

Letters to a Brother

By Lydia and Jane Reynolds

Annotated by Anne K. H. Cleaver

L Lydia Moore Reynolds (1818-1896) was the daughter of John Reynolds (1787-1853) and Lydia Moore Reynolds (1794-1843). Her father was the son of William Reynolds, who came to Lancaster County from County Antrim, Ireland about 1765, and Catharine Ferree Lefevre, whose ancestors were among the first settlers in Lancaster County. Her mother was the daughter of Captain Samuel Moore, who came from County Donegal and who fought in the Battle of Brandywine, and of Jane Fulton, also from Donegal.

Thirteen children were born to John and Lydia Reynolds; nine lived to maturity. The eldest was Samuel Moore Reynolds (1814-1888), who started a career in the iron industry at age sixteen as clerk at one of the Coleman forges, Castle Finn, in York County. At the same age, William Reynolds (1815-1879) went to sea as a midshipman, thanks to his father's friend, then U.S. Representative, James Buchanan. In 1838 he joined the U.S. Exploring Expedition to the South Seas, captained by Charles Wilkes, and during those long four years he wrote twenty-one letters to his family, mostly addressed to his sister Lydia. Lydia responded with all the news she could gather. Twelve of these letters reached William. They were eventually returned to Lydia, were kept in the family and are now in my possession. Eventually they will be deposited in the Shadek-Fackenthal Library at Franklin and Marshall College, where they will join William's letters, his voluminous journals and other family papers.

William Reynolds capped his career as admiral in command of the Pacific Fleet. However it is another brother who is better known, John Fulton Reynolds (1820-1863), who died, as a general, on the first day of the battle of Gettysburg. The youngest brother, James Lefevre Reynolds (1822-1880), graduated from Marshall College, then in Mercersburg, read law, but was more active in politics than in his profession.

Lydia's sisters were Jane Reynolds (1824-1901), who married George Gildersleeve and lived in Baltimore; Catharine Ferree (Kate) Reynolds (1825-1905), who married Henry D. Landis and lived in Philadelphia; and Harriot Sumner (Hal) Reynolds (1832-1898) and Eleanor "Ellie" Reynolds (1835-1923), neither of whom married.

Also part of the Reynolds household were the beloved grandmother, Jane Fulton Moore (1768-1847), and, from time to time, "Aunt", Lydia Reynolds (1792-1857), John Reynolds' maiden sister.

In their young years, the Reynolds family lived on West King Street, where John Reynolds published the *Lancaster Journal*. In 1837, they moved out to Cornwall Furnace in Lebanon County, because John Reynolds had been appointed guardian of his friend Robert Bird Coleman's five minor children and their extensive iron interests. In the early 1840s they acquired a "town house" on East King Street and, later, one on North Duke Street. It was into the North Duke Street house that the Reynolds family moved when they left Cornwall in 1848. By that time, Lydia was married to Nathan Evans and lived in remote Clarion County, at Lucinda Furnace.

The "Lydia letter" transcribed here includes a portion written by her sixteen-year-old sister Jane. Neither letter paused for paragraphs, but in tiny delicate script hastened on, intent on filling all the paper with news of family and friends for the brother so far away. In the interest of clarity, a little paragraphing has been introduced and the beginning of sentences have been capitalized. Otherwise the letters are as written 149 years ago, sent around the Americas and across the Pacific Ocean to find one midshipman exploring the ice fields of Antarctica or surveying South Pacific Islands—or the mouth of the wild Columbia River.

Lancaster, Nov. 5th, 1840

My dear Brother,

I have been in town for the last three weeks. Yesterday Mother wrote that the Store Ship Relief¹ would sail for the Ex. Expedition, but when or where from they did not know. James & Mother both wrote by it and Jane and I will do the same if we are not too late. I will give you some news in this letter which will surprise you very much. The fact is if you do not hurry home you will find no young ladies here at all, at least of the sort that were going into society when you left. There has been a real wedding mania in the town this fall. I must begin and tell you some of them.

