

# *Affectionately Yours*

The Andrew Wylie Family Letters

Volume II  
1860 - 1918

Third Edition



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Volume 2

1860-1918

Third Edition 2012

Edited by Jo Burgess

Wylie House Museum  
A department of the Indiana University Libraries  
Indiana University, 317 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401



Andrew Wylie  
1789 - 1851



Margaret Ritchie Wylie  
1891 - 1859

THE ANDREW WYLIE FAMILY LETTERS

1860-1918



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## PREFACE

### THIRD EDITION

The first edition of this publication (1995) was made possible by an Indiana Heritage Research Grant from the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Humanities Council. Elaine Herold, a Wylie House Museum volunteer was the primary editor and Bonnie Williams, then Curator of the Museum, was the project director. They were assisted by several other volunteers, including Kara Rogers, Jessica Wimer, and Charles Geis. The second edition, published in 2002 included a few minor changes. Since that time, the Museum has acquired a collection of some 100 letters from the Andrew Wylie family, passed down from his son, Andrew Wylie (1814-1905), and many hundreds of letters from the Theophilus A. Wylie family that were passed down from his daughter Louisa Wylie Boisen. This third edition of *Affectionately Yours*, Volumes I and II includes many of the letters from the former and a few from the latter collection. We have not standardized the spelling, capitalization, or punctuation because the original editors chose not to do that, feeling it added to the character of the letters to leave them as written. This may make it challenging for today's readers, but we hope you will understand that 19<sup>th</sup> century correspondents often spelled phonetically, threw in punctuation when and where they thought of it or left it out altogether, and saved time and paper by abbreviating many words. We have included in the Appendices of Volume I a few images of actual letters so that you can see some of the original handwriting.

The letters in this second volume range from 1860, the year after Margaret Wylie passed away through 1918 and chronicle the lives of the second generation, the eight children who survived both their parents. Though often widely scattered geographically, the bonds of familial affection ensured a steady stream of correspondence that kept the siblings in touch with one another.

How fortunate it is that so many letters were preserved and handed down. The original manuscripts are mostly housed in the Indiana University Archives and at Wylie House Museum; a few are in the hands of private collectors. Many of them have now been scanned for preservation purposes and are available online at <http://dlib.indiana.edu/collections/findingaids/>

We invite you to read Volume I of the Wylie Family Letters (1828 - 1859) as well as this volume and to visit Wylie House Museum at the corner of Second and Lincoln Streets in Bloomington, Indiana. For more information: 812-855-6224; [libwylie@indiana.edu](mailto:libwylie@indiana.edu); <http://www.iub.edu/~libwylie>

Jo Burgess  
Director, Wylie House Museum  
2012



## INTRODUCTION

With this second volume of correspondence, the story of the family of Andrew and Margaret Ritchie Wylie extends from the Civil War into the twentieth century. In many ways, the context of their lives will be familiar to readers of the first volume of letters. For all of the Wylies' new experiences and achievements, their world still is a precarious one that their writing seeks to articulate and make more stable. They struggle for success in work and in the raising of children. Great forces such as disease and the will of God are felt to create the very texture of their private worlds.

And yet there are changes in the lives of the Wylies that belong to this particular era. Most of the letters collected here were written before 1875, and the Civil War echoes through many of them. Four years of a war that one historian has described as American's effort "to make a successful society by force"<sup>1</sup> seem not at all glorious in the deaths of two young Wylie men (from disease) early in the conflict. The war broke upon Americans' daily lives with shocking force, creating both possibility and despair. Anderson Wylie, preaching the word of God, wrote eagerly of the war in 1861 as bringing a suitably just end to slavery; like many Americans, he welcomed a national purging. A year later he still was hoping for the same thing, but he was shaken by the fact that his own community was divided over the war. His livelihood was threatened, and he had a dark foreboding that the war was not only about slavery but also about God "teaching us what we gain by compromising with Sin."<sup>2</sup>

Indeed, there was a range of opinion about the war even among the Wylies themselves. To Margaret Wylie Martin, living in Texas, the slaves seemed happy enough in their servitude, and, like many southerners, she believed that if "the Northern people could take Scriptural and reasonable views upon the subject of slavery" then "Sweet peace would again smile upon our homes and country."<sup>3</sup> These letters also brilliantly reveal how the Civil War resolved some things, but not the disparate memories of it; the war persisted in politics—local and national—for many decades. Two years after the war ended, Margaret, now returned to Indiana, believed that her husband Samuel had lost a possible position because people believed him to be "a rebel"<sup>4</sup> and, given her own history, the meaning of her terse postscript "Hurrah for Grant"<sup>5</sup> in 1872 is ambiguous at best.

As was the case for many other American families during this period, the Wylie's coming to maturity did not mean geographical stability. If anything, more Americans were on the move after 1860 than before. Although Andrew located in Washington, D.C., and Elizabeth spent these years in Bloomington, other Wylies seem perpetually on the move. They were part of an enormous national growth as Americans fully occupied a continent, experimented with larger national government, a larger marketplace, and the beginnings of a truly national popular culture. Amid this change, communities like Bloomington, and smaller places still, were not necessarily stable settlements. Margaret and her family circulated through an astonishing number of places during the time covered by these letters—from Texas to Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, and Missouri—so that even in 1872 she was able to write, "I am learning in whatsoever sort of house...to be content."<sup>6</sup> Anderson, too, moved many times in pursuit of his ministerial career (a calling in many ways diminished in stature since mid-century), gaining a taste of big city life as well.

But whatever their travels and dislocations, the Wylies' letters remind us that strong forces

for stability still were at work in this changing nation. It is striking, for instance, to witness the persistent intellectual force of Protestant Christianity running throughout these letters, a reminder of how the Wylies' world in this regard remained comparatively homogenous even in the face of the great changes they endured. A Biblical cosmology shaped so much of what they saw in their world. It explained private sorrows—a child's death, the loss of a spouse. It also supplied the language of social critique. One of the Wylies' correspondents who deplored the growing national frenzy for "money & power" spoke the language of many Americans when she summoned up images not of corporate growth or political scandal, but images of "The temples of Mammon & Moloch." The worst form of corruption, for late-nineteenth-century Americans, still was moral corruption.<sup>7</sup>

Religious faith supplied a personal, emotional language, too, for the Wylies and many Americans like them. Their letters are, after all, most movingly read as a conversation among family members whose loves and tensions give us a sense of intimate life in a world similar but different from our own. So it is wonderful to read the long series of letters between Anderson and Elizabeth in which Anderson's certainty about these things. And yet, as their correspondence deepened, Anderson admitted to a likeness between them, and allowed that it was not so easy for him to shake off the temporal world either: "I have just those tendencies" for unbelief, he wrote to her about her own doubts. "But by the help of God I do not mean ever to be borne down by anything earthly."<sup>8</sup>

Anderson's letters (and through his, Elizabeth's, which unfortunately are few in number) are among the most compelling here for the way they stitched the family together. At first inclined to be a bit cool and didactic, Anderson becomes warmer and easier over the years as he discovers the satisfactions of family life and his love for his children. He talks about God, but also about his easy chair and his garden; and like nearly all of the Wylie offspring, he wonders whether brother Redick will ever be married. Margaret, too, emerges clearly through her correspondence, never more so than when she writes to an official of the Mission Board to say that, no matter what her husband has written, she does not intend to agree to another mission to China. And it is Margaret as well who provokes thought about how the emotional topography of family life is both revealed and concealed by any collection of letters. The love of the Wylie children for their parents comes through many times, not least in their striving after God and a moral life. And yet Margaret, almost by-the-by, observed that "non of his own daughters" had ever read their father's lectures—"I know I never saw a line."<sup>9</sup> And it also was Margaret who urged Elizabeth to "cultivate a loving and affectionate disposition" towards her daughter, for "This is the point in which our Parents failed in their duty towards us as their children."<sup>10</sup> She says too much and too little at the same time, but this is the nature of family letters: personal and judgmental, full of details and wishes, and making us want to know more about the world that made them possible.

Steven Stowe  
History Department  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
1995

- 1 Charles Royster, The Destructive War: William Tecumseh Sherman, Stonewall Jackson, and the Americans (New York: Vintage Books, 1991), p. 256.
- 2 Anderson Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, January 31, 1862.
- 3 Margaret Wylie Martin to Mary Ann Wylie Dodds, March 27, 1864.
- 4 Margaret Wylie Martin to Redick Wylie, May 21, 1867.
- 5 Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, May 29, 1872.
- 6 Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, August 12, 1872.
- 7 Jane Ritchie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, October 29, 1865.
- 8 Anderson Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, March 20, 1867.
- 9 Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, December 17, 1886.
- 10 Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, October 13, 1867.

## A CHRONOLOGY OF SELECTED EVENTS 1860-1900

- 1859 Margaret Ritchie Wylie dies in February; Theophilus Wylie and family move into Wylie House in October; IU president Daily resigns, succeeded by John Lathrop, who serves just one year; Darwin publishes Origin of Species; Marx publishes Critique of Political Economy
- 1860 Anderson Wylie marries Margaret Conklin; Jane Wylie leaves Bloomington for the east; Cyrus Nutt elected president of IU, serves until 1875; Lincoln elected President; South Carolina secedes from the Union in protest
- 1861 Civil War begins with Battle of Fort Sumter on April 12; Sam Dodds and Dick Wylie die of disease while serving in the war; Richard Gatling of Indianapolis patents the world's first effective machine gun; Maggie Wylie Martin and family living in Texas, Andrew Wylie Jr. and family in Alexandria, Virginia, Irene Wylie Bell and family in Wheeling, Virginia; Anderson Wylie and family move from Brooklyn to LeRoy, New York
- 1863 Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation Jan. 1; delivers Gettysburg Address at dedication of military cemetery; West Virginia becomes a state.
- 1864 Lincoln re-elected President
- 1865 Jane Wylie dies at the home of Redick Wylie; Maggie Wylie Martin and family move to Carlisle, Indiana; Lee surrenders at Appomattox April 9; Lincoln is assassinated April 14; succeeded by Andrew Johnson; Civil War ends May 26; 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment abolishes slavery
- 1866 Elizabeth Wylie McCalla goes to the Water Cure in Dansville, New York; Anderson Wylie and family move to Fall River, Mass.; 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment prohibits voting discrimination; Alfred Nobel invents dynamite
- 1867 Elizabeth McCalla returns home from the Water Cure after a stay of more than a year; Maggie Martin and family move to Grandview, Illinois; women gain admission to Indiana University
- 1868 Showers Furniture Factory founded in Bloomington; Indiana Daily Student begins publication; Ulysses S. Grant elected President
- 1869 Pendleton Wylie dies; Anderson Wylie and family move back to Brooklyn, New York; Sarah Parke Morrison becomes first woman graduate of IU
- 1870 Redick Wylie marries Madeline Thompson; Anderson Wylie leaves the Episcopal Church, joins Presbyterians
- 1871 Maggie Martin and family move to Oswego, Kansas; "Great Fire" in Chicago
- 1872 Maggie Martin and family move to Mt. Vernon, Missouri; Grant re-elected President; US General Amnesty Act pardons most ex-Confederates
- 1875 Lemuel Moss elected president of IU, serves until 1884
- 1876 Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone; Eli Lilly opens a drug supply company in Indianapolis
- 1877 Rutherford B. Hays inaugurated President

- 1878 Irene Wylie Bell dies as a result of a fall from a carriage
- 1879 Swan and Edison demonstrate the first incandescent electric light bulbs
- 1880 James Garfield elected President; New York City streets lit by electricity
- 1881 IU purchases first typewriter for \$100; President Garfield assassinated; succeeded by Chester Arthur; new pogroms in Russia will drive millions of Jew to emigrate, many to the US
- 1882 Harvey Young, first African-American IU student, lives with Theophilus Wylie and family; Martins move to Winnebago Agency, Nebraska; Maggie leaves for South Mound, Kansas; U.S. bans Chinese immigration for ten years; Triple Alliance formed between Austria, Italy and Germany
- 1883 John McCalla's store burns; main IU building destroyed by fire, including library, scientific apparatus, and records; Trustees vote to rebuild on new site in Dunn's Woods; Brooklyn Bridge is opened to traffic
- 1884 IU president Lemuel Moss resigns; Grover Cleveland elected US President
- 1885 David Starr Jordan takes office as new president of IU
- 1886 Dr. James F. Dodds and wife Mary Ann Wylie Dodds die within a few days of each other; IU classes begin on new campus; American Federation of Labor formed.
- 1888 Theophilus and Rebecca Wylie celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; Benjamin Harrison elected President; Jack the Ripper murders six women in London
- 1890 Global influenza epidemics
- 1892 Anderson Wylie dies in Brooklyn, NY; Grover Cleveland re-elected; iron and steel wokers strike
- 1893 Henry Ford builds his first car
- 1895 Theophilus Wylie dies at age 95; Marcellus Neal becomes first African American to graduate from IU, earns A.B. in mathematics; Auguste and Louis Lumiere invent a motion picture camera
- 1896 William McKinley elected US President
- 1898 Maggie Wylie Martin dies; US wins Spanish-American War; Spain frees Cuba and cedes Puerto Rico; Guam and the Philippines to the US; count Ferdinand von Zeppelin builds his airship
- 1900 McKinley re-elected; Max Planck formulates quantum theory; first trial flight of the Zeppelin



1860

*Mary O. Ballantine to Jane Melheme Wylie, Philadelphia*

Bloomington Ind. Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 1860

My Dearest Jennie—

Your good sweet letter came at last—after I had almost despaired of ever knowing what had become of our dear Jen—who went off one rainy day from our Burgh without my seeing her. But I will not scold you now for not having written sooner as you begged me not to, & besides it would not mend the matter much. I only hope you will not make it so long again—let us keep up a regular correspondence—and then it will be much more interesting and improving. Jennie you write such a good letter—Without any affectation. I shall feel ashamed to have you read one of mine—writing is not my forte by any means. But you know, we are never too old to learn, and the way to improve in letter-writing is to have several good correspondents and cultivate them. I am thankful I have such. I was much interested in all you wrote, of yourself and the places you had visited, &c. Don't fail always to tell me of what you see and hear that is new or strange—you know 'tis very dry in Bloomington in winter (when 'tis not muddy) and everything of the kind will be doubly appreciated.

Redick was up here last week, and told me you were fixed in Phil<sup>a</sup> for the winter. It must have been a disappointment to you not to be with your Brother [Anderson] after all—but you have so many friends in P. I suppose it seems more like home than Bloomsburg [Pennsylvania]. I shouldn't have said like home either—for I know all must seem strange and foreign—and the more so when you try to realize that your home is not [her mother having died, Wylie House had been sold to Theophilus A. Wylie].— Dear Jennie you have many, very many warm friends, who love you & cherish your memory still in their hearts—some of the sincerest of whom live under this roof. Always remember this.

Now do you want to know what has been doing in B. and vicinity, since your fortunes have been separated from it? Shall I give you a history of the marriages, births, deaths, the college, the church, the parties—the snows and cold weather the Christmas holidays, &c with a brief of the gossip, not to mention the slander? I'll tell you first something about our own household. Beginning with myself as the most important personage, I would inform you that I am very much the same creature I was three months ago—indeed could you see me I don't think you would discover any change whatever. While you have been traveling about from place to place, visiting in Phila., walking up and down Chestnut St. &c. I have every day been performing my regular routine—cleaning up—sitting at the machine, kicking away with my feet, while my busy hands draw forth one garment after another—in the evening running over to Lou's [Wylie] or down town on an errand, at night reading or writing, or entertaining a visitor now & then. I have not taugt any this winter — Anna [Ballantine] takes all that trouble off me now—she is very well—has no return of her cough & lung disease and is strong & fat. Ma and Pa [Professor Elisha Ballantine] & Lizzie & Fannie and Willie are all in usual health & spirits. Our two boys Do and Charlie add much much to our merriment and give very little trouble. They are good boys. Charlie is a firstrate student. Zan McFerson came up and spent the Christmas vacation with Do.

He is quite handsome & agreeable but a little too wild I guess for his good. Mrs. McF. went to Evansville to see Parke [Mary Parke McFerson Foster].

Our College is going on finely under the new Pres [John Hiram Lathrop]. He is very well liked I believe. His wife is the funniest woman you ever saw — You met with her I think — She is very sociable — goes everywhere & and knows everybody and talks [to] all no matter where she is — I can't help laughing at her in company sometimes — she says such queer things. Bloomington is much more gay this winter than it was last — there have been a good many parties and accidentals owing a good deal to Mrs. L[athrop]'s influence perhaps. The Athenians had a supper or party rather, up in their Hall during vacation which I attended — having had the honor of being invited by Mr McNeal. The toasts & responses were very tame — the company quite pleasant — I was at a very pleasant party at your sister Mary's [Mary Wylie Dodds] last Monday night — we had some of the best charades I ever saw acted — Johnny Watts was one of the best ones at them — He is a real funny boy. You've heard perhaps that our congregation have bought the church — Pa preached a sort of dedication sermon yesterday — a first rate sermon I thought — from the words "How amiable are thy tabernacles, Oh God!" Mr Bishop comes up very seldom — as usual. Pa went down to Salem a few weeks ago and had a Communion season there — and received Sallie [Sarah Parke Morrison] and Maria Morrison into the church & baptized them both. Sallie seems very much changed he says. She is at home teaching her brothers this winter. Our Sabbath school goes on as usual only on a smaller scale — your class is merged into Anna's now. Mr. Marquis don't play on the Melodeon any longer — Mr Henderson raises the tunes & we all sing without any instrumental music. I like it a great deal better. Mr Marquis had a great concert (by his scholars) in the College Chapel in December — I intended sending you the paper containing the account of it—but it was torn up accidentally. Have you heard of Mrs. Bryson Seward's death? She was sick only a week—left a babe a few days old—she always looked so rosy and cheerful — it seems strange to think of her dead. She died on the last Sabbath of the year — it seemed a solemn call to us, as the year was departing, to "be also ready" — How many of our acquaintances were called during the last year!

I see a good deal more of Lou since they have moved up [to Wylie House] — she runs over very often—sometimes only to speak to me — They are very nicely fixed over there indeed — and enjoy being able to spread themselves out having been cramped so long. But the old place looks very much as it did, and I never go there without thinking of those I used to see occupying those same places — Your dear Mother, coming to meet me with her kindly smile of welcome, and very far off Jennie. Lou and Mag [Margaret Wylie] go into company more than they used to. Maggie is quite popular with the beaux — and she seems to enjoy it very much. Sallie McKinley was married this evening to Mr Marlin (that's an l, not a t) and set off for Ind,ls [Indianapolis] on their bridal trip. Mr. Lynch was up to see Fan Walts Christmas — I expect to hear of their marriage nupt. I don't know how you'll feel when I tell that Will Springer and Miss Betty Ruter some time since agreed to live apart no longer — and are now one flesh — don't be disconsolate Jen — there are plenty more "fish in the sea" and just as good ones. I frequently, when I see my friends marrying off one after another, congratulate myself that it's not me — It seems very silly to desire to get married I think. If it is so hard to do my duty now, with so little responsibility what would it be if I were married?

Do you get any time to read now Jennie — or do you see so much that you can't keep your eyes on a book? Pa has lately bought a large work, the New American Cyclopedia, in 15 volumes — which we all like very much — the articles are just about long enough and contain

just the facts one wants to know about anything. Willie reads it a great deal. Now Jennie my dear, 'tis getting time for me to draw this long winded epistle to a close.

As I said in the beginning I am really ashamed to have you read my letters — I do wish I could write decently — this is one part of my education which I would fain go back & have done over, viz — the ability to express my ideas in language befitting them. I know I do have some feelings equal to some other peoples', and whenever I happen to meet with the same nicely expressed by some one else I am delighted, and at the same time vexed that I could not do it as well.

Now I know it seems like affectation for me to say all this — but I would not say it if the feeling were not so strong in the heart — It has disturbed me much in the last few weeks. You must write again soon — I thank you much for your letter — tell me all about your self, your plans etc, and if you don't mean to come back one of these days. I miss you very much dear Jennie—

Anna & Ma and all send love to you — Pa was talking about you yesterday very affectionately & I know would send his love if he were in. Goodbye, I'll copy some sweet New Year wishes for you from one of my German favorites.

“May it never be otherwise than well with thee; and may the short Springnight of Life flee away for thee peacefully & brightly! May the celestial Veiled One grant thee therein some constellations over thee! Night-violets under thee! some night-thoughts in thee! And not more clouds than are necessary for a beautiful evening sky; & not more rain than a rainbow has need of in the moonshine!”

Are they not pretty — So wishes  
Your loving affectionate friend  
Mary O B[allantine]

*Anderson McElroy Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Brooklyn N.Y. Feb 1, 1860

My Dear Sister—

Probably you may be surprised at the date of my letter, however I suppose not, for, if I remember rightly I have given you a hint as to my movements. I am now sitting in my own study—the third story large front room of St. Ann's rectory, the church with its large yard adjoining. Dr. B. C. Cutter is the rector & I am the assistant, as you know all the large churches here have two ministers.

I arrived here yesterday from my own parish. It was a hard thing to leave. The people crowded about me, begged me to remain, and in the church, hundreds almost sobbed and wept aloud, especially after my sermon to the children, nothing at the last was heard but weeping, and I myself was so much overcome, I was compelled to be perfectly silent and to start them, to leave myself first.

Persons of all denominations would even stop me in the street and express their deep regrets at my purpose to leave. You may know therefore it was very trying for me to say farewell. Sunday night I preached from 2 Cor XIII:II. I suppose not another person could have stood in the church — I preached above an hour & a half, & had a prayer meeting afterward — & talked till

midnight making twelve hours during the day — never was so near worn out as during the last two weeks,— my hand is trembling yet. I had too much to do in Bloomsburg. Not only had a large parish on me, but had every union meeting to conduct, to lecture & be the chief man in the Y.M.C.A.

Yet I should not have left, had I not plainly seen a concurrence of providences calling me first here where I expect to remain as ass't for about a year, keeping in abeyance calls for the future. I will have great advantages here. Dr C. is a man of great experience devotedly Low Church, divides the work with me, & taking me in as one of the family,— indeed to prepare me for a life work of usefulness I know of no better situation in the country. My name was first mentioned by Thomas Bryan to Mrs. Jackson (whose husband once preached in Louisville) who was saying that Dr C. was on the lookout for the right sort of a man. Dr then got upon my track & the vestry called me. I accepted one month since, wound up my affairs at B— & am now settled for awhile in Brooklyn.

Last evening I called at Dr McLeod's where they always receive me with great joy — took Sue to hear H.W. Beecher's greatest lecture — that on Commerce, it was indeed about the most brilliant affair I ever heard. It is no wonder he is popular, you could not help fastening your attention on him were you to try.

You must write to me soon & fully directing to — (Care Rev B. C. Cutter D.D.) Jane [Wylie, sister] wrote me a letter of despondency the other day, — I have encouraged her all I could. — I am perfectly sure, if she waits in patience for a few months she will be making more than I receive. You must write to her & encourage her. What has tried me, is that [cousins] Craig & Will should make fun of her purpose & discourage her. I said I thought it a right down cruel shame — if they had the right heart about them they would do all they could for her & excite cheerfulness. I am much afraid that Jane is easily cast down. The secret of it all is want of faith in God — I have never been cast down since I made it a habit to carry every thing to Him, now I feel not afraid of the world.

Love to Red [Redick Wylie], & John [McCalla] & kiss for Mamie<sup>1</sup>

Your aff' bro.

