleasure of your Pa's company for two or three days. I am sorry to say he has to return to Frankfurt again tomorrow, to remain two weeks longer. The Legislature adjourned on account of the death of Col South, the keeper of the penitentiary, who died suddenly last Thursday, in the Senate Chamber. This interruption will delay the adjournment another week, which is trying to us all. It would suit me so much better, if we could get along without any separations in our family. But this, I suppose cannot be. The time will fly quickly by, when we will probably feel it necessary to send your younger brothers from home to complete their

educations. But I trust all may be spared to get through, and settle down together a united family, prepared for all the duties and changes that may await us in life.

Andrew had a severe attack of Neuralgia in his head and face last week. It was occasioned by a long walk he took last Sunday afternoon. There was a cold wind blowing all afternoon, and he took cold from it. I never saw any one suffer more than he did for a day and night. It came at such a bad time for him too. Circuit Court is in session, and he is unusually busy.

Florence is still with us. She passed the door just now on her way up stairs, looking in, she asked if I were writing to you, threw a kiss, which she said I must send to you. She will stay a week longer. Frances and Louie are going to have an entertainment; Friday evening, a tea they call it,

but I guess it will be more of a party.

Aunt Douglas seems to be in a great state of excitement about it. Indeed she seems to live for nothing else, but to be visiting and partying the whole time. It is dreadful to raise a boy or girl to think they cannot be happy, unless in a scene of gaiety and frivolity all the time. These things cannot last always, and will be apt to sow seeds of discontent and unhappiness, when there is no longer any thing to gratify the senses. And then there is so much insincerity in it all. What we ought to crave, is something that ^{will} furnish real, lasting, genuine pleasure.

Florrie, I think is a sweet lovely girl.

She is warm hearted and sincere. Her great pleasure seems to be to contribute to the comfort and pleasure of others.

Your Pa is very much pleased with your pictures. You say, if I like, I may give one of them to Aunt Louie. I don't feel as though

Apr 19th
1860



Robt. A Cochran Jr
Amherst

Mass

M. A. C.

to see you. May our Heavenly Father
encircle us all with the arms of his
love and keep you in the hollow of his
Hand, is ever the prayer of,
Your affectionate
Mother

Mayville April 25th 1880

My Dear Son

We have been having tre-
mendous rains yesterday and today,
real dashing, washing rains. I never
saw the garden wash so much. The
water pours down through the beds in
streams, dashes over the stone wall,
deluging the pavements below, and
leaving piles of the garden soil in
many places. I am afraid our seed
is all washed out. It has been very
warm for a few days, but I expect the
rain and hail we have had, will
make it much cooler.

Horrie went home yesterday afternoon
after a visit of four weeks. I think she
enjoyed herself with us, has promised
to come again this summer. She

party came off Friday evening. You received your invitation, I suppose, as one was sent you. It was a very stylish affair, gotten up entirely according to Anna Douglass's directions.

Chicago style of courses. It was something on the order of the "high tea" at your Aunt Emma's last summer, only much more elaborate. There were eight courses served, and you can imagine the length of time consumed in getting through. I went down to assist Louie, and took all the children with me. They enjoyed it of course. I spent the evening in the pantry with Cousin Jane Ann, superintending the sending in of the supper. I never was so tired in all my life. Andrew was Horrie's escort, otherwise he would not have been there.

Willie January came down on the train, very unexpectedly to all, bring-

Ed Court and a young Barrett with him. They had a free pass, through Court. All returned yesterday with Horrie. Taken all together, I suppose the party would be called a 'success'. At any rate, I ~~hope~~ have taken up time enough, in telling about it.

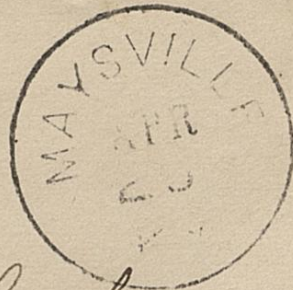
I hope this is your Pa's last week from home. In his last letter, he said the house had passed a motion for the Legislature to adjourn next Friday and he hoped the Senate would confirm it. I earnestly hope they will.

We had no service today, as Mr Alderson is away at Presbytery.

Miss Lidi Metcalfe has left Mayville. She has gone to Covington to live with her brother. We shall miss her very much, she was an active, zealous member of our church.

Your brothers all send their love. You do not know how much we would all love

Apr. 25th
1880



Robert A Cochran Jr
Amherst
Mass

M. A. C



AMHERST MASS.
APR 18 1881

Mayville May 2^d 1888

My Dear Son

I have just finished a letter to your Pa, which I expect is the last I will have to write, as the Legislature has at last concluded to adjourn. They have set, Thursday, the 6th as the time for their adjournment. This is truly good news to us all. You seem to be congratulating yourself with the fact that you will soon be reduced to having but the one letter a week to write.