Emanuel Reigart married a Miss Allen of Philadelphia;² Mr. & Mrs. Myer³ boarded with her mother when they visited the city. I have not seen her but she is said to be pretty, not very young though. General Diller and Miss Reikly (?) of Phila., an intimate friend of R. Krug,⁴ were the second couple. Sue Ogilby and Mr. Findley are married at last, at her uncle's near Phila. None of her Lancaster friends were at the wedding or knew anything of it until a few days before. Mary went off first, poor girl!⁵ She took the whooping cough before she was married, and that night her cough was so bad she was almost strangled. I believe she has not recovered yet, and they were married early in the summer.

1. The *Relief* was in the original squadron of six ships which sailed from Norfolk 18 August 1838 as the first United States Exploring Expedition, and the last under sail. As the vessel proved too slow a sailer, she was sent home from Peru the summer of 1849. Thereafter she essayed to bring supplies to the remaining ships at conjectured meeting ports.

2. Emanuel Carpenter Reigart (1796-1869), attorney and son of Emmanuel (1769-1846) and Susanna Moser Reigart, was married for the third time 15 September 1840 to Maria A. Allen in Philadelphia. She died 8 January 1845 and Mr. Reigart married his first cousin, Henrietta Reigart (1796-1869).

3. John Myer (1782-1865) and his second wife, Sidney Howell Ashbridge (1794-1871), and their family lived near the Reynolds' home on West King Street and were close friends of the Reynolds family. Mr. Myer ran a dry goods store.

4. Rebecca Krug (1816-1885), who married William Reynolds on his return from the Exploring Expedition in 1842, was the daughter of George Hopson Krug (1785-1869) and Maria Reed (1786-1834). The old Krug tannery and house were on the southwest corner of West King and Prince Streets.

5. The long and difficult courtship of Susan Ogilby and John King Findley, attorney, was often referred to in William and Lydia's letters. Their marriage and that of her only sister, Mary Ogilby, to a Mr. Edwards were probably quiet due to the death that year of their father. They were the daughters of Joseph Ogilby (1780-1840), long-time cashier of the Branch Bank of Pennsylvania, and Margaret Comly Ogilby (1780-1857).



Courtesy Anne Hoffman Cleaver

**William Reynolds
as a young officer**

I attended Emily Hopkins' wedding yesterday week as second bridesmaid.⁶ We had a great deal of fun, both that evening and the one before. We had to practice walking in the room. Dr. Hopkins and Mary Slaymaker were last bridesmaid & groomsman. They entered first, then Miss Magraw & R. Hopkins,⁷ then James Lane⁸ and myself, then Dr. Muhlenberg & Sue Mayer,⁹ and last the bride and groom. They went through the ceremony very

6. Emily Wilson Hopkins, born 1818, was the daughter of George Ross Hopkins (1792-1821) and Ann Reigart Hopkins (1795-1826). She married Henry S. McGraw, later State Treasurer of Pennsylvania, 28 October 1840. One of her cousins was Emanuel C. Reigart; one of her aunts was his fourth wife, Henrietta Reigart. (See Note 2.)

7. Emily Hopkins' brothers were Adam Reigart Hopkins (1816-1859), who walked in with the groom's sister "Miss Magraw", and Horace Hopkins (1820-1856), an attorney. Perhaps Horace was called "Doctor".

Mary Reigart Slaymaker, born in 1823, was the daughter of Henry Young Slaymaker (1798-1862) and Margaretta Reigart Slaymaker (1801-1832), of Margaretta Furnace and other interests. Mary was a cousin of Emily Hopkins, both of their mothers having been daughters of Adam Reigart, Jr. (1765-1844) and his wife Mary Wager (1772-1806).

8. James Buchanan Lane (1814-1863), who married Martha Jenkins (1820-1892) in 1845, was to be a neighbor of the Reynolds family on North Duke Street. He was a nephew of James Buchanan and a brother of Harriet Lane, who acted as "first lady" when Buchanan became President.

9. This is probably Benjamin Schaum Muhlenberg (1823-1894) who studied medicine with his father Dr. Frederick Augustus Hall Muhlenberg (1795-1867) in Lancaster and graduated in 1845 from the University of Pennsylvania.