A.M. Wylie

*Andrew Wylie, Jr., to Redick McKee Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Washington 17<sup>th</sup> Feby 1860

Dear Brother

I ought to have written before now in answer to yours of 19th December. I have no doubt the Commissioners made as just & equitable a partition of the property as they could and I hope it has given satisfaction to all the heirs, although I am inclined to think that Jane's [Wylie, sister] portion is not quite as valuable as any of the others. I suppose there ought to be a record made of the partition, & a deed to each heir from the Commissioners, for his own particular share. Court papers are often lost, and proceedings of so much importance as these of the partition of real property ought to be put out of the reach of such a contingency. I intend to have my claim of \$250.00 against Brother John, collected, and I want you to inform Mr. Bickle [executor of John's

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<sup>1</sup> Mary B. McCalla, usually called "Molly"

estate] that such is my wish, and if the same be necessary, to adopt any legal measures which may be needed to that end. I do not know what may happen in the future, and should the child [John's daughter Irene] live to maturity and need aid hereafter, and my own circumstances justify it, I intend to return the money to it with interest. For the present I should prefer to give the money to Jane. Indeed I have this winter, often felt pained because I had not the means to send her which I know she must have needed. Andrew McKee last fall induced me to borrow the money and lend him \$4,000, to enable him to pay for his boat, exhibiting a contract signed by several names of gentlemen in Texas whom he represented to be worth very large sums of money, that they would pay him 25 per cent profit on the boat when he should bring her out, and besides allow him the whole freight profits on the outward trip. My note fell due in December last before which time Andrew was, without fail to have remitted the money to meet it. But the money did not come, nor has it yet come, and I have had great difficulty in consequence to get along without sacrificing property at a ruinous loss: for such has been the condition of things here this winter that I doubt whether property which in ordinary times would have sold for \$10,000, would have brought enough to pay my note. He writes me that for a variety of reasons the proposed purchasers did not complete their contracts with him: that the rivers of Texas were too low to be navigated, and before this in 34 winters, they had not failed to rise &c &c: but that before long the boat was to be sold when I should receive "a remittance." I have written him sharp letters, and I presume he will hardly ever again ask me to lend him money. Besides all this I have lost recently three valuable horses on my farm two from glanders [a contagious disease of horses, mules, etc.] and I am afraid I am to lose all the balance, four more. This will be a loss of \$800. So you may judge that whatever may be my inclination, I cannot now, nor have I been able for some months past, to give money to any one however near & dear to me. As to my 29 1/2 acres I refer their management entirely to yourself, with this one request however, that for the present I want the wood & timber thereon to be carefully watched & preserved. Of course I shall get you, if you please, to keep the taxes paid and if the land is fenced to look occasionally to see that the fences are in order. But if it be inclosed as a pasture, it ought to rent for something.

I must close and go else I shall be left by the boat — Love to you all

Your Brother

Andrew

*Jen [Jane] Wylie, Philadelphia, PA to Lizzie [Elizabeth S.] Dennis [sister of Rebecca Dennis Wylie, wife of Theophilus A. Wylie]*

Philadelphia, March 28th [probably 1860] Wednesday afternoon

My dear E. Lizzie,

You see here, I began writing your name with an S. then an E. Of course its no mental abstraction of Self? It's my pen showing a mulish disposition. Some weeks since, one bright day I sat at the dinner table reading your pleasant letter with Anderson beside me. How fortunate I was then. He enquired particularly for you and I satisfied the questions to the best of my ability. A— staid but a few days. The excitement etc. of leaving Bloomsburg made him quite sick, but had gotten well again and looked quite well and happy here. He is delighted with Brooklyn and Dr.

Cutter with whom he is boarding and who treats him like a son though he has no family of his own, only two adopted daughters, one married and the other still with Dr. C. "Sue Poor" is living in B-. Hope A- will find her residence.

I spent last evening at your sister Mrs. Egbert's very pleasantly. Miss Julia, her little sister and father went to a concert at the Unitarian Ch. Miss Cary and myself played chess, was beaten both by herself and brother. We had music and any quantity of "talk." Miss Cary said she wrote you two letters and you had not answered either and further told me a great quantity to tell you or to ask you about some particular young gent and I forgot on purpose that you might come to the City sooner.

From your letter I thought you were coming "so soon" I couldn't possibly answer it before you would get here or should have written sooner thanking you again for your kind invitation. It would be delightful for me to visit you, but that I cannot do now and don't know when I may have that pleasure. Would like to get more particularly acquainted with your mother too. Give her my love. No doubt you have heard of Theodore Wylie's affliction. Among her last words were "all is peace." A beautiful obituary was written of her and a letter of Sallie's to a dear friend were in the newspaper. If I had it would send it to you. The is still keeping house or rather Miss Peel, a coz of S's is keeping it for him. Think she is an admirable housekeeper too, is very energetic and seems to think nothing too hard to do. I hear Lou's wedding is put off another year, as Hal is not to sail till then.

Mrs. Robeson intends moving in a few weeks to Girard row on Chestnut. It will be a great bother to even the boarders and makes me feel unpleasantly now. I have no more scholars yet, am getting quite discouraged and wouldn't remain longer but for Anderson who begs me to wait, wait, and wait till I do get them. Intend taking lessons from Honstock a short time if I remain.

Went last Monday to the German's Concert, but didn't like their music as well as I expected.

I do hope you will come to the City soon. Will not write longer as I would rather talk to you.

Ever your affectionate friend,  
Jen

I have heard Henry Wise several times and was perfectly delighted. He is very delicate and will probably die of consumption at no distant period. He has a church some distance from here in west Philadelphia, but will be delighted to go with you to hear him when you come.

*Jane M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Phi'a, Chesnut 1125  
May, Monday aft'n [1860]

Dear Brother Andrew,

Craig handed me yesterday the draft for \$50 you sent through him to me. I am exceedingly thankful to you for your very great kindness. Hope I will soon be able to teach & still feel that sweet independence I always felt in the dear old homestead. Am taking lessons from the best (or one of the best) pianists in the City, Mr. Honstock, & most of my time is occupied in practicing etc. Have been very much complimented upon my playing, which is quite an encouragement to

continue making it (more) a study. In a few weeks may probably go to Wheeling. Hope to succeed in teaching there. Irene has insisted much upon my coming. I am still very much pleased with the City & my boarding house & feel now perfectly “at home.” Our situation is very pleasant, more so than when on Spruce, where we were before our landlady, Mrs. Robeson, changed her boarding home. I see Coz’s Will & Craig often. They are very pleasant & we have a gay time often together. Was very happy to get acquainted too with Coz Margaret Gilpin who is boarding in the City. I seldom see Mr. G who is quite an attentive business man.

The Episcopal Convention convenes here this week. On Sat’y received a letter from Anderson. He will be here Tuesday or Wednesday. Please to give my love to Carry & kiss for the little one.

Your aff sister  
Jean M. Wylie

*Jane M. Wylie to Caroline Bryan Wylie*

Phia, Chesnut 1125  
June 4th Monday aft’n [1860]

Dear Sister Carry,

If my letters give you any pleasure it will make me but too happy to write, even now two days earlier than your punctual self anticipated.

Your very kind, aff letter has been lying on my stand but an hour. See!! Now besides my honest antipathy to writing letters, I make it more difficult by chipping, chiseling, polishing etc to suit the model before me and after all you may only find it a bit of wood under a rust(y) ic hatchet—but only appreciate my gladness to hear from you etc. I was intensely nervous in reading of Brother’s narrow escape in that terrible storm. Trust he may never venture in but the appearance of such an one again. Please give my love and tell him I wrote him some days since. I am writing this from our pleasant boarding house in the heart of the City, on Chesnut, Girard row. Our landlady moved here (from Spruce) two months since. I am still pleased with Mrs. Robeson & think our new situation delightful. Find it quite a pleasant pastime to spend an hour every evening in the parlor with some of the lady boarders or sit at the window & see beauty, fashion & wealth in promenade. There are but ten boarders now, though the rooms are all occupied with the exception of two which are soon to be taken by a widower & son. Our only new boarders now are a lady-husband & two sons—friends of bro Anderson’s, plain but very kind and pleasant—the other boarders are all old maids. They include me among their number, but I make myself an exception. I am naturally exceedingly proud, & distant with strangers. It seems impossible to overcome it & is a source often of great regret to me, though not here so much, hearing a great deal of personality & scandal even at table. & I have no desire to become intimate with any. If there were young ladies & gentle, my own age, would doubtless find it more pleasant. Still, I feel perfectly at home, though having but few acquaintances in the City. Pass my time very pleasantly in walking out, seeing my cousins & attending to my music. Many of the ladies intend going to the country or sea shore this summer. They are exceeding bitter against men in general & particular. It is very amusing to listen to their terrible “Philippies” at table. Example 1st: “Every man that smokes a cigar ought to be hung.” Suppose they are old enough to realize the fable of “Fox & Grapes.” No doubt their tactics will change when the widower comes (since writing this

have just been told he has, a sickly wife now spending the summer in Delaware.) My honest intention is to marry, but there is no prospect of that at present, seeing I am slightly acquainted with but one single gent here & he is too quiet, too tall, too bald, with a nose long as “bridge of sighs.” I long to see the beautiful County at this season, the dear old homestead is lovely now—but I cannot see it, the thought sickens me. Craig & myself intend visiting Fairmount this week on the Schuylkill where are the City’s water works, supplying an immense basin at the top of the mount, standing in a beautiful park & from which is a beautiful view of the City & river. Have just had a pleasant visit from a friend in West Chester. She insists upon my going out & spending some days at her house. I anticipate a delightful visit.

I had a delightful visit last week from Anderson. Perhaps someone sh’d share it with me. It was/is rumored that he is engaged to a rich Miss Johnson, but I think it is not true, since he said to me he thought Miss J & one Mr. Stuart were engaged. & if he has no “affair de Coeur” then it does not exist—elsewhere. A is delighted with Brooklyn.

I am taking music lessons (instrumental) from the best teacher in the City—Mr. Honstock. I have not bought a piano, am using a rented one. While is better than they generally are of the kind. Should take lessons in singing, but it’s too expensive & requires too much time for both & I can’t think of giving up instrumental. & besides my voice is not naturally a superior one, which would make it almost impossible to acquire great proficiency. I have not success in teaching as I hoped. Might if I remained till Autumn, but Irene insists very much upon my coming to W-[Wheeling] that I have almost decided to go there. If so, will leave here in a few weeks instead of going by Baltimore & making a short visit to Aunts & Coz. there whom I have never yet seen (with the exception of Aunt Jane). Cousins Will & Craig will go with me that far. Craig will probably go on with me to Wheeling to attend to some business there. No doubt we shall have a merry time. I should be delighted to comply with your very kind invitation, but think it best to defer it till

[rest missing]

*Redick M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Bloomington  
June 5th 1860

Dear Brother,

Have just received a letter from Mr. Bickle stating that he had obtained an order from Court to sell little Irene’s [their brother John’s daughter; an orphan] land at private sale. And that the offer I had made him for the purchase of it was satisfactory, and they had accepted it. (I had previously offered him the appraised value of it.) Now I wish to know whether you wish me to charge them interest on the note which John gave to you. Wish you would let me know by return of mail.

Think I will be safe in entering into this contract. Have paid up Mr. Bill for all his interest. I will be able to pay Mr. Bickle about \$700 on first payment besides the notes of which our brother John gave to different members of the family. When must you have the money on your note?

Have been selling everything could spare, and working hard in order to do as I have told you. Have succeeded better than I had expected. As it regards your land 29 acres, part of which

is in grass, do not think you ought to charge me any rent for it this year. Want to reset and stake & ride the fence around it. I cut down the weeds & thistles in which the most of it is over grown. There are several trees blown down by the recent storms which will do to make the rails out of. Want to buy it from you as soon as I can feel myself safe in so doing. Have not time to write you a family letter at present, farther than that we are all in our usual health & that Elizabeth seems to be growing more contented.

Your's affectionately  
Redick M. Wylie

*Jane M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Wheeling, August 17th [1860]  
Friday morning

Dear brother Andrew

I arrived here safely yesterday morning after making a very pleasant visit in Baltimore of five weeks. Intended writing you from there when you might expect me but cousin Will came over in meantime & told me yourself, Carry & child were at Newport. Was delighted to hear of your taking the pleasant trip & hope it will be of benefit to little Pendleton. Was much disappointed in not visiting you all at Alexandria but will have to defer that pleasure till another time.

Irene [Wylie Bell, their sister] & family are quite well. Her children are very good and interesting, especially the boy Walter, about two years old, a great talker, very droll, & says many "cute" things. The baby is four months old, a bright girl, blue eyes & light hair, and good as tis possible for a babe to be. She is yet nameless. Irene is living in a large delightful house just within the southern boundary of the City. She though don't like the situation, but Mr. Bell prefers it, being near the warehouse & mills.

I have a delightful room here & am made perfectly welcome, a kindness which I am grateful for & most highly appreciate. Mr. B is as kind as he can be & is a most excellent husband. He has rented a very nice piano. Intend devoting most of my time to it and teaching Birdie. Hope I shall get some scholars this Winter. Am very much obliged to you for correcting that unpardonable mistake in spelling the word cousin. Was very mortified & ashamed of it. I was under the impression that Cousin was often spelled Cozen, that being as proper a way of spelling it as cousin, but knowing at the same time it meant "to cheat." I first got the idea from seeing the word cousin spelled cozen in some letters written home from some of the McKees some years ago. This is the only shadow of excuse I can give for it.

We are not very much surprised to hear of Andrew McKee's conduct. Still we think he has some good in him & much kindness of heart in many ways. & considering the hereditary infection—might be some palliation. Mr. Bell & Irene know him well. He wished to get Mr. B to invest money in his steam boat business, but he would have nothing to do with it. Doc is now at Bedford Springs, intends returning here soon I believe. He goes on a boating expedition again next Winter. We heard that Sallie's husband lost all his money through Uncle McKee & that he (McKee) is not worth a cent. We were very sorry to hear of poor Aunt Ab [Abigail Ritchie]. She seems very unhappy there & would like to return. Will McKee intends coming on this Fall, but whether for a wife or on business suppose himself only knows.

Irene sends her love to you & a pressing invitation for yourself, Carry & babe to come out this Summer. My love to Carry. Would have answered her letter some time since or written today but suppose she is & will be at Newport some weeks.

When in Baltimore, Aunt Anne & myself went down to see the Great Eastern. I was somewhat disappointed in its appearance etc. Baltimore I think a delightful City. & about Washington Monument, handsome residences & streets than in any part of Phi'a, though Ph'a is my beau ideal & if I could afford it would rather live there than any place I've seen.

A bright, cool beautiful day. River rising.

As ever your aff. sister

Jane M. Wylie

*Jane M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Wheeling

Sept 1st [1860]

Sat'y Eve

Dear Brother,

Your kind letter came this week. Am very grateful to you for the notes. They will easily pass here.

I trust Carry & babe have gladdened your heart by their safe arrival today. Was very glad to hear of A's taking such a pleasant trip. I should have been delighted to have accepted of your kind invitation to Newport.

I am still much pleased with Wheeling & have renewed my old pleasant acquaintances (having been here twice before on a visit). Was out a few evenings since to quite a little musical "soiree." My playing was very much complimented (though I appreciate them (compliments) but little, they being so often hypocritical). Last night the gentlemen who were there gave me a delightful serenade.

Irene & myself walk out almost every evening, sometimes we go over to the Island, but tis a very long walk from here. The new suspension bridge is a splendid structure, tis not quite finished. The state fair (agricultural) will be (on the island) next week.

I received a letter from Elizabeth [Wylie McCalla] a few days since. All well, little Mary is a bright child, often goes to the store carrying messages etc to her Papa who fairly idolizes her. E thinks of going to Cleveland this Fall. She is quite eloquent upon a project in view about my investing, with her, (my share of the next payment on the house, due in six weeks, some three or four hundred dollars)—in buying a small new cottage & lot, not quite finished. Was built by a carpenter who wishes to sell and offers—cheap—E says we could rent it at a good per cent, for our interest, each, 45 or 50 dollars. Rents there being high as houses are scarce. Mr. Bell advises me not to do it, there being no reason for rents or property continuing high in such an inland town, with nothing whatever to make the place improve. He thinks the better plan would be to invest the whole of my means in buying a neat house & lot here (if I wish to invest money in that way) as rents bring a good price & property selling comparatively cheap, money being rather tight now. But property no doubt will increase in value here every year. This to me seems much the better plan. Would like to have your advice in what way you think best to invest my money, when you have leisure to write again. We think here it is better for me to sell my lots now or soon

as property is high there (in B) & tis quite probable it won't continue so. Redick is quite busy—doing some preparatory work on his bottom land. Next year E says he intends getting a wife for the coming house, but who the “Dulcinea” is—is a matter only of conjecture.

My dearest love to Carry

Your aff sister

Jane

*Redick M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Bloomington

Sept 3rd 1860

Dear Brother,

Would have written you sooner, but supposed you would be at some watering place and consequently would not receive my letter. Mr. Bickle obtained an order from Court to sell little Irene's land. The Court having appointed commissioners to value the land, I took it at their valuation. And by putting in Anderson's Jane's and your own claims, besides my own, have managed to pay for it and get a deed. Have also paid up Mr. Bill. I owe Anderson & Jane for their notes, which they held on our brother's estate, about \$90.00 apiece. I also owe you for your note. After having paid these debts, I will be out of debt. I expect to pay up all my indebtedness the 15th of next month when Prof Wylie's 2nd payment becomes due, except part of what is due you. At which time will send you as much money as I can and my own note for the rest. Thinking that you would take an interest in my business matters, have made you the above statement. I would also like to know whether you would sell me your land on long payment. The first payment should not want to come sooner than one year. The land contains either 29 or 29 ½ acres. Could not ascertain unless I was at the recorder's office.

My reasons for wishing to buy the land now are these. It is now overrun with iron weeds which cannot be exterminated except by the frow or grubbing hoe. It took one hand six days this year to cut them down with the scythe. It cannot now be plowed, because it contains some scattering trees, enough to make it rooty. Were it mine, I should have the scattering trees cut down this winter and tend it in corn next summer. Should you intend to keep it, would not advise you to have them cut. More than one half of my land is heavily timbered. Should you sell it, let me have it as cheap as you can.

Had a letter from Margaret [Wylie Martin, their sister] a few days ago. They have a severe drought there, have no vegetables, very little corn. She says they have had no rain for three months, in consequence of which everything is scarce and dear, flour \$1 per lb. In other respects they are doing well. Samuel is preaching regularly. Thought we were bad enough off, but still we have had an occasional shower, enough to keep some vegetation alive. We have not had a good rain since last April & at one time had none for a month. My corn will be about 2/3 of a crop. My hay was one third. Wheat was about an average. There are a great many acres of upland corn in this and adjoining counties which will not yield above 5 bu to the acre.

Was fortunate enough to sell the most of my cattle off last spring, and shall not suffer for the want of provender this winter. Cattle are very cheap, only bringing from 1 ½ to 2 ¼ cts per lb gross. Hogs on the contrary very high, ranging from 5 to 5 ½ cts gross for stock hogs & 4 ½ for fat ones.

Have been very busy during the dry weather burning logs & stumps. Am now putting up a barn & stables down on the farm. Must have some place to winter my horses. Since the 20th of Aug we have had some fine rains so that all nature is beginning to put on a new dress. Elizabeth, Mary & all the folks are as well as usual. Little Molly is growing up to be a fine child. Write soon. Remember me to Carry.

Your's affectionately  
Redick M. Wylie

*Anderson M. Wylie to Mary Caroline Bryan Wylie*

Brooklyn  
Oct 8th 1860

My Dear Sister Carry,

I feel like giving you a scolding for not writing me since your return. Here my curiosity has been excited about Mr. Dana, & then I have been wishing to know about dear Pendleton & then the general news of the family; and you have continued in ungrateful silence. But I will let all this go & now take up my pen to give you something you may feel a little surprised to hear. Well listen! – I must out with it, as it must be soon known at large I suppose, that from the rumors you have heard from time to time & the hints I gave you on our return from Newport, will prevent your being astonished at the revelation I am now about to make. And I suppose you will not be sorry to learn that your brother the undersigned is rapidly drawing nigh the end of his bachelorhood or ship which you please.

Of course it takes two to make a bargain & start the matrimonial firm. The other-to-be-partner is a young lady of St. Ann's Church (same as I before intimated to you). Of course as I think her perfection, you will not credit my description of her good qualities. But I shall try & be candid & impartial in my judgment. 1st as to the personal or physical—She (as you might infer from the law of contrast) has black hair, dark brown eyes, near sighted, fair complexion, a beautiful forehead & brow, but the nose not exactly Grecian nor Roman, her mouth & chin rather homely, weighs 116 lbs, aged 21, about medium height, healthy, strong, can walk easily four or five miles for I have often tested her.

2. Aesthetical—Has been finely educated, plays well on the piano, not much of a singer, has travelled in Europe, been accustomed to refined society, is gentle & retiring in her manners, has fine taste in dress, & dresses plainly but richly.

3. Socially—Her father is a lumber merchant (please take notice!!) has been rather wealthy, but recently has lost about \$70,000, is still doing a good business. If the daughter has any expectation in this way it is not above \$10,000. Her mother is a Boston lady of high connections & very clever. The family live near here in Sands St. in a three story brick house of average size. They keep a carriage in which I occasionally have a seat.

4. Mentally & religiously—She has a fair mind appreciative of intellectual culture & I speak last of the best—she is noted for her amiability—is loved by everyone, is called a “sweet girl” (& I know it). Above all she loves & serves God, is a teacher in the S.S., visits & relieves the poor & the distressed. Has nothing of the world's gayety in her disposition.

She has been my choice chiefly for the last mentioned qualities. I have been drawn toward her for months with a power of attraction I could not resist & what is better she loves me even

with a warmer affection. We hope to have Dr. C to tie the knot about my next birthday, about Dec. 12th. Perhaps I may send you a photograph. Read the letter if you wish to Andrew, but please do not mention it any farther. No please write very soon.

Your affect. Bro.  
Anderson

*Anderson McElroy Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Brooklyn Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 1860

My dear Sister–

You know that the day appointed for our wedding was the 12th. On Sun' it was thought that Mary [Conklin], Margaret's sister was dying, & as she much desired to see the ceremony, her request was acceded to &, Dr. Cutter married us on Tues 4th at 12.

Mary is still alive, but cannot last long as consumption never spares its victims. You must not think I have married into a consumptive family for it is no more in Mr. Conklin's family than in ours.

If I am not happy now, it is my own fault for as the bride's maid remarked – Mr. W. you have taken possession of one of the best girls in Brooklyn.

Of course we cannot leave on Mary's account. Our expectation was to have visited Philad' Alexandria Wheeling, & Pittsburg.

How progresses matters with Redick [Wylie, brother]?

Please write soon & I'll not forget your nose.

Love to all–

Your affect' bro–

A.M. Wylie

P.S. Tell me all the news for every thing about B.[loomington]

1861

*David Ritchie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Pittsburgh  
11 Jany 1861

Dear Andrew,

I recd your letter of 8 inst. yesterday. I would have been very glad as I wrote you, to get 1400\$ for the Latshaw bond simply because that sum would enable me to get along a couple of years without trenching on what I have in the hands of Lyon Shorb & Co—and in that time I hope to be earning enough to pay my expenses.

I don't wonder everybody is in a state of anxiety at Washington. Until within a few days the government was in the hands of a crew of thieves, traitors and jail birds of one kind or another whose only object was to break it up and rob & plunder during the process as much as they could for themselves. If they expected to intimidate the free states by their capers they have reckoned "without their host." There is really but one party in this state now. A few people about Phila are hardly worth counting as an exception. The exhibition of the manners and morals of old—very beginning with Brooks and ending with Floyd Cobb Thompson & Co in the cabinet and their confederates now in the Senate & House of Rep. have done their work. The institution is now appointed with nothing but ideas of every form of fraud & violence that can disgrace the name of man.

If the border states were wise they would assist with their whole power in enforcing the laws of Constitution in the Cotton States & then as fast as possible send their negroes into them. That country about the Gulph of Mexico must I think be eventually populated by negroes & the sooner the process is completed the better. If held under a mild protectorate & properly instructed they would cultivate sugar & cotton as well as anybody and they are adapted by constitution to that climate.

The preparations for insurrection & assassinations at Washington shew on the part of those engaged in them that they nothing but a very low kind of savages. If those people attempt to form a government of their own on principles which sit at defiance all laws Divine & human instead being looked up to as great chivalry & one crazy thing or another, they will be looked on & treated by the civilized world as a crew of assassins & pirates. The decent people now among them will emigrate to the free states & the ruffians will soon commit outrages on the citizens of civilized countries which will lead to their utter subjugation.

