

**Object ID:** MG0828\_SeriesD-61\_F03

**Document:** letter from daughter Alice May 6, 1861

**Transcript:**

May 6<sup>th</sup> 1861

My Dear Papa,

I am so glad I know how to write so that I can write a letter to you while you are away from home. We feel sorry that it is so wet today, it must be very unpleasant in camp. Mr. Boyer was here yesterday and he asked mamma how you were and she told him you had a cold and he said if you would take a table spoon full [of] melted butter and sugar it would cure your cold and keep you from getting more cold. Mr. Strickler was here and wether Martin Smith paid that money. Did you know yesterday was your birth day. Effie was wondering who would pull your ears. Mamma is putting all our letters in one envelope that Mr. Menges gave her. Mr. Stamen brought your letter last evening.

Good by dear Papa from  
your affectionate Daughter  
Alice  
write to us soon

[Transcribed by Richard C. Wiggin, 2017]

**Analysis:**

*Alice is age 9½.*

*Welsh left Columbia on Friday, April 19, 1861; is now in York. A snow storm on May 3 was followed by rain—evidently a rainy period.*

*Mr. Boyer is unidentified. Also Martin Smith and Mr. Strickler, but the reference to paying money suggests the possibility that they may have been looking after some of Welsh's business interests.*

*It appears that pulling one's ears on their birthday must have been a family game.*

*Mr. Menges is the former pastor of the Lutheran Church in Columbia (Annie's church), who was called to a new church in York the year before. He was most solicitous of the Columbians during their stay at York.*

*Mr. Stamen is unidentified.*



LancasterHistory

**Scope and Content:**

Handwritten letter from 9-year old Alice to her father, Thomas Welsh. Letter inquires about his health, reminds father of his birthday, and includes information on the weather and on visitors to the house.