Susanna Burhart Mayer, who was born in 1821 and married Asa M. Hart in 1844, was the daughter of George Louis Mayer (1791-1837) and Esther Cox Clarkson Mayer (1795-1881).

well, though the groom appeared rather more frightened than the bride. There were between 40 & 50 persons at the wedding, all in the front parlor. The supper table was set in the back room. I will not tell you the good things as they might make your mouth water, as you might have been on short allowance at the time and that would be terrible. At half past nine the doors were thrown open and we walked in to supper, and about eleven the guests departed. Then we had more fun than before, for we danced and did just as we pleased. The next morning they went to Phila. and from thence to Maryland to visit Mr. Magraw's relations. It is expected they will return the beginning of next week, when the bride will receive her company and attend any parties that may be given for her. I am to remain to attend them also.

Who do you think Margie Krug is going to marry? But you will never guess, so I may as well tell you—Edwin Shoenberger.¹⁰ What do you think of the match? M. had not left school when you sailed and just think she has grown up and will be married long before you return. The wedding takes place the second week in January. I suppose she will be 18 then, a young wife, will she not? Her cousin R. Frances is to be married next month. R. Myer & R. Krug have gone down to the city.¹¹ The latter will come home in a week or two and return again to the wedding. R. Myer will remain until Margie's takes place. Miss C. Baker is engaged to a city gentleman. This will also take place next month, so you see the ranks will be pretty well thinned, but there is another set coming on that were quite little girls when you left town. I believe I have told you all the matches that are going on. There are so many that perhaps I have forgotten some of them, but now you must hear some thing about ourselves.

We have had a great deal of company this summer having been very seldom without it until a short time ago. The four Miss Colemans¹² spent

10. Maria Margareta Krug (1822-1859) was the youngest sister of Rebecca Krug. Her fiance, Edwin Francis Schoenberger (1813-1905), was the son of Dr. Peter Shoenberger (1782-1854) and Sarah Hopson Krug (1787-1870), hence her first cousin. The Shoenbergers had large iron properties in Pennsylvania.

11. Rebecca Frances Krug (1823-1897) was the daughter of Frederick Valentine Krug (1790-1856) of Philadelphia and his wife Martha Chamberlin Krug (died 1865) and a first cousin of Rebecca and Margie Krug and of Rebecca Myer.

Rebecca Myer was the daughter of John Myer and his first wife Rebecca Krug Myer (c.1783-1820), who like George H. and Frederick V. Krug was a child of Capt. John Jacob Krug (1750-1817) and Rebecca Hopson Krug (1751-1831), and she was thus another Krug first cousin. Rebecca Myer married Ellis Reeves (1812-1882) of Phoenixville in 1845 and lived until 1903.

12. Three of the four daughters of Thomas Bird Coleman (1794-1836) and Hannah Cassat Coleman (1794-1830) were minors at the time of their father's death and thus under the guardianship of John Reynolds: Margaret Cassat Coleman (born 1820), Sarah Hand Coleman (born 1823), and Isabella Coleman (born 1825). Anne Coleman, closest to Lydia, was born the same year, 1818. The large house at Cornwall Furnace had been the Coleman home (and would be again), so the girls and their brothers visited whenever it could be arranged. During most of the year they resided with their maternal grandmother, Isabella (Mrs. David) Cassat, in York.

four weeks with us in May, and we had constantly visitors coming to see them. The Halls¹³ were out several times and the Lebanon people¹⁴ and two Army Officers were there for several days. We had a great deal of fun, not with them, but about them. Neither of them are young men; one of them is the most bashful, diffident man ever was met with. It is almost painful to see him in ladies' company, though very agreeable in gentlemen's company and considered one of the bravest men in the army. After they all left Mother went to town and staid two weeks and left Grandma, Sam & myself alone. Sam was charged not to plague me, so he left me altogether to myself and not one word could I get out of him but yes or no. I do not wish to spend such another fortnight in a hurry again. R. Myer spent a week with us. John¹⁵ came for her and staid all night at Mount Hope, he was so charmed with Miss Grubb's¹⁶ singing Harrison songs (by the way, political songs are all the fashion) that he could not tear himself away.