The panic here seems to be over, business is going on quietly & exchange on New York is nearly at par again. I have heard of no failures at all.

Very truly Yours

David Ritchie

Andrew Wylie Esq.  
Washington, D. C.

*Mariana Bryan Lathrop to Daniel and Mary Bryan [sister and parents of Caroline Bryan Wylie, wife of Andrew Wylie, Jr.]*

Coleman's Eutaw House  
Baltimore  
April 23d 1861

My dearest Parents

A gentleman is about leaving for Washington, and I have a few minutes in which to write and embrace them in order to give you our programme as far as we know it ourselves. We are to go back to the Relay House and there take the cars for Frederick this afternoon. From Frederick, where we will stay all night, we go to Hagerstown by stage, some twelve or fourteen miles. Thence, circumstances will determine our course. Rumor asserts this morning that Fort Pickens has been taken possession of by the Southern troops, with terrible loss of life on their side. I do not know whence it comes, the Sun hasn't it. Our journey will be immensely expensive, with all our baggage and the circuitous route we have to take. Oh, that our darling boy was with us. I feel that life is jeopardied everywhere, and I want the satisfaction of having my children around me. Be of good heart, my darling Father & Mother, God's light and favor are not denied us. "Pray for us, for we trust we have a good conscience in all things, willing to live honestly, but I beseech you the Father to do this that we may be restored to you the sooner." Pray Heaven bless and keep you.

Mr. Lathrop telegraphs Solon as to our course, for Bryan's direction. Tell the servants we leave you, our aged Parents, as a solemn trust in their hands, to relieve from care, and to watch over as we would do. Give them my love.

Yr ever gratefully loving child,  
Mariana B. Lathrop

I believe the plans of the route are all changed. I know not what they are. We have but a few minutes to get ready in and one young lady under our care is to be searched for through the city. Mr. Lathrop is to write Solon now. Good bye

*Anderson McElroy Wylie to Redick McKee Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Le Roy N.Y. May 1<sup>st</sup> 1861

Dear Brother—

I suppose the war fever is raging with you as well as with us. Till this morning's news I looked in vain for the patriotic display of my native state, but am now glad to hear it has bursted out. I rejoice that the matter has come to the final issue, & I trust the settlement will be an effectual quietus to the satanic claim of that "Sum of all villianies." The American people are now beginning to have their eyes opened to the true nature of slavery. It is as unsparing as the grave, & as diabolical as lost spirits. I would rather see a thirty-years war, than the demoralization of the North which would inevitably follow a submission to the slaveocracy. As I said a short time since to a redhot Southerner, your opinions have been so revolutionized that even in Va you would hang Washington did he rise from his grave & not one of the patriots of the Revolution would be spared. Light & darkness cannot subsist together, one or the other must

yield. Let us take our stand & pray & fight till the “accursed thing is put away from us.” Slavery is the cause of the whole trouble, no man is to be trusted who favors such a system, & let us not be deceived by taking any middle ground. I believe this state alone would furnish a half million of men if it were necessary. From one church in this neighborhood 30 young men have gone, & Beechers’ church in B’y’n has sent already 130. I have joined a company to be drilled now, but I have no intention of going unless it be as chaplin at some future day. These “Home” guards are being formed every where. We know not what the future may reveal. The time may come that every man may be compelled to defend his own fireside, & precautionary measures are the most effectual. It is sad to think how many brave hearts must be sacrificed, & still sadder to know that the multitude are utterly unprepared to a sudden call before the judgment bar of God. I feel uneasy respecting the condition of Andrew [Wylie, brother] & Mr [Joseph] Bell. The contest will be terrible in Va. May God defend & protect them in taking the stand for liberty & right!

I suppose you may wonder at my leaving B.[rooklyn] so soon, & I may have forgotten to have mentioned that my call was but for one year, & I expected it to be only temporary. I staid by request of the vestry over my time, & on parting found the people were much more attached to me than I thought. I believe I mentioned to Eliz [Wylie McCalla], – that the vestry presented me with \$125.00 & the teachers a very large handsome gold double cased watch (worth about 150.00) with the inscription– “Presented to Rev A. M. Wylie by the superintendents & teachers of St Ann’s S. Schools B’y’n N.Y. as a token of their esteem, Ap 1. 1861.[”]

I preached here first as pastor on Ap 7th. We were rec’d with great kindness in about the prettiest town I ever saw. We thought of boarding for a time, but cannot find any suitable place in fact any place at all, & so, are compelled to try the house keeping, which is rather expensive for my purse. Mr Conklin is pained because he could not offer to furnish the house, but he has lately lost over \$100,000, & is embarassed. & I would not let him if he offered. In view of this I am going to ask you if you can pay me soon the note against [brother] John’s estate which you purchased of me. The \$75. [sister] Jane owes me I do not mean to call for & if possible I wish to keep out of debt. I have no estate to fall back upon and will be content if I can keep out of debt. Can you give me an ans’ soon? Maggie [his wife] sends her love to you & bids me tell you (since I dreamed you had come on to marry her sister) that you must come soon.

Love to Elizabeth [Wylie McCalla], Mary [Wylie Dodds] & family  
Your affect’ bro  
Anderson.

*Andrew Wylie, Jr., to Redick McKee Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Washington 8<sup>th</sup> May 1861

Dear Redick

In these times of trouble it is natural you should feel anxiety about our situation & safety. We are all now I hope out of the reach of danger of personal harm from the conflict which is about to commence, though otherwise, discomforted in our relations, and distressed for the woes which are soon to befall our country.

Considering it unsafe to remain any longer in Virginia, or to retain my family in this neighborhood, I took them, two weeks ago to the beautiful place, West Chester in Penn<sup>a</sup> where

they are now, and will probably continue through the summer. Marianna Lathrop with her family are there also. They board with an elderly Quaker gentleman, who has no family of his own except a wife and old maid daughter, and occupy a large noble house, with two acres of play ground about it for the children. Carry [his wife] writes that little Pendleton [their son] has improved wonderfully, since his change of residence. I must remain here and try to do something for a support. The past year I have lost very heavily in many ways, and now I find I must begin again almost where I started. The Virginians have suddenly seemed to change their whole natures. The whole South is a pandemonium filled with human beings frantic with rage and hate. They are poor & cannot long sustain a conflict with the free states, and it is the consciousness of this fact which drives them to insanity. I expect them to confiscate my property there, & simply because I refused to renounce my allegiance to the glorious old Federal Union. Mr. & Mrs Bryan still remain in Alex<sup>a</sup>, they are safe because they are old people, and natives of the State. But no man of Northern birth could stay there unless by renouncing every instinct & principle of his nature, and becoming a clamorous traitor to his country.

I shall advise you again ere long of what I am doing.

There are now about 30,000 troops here, & we have no concern for the safety of the capital. But the conflict cannot be delayed much longer. May God give victory to the righteous cause.

Your Bro

A Wylie

Give my love to Mary [Wylie Dodds], Elizabeth [Wylie McCalla] and all the children & my affectionate regards to their respective husbands.

*Mary Caroline Bryan Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

West Chester

May 10th [1861]

Friday morning

My dear Andy

Your most welcome note enclosing one from Father I received last evening. I trust you will neither venture to Alexandria or to the farm for it would I think be not safe. The Southern seem to have rallied such large forces in Richmond & other points near by that you would be in danger of meeting their scouts on all sides. I am afraid we have not men enough in the field ready for the fight, drilled & equipped. The dispatches day before yesterday in the New York papers that the Capitol was in danger alarmed me greatly. I have thought all along we had too small a force to protect Washington especially if many of those troops are to be drawn off to Harpers Ferry or Norfolk, Richmond & Alexandria.

That was indeed a most impressive scene you described in front of yr office. I shall expect to hear of your attendance at the President's to the grand military levee.—Is that Joseph Coombes who has gotten the office of Chief Examiner in Patent Office, salary 3000 a year, your Competitor for U. S. Atty? If so go thou & do likewise—Loyal & Competent officers who held up their heads & sustained the administration when all around were opposed should be rewarded. I shall expect to hear some good news from you any mail. When I began your note running thus “The

most pleasant intelligence” I was sure you were going to say is that I have the promise of such a position honorable and lucrative—Hunt diligently for a place to suit you & then aim with Minnie rifle at the spot.

Solon Lathrop is anxious for a position in the Army. I should think that a first rate appointment—he is brave & commanding in person—

Pendleton has not been so well as when I last wrote you, not that he has had one of his ill spells but that annoying itching has returned and he has not quite so hearty an appetite. If we can ever get a clear day we will go over to Phila—if we fail to go tomorrow morning I shall write to Dr. Henry by tomorrow’s mail. Pendleton takes a morning & evening walk and enjoys it with the children Amanda & Toby.

The Southern Army are going to be much pressed for provision. Don’t think your growing crop will be spared for you to sell for cash. You will get Virginia scrip. Sell everything you can now, one day risks the safety of what you have. I wish some Southern man would buy of you. Look at this advertisement. I know nothing of course about the land, it may be wild & of no value but you could easily find out.—I cut it from Gazette.—Father sends us Gazettes quite regularly.

That was a narrow escape of Willards from fire. Why is not Martial law proclaimed in Wash? We have so many spies in the camp, the Southerners know all our movements. Every man should be watched.—Go to see the Prest with Dole, tell him you have valuable property in Wash & Virginia but the last is dead to you.—Make out a strong case about your vote, insist upon your papers being read.—Go to see Blair, he said you would be provided for.—Don’t believe anybody that it is impossible for a man to see the President or the Cabinet Officers now. Remember it was indelicate to press an appointment when compromises were being talked about and yet many vast numbers got situations.—Continue to write promptly, it relieves my heart.

I had a bad sick headache yesterday evening but am well this morning. I suffered so from indigestion that for an hour or two I was most distressed. Your letter was a great relief to me in the midst of it. I like to hear from you if you have no news it is next to seeing & talking with you.

Your devoted wife

Yours with *undying* devotion

Carry

***Joseph Bell to Andrew Wylie, Jr.***

Wheeling

13th May ‘61

Dear Sir,

Irene received your letter of 9th today. We feel relieved at learning of your safety and of the improvements in Pendleton and the welfare of “Carrie.” Since the commencement of hostilities we have felt much concern for your safety, especially since arrival here of Aunt Jane Ritchie whose detail of condition of affairs in Balt. we felt would be likely to represent the condition of Alexandria.

Happily we have so far escaped violence here. All of the recent events have strengthened the Union sentiment in this region and so far as we can judge it is nigh to unanimity. The fall of Sumpter, the Proclamation of the Prest and the ordinance of secession, and the subsequent action of the Convention, or rather the preceding action of the Secessionists in taking Harpers Ferry &

Norfolk naturally caused much excitement. Our member of the Convention returned and told us that our safety could be secured only by immediate organization and taking up arms. Proceeding to act upon this advice on the next day which was Sunday five or six companies of about 100 each were formed; since increased to ten or eleven and every night since, all available rooms are occupied for drill and the measured tramp of bodies of men and the quick commands can be heard by the passerby in almost every street in our City.

During past four or five days we have had a U.S. officer here (Major Oaks) who is mustering in regular recruits. Has now I believe two companies which tomorrow will receive arms and go into camp on the Island. He will probably get a regiment in the "Pan Handle." The terms of enlistment of course precluded the joining of large numbers who act in the home guard. The want of arms for this latter and the trouble there seems to be about the Government providing them, dampens the ardor which would otherwise make us feel quite strong enough to protect ourselves.

One of the important events of the times is the "Convention" which meets here today. It assembled at 11 o'clock this morning and will I suppose get through an organization today. I understand that 40 counties are represented. It is premature to speculate upon its action but the very fact of its assembling is significant. There will be a strong party for immediate action here by organization of state government Dol. Others may deem this action hasty especially in view of the certainty of the Gen'l Government extirpating the traitors. The number of people brought here in view of the occasion is very great and the enthusiasm is cheering to witness.

This afternoon a U. S. flag was formally raised on the Custom house amid the firing of cannon, shouts of the populace, speech making etc. etc. All of the old U. S. officials here retain their places (much to the disgust of our people) except the post master. Our collector of the port is an open secessionist, the others not much better. The administration ought to find time enough to put good men in their places. The Marshall of this district is a traitor of the deepest dye, so much so that he could not safely trust his carcass in this city. I am surprised that he is not removed.

Let us know the result of your application for the Attorneyship of the District. I forwarded a letter some weeks ago which I hope you received.

I suppose that you are not much occupied with professional business while the country is in such condition. Cannot you bring your family and pay us a visit?

We are all well. Irene will write soon.

Yours sincerely

Jos Bell

***Daniel Bryan to Andrew Wylie, Jr.***

Alexandria Va.

May 14, '61

My dear Mr. Wylie,

I have made the deposits to the credit of Powell as requested, & advised him thereof. Your wishes in relation to the other little cases shall receive early attention after I hear from you on the subject.

Mrs. B and I are in pretty good health, and as cheerful as our loneliness and separation from the beloved ones torn from us by the intolerance of Despotism, will permit. Mr. Lathrop

and you could visit us now I am convinced without interruption—the rank secessionists have generally fled from Alexa under apprehension that they would be in danger if they remained here, from the encampment of Federal troops near us, or from an assault upon this town.

There will be a considerable vote here against the ordinance of Secession. The Mechanics & workingmen here complain of the effects of Secession up[on] their interests, & some of them express a belief that if a month longer had been allowed for organizing resistance to the ordinance in question, the Union vote wd have defeated it. The plans of the demagogues, however, with their hosts of troops posted in nearly ever county throughout the State will strangle the voice of free suffrage and the minority will triumph at the coming election!

A letter dated the 11th recd yesterday from Mariana left all well at West Chester except that Bryan was suffering from boil on his forehead.

Mrs. Bryan joins me in affectionate greetings to Mr. Lathrop & yourself.

Very faithfully yrs etc

Dan Bryan

***Daniel Bryan to Andrew Wylie, Jr.***

Alexandria Va.

May 17, '61

My Dear Mr. Wylie

If, as reported, Judge Scarborough has resigned it occurs to me that it might be desirable to you to become his successor. If so slight influence might turn the scale in yr behalf. Hence, unless you deem it unnecessary, I will with much pleasure obtain from Mr. Callicott such testimonial in your favor as from the accompanying letter you see he was ready to have given in support of your application for the Attorneyship. He might possibly through Mr. Seward, or some other medium, contribute somewhat to your cause if you should apply for the place in question, & consider it worth while that I should write to him on the subject. I feel the feebleness of this effort to help you, but I believe it is all that, at present, I can do.

If you wd desire the situation, I think you ought to cast in your strong claims for it and urge them with all the zeal & energy in yr power. Your recommendations are forcible & should be brought to bear in yr favour immediately.

I trust that you will seek & obtain a personal interview with the President and use it efficiently. From the commitment of the Prest & Mr. Bates in Carrington's favor before yr application was known, you have not the least cause to be disheartened on account of the result in the Atto. case.

We are well here. Nothing occurs among us worthy of notice of w'h you are not informed. We trust you have pleasant intelligence from the dear ones at Westchester. Will was to reach them yesterday. Kind regards to Mr. Lathrop & thanks for the rich budget of papers. With cordial greetings from Mrs. B, I am ever truly & faithfully yrs etc

Dan Bryan

*Mary Caroline Bryan Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr., Washington, D. C.*

West Chester

May 19th, Sabbath day [1861]

My dear, very dear *Judge*,

Andy no longer. I grew an inch last night, and my dreams were of the most pleasant kind, & my first waking thought after giving silent thanks to God for watching over me & mine through the darkness of night was of your elevation to that post which you will adorn and for which you are so well fitted—Except your mention to me that if Judge Scarborough resigned you would put in an application for his office I had not heard a word & when Mr. Lathrop wrote you had a good chance for the Judgeship of the Court of Appeals I could not make it out, he was mistaken only. I feel that the sky is brighter this morning & the atmosphere less leaden to my lungs. Yesterday afternoon we had been out calling & came by the Office. When I saw yr letter I opened it with trembling hand & I almost danced home. The first moment of hope dawned upon my soul & heart which seemed to have been groping among shadows. Key's the morning that light dawned upon Fort McHenry & he beheld the Star Spangled banner floating still could not have been more electrified than I was at the prospect of independence. Don't you know often when you have kindled a fire & left it thinking it well built & that it would burn well if you leave it, it smoulders & smothers & blackens out.—You have built your fire & applied the torch but it may go out. Watch it, keep the current clear, let no damper be turned to shut off the draft. Go to see Caleb Smith & Blair & Chase. Tell them my friends, I have abstained from applications to you knowing there was graver work to be performed but these offices must be filled & require a small share of public attention. Therefore, having claims upon the party and strong recommendations I feel that I cannot longer in safety to my interests stand back. Others more bold will step forward & obtain all that is desirable—I want your countenance & support—Don't feel that you have it until your papers are made out for after this week the task of obtaining situations will be more difficult & none suits you as well as this of Court of Claims—

This is the turning point in our fortunes. Take the wave as it comes in—I enclosed your note to Father & Mother, what food for their thoughts until the question is decided.

We recd a long letter from Ma last night & two notes from Father—Ma deploras that you are so near her & cannot see her nor she you. It is a fortunate thing we were turned out from Alexa for by it you have all your time in Wash to electioneer & it is certainly far better for Pendleton but it is very trying to my heart.—Ma says she suffered for some days after we left as we should not again for kingdoms. As soon as reason got the ascendancy she revived--& she had to exert herself to make Father comfortable then.

Robertson told Father that some one proposed that he should undertake the unpleasant task of announcing to our gentleman that they were to leave. He says he replied I shall do no such thing. I am attached to the family and had much rather they should remain.—Mrs. Neale lays it on Lawrence Taylor but I suspect John Dangerfield was a prime mover in the matter. He has never liked you since the Johnston meadow affair & despises your boldness in voting.—Poor Cecy Hove lived long enough to clear the servants from any design upon her life. The bottle was handed to her and she suffering & supposing it was the same she had been taking drank off the fatal dose. Bernard Hove is greatly cast down by it & the loss of his office.—Boyd Smith has obtained William Foule's lucrative post. Dangerfield of course had a hand in this altho he does not

care for Boyd yet he cares less for Bill Foulé.

In reading Robertson's letter over I think less harshly of it. I really think he was prompted by kind motives to write for he always seemed fond of you & you know Mrs. Robertson said he was much attached to you & had made you his executor—but his letter & [course?] lack manliness & bravery for which we must feel a contempt—but in the present state of things we have to overlook a great deal where men's interests are at stake. Mrs. Robertson was sincerely fond of me & a good friend in my affliction she wept for me & showed her sympathy in every possible way.—Robertson is a bitter enemy I know. He has done nothing positively outrageous & as this overture is made desiring to keep up friendly relations it would be most politic for Father & Mother's sake & our own to meet it in the spirit in which it was meant. Of course declining his offer to aid in any way but as civil & polite as possible with due reserve & dignity—Say to him that you sent Mrs. R's message to me & I return express regrets at hearing of her sickness & kind messages. Ma will enclose you Mr. Robertson's letter. I send it under cover to her by this mail for perusal.

We expect now certainly to go over to Philadelphia tomorrow morning with Will—

All the devotion of a true wife is yours

From your Carry

I bought the baby a nice pair of strong shoes here for 81 cents. Will get him his hat in Phil.

The house will be very full here the last of June. Sister has to give up her room, Mrs. Stevenson's family having had the refusal of it, but she, Sister, has a very pleasant one back of ours. She will not move from the one she now occupies until last of June when Mrs. Stevenson is to come. Sister said poor Jed, everybody else is provided for but him, oh Carry, won't Mrs. Judge Wylie sound grand?

Write me if it is but six lines, the progress of matters. Certainly write every other day. Mr. Lathrop gets Van Wyck to frank a package of envelopes for him at a time.

Ma says the citizens have been very kind especially Henry Dangerfield who has been down few days—fare to Alex. Eighty cents & back

Don't go down darling. You would be subjected certainly to indignity. I shall watch the mails. Trump up all your strong friends to speak for you—who is yr competitor?

***Mariana Bryan Lathrop to Daniel and Mary Bryan***

Westchester

May 25th 1861

My beloved Father & Mother,

You cannot realize the intense anxiety & distress of mind we feel about you. Now that the mails are cut off, and the Federal troops in occupation of the town, I do not know how we will hear from you or you from us. We are safe from armed invasion and external dangers, so do not fear anything on our account. We have a strong military camp, and near enough to Phila for defense of any kind. But if you do not go to Washington or come here or go to Phil. Nalle's you will certainly be involved in a conflict. For the Confederate troops will, I presume, return, reinforced, to the town. What a sad death poor Ellsworth's was, to be assassinated in that

cowardly way. How did you feel when you heard the beat of drum and solid tread of the armed force marching in? I would have been so glad to have been there, and to have been the first to welcome the host of the loyal and true-hearted, and the first to salute the glorious Flag of the Union. God bless it & them. And the rebels ran. I wish them good speed, and as safe a landing place as that other Legion recorded in Scripture, that ran violently down a steep place in the \_\_\_ Sea. Do write me everything, where the Adams are, Mrs. J. B. Dangerfield, Boyd Smith, Turner, Taylor, Neale etc. How the people look & feel. Isn't their tyranny & proscription coming home to them. God is a just God.

I would be so glad to have our pictures boxed carefully & the Piano, we cannot replace them & to our children they will be invaluable.

Carry has been very sick from Indigestion, and I have been with her constantly with her in a darkened room on account of her head & eyes, so that I have not been able to write before this week. She is now getting well, and is at this time writing to Mr. Wylie. Mr. W. was disappointed in that judgeship but the President told him his "claims should not be overlooked." Judge Cranford's place will be vacant before long, Mr. W says and he hopes for that.

Carry says please send the receipt for jelly & frozen custard, fully written out. But Mother write it in Washn—you are not safe where you are. I enclose this to Mr. Lathrop to send to you in some way if possible. May Heaven be with you both.

Affectionate messages to the servants

Yr tenderly loving child

M. B. Lathrop

*Jenny [Jane] Wylie, Wheeling, W. VA to Lizzie [Elizabeth S.] Dennis*

Wheeling May 30th [1861]

"Here I am dear Lizzie, I vow I am glad to see you, for a grist of miles I've come, I've come to greet you." Only if it were my real self instead of this photograph I send you, would enjoy our "tête a tête" much more.

I promised some of my friends my pho and while going through the ordeal of getting it taken thought of having one for you in the hope of getting yours in return. So you will please write soon and send it. This one is the only good one of the number. Don't think the artists here understand their business, else I've grown more homely than I thought myself to be. Don't think I'll have it taken again, not even for a lover. My taste is still in favor of the old style ambrotypes and daguerreotypes. Irene has gotten so fleshy she cannot be prevailed upon to have hers taken though I think she is just about the right size.

You will see from the date of this letter that the Rebels have not yet succeeded in driving us from West Va. They have been making raids in this vicinity and could easily have taken Wheeling had they half the bravery they suppose themselves to have. Indeed we fully expected them and the City was in great excitement three or four times, fearing they would be here, knowing well the vengeance that might await her, the most wayward etc of all her sister (?) Southern States. Our militia company of nearly all of our citizens have been called out to meet the Rebs and protect the B&O RR, Clarksburg and other points of danger. It was whilst they were gone on one of their expeditions that we heard the Rebs were but forty miles down the river and

were marching here in full force. A number of families immediately left town. We concluded to meet the foe with Spartan courage. Irene was quite frightened one night but my courage was undaunted for I thought the rebel officers would have the chivalry (or rather the common sentiment of humanity) enough to protect woman from insult and injury. But I would have feared for our men had they been here. The fact is, I would like to have had a peep at some of the fine Secesh officers, "cut up" a flirtation, and sing them abolition songs.