You want to know why I do not make any corrections in your letters. The fact is, you write so correctly, there is very little room for criticism. I would suggest your reducing a little the size of your handwriting. I think it would look better a little smaller. Perhaps it is Am-

heret college fashion, though, like it was
with the - Sayre Institute girls. I cannot
say I admire it for either male or female.

Anna Douglass thinks she will stay
until the first of June. I see very little
of her. Her time seems to be taken up
flying round with the boys and girls.

I had a letter from Miss Leggie
Davis last week. She does not think she
will return to Mayville this spring. I
wrote to her of having received your
pictures, and she replied, she would
love to see them. She has the one you
gave her, with her.

I was surprised yesterday morning, to
receive a dispatch from Mrs Maria
Nelson, telling of the death of Belle
Warren of Terre Haute. I had heard
nothing from them since the paper
containing the notice of Mr Donaldson's
death. Mrs Donaldson is left
desolate indeed, her family are all

gone.

I took the three boys with me yes-
terday, and spent the day in Chester
at Mr Picheams. We had a pleasant
day, the children enjoyed it particularly.

It is sad to be with Mrs Picheam,
she has become so childish.

I did not go to church today, as I
was not very well. I wanted to go
too, as it is the first service we
have had in the Chapel since it
was painted.

I believe I can think of nothing
more to write at present. With much
love from us all, and commending
you to the care of our loving Heavenly
Father, I am,

Your devoted mother.

painted and papered too. It will be necessary for us to go to Cincinnati for the oil cloth, but I don't know when your Pa will be able to leave home.

I enclose in this a post-office order, your Pa sends you.

With best love from all, and praying Heaven's choicest blessing upon you, my dear child, I am,

Your affectionate

Mother

Waynesville May 9th 1880

My Dear Son

Summer seems to have come upon us all at once. Today is warm enough for July. We are wishing for a rain. There has been none since the hard rain we had two or three weeks ago, and it baked the ground so very hard, it has been almost impossible for any thing to grow, that is in the way of seed. The grass and trees are looking beautifully green.

We are enjoying the pleasure of having your Pa at home once more, and knowing he does not have to return again. It is a great relief to him too, as he had become very tired of Frankfurt.

Andrew is thinking of going to Louisville at the time Mr Wadsworth

makes his speech on the long contested Green & Sargis case. He will go from there to Mississippi to attend to some business for the law firm. I am glad he will have this trip. He needs some recreation after his winter and spring of hard work.

Did you know the Greens have moved to Mr. Ryans old place below town? Mr. Green's brother John presented them with a horse and carriage, which you may be sure is made good use of by the family. We see it passing nearly every day.

Mrs Richard Collins is dead. She has been in ill health for a long time, and died at her married daughters in Missouri. Her remains will reach here tomorrow. You remember her, as the twin sister of Mrs Bord-erick.

Foster Barber has been away on a trip

to St. Louis, in business. He returned Saturday. Your Uncle Horace goes to Louisville this week to attend a Masonic meeting. He is looking forward to attending the grand gathering of Knights in Chicago, in August. Lizzie is going with him there. They want Anna Douglas to remain until then, but I don't think she will, as her Ma is ari-ting continually for her to return.

I will attend to your wish about the shirts and socks and have them sent to you. I have been so busy housecleaning I have been able to get out. We have had Andrew's room painted and papered, which it needed badly. The only other changes we will make this Spring will be in the dining room. It is in a very shabby condition. The boys have torn the carpet almost off the floor this winter. I think I will put an oil cloth down next time. We will have it.

May 9th
1880



Robt- A Cochran, Jr.
Amherst

Mass

M. A. C



AMHERST
MAY 1
1870
MASS.

We have the minister from Ripley
preaching for us to-day. He gave us
an excellent sermon this morning.

Mr Alderson exchanged pulpits with
him.

Well my dear child, I reckon after
one more letter from me, I will
be able to speak with you face to
face. May God protect you and us
all to that time, and in him may
we find our everlasting salvation.

With much love from us all,

Your affectionate

Mother

Mayville June 6th 1880

My Dear Son

Your letter dated from Worces-
ter came a day earlier than usual. It did
surprise us, to receive a letter away from
school at this time, but I suppose you only
spent the Sabbath, and did not lose much.

You will be pretty well acquainted with
New England and its people, by the time
you get home. I hope your stay in that
part of the country, and experience while
there, will prove of great advantage to
you.

Andrew has been away nearly three weeks.
He stopped a few days in Cincinnati to at-
tend the Musical Festival. From there he
went to Louisville and staid till last
Wednesday, when he left for Mississippi.
I don't know when we may look for him

home. He was so anxious to hear Mr Hadsoroth's speech, that he remained in Louisville longer than he at first intended. The great suit is at last closed, and after the great trouble and long sitting Hargis is cleared, that is the jury acquitted him. Those that believed him guilty before have not changed their minds.