I think I told you in a former letter of Mr. Montgomery having met with an accident on returning from Columbia.¹⁷ He and his wife and one of the children spent several days at Cornwall in order to be out of the noise of the Van Buren convention. He was recovering rapidly and it was thought better for him to be out of the noise and excitement it would occasion. Cousin Catharine and Jane¹⁸ paid us a visit of two weeks. We had quite a merry time while they staid. Cousin C. you know is very lively, but she is so fat you would scarcely know her. It certainly has not improved her appearance either. Sam was obliged to beau her about—to church and on horseback, much to his annoyance for she is not a favorite of his by any means.

13. Elizabeth Coleman Hall (1778-1858), like her brother Thomas Bird Coleman a child of the iron baron Robert Coleman (1748-1825) and his wife Anne Old Coleman (1756-1844), was now a widow living in Lancaster. There were eight Hall cousins of the "Miss Colemans".

14. The "Lebanon people" would refer to more Coleman cousins, the children of James Coleman (1784-1831) and Harriet Dawson Coleman (1802-1865).

15. John Myer (c.1808-1873) was Rebecca's brother and a partner in John Myer & Son, dry goods.

16. This Miss Grubb would probably be either Miss Mary or Miss Sarah, daughters of Henry Bates Grubb and sisters of Clement Bates Grubb (1815-1899), who built the handsome house still standing in Lancaster. The Grubb family started the iron industry in Lebanon and Lancaster Counties, much of which was sold to Robert Coleman and much of which remained in litigation into the 1860s.

17. John R. Montgomery, brilliant lawyer and close friend of John Reynolds, was returning from a trip to Columbia with fellow lawyer William B. Fomey when they were overtaken by a violent storm. Mr. Montgomery was thrown from his horse (or hit by lightning), lay unconscious for a day in a nearby house and remained bedfast thereafter for a month. His wife, Mary Catharine Reigart, was another aunt of Lydia's good friend Emily Hopkins. Lydia had written 15 July 1840, "What a loss he would have been to Lancaster, and to my Father, too, for he is nearly the last of his old friends. Father thought he would feel his loss almost more than anyone else, except his own family."

18. Cousins Catharine (c.1805-1870) and Jane (c.1807-1862) Reynolds were the elder daughters of John Reynolds' brother Samuel Lefevre Reynolds (1779-1813) and Eleanor Reynolds Reynolds (c.1781-1855), who lived in Frederick, Maryland.



Courtesy Anne Hoffman Cleaver

Lydia Moore Reynolds,
William's sister

The Whigs had a convention here on the 18th of September. Hetty, Lydia & Sam Witmer came up a few days before.¹⁹ They were anxious to visit Lancaster City & Co. and thought that a good time for paying their visit. The children were coming in to school and I came with them to see the fun also.²⁰ The day of the convention was very bad indeed, it poured all day, yet the town was crowded, every place was full. I never saw such a concourse of people in my life (not having been at the Democratic one) as was in the procession. It would have been very handsome indeed had the day been clear. A great many of the banners were beautiful. They had several log cabins on wheels, drawn by horses, and Fort Meigs and a boat with *sails manned* by boys dressed as sailors, drawn by horses also, and the different trades—blacksmith shop with the celebrated Buckeye blacksmith at work, a currier's shop, printing office & several others. But the day was so bad they did not show to advantage. We had four gentlemen staying here,

19. Hetty (c.1817-1884) and Lydia (c.1830-1851) Witmer were the oldest and youngest daughters and Samuel Lefevre Witmer (c.1821-1866) was the only son of Jacob Witmer (c.1790-1869), grocer in Philadelphia, and Hannah Lefevre Witmer. Jacob Witmer was the son of David Witmer, Sr. (1752-1835) and Esther Kendig Witmer (1756-1831); Hannah was the daughter of Samuel Lefevre (1757-1813), whose sister was John Reynolds' mother. Both grandparents had been innkeepers near Paradise. When the Reynolds family visited Philadelphia, they invariably stayed with their Witmer cousins.