Wheeling is very dull now. There have been no parties for a long time. Many of the young men have gone to the war and what are left don't like to fight for their country and don't like the ladies or don't like to do any thing but smoke cigars and sip at "mountain dew." But there is one exception, a young old bach who owns a spike mill (the old Shylock is a rich farmer in Ohio) and this son (Mr. Dewey) likes to work for the "ducats" and loves all the ladies and has the charms to be a complete flirt, but one of the counter charms is his bald head. I sent him a rather severe Valentine (a parody on the spider and the fly) last year and he has been very shy of me ever since, but he don't know how much I like him or he might forgive me.

We have made a change in our residence this spring and like our new house very much better than the one we left. I received a letter from home yesterday, all well. The Ballantine's are going to move to Cincinnati. How sadly they will be missed at B-. Elizabeth urges me in every letter to come out, but I hardly think I will this year, and I want to go to Washington this Winter. Andrew has just been elected one of the judges of the criminal Court there. Little Andrew the second made his appearance this spring and bro Andrew has a fine young John Anderson my Joe. [The rest of this letter is written in margins and may not be in correct order]

How is our friend Ernhart? Wish you'd hurry up that wedding. I want to come on and nothing less will bring me. Give my regards to James.

You ask me if I would like to have his photograph, most certainly. I would be very happy to have it and if you have one to spare please send it to me. Do you still hear from Bell Miller? Where is she now?

I have just had a letter from cousin Craig. He has opened an office on Walnut St., No 508. When you go along there pop you head in the window and tell him I want him to come out and you come too.

Please give my love to Cary Egbert when you see her. Are they living in Philadelphia?

Bro Andrew [Anderson] and wife are at his father-in-law's for the present. He hopes soon to get another parish. We never hear from sister Margaret who was living in Texas when the war broke out. Aunt Jane Ritchie is with us still. She has had recent letters from Aunt Abbie who is in good health. All but one of the McKee boys are now married. Andrew is still in the south and has made money (in Confed. Scrip) working for the rebels. He was married last winter to a Miss Martha Baily, daughter of a rich cotton planter living at Alexandria, Miss. I will look for a letter and your pho soon. And forgive my negligence in writing. With love to your ma and all and all you can take for yourself,

As ever, yours truly

Jenny Wylie

When you write please direct to Joseph Bell, Wheeling, West Va.

*Anderson McElroy Wylie to Redick McKee Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Le Roy June 17<sup>th</sup> 1861

My Dear Bro—

Your letter with the check came duly to hand. Many thanks for your promptitude. Till now I have not felt the need of it, but going to housekeeping as one of these days you will discover is at least at the beginning an expensive affair!

By the way that check, by your failing to make it payable to my order, was the same as a bank bill & might have been lost.

We are now about settled in a refitted parsonage, & we find every thing exceedingly pleasant.

Preserves, pickles, cake &c sent in by the neighbors & tho the scarce time of the year, yet we find our board well supplied. With a pump in the kitchen, a well at the door, a large garden, with a variety of fruits as well as vegetables, & gas thro' the whole house, we consider ourselves about as well accommodated as fallen man has any reason to expect.

Maggie [his wife] says she could not desire to be more delightfully situated. What is a special comfort to her we have a most excellent girl, who knows how to do every thing from washing & ironing with skill, to making all sorts of cakes – pies & things.

I am sure if you could look in upon us, the heart of even my bachelor brother would be softer, & he would immediately look up a suitable partner and enter upon that state where in his joys & comforts might abound. I cannot wish you better than to desire you may get as amiable & good & affectionate wife, as thro' a kind Providence has come to share my lot. We have found much & hard work in getting settled. But as soon as we sat down to our first table (without a cloth) & slept without beds, it seemed as natural as young ducks paddling on the water. I purchased most of my furniture in Rochester when Dr Claxton introduced me to one of his vestrymen, who gave me every thing about cost or whole sale prices. What do you think of buying solid walnut cane bottom chairs for one dol' each? The handsomest set for a bedroom I ever saw Maggie's father gave to her as [a] wedding present. Now step into the parlor. Straight before you is a beautiful French clock on the mantle. A handsome chandelier hangs from the ceiling; beneath is a marble top center table, on it are some fine books, a silver ice pitcher, a present, & a basket of flowers sent in by a kind neighbor. The carpet is very heavy, prevailing color of green. The walls are covered with buff gold tinted paper. To the left of the door is a large sofa. Blinds buff & gold border. Between the windows stands a neat small side table with a large expensive Eng' Bible, my wedding present to Maggie. In the right hand corner next the mantle is a corner stand with five shelves, with various articles upon it; two rocking chairs & four caned walnut hair spring chairs complete the description. The dining room is immediately back & connected by folding doors.

My study is about as perfect as I could desire it. The most striking piece of furniture is an immense chair (a present to M. by her father). You throw yourself into it, push back, & it lowers to a couch, if you desire it. A support for your feet is adjusted to suit you, & you swing a little desk around, one side is for writing & the other you can raise & its office is to hold your book. The back & even the arms are of springs. But I must withhold from more minute description. I have been working in the garden often as late as 9 or 9.45! To day we ate our first strawberries. Much of the time is taken up by war news [page torn] glorious contest & the nations [page torn]

purified from the greatest curse that ever was fastened upon a people. the Buffalo Rochester & N.Y. opens today. I take the World— the best [newspaper?] in the country — you must excuse this nothing of a letter; but I thought some of you would like to hear something in detail I wish some of you could come on and see me. Suppose you make your wedding trip (if it is even to come off) in this direction! Give my best love to Mary [Wylie Dodds] & family, to Elizabeth [and] John [McCalla] &c. Do let me know as soon whenever you hear from Margaret [Wylie Martin]. I feel constantly uneasy about them.

Write soon  
Your affect br  
A.M. Wylie

You may be thankful you are a farmer for they are the only class who will not suffer by this war. Mr Conklin says it is ruining him but he accepts it cheerfully as necessary in sustaining the most righteous of all wars—

*Mary Caroline Bryan Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

West Chester  
June 26 Wed. '61

My dear husband,

I presume my letter written on Sunday reached you Monday evening. I mailed it Sunday afternoon. I wrote my letter to Alex expressly that it should meet you there. The tube pillow & net came safely to hand. The baby enjoyed his bath highly. The pillow induced me to sleep more soundly. The net has not yet been brought into use until I get some hoops to stretch it on. I was sorry you did not send the large one I wrote for. This small one is more difficult to arrange on a large bed & is so shabby, but I can make it answer. Sister bought a new piece of net for 87 ½ cts & is having one made for her children. Mr. L. will leave I think on Saturday perhaps Friday. Did not make his trip to Phoenixville, expects, he says, to return here again on a visit before long. I asked him how he came to show you the letter announcing my sickness when Sister had requested he should not as I did not wish you to be made uneasy or to come on & leave your matters. He said it was a strange mistake, he had handed Sister's letter to you instead of one from Father & Mother which he had designed. He said Carry there was no Yankee trick about it—Yesterday afternoon we were out calling, returned a call from Mrs. Dr. Hartman. He is a very pleasant intelligent man. We also called at Mrs. Futhey's, Col. Heintzelman's sister's. They live in an elegant residence lofty ceilings with handsome cornice, crimson satin damask furniture & everything in correspondence. Mrs. Futhey, a plain elderly lady, he about such a looking man as John C. Rives. He is a lawyer here. John Thompson Mason is here at Mrs. Elbs. Mr. Lathrop saw him on the street this morning. I met Dick Cowan a few days ago. Had a chat with him. How old & broken he looks. Elbs is more unwell than usual. Mr. Lee sends kind messages to you and wishes you to call & see him when you come through Phil anytime. I think he liked you. Lee lives in a splendid residence, brownstone front Phila. His house is furnished in princely style, immense and costly oil paintings completely cover his walls in every room in the house, left him by a brother. Lee is very wealthy. Dr. Hartman tells us he is a pleasant gentleman. His wife is so much of an invalid that we have seen but little of her but she is said to be very charitable, some winters

employing as many as forty poor women in sewing. The garments they make she distributes among the poor. One winter she dispensed five thousand dollars to the needy. One of Mr. Lee's houses rent for forty six hundred dollars in Phila is now lying idle. Another one thousand & others—

We recd a pleasant note from dear Mother yesterday in which she spoke of your walk with Father. How sad is the death of poor Momma Fairfax, Dr. Fairfax's oldest daughter. The flower of the flock, an amiable lovely girl in character.—The Dr & family are at Charlottesville. Doug Stuart will never recover from the glory won at Vienna. Mrs. Edgar Snowden is violent in her denunciation of Lincoln & his followers. An article in the Times yesterday made me very nervous & uneasy. It was headed Danger Ahead! & spoke of the immense force prepared to attack Washington & how few compared with their numbers we had to guard every assailable point & defend the Capitol. How is James Green of Alexa as to politics? Is he on the Union side? His hotel I should think would be in danger if he were not. Do you know Carlile & Pierpont, the first the Representative from Wheeling & the last the new Governor. We have had the most delightful weather for some days I ever experienced. Today it is drizzling and damp. The Lees leave on Saturday.

I have been reading a very interesting sketch of Blennerhassett & his wife, fuller than any I have ever seen. What a Paradise of love & prosperity she began with and what desolation & ruin their poverty brought them together with his treasonable actions & mismanaged estate. I will read Uncle Toms cabin if I can spare time from my papers and sewing, the latter of which I have a good deal to do now that Amanda is beyond my reach.

We are to have other boarders in on Saturday.—Pray look around your room and destroy all my letters in your trunk & out of it, for to *persons* going to your room in your absence they would be exposed. When you are carrying out any plan for office *don't communicate* it except to those who you look to for advancement, remember to observe this caution if you desire success. My dear husband, if you can get a place the idea is some friend of mine could get it and a fee obtained for influence.

Your note referring to your pleasant walk to Shutes hill was recd last evening. It cheers me greatly to hear from you. Pendleton appears as usual except his constipated condition. I pray your next visit you will be able to enjoy as well as that I shall with the comfortable reflection that Uncle Sam has promised to keep us for the next four years. I am so afraid that everything is parcellled out except the crumbs under the table which to a proud stomach would be nauseating diet. Have you made any better arrangements about your wash?

Yours forever in life, death, & through time hereafter  
Carry

*Andrew Wylie to Caroline Bryan Wylie*

Alexa  
July 22, 1861

My Darling Wife,

A terrible disaster has fallen upon our army. The broken fragments of our regiments have been reaching town since an early hour this morning. Of the details I can hear nothing except from some few of the common soldiers & they know nothing except what occurred immediately

around them. After the batteries were taken at Bull Run, our forces found still other & more formidable works before them, defended by 70,000 of the enemy. From all sides their terrible batteries poured upon the ranks of our exhausted soldiers the most awful storm of grapeshot, & shell & musketry, which mowed them down by thousands. No effort of human courage could withstand such odds. Our army late so confident & cheerful on their forward march to meet the enemy, was slaughtered, broken, & put to flight with a loss on the field (it is said) of 7,000 men, & most of their splendid artillery, baggage wagons, etc. etc.

I understand that vigorous means have been adopted to occupy the forts along the heights from here to Georgetown for the defense of Washington. I am remaining here with your father & mother, & should we receive news of an advance of the enemy, I will shut up the house & bring them away to a place of safety—probably to West Chester.

Yesterday we heard throughout nearly the whole day, the heavy booming of the great guns. In the afternoon we heard of the capture of the Bull Run batteries, & were excited with pleasure by the good news. After night some time, there was a rumor of disaster, but as it came from Secession authority, it was not credited & we retired to rest, expecting to wake in the morning to receive the tidings of a splendid victory. But when I looked from the window & saw the ambulances heavily laden passing down the street, the baggage wagons moving the same way with horses & mules & men broken down dirty faded & in confusion, my heart for a minute sank within me, for I knew that these were the messengers of a great calamity.

You need give yourself no uneasiness about my own or the safety of your Father & Mother, for I shall look to that on the first near approach of danger. Mr. Lathrop went to Old Point last Saturday. This news will probably hasten his return.

Your devoted husband  
AW

*Caroline Bryan Wylie to Andrew Wylie*

West Chester  
July 22 [1861]

My dear husband,

Whilst our bosoms were thrilled with emotion & we were rejoicing in the news that our brave fellows were plucking garlands to wreath their brows the gloom of midnight suddenly settles upon our hearts with the announcement that McDowell is retreating—O for a gleam of sunshine to break through the blackness of this cloud. What does it mean? What is to become of us—Are we to hide our heads & listen to the wail of our brethren instead of the song of triumph. Is all our pride to be swept away? Are we to see before us red fields of slaughter, the engines reaping our men like grain? Patterson must be a coward or a traitor. We are intensely excited. Do write us all, every thing, why this unfortunate, unhappy, defeat? *All the ladies & gentlemen* in the house beg that you will give us a true & candid version of the matter as the papers will of course through policy make the best of it.—What does Scott say, what does he think? Go to see Mrs. Heintzelman & hear from her husband, learn all & do not miss a mail—whilst these exciting events are transpiring write fully. You are on the spot & know the motives & secret workings—I recd your pleasant note today speaking of your intention to go to Alexa the same evening.

Do write or go down to see or send papers to Dear Father & Mother, how painfully anxious must they be. We are all well. Pendleton is taking iron tonic & egg & brandy.

Sister recd three letters from Mr. L today. I heard nothing of the contents except that Gen'l Scott told Rev Johnson Patterson had not pleased him—Was Mr. L successful with his lawyer scheme?

Oh are you safe at Washington? Are Father & Mother safe at Alexa? *Did Gen'l Scott have to call the troops back to defend the city?*

We pant for news

My heart is with you

Your loving wife

Carry

Capt Marye & daughter of Alex you saw were killed.

***Susan Lawson Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana***

At Mr Morton's [Susan Martin's son-in-law]. Aug-8<sup>th</sup> 1861

Mrs McCalla,

My very dear friend, I received your more than welcome letter dated July 16<sup>th</sup> more than two weeks ago. I was very much gratified to hear from you, your own dear little family and your dear brothers and sisters. But especially, was I rejoiced to get dear Maggie's [Wylie Martin] letter. Indeed I do not think, that I ever received a letter from them, while they were in China, that relieved my mind so much. I had had great anxiety about them for months. It was the 1<sup>st</sup> I had heard from them since March. I had written to them every month for several months And began to fear, (owing to the dreadful state of our country, that I should not hear again, either from them or Emily [Martin Camhern] and her family. I received a letter yesterday from Emily. They live in Mo. near where there has been so much trouble. The last letter I wrote to Samuel [Martin, her son] and Maggie [his wife], I sent by private conveyance. My brother Thomas Alexander's son, from Texas, was to see us in July. I wrote to Samuel and Maggie by him. He came North to purchase sheep. But owing to the unsettled state of the country, he declined purchasing. He said he thought he would go to see Samuel, if he did not he would forward our letter. Heber [Alexander] said, when he left Texas in the spring there was very little excitement there. Samuel and Maggie have surely had dreadful times since they went to that country. Privations of almost every kind. So far from all of their kindred. And owing to the new state of the country, and the great drouth. They had few comforts or necessaries. I do feel deeply and sad for them. I know too, how to feel for them. For I experienced almost every thing they have. Every thing, either to eat or wear was scarce and high. I had to live in just such a house as Maggie says they have to live in. I had 4 little children the youngest only 6 months old, and I had poor health. But I feel that I have great cause of gratitude to God. That he was pleased to spare me with my dear family, until they were all grown. And I feel that we have great cause to be thankful that Maggie and the dear little children have all had such good health, and Samuel's health seems to be improving. So that amidst all their trials and difficulties, they have experienced many mercies. I do hope, they may yet experience better times. I know if Samuel has health, and any thing to work on, it will not be long, until he has his family comfortably fixed. I trust the Lord will preserve their lives

from the dangers to which they are exposed, from the violence of wicked and treasonable men. Oh! if it were not for the precious promises of God's word, I sometimes have felt that I could not live under the care and anxiety, which I feel about my children and our once happy country but now in confusion and desolation. I know He is able to keep that which we commit to him. I have endeavoured to commit all my dear ones to the care of my heavenly father. But sometimes feel my faith wavering. I received a letter a few days ago from William [Martin, a son]. He writes that he expects to make us a visit about the 1<sup>st</sup> of Sep. I think he intends to visit, among other places, Bloomington. I would very much like to go with him to see you and your dear ones. But I fear the trip would be too much for my strength. I expect to make Claud [Martin, a son] a visit if my life is spared some time this fall. If I feel able, it will be my intention to make you a visit. I deeply sympathized with you and your dear sisters and brothers in the great loss you all sustained in the death of your dear mother. Although all were grown yet it was the cause of the breaking up of the family. But it is a comforting thought, to feel that what is your loss, was your dear Mother's unspeakable gain. We too have had affliction and death among us. I suppose you heard of Claud's great loss. Both his wife and dear little boy in a few months of each other. But we can say, that we mourn for them but not with out hope. I believe Mattie was a christian, and she and her dear little boy are in their happy home. Mrs McCalla, you ask for Anna and her children. Anna has 4 dear precious jewels. Three little daughters, and one dear little son. They buried their 2nd little daughter, Alice Agness, when she was 3 years and 6 months old. She died of quinsy [inflammation of the throat]. A very promising child. About this time last Aug. her dear little boy was sick with that dreadful disease scarlet fever. He died. He was a lovely child, and very promising. But the dear Saviour called him home. And we mourn the loss of his company. Ida, is quite a help now to her Ma. And little Bettie Sue is the light of the house. Your dear little girl [Mary] must be much company for you. Try to train her for her Saviour. Anna unites with me in much love to yourself, and our remembrance to your husband [John], brother R.[edick] and your sister Mary [Wylie Dodds]. May God bless you and yours—

'Your aff friend  
Susan L Martin

Mrs E McCalla

Mrs McCalla, will you please, write and let me know how your letters came from Texas. Did they come by express? Please excuse this scrawl my hand is so unsteady—

***Daniel Bryan to Andrew Wylie***

Alexandria Va.  
Aug 12, '61

My dear Mr. Wylie,

The Secession vandals have descended upon yr farm and swept off everything of value but with one or two exceptions. Dennis Creeden has just informed me that about 20 mounted men came to yr farm on Sunday the 4th inst. and bore away a large portion of your stock and farming implements, and they returned on Tuesday the 6th and took off almost everything else

of value which they had left on Sunday. Your horses—even the colts—cattle, wagons—carts etc were all taken. Your corn, bacon and a portion of your Beehives full of honey, and various articles besides which it is useless to specify. They took with them old Mrs. Howard, her daughter Jane and Howard’s youngest son. Frank escaped their clutches by flying with Creeden to some place of concealment while their depredations were going on. Frank and Creeden gave notice to the Federal troops as soon as they cd of the action of the marauders, and Gen Kearney sent a detachment in pursuit of the ruffians but the latter had made good their escape to Fairfax CH where they are said to be strongly entrenched. The plunderers threatened to return and make a “clean sweep” including pigs poultry etc, but Gen Kearney has ordered a force to be on the lookout for them and they will be cautious how they venture down there again. Creeden says it is reported that Howard and his captive party have been taken to Richmond. Southern Chivalry! I blush to think that I was born on a land which is disgraced by the villainies of such intolerant outlaws! Andrew Wylie, mistakenly supposing that he was in a land of free suffrage & dared to vote for an honest respectable candidate for the Presidency—and for this simple act of an independent free man—for this is his sole offense—he is to be persecuted, prosecuted and robbed by the high minded patriots of the South! Great and magnanimous commanders of the Confederate armies! “God is just” A day of retribution will come.

I see the pelusive dawnings already of that glorious day.

I scribble this note that you may be aware of the facts which it communicates. We are well but excited & agitated by the infamous conduct of the Secession Robbers!

We trust that Carry and darling Pendleton will come back with you and that we shall have the happiness to welcome you soon.

Love & blessings to all the dear ones at West Chester.

Yrs most truly & affectionately

Dan’l Bryan

***Redick M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.***

Bloomington

Sept 26th [1861]

Dear Brother,

This being fast day, everything is as quiet as if it were Sunday. No business is going on, religious services being held in all the churches. Have just returned from Prof Wylie’s church, where the Union Prayer Meeting is held. Could not get in for the crowd. My desire to hear from you reminds me that I have not answered your last. Have been very busy of late putting in wheat, of which I have sown and expect to sow 25 acres. The products of the farms are very cheap here which makes it better for the government. Wheat 40 cts to 50 cts a bu. Other things in proportion. Horses are in demand for war purposes. They range in price from \$40 to \$85. Have two to sell. But have not been able to get a fair price for them yet.

Over 700 men have gone to the war from this county, out of a population of 2200 voters. There is also a company of state militia, drilled and for service anywhere within the state.

Sam Dodds & Dick Wylie enlisted in Captain Charles’ Company 18 Indiana regiment. Which has been stationed in Jefferson City, Missouri. But was ordered up to Lexington to reinforce Mulligan. We have not heard whether they got there before the place was surrendered or

not.

Indiana has now 39000 troops in the field & Gov Morton says he intends to raise the number to 50000. Gov Morton is one of the best governors the state has ever had. Andrew McKee is down in Sesess & is said to be in the Southern army. Did he ever pay you the money he borrowed from you? All the McKee family are now bankrupt & have also broken up Sarah's husband. We never hear from Margaret now. Do not know how Mr. Martin can get along without taking allegiance to the South. The Union feeling in this county is very strong. The few suspected ones dare not open their mouths. One of them who is reported to have said some hard things against our volunteers came in town one day when a mob soon gathered around. Knocked him down & dragged him over the pavement and were taking him off to hang him when some of the orderly citizens succeeded in getting him into a store and barring the door. When the crowd proceeded to battle down the door & could only be dissuaded therefrom by a promise from the suspected one to leave the county within ten days.

Prof Wylie has not paid anything more on the last payment and the indications are that he cannot meet the next. If I succeed in selling my hogs this fall, will be able to pay you something even if I do not receive anything from him. All the friends are well. Write soon and tell us how Carry & little Pendleton is.

Your affectionate Bro.

Redick M. Wylie

***Henry W. Ballantine to James F. & Mary Wylie Dodds, Bloomington, Indiana***

[Richard Dennis Wylie and Samuel Wylie Dodds died within a few days of each other, of illness, while serving in the Union Army in Missouri. See "Two Friends, Pals in Boyhood"]

Terre Haute. Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dr. & Mrs. Dodds:

Only yesterday I heard of the sadness that has fallen upon you all in Bloomington – I say all, for there can be none who do not feel with you in your deep sorrow – That Dick and Sam should both be taken – & that so soon & so painfully! It is strange – We were not prepared for such tidings: but "God's ways are not as our ways – neither his thoughts as our thoughts–"

Under all – heavy as it is – there is to you one rich consolation which you doubtless feel now worth more than all the world besides – & that is, he was ready. He lived in readiness & was watching – "Knowing not what hour his Lord might come." "Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing."

You know how deeply & closely we were united in friendship – Sam & I – 'Twas with peculiar interest I watched his goings & often since he has been gone have I looked forward to the time of his return, with character enriched & mind matured by experience of suffering & doing, to stand up for our Savior's kingdom in the world –

Perhaps it is right for me to tell the reason of my especial love for him – It is the share he referred to me in his conversion – I have looked upon him as the first fruits of my ministry & often since have we taken sweet counsel together & talked together of the soul's concerns – With me, he has dated his awakening, under God, to the first sermon I ever preached in Bloomington – before I was licensed – Sabbath morn. June 20<sup>th</sup> 1858 – I remember well I stood down upon the

floor before the pulpit & spoke without taking a text on the duty of submitting to God at once & the danger of delay – He sat on the back seat, in the corner at my left hand, & I noticed him much affected even to tears –

Monday morning I sought him at the college & walking aside we sat down under an apple tree in the corner of the campus near Mr. Mitchell's – there and then, as I believe, he gave his heart to God – tho' it was three or four days before he himself was satisfied –

Since then he has ever confided to me all his plans & you can understand that I share not slightly in the sorrow for his death – And yet why should we sorrow – It was his hope to enter the ministry when he should return from the army; God has only called him to a higher ministry. The redeemed of Christ are “like the angels of God in heaven.” And “are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

You sorrow for your son taken away from you for a little season; yet you may not “sorrow as others which have no hope – For if we believe that Jesus died & rose again even so them also which sleep in Jesus shall God bring with him.”