We have had the measles in the neighborhood for some time, and I think Horace must have had a slight attack of it. He has been complaining a good deal for a week past.

Your Pa and I went to Cincinnati last Monday, and returned Wednesday. Callie Hodge staid with the children during our absence. Our business to the city was to purchase paper, linoleum and chairs for the dining room. We expected to have had the room in order by this time but

the Linoleum, which we are going to use instead of a carpet did not come, and we will not be settled before the middle of this week.

We are all feeling greatly concerned about Emmett just now. He stepped on a broken glass bottle about two weeks ago, and cut his foot. His mother bound it up, and doctored it all she thought it needed, and he kept running around all the time until last Monday. Since then he has been very sick, and is now in a dangerous condition, the doctor says threatened with lockjaw.

He has probed the wound, but says he cannot tell whether there is any glass in it or not. His mother is of course very unhappy about him. It will be a severe strike to her to lose. The poor child has suffered greatly and has borne it patiently too.

June 7th
1870



Robt A. Cochran Jr.

Amherst

M. A. C.

Mass.



prayer is, that the atonement, purchased through his sufferings and death may avail to the salvation of myself and all that I hold dear.

My letter has spun out, but now I must close with much love from us all.

I have no doubt you will leave Amherst with mingled feelings of regret and pleasure. Your course at College has been shorter than at first anticipated, but I trust it has been long enough to prepare you to take hold of the business of life, whatever that may be, with earnestness of purpose, and a determination to succeed in whatever you undertake.

Committing you to the safe keeping of God, who has watched over us and spared us all, thus far during our separation, and to whose glory, I trust,

we may all henceforth live, I am

Lovingly
Your Mother

Mayville June 20th 1880

My Dear Son

I am going to write you a short letter this time, as I hope so soon to see and talk with you.

Your Pa received your card saying you had shipped a box of clothing. I hope you put your heavy bed clothes in it, blankets, &c, as I wanted you to bring them home with you.

We were agreeably surprised to have Andrew get home last night. He had a long trip of it, and a part of the time was in such a strange, out of the way part of the country, that we were getting to feel right uneasy about him.

He succeeded in crossing the country from Johnsonville, Miss, in a way that brought him home sooner than

we expected. We thought he was dependent on a steamer which made but one trip a week. On the whole, I think he enjoyed his journey. There was a good deal of variety in it, and some adventure.

Anna Douglas went up to Danville to attend Commencement. She returned last Sunday, and was much pleased with her visit. Miss Pattie Beattie would have her spend her time with her, and of course, she made it pleasant. Willie has gone on a trip to the Mammoth Cave. He with two other students are travelling "à la pedestrienne". I hope their zeal and strength will prove sufficient for them.

I should not be surprised if Emma returns to Mayville in the fall, she is talking to that effect now. Mr Thomassen speaks of moving

to New York. I expect he begins to feel his family is too large for him.

Our public schools close this week, and then the boys will all be free. Willie has not been able to go to school for some time, on account of his eyes, but he will go through with part of the examination. He and Jamie with George Barbour, three youthful orators, have been practising their speeches in our attic. They are going to discuss the new subject, "whether England was justifiable in her treatment of Napoleon". The boys are hoping to go to Genoa some time during the summer. I have an idea of going, and taking you along for a little visit, after you have been home awhile.

Today was communion service with us at the church. I was again reminded of my obligations to the Saviour who has done so much for me. My



Robt A Cochran. jr.
Amherst
Mass

M. A. C.



My Dear Robbi

I send you a box for your comb and brush. I am a little troubled, for fear it is too short; perhaps you can lay the brush in diagonally, if not straight. You will also find a cover for your bureau, a cloth for washing your stand, a soap dish, and a little brush for cleaning your comb. The gloves, I hope will fit you, and be comfortable. At the last minute, I have thought of your old mittens, and thinking they may be serviceable for rough work, send them also. I have no doubt you will enjoy the estates with your friends, though some of them may seem a little stale, by the time they reach you.

Wishing you a merry Christmas and
Happy New Year,

Lovingly,

Your Mother

Robt. A. Cochran. Jr
Present

My Dear Robbie

We send you today, ^{a box} containing a comfort,
2 pr of sheets, 2 calico curtains to cover your clothes,
2 undershirts, and some home made candy. I am
dissatisfied with this comfort. It is not as heavy as
I wanted it; and I expect it will be necessary for you to
have blankets for the coldest weather.

The undershirts are the best I could get here of your
size. You were unwilling to wear them at home, but I
think you will find them a necessity where you are.

The candy I suppose will be acceptable. The weather
is too warm now, though, to have it good.

This is the day for your letter, anxious as usual to
get it. Love from all to you.

Your affectionate Mother