20. "The children" were Jane 16, Kate almost 15, and Hal 8 years old.

the two Mr. Weidmans,²¹ Mr. Murray & Mr. Morris of Phila., besides Samuel L. Witmer & his sisters. We brought James in to wait on us.²² Father went on to New Haven the day of the convention. Hetty and Lydia went home with me for a few days. We rode on horseback several times and they enjoyed themselves very much. They are very anxious for me to go down to the city this winter, but I do not expect to go at all. Aunt, I believe, intends going. One of your old friends, Mr. Norris, died last week. Poor old man, he has been ill for some time and suffered very much during his last illness.

We received your letter giving an account of your escape from the ice islands.²³ What an awful, horrible situation you must have been in. How could you have cheered the ship as she was going down? How could such a thought have entered your head in such an awful situation? We could scarcely read your letter aloud. Every one of the family is so anxious to hear your letters that we are obliged to read them aloud, but that one was too trying.

Nov. 6th, 1840

I commenced this letter yesterday afternoon but was interrupted by visitors and was engaged to spend the evening at Mrs. Slaymaker's,²⁴ and now I have just returned from spending the evening at Mrs. Franklin's.²⁵ Mrs. Porter²⁶ also invited me, but I was engaged. Lizzie Steinman²⁷ is quite sick, she has had a dreadful cold for some time past. She looks miserable. All your other friends are quite well, I believe. H. Jenkins²⁸ has been in town for some time, but has been ordered away lately, I think to Florida.

21. The two Mr. Weidmans were Jacob B. Weidman (1789-1857), good friend of John Reynolds, and his son John Weidman (1814-1863), both attorneys of Lebanon.

22. James Thomas Gant was a house servant, probably black, in Cornwall, who had once worked in Washington.

23. William Reynolds' letter of 14 March 1840 gave a harrowing account of the near loss of his ship, the *Peacock*, in the shifting ice mountains of Antarctica. It is Letter 14 in *Voyage to the Southern Ocean*.

24. Jane Howell Slaymaker (born 1800) was the widow of John Reynolds' dear friend Jasper Slaymaker (1787-1827), attorney. John Reynolds and James Buchanan were administrators of his estate, responsible for appointing guardians for his six children, one of whom was Jane's friend Fanny (1820-1876).

25. Mrs. Anne Emlen Franklin (1784-1852) was the widow of Judge Walter Franklin (1773-1836) and the mother-in-law of William and Lydia's friend, Serena Mayer Franklin (1816-1877).

26. Mrs. Sarah Humes Porter was the widow of George B. Porter (1791-1834), who died in Detroit, as Governor of the Territory of Michigan. She lived on North Queen Street, across the street from John and Sue Findley.

27. Elizabeth Fredericka Myer, born 1816, sister of Rebecca Myer, had married George Michael Steinman in 1838. He was the son of John F. Steinman (1789-1884), hardware merchant.

28. (Adam) Hubley Jenkins, born 1819, was the son of William Jenkins (1779-1853) and Mary F. Hubley Jenkins. He, too, was in the navy and Lydia reported on 12 June 1842 that,

W. Frazier²⁹ is stationed at Fort McHenry. He has not been here for a long time. I cannot give you any political news. James, I suppose, has told you all about the election. Such a state of excitement as the people are in never was heard of. If Van Buren is elected, it will be pretty tight work and there are some doubts of it. There were several fights in town. The day of the last election George Ford³⁰ was knocked down and kicked for some distance in the street. He looks scarcely able to walk now. We sent you some of the Lancaster papers. Did you notice the abuse in them? Really it is outrageous the way they abuse people. They are a disgrace to the town. But enough of this.

You need not expect a letter from John,³¹ he never writes to us. We have not heard from him for a length of time. James has been at home for nearly 6 weeks. He returns next Tuesday to College. Elly is learning to read, I am to teach her when I return home. Hal makes a pretty good attempt at writing, but not sufficiently good to write to you. As for Kate she is too lazy about writing for anything. You need not expect one from her. Jane will write I believe. I know you will scold about my letters when you return, but indeed I cannot do better and hope you will excuse them. Aunt was not at all well on Sunday. She has put up blood several times lately, but not much, it must come from her throat. Grandma's health is excellent. She was in town about a week ago for half a day only.