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. Yea saith the Spirit they do rest from their labors & their works do follow them–” What is our sorrow is his great gain –

Now have you but another cord loosed from this earth & fastened in heaven – to bind you there – And we all have a lesson whereto we may well give heed, “In such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh – Be ye also ready.”

It is indeed crushing almost to think of them both – who went together & had been together so much – & whom so many loved together – both taken away so suddenly. But we know “in whose hands are the issues from death” & “precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

Think of those others whose grief is lightened by no such consolations as you have, in the readiness to go of your now happy son – Mourn with them, who have mourning indeed. They have not even his dead body nor his grave – Pray for them –

May this afflictive providence be blessed to you & your dear children & to us all who with you loved the departed one – “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.”

It may seem out of place for me, a child, to presume to offer comfort to you a father & mother –; but my intimacy with Sam, during his life time may excuse it – & the long attachment of our families.

Yr. sincere friend & brother in Christ,  
H.W. Ballantine

***Irene Wylie Bell to Mary Wylie Dodds, Bloomington, Indiana***

Wheeling November 15<sup>th</sup> 1861.  
Friday Morning.

Dear sister Mary

Yesterday the unlooked for, and most dismal tidings of your dear sons death reached us. The letter from Elizabeth [Wylie McCalla] was received whilst we sat at dinner; which was eagerly opened by Jane [Wylie, another sister]. In a moment her countenance changed. The tears gushing from her eyes as she exclaimed, “poor Sam is dead” The intelligence came with stunning

force I assure you, not having heard of his sickness, it appeared the more dreadful. What shall I say to you my poor afflicted sister. For sorrow such as this, it would be but mocking to offer any Earthly consolation. There is but one Physician who can heal such anguish; Who does not willingly afflict. Who is all wise and knew the best time to remove dear Sam. The circumstances of his death were most painful. To languish and die [away] from home, is appalling; but you can take some comfort that he was not shot or butchered upon the battle field, the place of his burial unknown. What a comfort too that his father reached him ere death and his loved form was brought home and decently buried amid scenes familiar to him – We had not thought his life to close thus, but at the beginning of life with all his bright hopes and anticipations laid low, We all had high hopes for dear Sam. With more than ordinary ability, he had been carefully educated, we hoped for a long and honorable life for him; but it was ordered other wise, he is gone, from our midst forever. We trust he is now experiencing infinitely greater happiness, than could have been hoped for on Earth. Our hearts feel keenly, for your great loss. How desolate your hearth and hearts. Long and vainly may you look for his return. There is no more change for him, he is done with the pains and ills of life. Where are we? but hastening the same road he has gone. We are to pass through the same dread trial. O that we may all take warning from this sore affliction, and be prepared when the summons come for us.

Many and bitter have been the afflictions in our family but none so bitter, to you as this, the loss of your first born son. It is a severer trial than if he had been taken from you in childhood. But we must have faith that the Lord knows best and ruleth over all, and we pray you may have strength given, to endure this affliction with christian fortitude, and that it may prove a lesson of profit to us all – We feel anxious to hear more particularly of the circumstances of his death. Did he know his father, could he speak or leave you a message, was he aware of his danger, how did he feel about death, was he resigned, We would be glad if the Dr or one of the girls would write us. We are anxious to hear all concerning him, and of your own health. Do not my poor sister let this great trial weigh too heavily upon you. You have yet other children to live for. Are not our earthly ties in this life broken by a hand that “doth not willingly afflict” These repeated bereavments which rend our souls, let us hope are but the passing away of friends to realms of joy; may we so live that we may spend an eternity together. Is it not selfishness causes us to grieve, for our lost and loved, as some one has said Death does not scatter us, but rather brings us together. As we lose a member from our midst on earth; one more is added enlarging the number and increasing the happiness of those above.

How many desolate homes, and sad hearts this most unrighteous rebellion has already cost our nation. We now, more than ever have a personal feeling in it, as we lose our friends in consequence of it, we see the heinousness of the crime more clearly than ever – If the instigators alone were the sufferers we would not regret it but is sad indeed to think of the innocent falling – Dear Sam fell in a righteous cause. How can those comfort themselves who loose friends on the rebellious side. – And poor Dick’s [Wylie] life has been sacrificed too[.] the circumstances attending his illness and death are painful enough indeed, much more heart rending than Samuel’s. Do you not think Samuel got his last illness from over fatigue looking after Dick. His kind heart must have been rent, to see his friend sicken and die by the road. It is sickening to contemplate. Dick appeared a hearty boy, and we thought much more likely to stand the campaign than Samuel. The fatigue and exposure of service we always feared, would prove too much for dear Sam, who was not of a very robust constitution. In fact I do not know who can endure it but the most robust back woods man.

How is the Dr's health now; and how are the girls and Kemper how is he. We hope he will be a better more obedient child than ever now that his only brother is gone, and am sure he will. Emma, and Lib particularly must feel their brothers loss keenly, as he was company and companion for them, our love and sympathy to them, and to you all. Mr [Joseph] Bell and Aunt Jane [Ritchie], send their love and much pity for you. The latter is suffering more than usual from her old disease. Jane [Jane M. Wylie] is well and feels Sams death deeply. We are glad Jen is here. we dont know how we would spare her now. Birdie [Margaret Bell] says give Aunt Mary a great deal of love, and to all but especially to Trudy and Lilly [Sam's sisters]. Our youngest [Walter] has come through a severe sickness threatened inflammation of bowels and stomach, the effects of severe teething. – Dear Mary you and yours are constantly in our thoughts. do let us hear soon from you.

Your affectionate

Sister Irene

P.S. I enclose a note to Eliz[abeth Wylie McCalla] please let her see it as soon as possible. Do let us hear from you very soon.

*Anderson McElroy Wylie to Mary Wylie Dodds, Bloomington, Indiana*

Le Roy N.Y. Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 1861

My dear Sister Mary–

Of late you have been constantly in my thoughts, & I had frequently purposed writing but the pressure of ministerial duties has caused the delay. And now that by last mail I received a long letter from Elizzie [Wylie McCalla] I make haste to tell you that my heart is touched with sympathy for that sad sad loss which has lately fallen with such weight upon your happy household.

It seems decreed that the world shall advance only by revolution and strife, & the Ark of God is lifted up the hill of Zion only when the gates are opened & a sea of blood rushes in. None but a bereft parent can adequately sympathise with a parent's loss; yet every believer has the unspeakable privilege of laying hold of the divine assurances, "My grace is sufficient for thee. – All things (there is no exception) work together for good to them who love God." Since this dreadful war began it has been my daily prayer that the near friends who have gone forth in "their" country's cause, God would vouch safe to shield in the day of battle, preserve from the deadly disease of the Camp; or if he were pleased to order otherwise, that we might be assured that the precious ones taken, had departed in the bright anticipations of the Christian's hope. Blessed be God! we have the grateful tidings that your beloved [son] Samuel has left the cross to take the crown; what an unspeakable consolation! Could he now speak to us he would doubtless say – weep not but rather rejoice if your names are written in the Lamb's book of life! How frequently should we be reminded of these divine words. "The righteous perisheth & no man layeth it to heart; & merciful men are taken away, nonce considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come."

Think, dear sister, what the poor remnant of earth might have been to your son; & now to him what must be the bliss of heaven! What an exchange! Truly the day of the righteous man's death is better than the day of his birth!

However hard & pressing this sudden trial may be still you are assured that – He doeth all things well – what thou knowest not now thou shalt know hereafter! It is a noble thing to die for ones country, and especially in contending for so noble a cause. Great will be the reward of the Christian soldier who lays his all even to life it self upon the altar of so noble a sacrifice. It is something for consolation to reflect that you have so precious an investment in the issues of the present struggle. Something which not in the present you will in the future look upon with gratitude and noble pride. May the Lord sustain and abundantly comfort you & the Dr [James Dodds, her husband] & all the dear ones in your heavy trial assuring you that tho' thro' much tribulation you enter into the kingdom of heaven, yet there is the sustaining consciousness of faith, submission to the divine will & spiritual provision for the way.

Maggie [his wife] joins me in love & sympathy – I should be very glad to receive a line from you or Emma [Dodds] or any of the family!

Love to all–

Your affect' bro–

Anderson–

*Andrew Wylie, Jr., to Redick McKee Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Washington 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 1861

Dear Redick

I cannot, at this moment, lay my hands on your last letter, and do not, therefore, undertake to reply to it in detail. Soon after receiving your letter I wrote to Dr. [James] Dodds, giving him all the news about the place, and manner of our passing the summer, & early autumn, and of our return, and the condition of affairs in this neighborhood. Since then hardly any thing has occurred about here, worth relating except what you have seen reported for the newspapers. There is an immense army encamped around Washington on both sides of the river, but nobody except some few of the highest officers knows its numbers. Troops are constantly coming in, whilst others are going away, so that the public generally can only guess how many are here. The number, cannot be less however than 150,000. I think myself it is put at too high a figure by most persons. The winter is now very close at hand, and no steps have been taken to provide winter quarters for the troops, except for a small number only, and this looks very much like an advance Southward was soon to take place. The defences, – the forts & batteries which surround us, are so numerous and strong, that not the slightest apprehension is any longer felt for the safety of the capital. A force of 50,000 men would now be entirely sufficient for our perfect protection. The rest of the troops will no doubt soon be ordered elsewhere, Besides this, I can discover an unusual stir and movement going on, indicating preparations for a forward march. I was witness of the retreat from Manassas & pray God may spare me the sight of another such disaster. Our army is now well drilled, in good condition, and is much better officered now than it was then. When it goes forward, it will be hardly possible for the rebels to resist it.

I should like very much to learn the news you have received from Sam Dodds and Dick Wylie. If they take care of themselves, their military service may prove of great advantage to them. If they do not, it will be otherwise.<sup>2</sup> Carry [his wife] is very well, but is very much kept

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<sup>2</sup> In fact, unbeknownst to him, the two boys have already died.

at home by her solicitude about little Pendleton [their son], who is still subject to his “spells”, although his general health is greatly improved, and he is growing fast and looking well. Do not put yourself to any inconvenience about paying me the money you referred to in your letter. I am living very economically, & can do without it for some time to come.

Give my love to all members of the family

Your affectionate Brother

Andrew Wylie

*Redick M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Answ Jany 9th '62

Bloomington Dec 27th 1861

Dear Brother,

I wrote you some time since all about Sam & Dick's death. Suppose you got the letter.

Enclosed I send you a check for \$119. Expected to have been able to have sent you at least \$200 more, but not being able to sell my hogs, could not do it. Have 34 for sale. The market opened in this place (for we have a pork house here) at \$2.25 per hundred gross or \$3.00 net, about ½ the usual price. Thinking it not best to sell at those figures, I kept them until now they have fallen still lower. Think that I will have them packed myself. Cannot loose much in the operation. And may make something by it. Cattle are cheap in proportion, being but 1 ½ cts per lb gross for fat cattle. Should we have war with England everything will come down still lower.

A regiment of 1250 cavalry with their baggage wagons came through this place a week ago on their way to Kentucky. They encamped 3 miles from town over night. I saw them passing through, and went down to the camp in the evening. It was the grandest view I ever saw. What a grand sight it must be to see a whole army?

Have no news to give you. All the friends and relations are well. Should like to hear from you on the receipt of this. How is little Pendleton? Give my love to Carry.

Yours affectionately

Redick M. Wylie

Andrew Wylie

1862

*Andrew Wylie Jr., to Redick Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Washington Jany 8<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Redick

Your favor of 27<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> [ultimo: in the preceding month] inclosing a draft for one hundred and nineteen dollars was received a few days ago, for which please accept my thankful acknowledgments. If it would not trouble you too much I should be glad to receive from you a statement of the account between us. I have never kept the account myself, and I doubt whether I have in my possession the evidence to show how it should be made up.

I have not a doubt that you have acted wisely in not selling your hogs for the prices, so very low, which have obtained in the West the present season. Your fat cattle cannot be kept so easily as the hogs, after being killed, and it would be better to sell them for whatever you can get, than to keep them through the winter & spring.

I had recieved your other letter announcing the death of Samuel Dodds, & that also of Richard Wylie, and would have written letters of condolence to their respective parents, if such letters could have any effect to alleviate their sorrow, or lighten their bereavements — But in my own bitter experience I have found comfort only in quiet thought, or in the business of life, or more than in all else, in the darling hope that I shall again see and clasp to my arms, in another and better world, my dear boy [Andrew Wylie III] so untimely taken from me here. Tell the parents of these two young martyrs in the cause of their country and of the right that my own heart bleeds with theirs for their heavy bereavement on earth, but that I rejoice also with them, in the belief that their sons are now enjoying the rewards of a blissful eternity, where there is no more death, or sin or suffering, or sorrow, or parting for evermore.

Little Pendleton [his son] has been unusually well for the past several weeks, until this morning, when he had quite a severe spell, the result of eating some candy & sponge cake yesterday, which lay undigested in his stomach till he threw them up. He is fat & looks remarkably stout and well, but his stomach is so delicate that it refuses any but the most wholesome food.

Give my affectionate remembrances to Cousin Theodore<sup>3</sup> & his family my loving sympathies to Mary [Wylie Dodds] & the Doctor [James Dodds] & my love to Elizabeth & all the other members of the family at Bloomington—

Your affectionate Brother

Andrew Wylie

Redick M Wylie

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<sup>3</sup> Judging by the middle of the letter, “Theodore” is really “Theophilus” and refers to Theophilus A. Wylie, the father of Richard (Dick).

***Redick Wylie to Andrew Wylie Jr., Washington***

Bloomington Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Brother

Am much to blame for not keeping you posted as to our dealings, and especially for not rushing my note to you when I closed my transactions with Mr Bickle (the guardian of our brother's [John] child) About the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1860 I put in your note as past payment of little Irene's interest in our father's [Andrew] estate. The note originally amounted to \$250.

The int and principal up to June 8 <sup>th</sup> 1860 was	_____	\$346.25
Int to Dec 27 <sup>th</sup> , 1861, time payment	_____	\$32.87
Amt. Due Dec 27 <sup>th</sup> 1861	_____	\$379.12
Paid Dec 27 <sup>th</sup> 1861	_____	\$119.60
	_____	
Int on remainder to pres time	Remainder	\$259.52
Check herein enclosed		86
Amt due you		260.38
		121.75
		138.63

Enclosed send you my note for the ballance, together with a check for the balance \$121.75/100

Would have sent you my note at the time I settled with Mr Bickle But the time of Prof [Theophilus] Wylie's 2<sup>nd</sup> payment was so near, that I thought I would put it off until I could send the money, and so it was neglected. Prof. Wylie has not paid quite one half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment yet, although the last is past due. There is \$18, due you on the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment besides the int on \$168, for 11 months. I cannot lift the enclosed note before next fall, unless Prof Wylie pays in what he owes us. I sold all my hogs but nine of which [I] intend to make bacon for my work hands. Got two dollars and fifteen cts a hundred for them. The cost of raising them was a good deal more than I got for them

The seasons are getting so precarious of late that there is no certainty in the crops; especially the corn crop. There has been a drought which cut short the corn crop in every year since 1850, except two years.

The crop of this staple the last year is not more than ½ what it ought to be. We are actually bringing in corn by the car load from other parts of the state to supply the wants of Monroe County. Corn is worth here 40 cts whilst in other parts of the state it is only worth from 12 cts to 15 cts We are all in our normal health

Love to Carry [Andrew's wife]

Yours affectionately

Redick M. Wylie

*Craig Ritchie to cousin Jane Melheme Wylie, Wheeling, West Virginia<sup>4</sup>*

829 Arch St. Philadelphia, Pa. Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1862.

My dear Jane,

When you tell me that I must soon answer your letters you should yourself answer mine sooner and so set me a good example, the which I would be apter to follow than cold abstract propositions. In verity you were so long about answering my last letter, that I began to fear that it had miscarried, or that being directed merely to the care of Mr. [Joseph] Bell, (for I had forgotten the name of his firm,) it had failed to reach you, and the wealth of love and poetry with which it was freighted was wasted upon the mummy like clerks of the dead letter office, and, O! mournful fate, consigned to the flames, would never, preserved by the tenderness of love, be laid (in the Aldine edition of my life and letters) a sacrifice to the ravenous appetites of a world upon the altar it will rear in the Hereafter to my genius. By the way you forgot to sign your last letter, probably because you have forgotten [how] to spell your name, as the last previous one was signed "Jen".

You seem to be enjoying yourself hugely, with dancing parties and masked balls &c. I wish I were with you, and fitted to take part in such pleasures. It is very dull in this City this winter. Comparitively few parties are being given, and in my circle I might say none at all. Business also is very dull. I am scarcely making my salt, and find it no difficult matter to spend more in a day than I make in a month. Only such businesses as are benefitted by the war are lively. It is as well not to inform Anderson [her brother] of your carryings on, as he will either give you up in despair, or will write you such a letter and such a sermon as would make your hair stand up with horror for a week. What has become of him? I wrote him upon his marriage, and in the most innocent way imaginable hinted to him that he should take very good care of his health, should be careful not to have triplets for his first offspring, quoted to him the price of a certain style of linen fabrics &c. and as he never answered the letter I believe I must have shocked his selflove, or led him to deem my views of the ministerial dignity so low (in supposing that he had other than platonic views in marriage) as to be unworthy of notice.

Jack Letterman on his return from California passed directly through the city with the troops so that I did not see him. He afterwards got a day's furlough and came on. He looks very well, and as for his opinions of the rebellion he says "it was conceived in hell & hatched by the devil." and though not by any means opposed to slavery is very willing that slavery should perish if its so doing be necessary to our victory. Speaking of Baltimore he says all the young ladies there are secessionists, and that he has blown several of them up very sharply. He has been appointed Medical Director of General Bank's division, which puts the whole of the medical affairs of all the surgeons of that division under him, and makes him a member of the general's staff.

I can hear nothing of Will Letterman, and am really uneasy about him. Jack heard in Baltimore only what I had previously, that Will was and had for a long time been in Boston. They expected him at Baltimore at Christmas, but whether he came or not I do not know. I wrote to him during Christmas times, care of Dr. Smith but have had no answer to my letter, and the last letter I have had from him was dated last August or September. I hope he will turn up all right

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<sup>4</sup> The northwestern portion of Virginia formally seceded from the rest of the state and drew up a constitution in November, 1861, calling itself "West Virginia." That constitution was ratified by popular vote early in 1862 and the new state was admitted to the northern union on January 18, 1863.

some day.

I do not know whether I wrote you that I have discarded my old bookcases from my library room and have had along the North wall thereof a handsome book case put up, running the whole length of the room. It is nearly filled with volumes, and I anticipate that before the end of the year it will prove insufficient to contain all my treasures. That however will depend upon the rapidity with which my bills are paid, for if others don't pay me I cannot buy books.

I had heard of the death of S.[amuel] W. Dodd, and his cousin [Richard Wylie] before you wrote, having seen their obituaries in the Presbyterian. I was sorry to hear of it, not so much on his own account as on account of Cousin Mary [Wylie Dodds, Sam's mother], with whom I sincerely sympathize, and to whom I beg when next you write you will convey my sympathy in this to her so great an affliction. I do not however with you rejoice that he met death on the sick bed rather than on the battle field. Prepared as he was to die it were easier & less painful to be stricken down by a flying shot, not knowing what hurt him, than to spend days of anguish amid the discomforts of a hospital, and moreover his life then would be of some use, nor would he die unavenged, as his own fire would probably have sent some rebels to hell before he himself fell.

I wish very much you were on here, at least as far as regards my own selfish pleasure, though I doubt not you enjoy yourself much more in Wheeling than you would do here. I get very lonely at times. I want somebody to throw my arms around, somebody to hug, as I used to do you, to talk nonsense to. You know that a little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men. I am afraid to squeeze the married ladies I know (supposing they would let me) lest the husbands should kick up a row, and as for the single girls, so many gentlemen have gone to the war, that if you sigh or look unutterably at them, or venture on the slightest familiarity they slide gently into your arms and murmur "ask mamma".

I should like to have seen you in your masque of the Goddess of Liberty. I have no doubt you captivated all hearts by your grace and beauty. I saw a goddess of liberty dancing the other night. She differed from you in not having her hair down flowing, but made up for that by having her petticoats cut off just below her waist. She danced very beautifully, & had to repeat the performance twice. I was at a fifteen cent saloon, lately opened by a New York troupe who were driven away by the harsh handling of an impertinent police, and into which I strayed one evening to see how much deviltry they would put in the public view, and I saw plenty. It is a comfortable place though, where one can have a good seat & good music, with dancing, singing and gymnastics for four hours for fifteen cents, can smoke as much as he pleases, have pretty waiter girls to bring him lager, &c. It is my last visit however. I don't like the company of the class of people who frequent such places. But if as the poet says "the proper study of mankind is man" I cannot regret going inasmuch I came across a phase of life utterly alien to my own.

Ma has suffered much from Neuralgia this winter, and both Aunty<sup>5</sup> & myself have had a touch of rheumatism. The weather this month has been very bad almost continual snow (not to any depth) and rain, and for the last week the face of the sun hath not been seen.

Give my love to Aunt Jane [Ritchie] & Cousin Irene [Wylie Bell], & remember me very kindly to Mr. [Joseph] Bell—

As ever your affectionate Cousin,  
Craig D. Ritchie

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<sup>5</sup> This probably refers to his Grandmother Dorsey and Aunt Mary S. Dorsey, who raised him after the death of his parents.

Miss Jane M. Wylie,  
Wheeling, Virginia

*Anderson McElroy Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Le Roy [New York] Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 1862

My dear Sister—

I am quite indebted to you for your last long letter giving me that sadly interesting news. The triumphant manner in which Sam [Dodds] met death takes from the cup of sorrow most of its bitterness. What a blessed thing would it be if this mighty army could all become soldiers of Xt [Christ] & fight for the advance of his kingdom!

It will be a result cheaply purchased if the end of the great contest be an utter destruction of the great national iniquity [slavery]. This whole war is the lesson of God's justice teaching us what we gain by compromising with Sin. Seemingly the two most difficult things for man to learn are, that it is always unprofitable to do wrong, & always profitable to do right.

I send you a sermon of mine printed in the town paper. You will see what I hold to be the duty of the pulpit in respect to government. It has been a sad thing for this nation that the ministry has been frightened by the cry of "Politics in the pulpit," from doing their whole duty, & truly do I believe that what we are now suffering & all we are appointed to suffer in this war is directly traceable to the monstrous delinquency of the pulpit; and my only fear now is that even this obvious lesson of Providence will fail to open the eyes of the clergy. If the pulpits are not now unshackled I give up hope for this country— we are ruined without a peradventure. Even in this anti slavery community I shall have a hard contest to sustain my position — I shall try to do my duty & leave the results to God. By the way I wish, if you do not particularly desire to keep it, that you would send me back the paper as the editor forgot to strike off any extra copies & I wish to have a number of my clerical friends to read it. One man came in this morning & said he wanted 30 copies to send to friends. God grant it may do good. Keep it till you all have read it.

We are coming on about as usual. Helen Conklin is still...

[page missing]

There is a regiment forming here occupying the stone buildings formerly [railway] car works, & we have them marching by every day & plenty of drum and fife etc. Let us hope & pray for the best & prepare our minds for the worst. In the view of many we are very near the last times, if so trials will thicken till every one who is not planted on the Rock of Ages will be swept away.

But I must hasten to a close. Give my love to all, particularly to Mary [Wylie Dodds]— write soon & believe me as ever

Your affect' bro—  
A.M.W.

***Redick M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.***

(Answered April 13th)

Bloomington  
April 1st 1862

Dear Brother,

Prof Wylie has just paid some more money on his second payment (which was due Oct 15th 1860) which enables me to lift my note which is in your possession. The Prof is very slow in making his payments, he lacks \$144 of paying off the second note. He thinks he will be able to pay some more pretty soon. This last note was due last October. His reason for not meeting his payments is that he was disappointed in getting his money from Philadelphia.

