

**Object ID:** *MG0828\_SeriesD-61\_F05*

**Document:** *Letter from daughter Mary, undated*

**Transcript:**

My Dear papa

you said you would like us girls to write to you the old game hen and the young one was both sitting on one nest and they brought out four little chickens and fought about them and killed one Mamma takes good care of the chickens and feeds them herself do you know when you have to go away are you comeing home in three Months why did you not come over on Saturday to see us tell Maggy Menges to come over soon you Must come to us soon as you can they are only to of them little chickens left and they bouth [both?] take care of them some times they are with one and some times they are with the other mamma and i was planting corn and lillie got sleepy and Mamma wanted to plant all of it first then she said Mamma i wish you were at war and she would stay with ann blanton walks all around the chares[chairs?]

good by dear papa  
from your affection  
Daughter Mary  
rite to us soon

[Transcribed by Rick Wiggin, 2017]

**Analysis: Wiggin**

*Mary is age 8*

*The date of this letter is hard to determine. The question, "Why did you not come over on Saturday to see us" suggests that Annie may have taken the kids to see him either in Harrisburg or in York, and that they may have gotten only close enough for a sighting and/or a wave. The reference to Maggy Menges (presumed to be a daughter of the Rev. Menges) indicates Mary knows that he is in York. Perhaps they had gone to York, visited the Menges, and tried to see Welsh. But if they had been in York more than briefly, it seems unlikely that Welsh wouldn't have been able to break free to "come over."*

*One possible date is the week of April 29 after attempting to see him in York on Saturday the 27th. Another possibility is April 25 or 26 after trying to see him off at Harrisburg on Saturday the 20th, then learning he is at York*

*Lillie is age 3; Ann is age ~17/18, the daughter of Welsh's sister Mary (Ann was living with the Welsh's after something happened to Mary. Thomas Welsh had become Ann's legal guardian.)*



*Blanton is approaching his first birthday.*

**Scope and Content:**

Handwritten letter from 8-year old Mary (Mazie) to her father, Thomas Welsh. Letter includes family news, caring for chickens, planting corn, and a description of Lillie's tantrum with mother. Text includes questions about his service and why he has failed to visit.