With love from all hands and may God bless you, my dear Brother, is the prayer of your affectionate Sister Lydia.

Lancaster, Nov. 7th 1840

My dear Brother,

I suppose you have heard all the news for Lydia has just written and she I expect has told you all the news. Kate, Hal and myself are all in Lancaster going to school. Lydia is in town and has been for some time, but she has told you all about the wedding. Margy Krug is engaged to Ed

stationed a long time on a U.S. schooner off Florida, Hubley had married "a very young Southern lady". In April 1839, his father had moved his law office to the house "lately occupied by John Reynolds, Esq. on King Street". (*Lancaster Journal*).

29. William Clark Frazer (1815-1844), like his brother Reah (see Note 34), was the son of Judge William Clark Frazer (1776-1838) and Susan Carpenter Frazer (1783-1836). Judge Frazer was appointed Chief Justice of the Territory of Wisconsin and died in Milwaukee. Young Will Frazer graduated from West Point and his path often crossed that of young John F. Reynolds before his tragic early death.

30. George Ford (1775-1843), in 1840, had his law office on the ground floor of the Reynolds house on East King, the house "Aunt" presided over.

31. John Fulton Reynolds was in the class of 1841 at West Point.

Shoenberger. The ceremony is to be performed on the 18 of January. Rebecca has gone to P—. Bee Francis is to be married in December. Bec Myer has gone to Philadelphia to assist her. Politics are all the rage. Ladies have caught the mania in Pittsburgh. They ride about with Tippecanoe flags and sing nothing but Harrison songs. Josephine Myer³² sang a Van Buren song one evening and was sick all the next day. We were out at the factory³³ this afternoon and met M. Bryan, S. Humes, S. Sheet and spent a very pleasant afternoon. I am very tired with walking. I expect there will be many parties when Emily returns. Reah Frazer³⁴ was here the other evening, but he could talk nothing but politics to Father. Sam went to sleep behind Aunt's chair, as the Colonel staid rather late. Lydia thinks I am a *perfect fool* to tell you such stuff, but indeed I do not know how to write letters. John has not been very well, he overdone himself at the last ball, poor boy. Jim is six feet and such a fine looking fellow. His hair is getting gray with study. Yours never did. Aunt has not been very well for several days past but is better now.

Mr. Damant has been to England.³⁵ I expect he was delighted to see all his friends, but he staid only two months. He does not talk much about his visit. He went to Philadelphia today; he will return tomorrow. Mr. Davy has left us and gone to Greencastle.³⁶ I am very glad of it. Cousins Catharine and Jane paid us a visit this summer. Jane speaks very highly of you. Cousin Cate has turned out quite a poetess; she sent Sam some verses. Lydia and Hetty Witmer were here this fall, they had been at Cape May all summer.

There has been two conventions in Lancaster this summer. Mr. Weidman and John were with us at the Harrison Convention. The old gentleman was vice president. Richard M. Johnson³⁷ passed through L. and the inhabitants made much fuss. Old Penelope was hauled through the streets, and another cannon, and flags, and dear knows what all. I don't know what we will talk of, when politics is at an end. We spent an evening at Fanny Slaymaker's and met that Mr. Smith that *used* to look like you, but he has changed now. His sister was there and such a flirt I never beheld. She talked all the time and nothing but nonsense. Mr. Eshelman was there and he is such a poor

32. Sidney Josephine Myer, born 1827, was the youngest of John and Sidney Myer's children.

33. The factory may have been the Conestoga Manufacturing Company, a fulling mill on Conestoga Creek, known as "Humes' Factory", as James Humes (1780-1844) was a partner.

34. Colonel Reah Frazer (1804-1856) was an attorney and a leading Democratic politician, but of the opposing faction to James Buchanan.

35. James Damant's School for Young Ladies stood at 42-44 West Orange Street. Mr. Damant, an Englishman, was also organist at St. James Church.