Enclosed send you a draft for \$140.35 which is the balance on my note, I believe. Am much obliged to you for waiting so patiently on me. Am now out of debt, except \$75 I owe to Jane.

Am very busy now with the spring work on the farm. Have just fenced in a piece of ground for an orchard & will plant out about 200 trees in a day or two. There is a fine prospect for wheat so far as one can judge from appearances at this season of the year. How are your farming prospects? Have not heard from you for a long time. Would be glad you would write soon. We are all well except little Molly who has been sick, but is now getting much better. Love to all.

Your affectionate brother,  
Redick M. Wylie

***Andrew Wylie Jr. to Redick McKee Wylie, Bloomington Indiana***

Washington April 12<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Redick

Your letter of 1st instant [present month] inclosing draft for one hundred and forty 35/100 dollars in payment of your note, herewith returned to you, was duly received. My delay in acknowledging its receipt & thanking you for its inclosure, has been caused by a severe attack of jaundice, from which I have not yet recovered. I am better, however, and trust with Gods blessing, to be soon again to be about my business. Mr. & Mrs. Bryan [his in-laws] are living in this City & we are with them, although I hold on to my residence in Alexandria and keep the house there occupied by furniture & servants, and so soon as I get able intend returning. My name is a good deal spoken of as the next candidate of the Union men for congress in that District and at present it would not do to change my domicile. I am feeling very sick and must close

Yr. afft. brother  
Andrew Wylie

*Elizabeth Louisa Wylie to cousin Jane M. Wylie, [Wheeling?]*

Bloomington, Indiana Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Jennie:

Are you not glad that I have been so long a time answering your last letter? It always seems to me that it is something of an effort for you to answer my letters.

I have been kept busy ever since I rec'd your letter. & before too, for that matter — We have three boarders. & of course that makes a little more work for us. tho' none too much, I think, when our girl [Elizabeth Breckenridge] is well, but she is sick now & Mag [Wylie, her sister] is complaining & so am I. *[handwriting changes at this point]* Through the kindness of his friend, Miss Lou, Mr Goodwin presents his compliments to some unknown friend and suggests that it is rather warm — well! well! who could write amid such confusion? — and Mr Poindexter is so attentive that it will be with the utmost difficulty that Miss Lou will finish this letter before Sunday morning; as it is now past 10 o'clock. Well I suppose I must write until she and Mr P. (my room-mate) get through with their saying and doing — Oh well, nothing. Well Miss Lou says she is not through yet. But as it is growing late — wishing you pleasant dreams and hoping that God's angels may guard you. I wish you a happy good night

*[handwriting changes again]* At the request of my friend Miss Lou I take great pleasure in announcing to you that I have just returned from Marshe's Hall at which place a lecture on Phrenology was to have been delivered to night. But owing to certain circumstances the lecture was postponed. It is late and my train of thought is interrupted somewhat by the noise of the bugs with which the room is filled. Moreover My friend Miss Lou has reprimanded me two or three times this afternoon for acting properly (as I thought) which has put me in a very bad humor. With this unfavorable impression I bid you a happy goodnight

Mr. Poindexter            Q.E.D.

*[Lou Wylie's handwriting resumes]* Wednesday night June 18<sup>th</sup>

Dear Jen, I came very near having my letter finished for me, but you know I could not let it go without saying a little more I was sitting here, very busily engaged writing, when these two gentlemen whose writing adorns the foregoing pages entered the room & offered to write some for me & as I had just commenced & wasn't in the best humor for letter writing, I most willingly consented. I ought to tell you something about them. Maybe I will directly, but I expect they'll be home enny moment—& then they might want to know what I'd been writing. So just restrain your curiosity for a little while—

I am sorry to hear that you had been sick, & glad indeed that you are well again. I have been better this Spring than I have been for a long time. I think if we had not taken boarders that we would all have been sick, but that has given us more to do. & has been a great deal of company for us. I know I could not have kept up as I have, if we hadn't had work & company—

You want to know how the "old homestead" looks & what changes we have made — I expect I have told you of some — You know we have a new fence.—two gates. one by the June Apple tree, the other by the mulberry tree—with wide gravel walks leading from them Just in front of the door a small triangle bed planted with red, white, & purple verbena & on each side of the walks, a narrow border filled with flowers — A flower pit is under the Siberian Crab Apple tree Then we have moved the old corn-crib to the corner of the orchard near the barn & have made a Chicken house out of it — We have turned the well-lot into a garden & have it planted

with potatoes, corn & beans. In the house we have made no changes of any consequence. We have the room over the dining room. Ma & Pa [Rebecca and Theophilus Wylie] have the back parlor. Mr. Mellett has the little room over the hall. Mr. Goodwin & Mr. Poindexter have the north room — We have just lost our other boarder a little boy from Cincinnati named Robert Reid, I taught him for two months or more & then we sent him to school, & you never saw such a change in any one He became unmanageable ran off twice. once got as far as Mitchell—& told such lies that we had to send for his father—who is a rich saddler in Cin'ti & he came & took him home, very much regretting that he had to do so. He says he's coming back & I expect to see him some of these days—

Liz—our darky—has been sick & we have had enough to do. she is getting well now & we're glad enough — All the rest are well — The little children grow wonderfully & are just as sweet as they can be—so I think — Here come the young gents & I will have to stop I expect—for I won't get much peace I reckon now. — Goodbye — Now they've gone but it's eleven o'clk & I must to bed—Pleasant dreams may you have — Dream of me — Good night dear girl

Louise

Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup>/62, Dear Jen, You will think me both neglectful & forgetful. I have not had time to finish this letter commenced so long ago till now. Commencement is over. Company & boarders gone. The week passed pleasantly, tho' nothing remarkable occurred. Dr. [William] Daily was in town, & as Gov Wright could not address the societies some of the boys wanted him. but they were overruled & Prof ? of Greencastle did the business.

We feel so lonely. You have no idea. I never felt so much so before, but to lose three out of our family at once, is no small matter. We had such pleasant boarders. I must tell you about them, & then you'll know what to think of them—perhaps So listen to a grand description

First I will tell you about Mr. Poindexter. He is from Ky. Small, not so very either but small compared with the other two. straight black hair, black eyes, dark complexion, with some color in his cheeks. rather large mouth, beautiful teeth. & small hands & feet, a hard student, of ladies society, has some southern notions about work, I think. — has moreover, taken quite a fancy to your niece Lib Dodds—& this is Mr. A Poindexter

Mr. Arthur Calvin Mellet [Mellette, who later married Lou's sister Margaret]—is nearly six feet high, fleshy, fair, light brown hair, blue eyes—beautiful mouth & teeth, large hands & feet, but well shaped. has a deep bass voice, is a very smart young man, he hails from Luray, Henry Co, Ind.

Mr. Goodwin, Willis Beverly Goodwin—is my friend and maybe I'll be partial in description, tho I think not. He is over six feet high. straight not too thin figure, has brown hair slightly inclined to curl. Complexion not so fair as Mr. Melletts, & somewhat freckled. broad high forehead. greyish blue eyes. beautiful mouth, beautifully shaped hand & foot. — always neat in dress. In giving a minute description, you would hardly think him so good looking as the others, but he is a very fine looking fellow, & quite smart. The only trouble is he's not coming back. I shall miss him very much, for we were very good friends — you would have laughed to see us together I expect. there was such difference in height

Mr. Poindexter is the oldest. was 20 in Jan. Mr. Goodwin in March, & Mr. Mellett in June — We miss them all very much —

I am writing you a long letter & yet am not giving you much news — We expected Parke [Mary Parke McFerson Foster] to spend Com. week with us. but the day she was to be here a

letter came, saying Zan [McFerson] was very ill with Typhoid fever. somewhere in Tenn. & his Ma [Eliza McFerson] & Do had gone to him. he was Qr. Master to the 25<sup>th</sup> Reg— I believe. We have since heard that he died. It will be a sad, heavy blow to his mother. He was only 17 yrs old, but a business man, doing well. We know how to feel for them. Oh, this horrid war will never cease till it comes home to every heart I fear. Ann Shaiffer has lost two of her sons— one was instantly killed by a bullet thro' the temple, at the battle of Shiloh fields. the other died in hospital of Typhoid fever. It seems to me that our loss [Richard Wylie] comes back more terribly. I miss him so much, more now than at first I believe. for I could not realize it then, but we put on cheerful faces. & no one knows, how we think – Maggie & Frank & Dr. Monfort have been here. Maggie has grown quite a pretty girl, & is very smart you know. Frank is full of mischief Elias is in the Army—

Poor Parke, she will fear for John [John Watson Foster] now. he has had very good health so far. Zan had just gone into the Army. But I must close — All friends are well. Redick comes over often. Dear Jen wont you visit us this summer. I think you might. we all want to see you, & it would do you good to come. I think you ought to come to see us. Please do not say you will not. Do write, yes, & come. — do come Perhaps Pa [Theophilus A. Wylie] will go to Philada. we will be too lonely then. Do come Jen. Give my love to all, excuse my haste. I am not very well and have written a sick letter I am afraid.

Your true friend  
Louise

*Anderson M. Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Le Roy N.Y. July 5<sup>th</sup> 1862

My dear Sister –

I learned through Irene a few days since that you were suffering from one of your old attacks. I hope you are better & I feel anxious to hear from you directly. You must not give up in discouragement. You know how willing some of your dearest friends are to help you if it were in their power & you must try & think how much more willing & able God is to render you the highest & most adequate service.

I am myself in the midst of the greatest trial of my life & I can find comfort encouragement & even joy at the throne of grace. I have taken a strong stand not only for the government but against slavery as the cause of the war & the controversy which the God of justice has against this nation. The consequence is that a hornet's nest has been stirred up about me & they try to disturb my peace day & night.

The rum men[,] high churchmen, secessionists (for we have some in the congregation) & proslavery people are determined to drive me away from here. They refuse to pay me my just dues – I having received less than half what was due me for the last year. The Bishop decides with them, & what the result will be I do not know but must wait for Providence to determine.

I have conscientiously held & practised upon the conviction that a minister ought not to seek a place & ought not to leave one field however much difficulty he may meet with till he is called to another. But it looks now as if I should be driven away whether or no. Still my firm confidence is in God & I am ready to await the issue. This in many respects is a pleasant place

but the people though refined are exceeding set & obdurate in their own ways & seemingly as immovable as steel.

Were it not for the uncertainty that is suspended over my situation here & the very unpleasant circumstances in which I am placed I should insist upon your coming here at once. As it is if you can go to N.Y. I will try & accompany you at any time you come, & I will do what I can for you. It is a matter of exceeding regret that I am so entirely disabled in my finances that just now I cannot meet my own expenses. Yet I do not fear for myself for I know that God will in time lead me out of all difficulties. Maggie is an excellent & affectionate wife, & comes to her condition in every respect with the most contented christian spirit. This takes away nine tenths of all my trouble, & I would recommend cordially to Redick [Wylie] the same remedy for all old bachelor complaints.

Now my dear sister I hope you will write me soon & let me know just how you feel & how you are situated.

There is one remedy you have always at hand—prayer.

Go with faith to God or go & ask for faith & test his declared willingness to help comfort & relieve you. The Spirit's very name is the Comforter & I do not think Christ meant to mock us when He (see Jo XIV. XV, XVI) discoursed so lovingly & fully about the offices of the Holy Ghost. I do think if you would but determine to apply to God with persevering determination & at the same time with the resolution to be submissive to the divine will you would not go long without a joyful relief.

Love to all — do write soon—

Your affect bro.

Anderson

***Redick M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.***

(Answ. Aug 20 proposing to let him have the land at \$1000.00)

Bloomington  
July 26th 1862

Dear Brother

Some time ago, I wrote you to know what you would take for your land (29 ½ acres). You answered me by telling me that you did not care about selling it, but for me to make you an offer. By the time I received your answer, I had changed my mind, thinking I would run too great a risk in going farther in debt. Am now about out of debt, and am expecting some money which will be due me shortly. Have also just received a check from Prof Wylie for \$400, which can send to you as the first payment provided you accept my offer.

I will give you \$800 for the piece of ground. Think I could pay for it all within a year or as soon as I can get the money. An improved farm within ½ mile of my place was sold lately for \$30 per acre. Prof Wylie has now settled the 2nd note and has paid \$250 on the last note. He has just gone on a visit to Philadelphia and it is likely he will pay the balance when he comes back. At any rate, I will send you your share of what has been paid in, so soon as I can hear from you on this subject. There being no bank now in this place, it is very difficult to get exchange.

Everything looks very gloomy here on account of the unfavourable news from the army. There are many secession sympathizers in this county. But they have to keep very shady about town, but out in the country they are very bold.

We have extraordinary crops of wheat and corn, but the oats were an entire failure. Not one farmer in twenty harvested a bushel. The crop was entirely destroyed by the rust. The wheat was much damaged by the recent storms of rain and wind which lasted for 10 consecutive days. My own wheat is much sprouted, and I have been so much thrown back by the storms and the scarcity of workmen that have not yet been able to have it stacked. Everything the farmer now has for sale is very low. And wages are very high. Had I not have bought a reaper and mower this year, could not have gotten through my harvest. Have not yet cut my meadow.

Elizabeth received a letter a few days ago from Irene enclosing one from Carry, giving a detailed account of your affairs and prospects, which was a very welcome messenger, being we so seldom hear from you. Would like to hear from you on the receipt of this. How is little Pendleton?  
Love to Carry

Yours affectionately  
R. M. Wylie

*Anderson M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Brooklyn  
Sep 3, 1862

My dear Bro,

We have been anxious to hear about the condition of dear Carry whose illness took us so much by surprise. I wrote to her immediately after our arrival in this city & as Will Bryan expected to see us about Aug 20, we hoped to hear more thro' him of her condition, but we believe from what he said that she is now about recovered. I hope she will soon be able write me one of her good old fashioned letters.

I have received a call to Newark Ohio & there is also the promise of an opening here, but I so much prefer the country that tho' Newark is so far yet I propose at least visiting the place & on my return coming thro' Wheeling & possibly also thro' Washington if the rebels by that time (about the 27th) have not driven you all away.

Let me while writing ask your advice upon a matter connected with the settlement of my affairs at Le Roy. They owe me \$500, & they are so indifferent about paying me that I fear I shall be compelled to enforce my claims. While so large a sum has been coming to me I have been paying interest on some large bills which I have been owing. Can I, allowing six months enforce the payment of interest after such a time? I was entitled to a month's vacation. I resigned on Aug 7th without any conditions & the vestry accepted my resignation on the spot. Can I lay claim for the additional month which by a resolution of the vestry a year & half before they offered me annually? Last year I have taken no vacation or rather two weeks in Oct last. Then in the spring when I determined to make the battle one purely one of principle, & when they made loud complaint about finances I sent the vestry a letter proposing that they reduce my salary to such a sum as could be collected without constraint. They did not bring the letter before vestry & took no

action upon it before I left. Could that proposition in any way affect my just claims?

Please excuse me for troubling you with this affair, but I expect to pass thro' Le Roy Sept 16th & if you think best, I will warn them at once that if the amount is not ready at that date I will put the matter in the hands of a lawyer.

May I expect an answer from you soon?

Direct simply to Brooklyn. Maggie & I are still at Mr. Conklin's [his father-in-law] & treated with great consideration & kindness. And they wish us to remain as long as it is necessary to procure a settlement near here rather than go to the West. With much love to dear Carry and kind regards to all our friends, I remain

Your affect. Bro.

A. M. Wylie

*Mariana Bryan Lathrop to Daniel and Mary Bryan*

Yonkers, N. York

Sept 13th 1862

My dear Parents,

I have waited since Tuesday morning for a conclusion as to our place of sojourn, but as we are no nearer now than we were then, I have determined to write you a note and tell you how we made the journey.

We took a sleeping car and consequently made no change through to New York. The train was an immense one and a good deal of apprehension was felt by the mass that the Rebels would dash down and seize the train. However the night waned and nothing disturbed the quiet until about midnight when we were aroused by the firing of several shots. A lady opposite me sprang up and cried out "Oh, George, the Rebels are upon us." He listened a moment and said impatiently, "be still and go to sleep." And soon a snore announced his coolness. What it was to be fired at or who fired, we never learned, but it startled considerably, I assure you. There was considerable detention and much time consumed in running back but we arrived safely at eight or half past. We went for the gratification of my curiosity, to the "Fifth Ave. Hotel," and remained there till last evening. The house is as clean as possible and the accommodations admirable; the table all we could have desired it, but \$2.50 a day runs up a heavy bill very soon, so that we were anxious to get away, but it seemed impossible. Mr. L went to Newburg, Mrs. Clark's house was full; he came here, and engaged rooms and after a delay of four days to make a search for quarters we came off in a flood of rain which caught us in the stage for the Depot. Well we arrived at Yonkers, drove a mile and a half to Mrs. Gaylor's, were very pleasantly located and had baggage brought in. When I asked Mr. L if he had mentioned the Whooping cough, No! he said, I entirely forgot it, but will do it immediately. He did so and at once the boarders objected, so that we move today. Jed is in New York and did not know it, for the revelation was not made by the landlady until this morning after he left. Where we are to go now, I have no conception, for the same objection will hold good where ever there are children. Mrs. Gaylor is very sorry and makes a world of apologies, but it was our inadvertence and not her fault. This house fronts the Hudson on the rear, is not more than a few hundred yards from it, and is very elevated, the rooms pleasant, & the fare good, so I greatly regret having to move. They sent for the ink, and I am obliged to use a

pencil or wait. Awful news from Pennsylvania. I see nothing but anarchy & gloom before us and would not be surprised at anything. Minna & Barbour are improving fast, B particularly. They stood the journey so well.

Love to all  
Your devoted child  
M. B. Lathrop

*Andrew Wylie, Jr. to Redick Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Washington Oct: 4. 1862

Dear Redick

Your favor of 25<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> inclosing draft for four hundred dollars, and your note for six hundred, was duly received. Herewith I send you my contract to convey you the land upon payment of the note.

We have nothing new except what is known to all the world through the newspapers. Indiana may well feel proud of the character she has gained in this war. We are now anxiously expecting news from Louisville. We have reports that both armies were yesterday preparing for battle some 20 miles from the City.

Carry [his wife] & little Pendleton [their son] are quite well, and I am feeling better myself, although my weight is only 152 full 30 pounds less than it was eighteen months ago. We have moved completely from Alexandria—had the last of our furniture brought up ten days ago. Living is very expensive here; and rents have gone up enormously. The house we occupy is small and unpretending, but it suits our means better than would one of more style & pretension. Pope's miserable failure in Virginia has upset all my plans in that quarter.

Give my love to all the members of the family at Bloomington & believe as ever  
Your affectionate brother  
Andrew Wylie

Redick M Wylie Esq.

Know all men by these presents that I Andrew Wylie of the City of Washington D.C. do hereby covenant & bind myself to convey by good & sufficient deed to Redick M. Wylie of Bloomington Monroe County Indiana all the following described piece or parcel of land lying & situate in said county

Beginning at the SW corner of the North 1/2 of SW 1/4 of section 9, township 8 R1W, running thence North 59 rods; thence E 80 rods; thence S 59 rods; and thence West 80 rods — containing twenty nine 1/2 acres or thereabouts — upon payment to me my heirs or assigners of his note for six hundred dollars & interest dated 25<sup>th</sup> of September 1862, payable to my order fifteen months after date — he having already paid four hundred dollars on account of the said purchase, for which the whole purchase money was to be one thousand dollars. Witness my hand and seal this 4<sup>th</sup> day of Oct. 1862

Andrew Wylie [seal]

*Redick M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Bloomington  
Dec. 1st, 1862

Dear Brother,

Enclosed send you a check for \$100, with which please credit my note. Expect I will be able to send you the most of the balance by 1st of Jan next if I am not disappointed in getting money which is due me by that time.

We have not received any money from Prof Wylie for some time, not since I sent you the \$400 check. He has paid up the first two notes & \$200 on the last, consequently I owe you something on what he has already paid in, which I intend to pay the next money he pays in. Do not know when it will come.

Will also enclose you \$5.00 that you may buy me some U. S. postage currency if you can get it without troubling yourself. If it is not convenient for you to get it you may credit my note with that amount also. Change is very scarce, silver is not to be had.

Elizabeth [Wylie McCalla] and Molly [Mary McCalla] still have the ague. The Dr has succeeded in breaking the chills on them two or three times, but still they return. All the rest of the friends & relatives are well. Brigadier General Gormon was here a few days fresh from the army of the Potomac. He made a speech in the court house to his old friends & neighbors. So we are very well posted in war matters. He is ordered to Vixburg.

Love to all,  
Your affectionate brother  
Redick M. Wylie

1863

*L.D. Bishop to Jane M. Wylie, Transom House*

Saturday Evn'g. Feb. 7th, 63

You will forgive me, my dear friend, for availing myself of this method of telling in your own private ear, some things which for weeks have been waiting an opportunity to be spoken, & which I have felt more impelled to say, as I have seen your self-sacrificing labors in our Sabbath School.

I wonder if it would be at variance with the truth, should I address you as a brother in Christ! Ever since hearing your report, I have felt a strong hope that you do know something of the love of Christ in your own soul — or you could not propose questions of such serious import to us teachers. Oh. Shall it be, that another year shall slip away as the last, & we have no progress to report, in enlistments on the side of our great Captain! Are there not in this school not only some scholars, but some officers, too, who are waiting to take the oath of allegiance to our king Jesus!

The terms of salvation come out so plainly in our lesson, as I have studied it this evn'g that I must repeat them here. 'Verily, verily I say unto thee. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God!' & this means every one—no matter how moral—or lovely—even if the outward conduct puts to shame professing Christians, he that believith not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in — The Son of God.

My dear friend. I can say no word to you, that you have not already heard from abler lips than mine—but this let me beg you,—will you not give this subject a serious, prayerful consideration! You once told me, “you were thinking of it” — Now if it were a matter of worldly business you would not thus delay to decide as to a course of action — ‘If the Lord be God, serve Him” — your judgment would lead you to say, promptly, about your temporal affairs — Now, my dear Sis, is not this matter of the Eternal salvation of your precious soul, worth more than all worldly affairs combined!

You know how uncertain life is, & all that can be said on that head—& I have no wish to urge any such consideration,—but this only, if God The Son loved us so much as to give himself to die for us, will the whole of life be too much to give to His service! & if we are His friends, is it too much for us to openly declare ourselves such! in return for such Infinite love, shall we be ashamed to say we are on the Lord's side! The cause of our precious Savior requires that you come decidedly to the point, where you can consciously say, “Let others do as they may, as for me I will serve the Lord”—& the safety of your own soul imperatively demands it — Just as you are. All the fitness He requires, is to feel your need of Him. Never let us come in our own righteousness—at the very best we are wholly unclean.

Jesus wants you for one of His followers — He is saying so tenderly, ‘Behold I stand at the door & knock’—& will you not admit Him! Make no excuse, of the short comings, the open sins of professors— it is not our religion that leads to all this, but the want of it. You judge us so correctly. you cannot be ignorant of your own duty — May I ask. Do you ever pray? Will you not give a few moments every day to seeking the blessing of God, by penitence & intercession at

the throne of grace!

It is late—I have written hurriedly, but with a heart full—& oh, I do long to see you as happy as a Christian, as you now are in the enjoyment of this world. This is the prayer of your

true friend L.D.B.

Forgive me, if I have been too plain—

**Andrew Wylie, Jr. to Redick M. Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana**

Washington, February 27, 1863

Dear Redick,

Your debt to me [from] the land has been paid in full, and herewith I send you the note cancelled, and a deed in which I followed the description you gave me in one of your letters. Fortune favors you, for all that you do prospers. You are already independent and ere long will be rich, and I trust that your happiness will increase with your wealth.

A few days ago the President nominated me for judge of the Criminal Court of this District in place of judge Crawford deceased. It is a place of respectability, and although the salary (\$2,500) is not large, yet the office is [one word, illegible] good behavior and is therefore desirable. I understand there will be no hesitation on the part of the Senate in confirming the appointment. One privilege I shall enjoy will be the opportunity I shall have during the months of August and September to visit “the land I love best--the land of the West”--now glorious for the valor of its new defense of the Union, Government and Civilization.

Your Affectionate Brother  
Andrew Wylie

***Anderson M. Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana***

Brooklyn Ap 1<sup>st</sup> 1863

My dear Sister

I feel that I have sufficient reason to write you a few lines now if have not had before. If you were this way we could show you a very respectable March heir (hare) that arrived safely on Sunday at 10 P.M. [son Henry]

Of course he is thought by some at least to be a very superior specimen. He takes the features mainly of his mother, has dark hair & very dark blue eyes & weighs 7 1/2 lbs., is very strong & behaves himself well. Maggie is doing very well & we hope will soon be up again!

Of course it is quite an event in a house where the youngest is quite a large boy & all seem to be fond of babies. They rush in & watch it sleeping or waking & each wants to have a turn at holding, while Lucius begs to sit by it continually. Mrs. Conklin [his mother-in-law] has been especially kind, has had a room nicely & particularly fitted up, & is always putting herself upon the watch to do kind things. I feel as if I have unusual reason to be thankful for

such a home & friends under the circumstances of my present situation. I am trying to make the best of my present lying on the shelf to advance in qualifications for my work. I write with unfailing constancy & do more than I ever have done in the composition of sermons. One may easily in these cities have the opportunity of hearing the highest pulpit efforts in the land. I frequently see Mr [Henry W.] Beecher & occasionally have a talk with him. Some time since at the opening of the enlargement of their lecture room he dragged me up on the platform, made a very kind reference to the acquaintance he had with father [Andrew Wylie, Sr.], & then had the impertinence to call upon me for a speech, & I responded the best that came to hand. A short time ago I breakfasted with him & Mrs. [Harriet Beecher] Stowe. He seems to have thought much of Dr Cutter, & I heard him pass the finest eulogy upon the Dr I ever listened to.

I am exceedingly sorry to learn, from your intimations, that your own spiritual estate is so dark. Well, dear Liz, let me tell you the conclusion I have come to — If God is not to be believed, who can be believed! Let God be true if every man a liar & that including our own vain unreasonable selves. I have thoroughly investigated the evidences sustaining the authenticity of the scriptures, & the demonstration is clear & complete that they are the word of the living & only God. We are mere worms. Our business & privilege & safety is to open those books—to read, believe & live. It concerns us little as we have relations to man or even to ourselves it concerns us all, to understand our relation & accountability to God. I think that a skeptical turn runs thro' our whole family. I have felt it & suffered from it. my rule is, the more I doubt all more I pray, & if I doubted all the time I would pray all the time. You may be sure this is the safe & only way out of the difficulties into which Satan, the world or our evil hearts will plunge us.

I hope you will pursue this course & remember you are not heard because of any merits of your own or any attitude into which you may bring yourself.

You must write soon again for I always like to receive a letter from you. Maggie always wishes to join me in love which I hope you will give to Mary [Wylie Dodds], children, Red[ick Wylie], John [McCalla] & all.

Your affect' bro  
A.M.W

*Elizabeth Wylie McCalla to Jane M. Wylie, [Wheeling]*

Bloomington April 29<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Jane

I take my pen in hand, to write a few lines, seeing we have a few minutes leisure, that it is raining, & stopped our soap boiling, yard cleaning, &c. Have just got through house cleaning, & a few other disagreeable jobs, connected with housekeeping. by the way, you, had better take Mr. Paul's advice, (The old apostle I mean,) & remain as you are, single, tho that is not the advice we have been giving Red[ick Wylie, their brother]. whom we have been recommending to marry these 4 years & more, but circumstances alter cases, to quote a new saying.

Do not know that we owe either you, or Irene [Wylie Bell], an epistle. You have got to writing notes, merely, enclosing somebody else's letter, or duns for your own money[.] henceforth, we are going to get note paper, & write notes too. Lou [Wylie, her cousin] goes on

about your not writing her, she says it has been months, since she wrote you. We are very much surprised you have not yet made up your mind, to come out here, on a visit; thought you were coming positively & Irene was undecided. Irene is an undecided woman, like myself, she can't decide; we put all the reasons for not doing thus, in one scale, & all the reasons for doing thus, in the other, the balance generally so is [an] even balance, & so we are in status quo, till some body else knocks it up, by a timely, or untimely intervention. We are truly glad Andy [Andrew Wylie Jr.] is the honest man we always thought him; we saw more than a month since that a charge of personal dishonesty against him had defeated his confirmation in the Senate, saw it in the Cin. Gazette our daily: also day or two after, in the W. Distpatches, the humiliating notice that the letter he had written that Hon. body retracting the threats he had made, would not suffice to save him; We were in real distress about it, feared a duel, feared he had done some wrong, & at last came to the conclusion it could not be possible he had been dishonest but that his wife [Carry] some how was at the bottom tho we could not see how. Then how humilliating to think he had made threats not knowing the circumstances & retracted them, to get the place; we were on the point of writing him, to learn the facts but upon reflection concluded it was best to wait his own time to clear matters up; regret the justification, was not as public, as the charges, he ought to vindicate himself, in those papers, that heralded his supposed infamy. Do not know if Redick [Wylie] told you Profr. [Elisha] Ballantine has resigned his situation here, & intends removing to Cin. he has had some offer connected with the Board of Missions, dont know exactly what, & hopes to be the instrument of doing more good, than he has been here, that alone decides him to make the change, how much every one regrets their going, they are truly the excellent of the Earth, & how much I regret that I have not been a constant hearer of his sermons, none here preaches, or at all approaches, his excellence in the pulpit, well we do not value our blessings, till they have, or are about to take flight; the Profr. goes in July, the family intend remaining until fall; they always enquire for you, & seem to take interest in your welfare. They rec'd a letter from Hal. [Henry Ballantine] few days since, the first they've heard since he left, he had just landed, & was at Bombay when he wrote. They had a pleasant & safe voyage, & were pleased with India thus far. Like you, we have had a cold wet spring; it will be some time before we have garden sarce [sauce: colloquial term for cooked vegetables], the kind we like, shall have lettuce & onions in a few days, peas are 3 or 4 inches up, corn & potatoes have not yet appeared John [McCalla] is a good gardener keeps things neat & trim. Mollie [Mary McCalla] is a great strapping girl intend starting her to school next week to her aunt May; she is six years old next Sepr. & Mly knows her letters. we all have so much to do just let her run wild, neglect the most important for those less so, so it is with us.

Mary [Wylie Dodds] & family are in usual health. the Dr [James Dodds] gets far more than he can do, they are now entirely out of debt, dont owe a red. Libs [Mary Elizabeth Dodds] beau is a constant daily visitor, not excepting Sunday; he talks something of going to Jefferson, or some college on East to graduate; Mary says she would be real glad he would go, as Lib's time is so devoted to him, that her studies are interrupted, & she cant get any work out of her. We never hear from Mag or Sam [the Martin's]. Prof Ballantine was at Bedford to assist Claud Martin (who lives there) on a sacramental occasion, last Sunday, am going up there to learn if Claud has heard anything from them. If Red had kept your hay till now, he could have got 20 dols more for it, also some wood of his own, he contracted few weeks since to let the R.R. have, now he could get 50 more for it, every thing is going up up such a buying of lots, houses, land &c you never saw in B. Greenbacks are plenty, every body is afraid to hold them, & want to invest them

in real estate, or something equivalent, high as goods are, folks buy same as ever. Mrs Howe, old Joe, & Fred<sup>6</sup> have all been to N. York to buy goods, & see sights, returned few days since, have not seen her, will go to see her in a day or two just to hear her talk; they did not see Anderson [Wylie, their brother], tho Mrs Howe dropped a note in the P.O. letting him know they were there. he did not get it I know, or he would have called. I came near going with them to get my nose attended too, but did not know enough to warrant my starting, have set the time certainly now to go next Fall all things favoring. To make dry yeast you make yeast the usual way, & thicken it with meal thick enough to roll out & cut[;] make it quite stiff & make it after the yeast has risen & been beat down a time or two; I make the wet yeast one day, & thicken it the next, now is a good time to make it before the flies come & before it gets hot, as it is like to sour in very hot weather; dry yeast will keep a month or six weeks, have just made some, it is excellent; do not put potatoes in it, as it will not keep so well, & adds not to it's merit, tho you can just a little salt sugar & ginger in, if you choose, tho dont know that it is improved by it; think cooks err by putting too much yeast in bread, & too many hops in yeast, one small handful of hops, is enough to make half gal. of yeast, & less than half gal a good deal will make all the dry yeast Irene could use before it would lose its strength, a very small cake will make a large baking in Summer especially. How is aunt Jane's [Ritchie] health? Well I need not ask questions, as we fully expect to see you, at any rate, in a very short time, it is time you came. If Irene keeps putting off & cant make up her mind, just you take a boat & come yourself, there is no difficulty, in getting along, not the least; stop at Carters at N. Albany, Clara & her Ma, will give you a warm welcome. If I only was sure we, or Red would have our new houses built by next Summer, would advise Irene to wait till then, if we can sell this little place may build up on our peach orchard, but as things are, tis uncertain We can say however for her to come now, & then too Am glad you like your present residence so well. Love to all

Your affect sis  
Liz

Anderson wrote us of his welcome heir & all about it & Mag [his wife] hope he will leave the E.C. [Episcopal Church] & settle soon somewhere.

***Irene Wylie Bell to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana***

Monday morning June [1863, Wheeling]

Dear Eliz

The enclosed is a letter from Carry [Wylie] received a week or two ago. Andrew [Wylie, Jr.] has suffered considerably from the rebel devils. The condition of their only child [Pendleton] must cause them great trouble. As she mentions in the letter, she sent me the childs likeness. He appears a handsome boy, although pale, and somewhat distressed expression of face, looks tall and slender in the picture, not at all the healthful look of little Andrew [Bell, her son then dead]. It is a pity that Andy who is so fond of children, has but this one afflicted child. I see by the papers Andrew has been elected States Attorney. Suppose if he gets the Judgeship Cal speaks of [he] will resign the former. Jane [Wylie] has been quite sick confined to bed for two

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<sup>6</sup> Joseph Howe & Son was one of Bloomington's oldest and biggest merchantiles

weeks and moping around [for] about six. She was taken with typhoid symptoms, and severe cough & oppression of the chest, Jack L[etterman] first prescribed for her, and when he left our old dutch homeopath took her in charge, and considering the nature of the attack, we think she got along well, she still looks thin. Our former Homeopathic physician (Hughes) is as hateful a rebel as lives. After Bank's repulse the secesh here were very jubilant, and the authorities took them in hands, those who refused to give their allegiance to the Government were lodged in jail, a good many repented and came out others are still obstinate, and have been sent to Camp Chase at Columbus. Hughes and judge Thompson are among the number and they were told they might lay in confinement until they rotted or come to their senses, some of the irrepressible female rebels here have been warned and we hope the good work will go on until they will not dare open their lips Here to fore they have been doing pretty much as they please. Now there is a great cry about liberty, persecution, and all that. They have to be made [to] feel that liberty and treason don't go together. The lines are being drawn between the two parties and we have but little intercourse. Aunt Jane [Ritchie] had a letter from Aunt Anne [Letterman] the other day that made her furious, Aunt Ann is a fierce secessionest Will [Letterman] and Ritchie the same, Will has opened an office in B[altimore]. Aunt Jen says it is because Annie lives in the South and owns a few negroes, It is abominable that they are such fools, I have forgotten if I wrote you that Jack [Letterman] has been promoted He is now Inspector General of U S Army with the rank of Col head quarters at Wash City. It is a very great compliment to his worth. It is strange his position does not influence his mother more, He is truly loyal, We were very sorry when he was called from here We are very sorry you are suffering from your old disorder, hope you feel relief. I have been thinking on a plan for you, go and make Anderson [their brother] a visit, and let him take you to N[ew] York (as he often goes there) for advice and have your nose fixed — You need have no delicacy about going there on account of his wife, You can go as an invalid and need not visit and feel as though you ought to dress and all that. I will write you soon again

Irene

*Anderson Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

72 Sands St Brooklyn July 7, '63  
over Fulton ferry.

My dear Sister—

Your long & exceedingly interesting letter came to hand yesterday, & I am this time determined it shall not be a month before I respond. Business first. I do not feel altogether self condemned in respect to the request that I regret you had reason so often to repeat, for I distinctly remember to have made inquiry of Dr McLeod & I think on two different occasions, & my impression is very strong that I wrote you the result, i.e that the matter could be attended to at almost any time you should see fit to come on. I hope you will forgive any seeming neglect of which I may have been guilty & I shall try & make amends in the future. Indeed I have been of late so much out of the city & so concerned about my prospects that I have been too forgetful of other matters. I had purposed at this very time to make all the necessary inquiries about the prospective nose, & have just returned from N.Y on a successful reconnoissance, & have brot

back information which you will like to hear. I looked up Prof B's dirty establishment, & went in, finding myself surrounded by all sorts of piratical & abnormal looking figures, but was soon very much interested. He showed me a large number of pictures illustrating the success of his handicraft in "fitting up" eyes noses cheeks lips &c. Indeed in some instances he has for one person made an eye, a nose, cheek & upper lip, & in many instances (so he says) sent persons home so changed & improved that their own family did not know them. He said he could not refer me (for considerations of delicacy) to the parties themselves, & if he did they would not like it & would refuse to see me. But that he would take you to the parties, & could convince you at once of the possibility of "fitting you up" with new nasal member. I told him of your circumstances & he bade me tell you that he could not tell definitely the cost till he saw you, but I might safely assure you that the charge would be in the neighborhood of \$100; might possibly be less but he thought not.

As to board he says he has got provision for persons who could not pay much for an entire room for \$4; but it is a very poor dirty neighborhood, & I think I would go farther off. However I can make further inquiry or before you come advertise in the paper, & you may get good quarters in East Broadway where John's [McCalla] connections formerly lived, which is a respectable street.

Well of course the glorious news [Northern victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg] is absorbing every ones attention & Gould says the war will soon close.

As to the baby [Henry] he is fat weighed about 16 lbs when three months old, is as good as he possibly can be & perfectly healthy; have not walked him one night yet. His eyes are a blue black & he has fairly an olive complexion with dark hair. Of course he is a none such, & the old nurse agrees to the proposition. His mother [Margaret] has full abundance of nourishment for him, so we dont have to resort to the city slops that they sell for milk—death to children. A week ago I met a Carry [Wylie, sister-in-law], nurse & children fleeing from Wash[ington] & when I found them at the cars, Pendleton [her son] was fairly wild, mad, crazy—he pitched into me fought, scratched & kicked & tried to bite me, raged and yelled. He ought to go to an asylum. I was amazed at Carry's patience. Even before we got to the hotel she had to rush with him to the stores & buy him books, for his brain is so affected as to take the literary turn & he cries [for] more books continually. So he went on from morning till exhausted at night. He is a splended looking boy, & it is a heart breaking pity to see so young a boy absolutely deranged. You had better say nothing about it for his mother calls it fits, & it may be.

I am not yet settled in, have a fairer prospect. It has been death to a man to say freedom in the Ep'[iscopal] pulpit. But "they also serve who only stand & wait.[""] But I must close, or the office will. I regret I did not get Mrs Howe's note, but had she looked in the B[rooklyn]—directory for N.H. Conklin she would have found the house. I thought I had sent you the address. You did not tell me where the Watts were staying, I would like to call.

Best love to all — write soon—

Your affect' bro

A.M. Wylie

*Andrew Wylie, Jr. to Caroline Bryan Wylie*

Washington

August 8th 1863

My Dear Wife,

I ought to have written to you yesterday, and would have done so if you had not told me that letters written and sent from here on Friday did not reach you till Monday in consequence of there being no mail on Sunday between New York and Stonington. The great topic of all conversation and thought amongst our population is the intolerable heat of the weather. Every day the thermometer goes above 90 and rarely sinks below 85 at night. The sun rises very early in the mornings and begins the day with unclouded, burning ardor, which grows more intense every hour till late in the afternoon. Some days we have a little breeze to comfort our poor souls and bodies. The mosquitoes, throughout the long hours of the night commencing with sundown, in "multitudes which no man can number," and with songs of bloody fiendishness, war upon and hex the whole human family, as well as the brute creatures. Their attacks are so impetuous often, that I become alarmed lest they should by a combined effort even break through the thin barrier with which I have sought to protect myself. As yet only a few of the most audacious have succeeded in getting behind it, and been slain by me without remorse in the morning. You may think this an extravagant story, but I declare to you it fails to do full justice to the facts of the case as can be attested by all the neighborhood.

I have called, at last, to see the President, and had a pleasant familiar talk of a half hour, or less, when we were interrupted by the entrance of the Attorney Gen'l and Gov. Gamble. The President's manner was very friendly, and I think I shall make him another call before I leave, which I am determined shall be next Friday or Saturday, if it be in my power to so arrange things here. I find that nearly all the lawyers who have not already left town intend to do so next week. Bedford is a great resort this season for the people of this region and about Baltimore.

Young Dahlgren continues to grow better, though Miss Patty says he is very nervous, and especially wakeful and troublesome at night. I have several times tendered my services to sit up with him, but was always glad to find that he had others more competent to attend upon him than I. There are at least eight men in all who wait upon him in this way, alternating with each other. And no other attention than such as this would have saved his life.

Your conjecture was correct in regard to the payment of my salary. I have appealed to Mr. Chase on the subject, and claim that the law does not apply to my case. Chase has been absent and returned only last night, so that it may be several days yet ere I can get a decision. The law, as construed by the accounting officer, would keep me out of my salary till next winter. I really think it does not apply to my case, and have written a good argument to prove to the Secretary the correctness of this opinion. I have no trouble, however, as to my finances in consequence of this decision, except that it will cost me some little interest in the meantime.

Mr. Pippin has returned and been put in charge of the City post office. He was here yesterday evening and I thought was going to stay all night.

Adieu my darling precious wife and kiss a thousand times the little children for their loving papa.

A.W.

I shall not forget to buy the material of which you sent the sample a few days ago. Remember affectionately to your Father and Mother.

*Anderson Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, New York*

Fall River [Mass.] Oct 17. 1863

Dear Sister Liz—

I find myself continually, in imagination calling upon you in your noisy 4<sup>th</sup> Ave home. I hope you will get over frequently to see Maggie [his wife] & the baby [Henry]. You know she feels very much for you & will always be glad to see you. Probably you will find that the unexpected addition to your stay in N.Y. will prove specially beneficial.

I am quite curious to ascertain the result of my writing to the Water Cure at Sharon Springs.

You may be sure that God has good designs in keeping you so long in N.Y. I believe firmly that you are the subject of too many prayers to be passed over without a gracious regard by a supervening Providence.

To me it is the one & great comfort of my life to know that the very hairs of my head are all numbered & that all that transpires is ordered for my good. I had not the least desire to come here, & came because I thought it to be my duty. Already I see that I am highly favored in the manner in which the people received me; & never was I happier in my life. I have plenty to do & when I am busiest I am happiest. It is true they are a poor & a very plain people, but it is to just such that the gospel is preached & by such that the gospel is received. It is an unspeakable comfort for me to know that my pulpit is untrammelled & I can speak the whole truth on all doctrines and duties.

I very much wish I were in N.Y. all the time you were there. How much I would like to go around with you. I do hope you will forego all your feelings about your looks & go out as much as you can. You may be sure that your healthy state both of body & mind in no little degree depends upon your attention to open air exercise. I begin to take it as the medicine for all my ailments. And here I have an excellent opportunity in rowing, sawing wood &c.

I hope dear Liz, you will soon let me hear from you, & let me carry out the proposition I before made. Do try & obey the scripture injunction—”casting all your care upon God for he careth for you.”

Your affect' bro.

A.M. Wylie

*Anderson Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, New York*

Fall River [Mass] Oct. 30, 1863

Dear Liz

I was exceedingly glad to receive your good long letter, which was very interesting to me, & some parts painfully so. You are much blessed in having such a friend as Mrs C—. However you must feel lonely & desirous to get back home again. I do hope you will not be delayed beyond the time “old B” [her plastic surgeon] specified. I regret to learn thro' Maggie [his wife]

that a reply to my letter came stating that there is no water cure at Sharon. You might ask Maggie to find out where Dr Cox, sent his daughter, & if you desire it I will write again. However if you think it best to go to Cleveland my constant prayers for your spiritual & physical recovery shall attend you. Please dont ever speak about such a thing as the \$10,—It was put out of my hand & is never again to be used by me, for I am not an Indian to take back gifts when once bestowed. And if you continue for a time at C-[leveland] I will be glad to make any little additions to your funds,

You speak very candidly about your spiritual condition. Of course, “If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me.” Now surely we are responsible for harboring revengeful envious, ambitious, impure or dishonest purposes; & surely it is also possible for us to strive to put them away, & with this feeling God will help us. An old writer has said,—”I cannot help unclean birds flying above me, but I am responsible if I allow them to light upon my head.” Satan may shoot many wicked things into our hearts[;] for this we are not responsible, only we are blameworthy if we encourage their continuance or return.

As to your strange views concerning the Providences of God with you; I can only say & repeat what God assures us over & over again, that “whom the Lord loveth he chasteth & scourgeth every son whom he receiveth”. (Read prayfully & study Heb XII.) Now God is not a liar, however Satan may tempt us to indulge the awful thought.

It seems to me that your view takes for granted that health comfort & wealth for a few short years in this world are more important & desirable than the soul’s salvation for an Endless Eternity. In most cases God simply sees that it is impossible to save a soul without sending the severest afflictions to wean the affection’s from an idoltrous regard of the “things that are seen”, & to compel the reflection’s toward spiritual things. Remember we are free agents & God has so much respect of our freedom that He would not infringe a straw’s breadth on our moral liberty; & in fact this is in the nature of things, impossible. Now the question with every one whom God means to save is, would you rather escape affliction in this present world for a few short years & be lost hopelessly for the weary rounds of an Eternal duration; or will you put yourself in my hands, suffer now what I may see necessary to send & be saved in bliss & glory for ever & ever? Now who in his senses could hesitate for a moment as to his choice? As to all the mere speculative questions about origin or continuance of evil the sooner we lock them away from our view the better. Angels desire to look into these things & find them too deep for them. We know that we are sinners & that God so loved us as to give freely his only Son that we might be saved. This is all we need to know — All beyond is thrown in as a device of Satan to keep our eyes from Him that was lifted on the cross. The cross answers all doubts as to Gods tenderness & goodness. Believe & live.

Write soon –  
Your affect bro  
A.M. Wylie

1864

*Mary E. Masters to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla at the water cure, Dansville, New York*

Greenwich Jan 18<sup>th</sup> 1864

My Dear Mrs McCalla

Your letter would have been answered ere this, but my long illness (previous to meeting you) prevented my writing to friends so that I found myself indebted. Mr Masters Mother who is living with us has been confined to her room for six long weeks some of the time unable to walk about her room, her ankles being the cause of her sickness, she is now able to come to her meals once more. I have had one of the most severe attacks of rheumatism affecting the right arm, was unable to dress myself, and for two days kept [to] my bed most of the time it lasted me about a week, My husband was in New York at the time, am now better & he has invited me to accompany him when he goes again, and he expects to go some time next week. The great Sanitary Fair of Brooklyn is to come off which they claim will excel N.Y. city, you will read accounts of it no doubt, we have friends residing there & the temptation will be great but it is now too cold for me to think of leaving home.

From your description of the Water Cure it must be a delightful spot for invalids. I think persons that are weak ought to be very careful and not bathe too much, it is reducing, tires me very much, it taxes one still more at home, when you cannot have the conveniences that you do there. You say your Husband & child were anxious for your return, what could we do without the sympathy of kind friends in sickness. Ward Beecher says he thinks there is more of Joy than sorrow in this world and I suppose there is more occasion for Joy than sorrow if we view, or take life aright.