36. The Rev. Mr. Davy had succeeded the Rev. Mr. Dickinson, in 1835, as pastor of the Presbyterian Church.

37. Richard M. Johnson was running for vice-president for the second time on the Democratic ticket with President Martin Van Buren. He was not a Buchanan choice.

soul I never want to see him again. The handsome Mr. Patterson³⁸ was there also, he is quite agreeable. Last evening we spent at Mrs. Franklin's. There was quite an agreeable company there. E. Huston³⁹ and a Miss Maxwell have been here. They staid, of course, at Mr. Buchanan's.

I never saw any child change as much as Hal. She is quite ugly, but will I expect get better looking after a while. Elly is as pretty as ever. Aunt sends her *best* love to you and she would write only she has not time during the day and she cannot see after night. She and Lydia have been making a carpet. Lydia's fingers are quite stiff. Some of the girls and myself went out to the factory to sketch the bridge. It makes quite a pretty drawing, Je puis vous assure. We take music and french lessons from Mrs. Risdell. She has not been well lately. H. Jenkins has been at home for some time. I do not know when he will sail. Miss Anne Coleman has gone to New York. Miss Harriot⁴⁰ is up in Mifflin County. She has not been well this summer. The rest are in York; they will spend the winter there. Willie⁴¹ is there also; he is going to school. Robert⁴² is at Trenton. He is very much pleased, I believe. Father and Sam are going to Gettysburg next week. Grandma was in town last week. Mother talks of coming soon, but I don't know if she will or not. Do excuse this miserable scrawl. Cate and Hal send their love to you.

Your affectionate sister,
Jane

I wanted Jane very much to fill up this sheet, but could not prevail on her to write more. Kate is spending this afternoon at Mr. Buchanan's or she would have written here. Report says today that this State has gone for Harrison, but whether it is true or not I cannot say. Nothing is talked of now but politics. No matter what subject is started, the conversation turns to politics. The ladies are almost as bad as the gentlemen. Anne C. has gone

38. "The handsome Mr. Patterson" may be David Watson Patterson who married Mary Reigart Slaymaker in 1846 and who became Judge of the Lancaster County Court.

39. Elizabeth Huston, born about 1822, was the daughter of James Buchanan's sister, Sarah Huston (1798-1825), one of the many nieces and nephews for whom Buchanan took responsibility.

40. Harriot Coleman (1820-1848) was the daughter of Edward Coleman (1792-1841), who was a close associate of John Reynolds and son of Robert Coleman, and of his wife Mary Jane Ross Coleman (1797-1825). The following year Harriot married Eugene A. Livingston of New York, but she died young.

41. William Coleman (1826-1861), younger son of Thomas Bird Coleman, was a child of ten when John Reynolds took over his guardianship and seemed to be a favorite with the Reynolds family. In 1855 "Willie" married S. Ellen Habersham (1836-1892) of Savannah, Georgia. They had two children, who were to have a major interest in the Cornwall ore mines.

42. Robert W. Coleman (1822-1864), William's older brother, apparently was a problem both to his sisters and his guardian, especially in the matter of his schooling. He never married.

to N.York for a week or two. She and Margy Coleman will spend the winter in York. Willie is going to school there. Sarah Coleman will spend the greater part of the season in the city. I did not like to send any blank paper to you, so I will fill up these few lines as there is no one else to do it. Aunt has not been well lately and she has a great deal to attend to or I suppose she would write. Montgomery Lewis has been a great deal in town with H. Jenkins this summer. He was engaged to your friend Sarah at one time, but the match has been broken off. Harriot Coleman's health has been more delicate than ever this summer. She has been up in Mifflin county for some time past; her health has improved some, but not much. You will not know Kate and Jane when you return. The former has altered for the better so much in her person, but her manners are not as polished as they might be and she is not at all attentive to her studies, but I must stop now. From your ever affectionate Sister Lydia

The four closely written sheets were folded together, sealed and addressed:

William Reynolds
U.S. Ship Peacock
S.S. Exploring Expedition

The Naval Lyceum
N. York will please forward
this as directed by the earliest
opportunity.

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