I was interested in reading an account of the manner in which you spent the Holidays I admire the gentleman from New Haven for his liberality, and only hope he is as generous with his Minister & family as he has been with his Physician, for you know it is a great thing to have one to point us to the "Physician of souls." We have a new Pastor I have become very much attached to him and his wife they are devoted to the interest of the church. I am taking a little paper "The Parish Visitor" Episcopaleon it is only 25cts a year comes monthly but is most excellent, your brother takes it no doubt. Have just written my cousin in Newport telling him of your brother (Rev Anderson Wylie) their Pastor may have been associated with him in church matters. Fall River although in Mass[achusetts] is near the state line. With regard to yourself you say "all is dark and wild within" I understand, and appreciate that sentence fully I think, can compose the height, depth, length, & breadth, but still hope all will [be] made plain as sunlight to your now darkened mind.

"He livith long who livith well

All other life is false & vain"

"He livith wisely who can tell

Of true things truly done, each day"

Let your religious duties consist in doing for "the loved ones at home" first, in instructing your little girl, then the Bible makes plain the duty of a wife, he [her husband, John] will the Spirit first

show your unfaithfulness in duty no doubt, but God's mercy will pardon you, and then grant you grace to enable you to do present duty, if you heartily desire it. and then comes a sense of pardon, and with it, as a necessary accompaniment "peace of mind which passeth all understanding." If God through Christ could pardon me with all my aggravated sins, he will pardon you—he has pledged himself says "he is faithful & just to forgive us our sins"

God is the hearer & answerer of prayer. here is my trust, pray fervently for yourself that you may have the way of truth made plain to you, look to Him as to Father confide your everlasting all to his watchful care, look to Jesus there is no other name given by which we can be saved, take the Bible read the invitations, I might say inducements held out to win us to the dear Saviour. "Behold what manner of love God hath bestowed upon us that we should be called sons & daughters" &c "Jesus is All" is one of the best guides I have ever read, it is a tract by the A.T. [American Tract] Society, another is "All in All" by Ryle but I trust you have ere this come to the light, and are rejoicing in hope, all you can do, is to desire to do Gods will & he will give you light remembering that it is God that worketh in us, to will and to do, if we only yield ourselves to him.

And now when you have resolved the Tempter will come, constantly reminding you of your past life, he has great power over the human mind, resist him say to him (I have spoken) "Devil go away" "go away" as if he was bodily, present. I hate him with a perfect hatred because he is the enemy of Souls & of all good.

I must close, write me again, about your own home, your little daughter, your own fears & hopes, truly your friend

Mary E. Masters

Greenwich

Washington Co. N.Y.

At Cincinnati O. No 28 West 4th St. you can get a Tract called "The Sinners Friend" which has been translated into 23 different languages—only 3cts they have packages for 10cts commencing with "How shall I honor Jesus to day" The Sinners Friend is a seperate tract I would recommend you to take the "Parish Visitor" only 25cts a year Rev. H. Dyer D.D. No 3. Bible House. New York is the address—I get most of my tracts there—

***H.B. Barton to Anderson McElroy Wylie, Fall River, Massachusetts***

Branchport Jany 25<sup>th</sup> 1864

My dear Wylie

I was glad to get your letter on Saturday last and to know that you have so interesting and prosperous a field of labor. May the hand of the Son have free course and be glorified among you with the blessing of the Holy Spirit. I have some very delightful Christian families, with the rare combination of wealth, evangelical piety, and sound Anti-Slavery zeal — They emigrated some 40 yrs ago from Virginia to get rid of the pest institution. The locality is rural the field small — a hard stratum of Universalism resists the gospel plow—but there are signs of breaking up—

Many are in tears under the word of life as it is held forth in the Sanctuary and in Meetings from house to house — I hope for solid results, There is a marshy surface which I fear will drive me away—with my known physical proclivities &c &c I am most happy to give aid & relief as far as in my power to your friend under the insidious and dangerous disease referred to but dangerous chiefly because [it is] insidious and undermining [to] the constitution often before detected or suspected. I discovered it before it was quite too late, & it is only by rigid adherence to my rule that I continue well — It is this Exclusive animal diet—except cabbage — celery. spinach & that class of vegetables which come under the head of greens all of which may be used Bran-cakes may be used — Get wheat bran. (not graham) & have it ground fine—very fine—wash all the flour out of it, boil it 2 or 3 hrs & make it into cakes with eggs—& butter if preferred—or else Boil it only & eat it as mush with milk or cream articles prohibited—Every thing which has sugar or starch in it—of course—all flour doings—farinaceous [containing, consisting of, or made from flour or meal. starchy] food & fruits — apples may—in convalescence be allowed —Drinks — pure well water —Tea & coffee — if not found to disagree Milk — (no Sugar in the tea & coffee) pure Brandy & Bourbon or Apple whiskey—; in some cases—these are indispensable—to repair waste—& recruit strength, but they must be used with caution —

As a general rule—liquids of all kinds must not be used freely. Pure Soda water— (without the Syrup) or with Extra Soda—is a healthful beverage If there be acidity of stomach use Soda—that is, the best bi-carbonate in pretty strong solution of water — very freely—& vary it occasionally—by substituting a weak solution of carbinat of Ammonia — The Soda is the best however—write soon—love to all—

H.B. Barton

P.S. A good plan is to get an Urinometer and test the specific gravity — If it is not higher than 35, there is good hope — try & eat prudently, live in the open air[,] avoid exposures—bathe in tepid water with much friction of skin—so as to get the urine down to 15 or 20 —Get a pint cup & measure the quantity of urine passed in 24 hrs — It ought be only from 2 to 4 pints—but measure the whole of it—

Let this regime be tried for a month then I should like to hear the result The quantity of food is also important — Eat enough for strength & digestion — all above that increases the complaints

My wife joins in love to you & yours —

HBB

The Rev A.M. Wylie

*Magaret Wylie Martin to Mary Wylie Dodds, Bloomington, Indiana*

Lancaster Dallas Co. [Texas] March 27. 1864

Dear sister Mary Dodds.

It is so much of a bedlam around me I hardly know how to commence writing you. It is blowing a big “Norther” so that I am obliged to keep the children within doors, as they all

have the hooping cough excepting Susie, who is the only one well enough to be at school. We have three Texians in the family Nevins, Claudius and Flora Ballantine our latest arrival will be a year old 31. of May. I named her in honor of the Prof's family in general; You must tell them about her when you see them. O! how much I should appreciate being back again at good old Bloomington. We have hard times in Texas, but not so hard as in those states where conflicting armies meet. It has been very sickly in our neighborhood during the past year and many deaths have taken place, Several heads of families have been taken leaving helpless children. I often think were I left in this situation at this time I would certainly be more to be pitied than the darkies who are so much the subject of northern compassion. I wish you could hear how lustily the niggers sing some times, you would be disposed to think them the happiest people upon earth. I wish the Northern people could take Scriptural & reasonable views upon the subject of slavery and Sweet peace would again smile blessings around our homes and country. As far as we are able to judge the southern people are one in regard to a determination never to be subjugated. Gen [John Hunt] Morgan is a good specimen of the spirit which animates most the southerners. I have not seen any papers for several weeks and would like to know the news. If the Feds come here they will have to bring both food and water with them or soon be starved out. Owing [to] the past severe winter the wheat looks very badly and is already \$20 per. bushel and the wells have almost all become so low that people are every where hauling, some 3 & 4 miles. Mr M [Sam, her husband]—has hauled ever since we came here about mile & quarter and the water here is giving out as there are half dozen families using out of it. Should there be another drought this spring & summer I suppose we shall be obliged to move in self defense. This moving about I am heartily tired of, and although it is such a task I would be willing to undertake it if I could better myself. Since we came here we have had to use the strictest economy to obtain the bare necessities of life. Mr M's salary is \$200 per year in Confederate paper The present price of a single coat! This winter he has given away to some one and another considerably over his whole salary. From Oct. to May he teaches school of boys & girls numbering from 20 to 30 pupils, until lately owing to hard times there have been only 15. It seems to me the judgments of heaven have been against both north & south in this unnatural and bloody war. Old settlers here say seasons & crops have not prospered of late years. They may well shake their heads & look ominous if this state of things continue Almost Everybody nowadays looks discontented & cross and most persons talk as if they were determined to leave Texas when peace is made. I heard a gentleman say the other day he liked the people of Texas very well until this war broke out. We have not heard from uncle Alexanders [Martin] family since last Aug. Mr M has written several times since, but no answer as yet. We wrote you last fall about the death of Heber A[lexander] & Mr Taylor[,] uncle's son in law. They were both killed in battle. Joe & William are in the service and liable to meet the same sad fate. This part of Texas is made up of about dozen sets of long tail kin who take little, if any interest or care in anyone else. I am so very tired of living among them that you may look for us back when peace, yes when p-e-a-c-e is made O! that this time may soon come when we can hear from you all at least. How is your own health as well as the Doctors [her husband, James F. Dodds]? Are Emma & Lizzie [Mary's daughters] married yet? Tell them the Texas girls often marry at 14. I know a woman in the country of my age who has been grandmother several years and is the most healthy, happy woman you would meet anywhere. How does the College flourish? Is cousin Theophilus [A. Wylie] & Prof B[allentine]—still there? What has become of Dr Daily [William Daily, president of IU, 1853–1859]? I suppose he has become general in this war. The cause of religion & learning seems to be in a very languishing

condition during this dreadful scourge. I hope Samuel [died, Nov., 1861] & Kemper are teaching school by this time. Give our love to all enquiring friends especially the Professors & their families with whom we are acquainted.

Your affect sister  
M.W.M.

*Belle Irwin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Palmer [Massachusetts] Sept. 20. 64

My dear Friend

I recieved your letter a few weeks ago and very welcome it was. I had really thought I was forgotten by you or else you had never recieved the one I sent you while at the "Cure" and then again I thought perhaps you were ill. I should have answered it ere this but when I recieved it I was preparing for [the] country (where I now am) and thought I could answer it much better if I waited until I came here. I am enjoying it so now. We have had such beautiful weather everything looks so lovely. I think October and Sept beautiful months to visit the country as all the foliage is turning and that is beautiful here as they have a variety of trees. The prospect from my window here is quite different from the one in city. Oh dear it is such a relief to the eye from the old bricks and mortor. I must reread your letter and answer some of your questions. I am so sorry to hear that your health was not much if any benefitted at the cure. Hope you are feeling better now. How badly you must feel for your sister [Jane Wylie]. Hope she has improved but I suppose these trials are all for the best although we cannot always see it in that light. I have been very well this summer only feeling wearied a little sometimes by the monatony of store life. As you say twelve years is a long while to stand behind the counter. I almost despair of having that promotion you expect to hear of. Let me see you ask me "How about a certain Medical gent who visits Brooklyn occasionally." I rather suppose you have reference to Dr Neff as if my memory serves me right he has called once or twice. Well my dear friend he is well the last I heard of him. He is at Annapolis practicing in Hospital there. I like you [liked] what little I saw of him thought or think him "quite a clever fellow." Is all this definite enough? Mr Stedman or Dr S is practicing in Jamaica Plain near Boston and doing well. The Hales are in Springfield studying. Well what think you. This is news. Miss North is to be married the first of November and what think you to a Devine, Rev Philip Steine of Lancaster Penn. He has just completed his studies in New York. She became acquainted with him at her boarding house. Was only three weeks there before she was engaged. Quick work was it not. After you left she went to board with Mrs Washburn where she only boarded a-while when they had some trouble and they parted, she had quite a time getting a place[,] but after a while she got both place and Husband. She called to see me a few days before I left city and was feeling well and quite elated about the coming event. Hope she may be happy and make a good ministers wife.

I received a letter from Miss Hinman you remember her. Do you not? Well she writes me she is engaged and here is poor I, left all alone. I try to keep up my spirits[,] sing just as much as ever[,] I guess perhaps I am like what that old song says. "Saddest when I sing. I don't think so though. Oh I do wish Mrs McCalla I could see you a few moments [so] I could jabber a little. How I laughed when I read your letter at that part when you imagined you saw us in that little

room bundled up with trunk and bandboxes. You ask me how I am situated now very pleasantly I am boarding with a young friend of mine for whom I was bridesmaid a few years ago. I have such a nice room all to myself. just as cozy. wish you could peep in. hope you will come to city soon and then you may see It is quite a distance from store. but then I am fully repaid when I get there for all my trouble I don't go to store until nine o'clock and leave at half past 5 oc I have the same hours home you see. I think the ride and sail do me good although sometimes I feel rather tired There goes dinner bell so I must leave you for a while. Have eaten dinner and had a nice ride which I enjoyed ever so much. I am always ready if a team [of horses] comes along. I anticipate quite a pleasant time tomorrow have been invited to ride to Mount Holyoke, about twenty miles, it is a beautiful road. and from the top of Mountain there is a splended view it is visited by a great number of people. I almost dread the time for my return. just wish I had enough money to clothe me I would just visit for a year or two and then not see all my friends. Do wish I were rich but would rather half health I hear you respond to that we dont hardly appreciate it as we should[,] at least not untill we lose it Now about Beatrous. I have only been there once to visit since I left. I left pleasantly enough in one sense of the word but feeling a little provoked as she kept moving me around from one room to the other. finally I went home one day found my trunk in bath room so on spur of moment I went directly for Express Man and then sent [them] to Brooklyn. You ought to have seen how astonished she looked when he came for trunks. I stepped up and said Mrs B. I rather thought my trunks were in your way and thought I should remove them and of course I shall go with them. She looked amazed and said why I wouldnt have you go for anything Miss Irwin. I thought of you as one of family. and took the liberty of doing so only for a few days while Mr Howe was here. I said I was sorry but I thought it best to change so I paid her and left. she gave me a very pressing invite to come there and stay that night and so forth and Ellen has been to see me a number of times She has just returned from a visit to the Falls (Niagra) where she went with a young Russian who is boarding with them. I think it was rather an imprudent thing going all alone with him I told her I should not care to have done so. she said she did not care as perhaps she should never have chance again. And poor Mrs Covert I believ has not had very good luck Mr Covert left the vessel he was [with] and has been rather sick again when better they think of returning to New York[,] the last I heard of them I feel sorry for her. shall enquire of them soon and find out how they are. Mrs Hill called on me two or three times while on a visit here this summer she has returned to Cincinatti. There is no one boarding at Mrs B. that were there when we were. Mr Elliot of "Alcholic memory" has returned so I heard to St Domingo. How I can laugh when I think of that evening we listened to his ravings. I believe now I have told you all I know of our fellow boarders. and will be happy to do so again if you will only write me a little oftener. I must now bid you bye bye as it is time for mail to go. Write soon and think of me kindly

Yours aff  
Belle Irwin

P.S. I think I shall have to let one of those tucks out of my skirt as it has shrunk.

N.B. How is that bachelor brother [Redick Wylie] you wrote of I regretted much that Mr. [John] McCalla did not call on me when in New York if again must do so.

My address thinking you may have forgotten 761 Broadway

*Craig D. Ritchie to Jane M. Wylie, care of Redick Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

508 Walnut St. Philadelphia Decem. 27<sup>th</sup>. 1864.

My dear Jane,

I promised in a short note to you sometime ago to write to you from Baltimore, but I did not keep my word, being very busily occupied all the time I was there. I suppose You would like to hear some particulars about my marriage, & though I am a poor hand at giving descriptions of such things I will try to do the best I can for you—

Behold me then on the first of December getting up about 7 1/2 o'clock, washing thoroughly, dressing, eating my breakfast & then going out to buy a hat a thing which I had procrastinated till then. Returning home I put on my dress coat, white choker, white gloves & getting into a cab with Aunty left about 9 1/4 o'clock & reached 10th & Walnut Sts. at 9 1/2. Walked up to the 3rd story met Charlotte looking very prettily, & a few minutes after ten walked down to the parlor — There were assembled about 20 persons of her family & Aunty—(Ma not being well enough to go out) the minister & Alen Priestley & in a few minutes Jack Letterman & his wife—

The Minister stepped forward, began & ended in two minutes & we were husband & wife — After receiving some congratulations we stepped upstairs donned our best bibs & tuckers for traveling costumes, went down into the dining room, ate some oysters &c. & started at 11 1/4 for the Baltimore Depot Jack going over with us. After a pleasant trip we arrived about 4 o'clock at Baltimore, drove to Lib's had a hearty welcome, & remained there until Tuesday afternoon enjoying ourselves very much—& occupied all the time, when we returned to Philad. & settled down to ordinary life—

We are living at home in 12<sup>th</sup>. St. I have fitted up my library room as library & parlor very neatly, new paper, oak painting &c. and are very comfortable & happy. My time at the office has been very much occupied with business & in the evenings I have not had many spare minutes as we have had numerous callers — I am thoroughly satisfied with the step I have taken, and feel that at last I have gotten into the position every one of my years ought to be in[,] viz. [namely] that of one who has something else than himself to live for & the feeling that the hopes wishes fears & life of another are bound up with mine gives me a feeling of responsibility—at the same time pleasing & yet causing serious thought.

You may have a recollection of Charlotte as sitting in our church at your right hand when at the head of our pew. She remembers you perfectly. I would enclose her photograph, but she has not [had] one taken yet, but as soon as they are I will mail you one.

Jack Letterman has resigned from the army & takes charge of a large mining operation in California whither he expects to sail in about a month. He will leave his wife here for a year & then probably she will go out to join him. I am sorry in some respect that he has done so as I have no doubt he would eventually have risen to the Surgeon Generalship, but he expects to have a much better income & to succeed in worldly matters better than hitherto.

Aunt Jane [Ritchie] we left pretty well for her. She seemed to be much taken with Charlotte, & I believe they all much approved my choice.

Ma & Aunty are tolerably well — They & Charlotte desire to be remembered to you—  
Love to all—  
Your affectionate Cousin  
C. D. Ritchie

Miss Jane Wylie  
Care of Redick Wylie  
Bloomington Indiana

1865

*Jane Ritchie to Jane M. Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Baltimore Janr'y 10<sup>th</sup> 1865

Dear Jane

I rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of Christmas few days ago, I was very glad indeed to hear from you, I have an occasional correspondence with Mr [Joseph] Bell & thru him have heard from you all — I am truly sorry to hear that you are still suffering from your disease, I think I can sympathize with those in trouble, of mind or body having passed thru pretty severe trials of both myself If we pray constantly for patience & submission to the Divine Will, doing the best we can as regards the means of healing, then leaving the result with Him Who only knows what is best for us, we shall find strength for the burden we have to bear — I am glad to hear that you are with E[lizabeth] & Redick [her sister and brother] you are fortunate to be where you can get, cream milk & eggs, poor watered milk here is 15 cts quart eggs from 60 to 70 cts per doz—& the common roll butter hardly fit to eat 60 cts per lb good 75 & 80 cts — so you may see it cost something to live here now — I fattened on cream last summer almost lived on the very best quality for more than three months, could have any quantity I wished & beside we had best quality for more than three months, could have any quantity I wished & beside we had best quality of ice cream & frozen custurd almost to constantly — I had a most comfortable & delightful summer gained 15 lbs of flesh while in Harford — I am truly thankful that the improvement in my health continues, & feel quite satisfied & thankful for my daily bread whatever it is, so that my health, continues comparatively better — Elizabeth [Smith, a niece] keeps a very comfortable table, I often tell her I would not have as much seeing the price of every thing is so enormous, she says she is as careful as she can be to make her family comfortable, but that it takes most of the salary for the market — They have had fifteen of a family since I have been here, & almost every day some stranger to dinner or ten beside — E's health is better than it was last summer, but she looks very thin & boney, is just now recovering from two or three days of severe sick headache — She & Mr Smith both are run down have quite too much to do, E has naturally a great deal of energy & she exerts herself quite too much — The visiting & receiving company she has would be enough for her without any care of a family — Your Aunt Ann [Letterman], E & Annie P—have engagements of various kinds all the time — I have not made any new acquaintances, & go out less this winter than ever I did when well enough to go, I have been very much confined with my eyes, I took cold in them in Nov, from being out windy day, & they have been very weak & most of the time painful since, so that I don't go out when the weather is damp or windy & we have had little else this winter — Gov.er [Jon] Letterman has resigned from the Army & expects to sail for Cal<sup>a</sup> next Friday — He has accepted an offer from a company in Phil<sup>a</sup> to go out to Los Angelas & superintend the opening of oil wells there,—for which he will receive a very large salary paid in gold, every thing found [for] him, & no risk to run in the business himself — his wife expects to follow him next spring, I have not seen her yet, but am prepared to like her very much, from all I have heard of her think she must be a good & superior woman — Sister Ann is going to Phil<sup>a</sup> next week to stay a while with her [nephew]— Craig D [Ritchie] & his wife [Charlotte] are getting

along so far most happily, she we think suits both Craig & the place she is in, with his Ma & Aunt — I rec<sup>d</sup> a letter short time since from sister Ab [Abigail Ritchie] she wrote in low spirits, thought she had lost all the money she had rec<sup>d</sup> from An<sup>d</sup> [Andrew McKee] They wondered they did not hear from him, your Aunt Eliza [McKee] thought if he had made a large fortune he would buy a home for her, my heart akes for her I fear she will be hardly able for the stroke (that we fear is true) of him — I have written to John H McKee in New Orleans in hope that I may get the truth about An<sup>d</sup> I think he must know, if he gets my letter I hope to hear all about it — We are all very happy to hear of the improvement in your sister E[lizabeth Wylie McCalla]’s health & spirits, there is nothing like constant employment at something we must take an interest in for both mind & body, if we are at all able for it — you ought to be happy with two such good kind men as Mr [John] McCalla & Redick [Wylie] from all accounts must be — my love to the latter & tell him I have great respect for a young man who has succeeded as he has from his own energy & honesty — the right uses of what we have gained in the right way, will alone give us happiness here & hereafter, “If you would enter into life keep the Commandments.” Poor Mag Martin what miserable condition they as well as thousands of others are now in all thru the South. What the end will be is known only to Him who rules over all — We no nothing of brother John [Ritchie]’s fate haven’t heard a word of him — brother David [Ritchie] was very sick all last month, but was better last week able to be up & write to me but not out of his room — We had not heard of the death of your brother An<sup>d</sup>’s child we feel very sorry for them, they have been very unfortunate in their children — Elizabeth Smith has been [intending] to go over & see them for a day but has not been able to go yet — we were very glad to hear from Mr Leake thru you he did not answer Sister A’s last letter & we hadn’t heard from them for a long time — The writing of a letter now is a heavy penalty on my eyes, & I am now near the end of their use for this time, or I could fill another sheet — I have nearly doz unanswered letters now — Three or four of that I rec<sup>d</sup> from Wy before I returned from the country — Sister A[bigail] & Elizabeth join me in much love to all – Mary [Wylie Dodds] & her family also Write soon & let me know how you are

Your affect Aunt Jane

***Irene Wylie Bell to sister Jane Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana***

Wheeling, [West] VA January 17, 1865

Dear Jane

Your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> was received last night, and your directions in regard to medicine has been attended too [to], and the powders will be prepared tomorrow, when I will have them forwarded, and do hope they will prove of benefit to you. The fact of your feet swelling proves that you should have medical attention. Do you observe that any part of your body swells. Dr. Kiger is very sanguine that the powders sent will have the desired effect, at the same time he recommends that you be very careful least you take cold, and that your cooking your meat the least bit will prevent it having the good effect desired, don’t let it go near the fire. I think you might, by seasoning it highly[,] find it more palatable than you suppose. He is so positive that you will derive benefit from it, that I do hope you will give it a good trial. He thinks tender beef preferable to game. I shall probably see him tomorrow and if there are any farther [further]

directions will add a P.S.

I sent you the bran some days ago by express, suppose it has reached you. It seems to me that it is not very prudent in you to be out sleighing at night, or out at night at all. Think you ought not to go up to church at night leaving the warm room and riding the distance. This weather is as much as a stout man can well endure. I called to condole with poor Mrs. Chapline the other day. She sends her love to you and says stick to the bran bread. That Lizzie did well on it. For several weeks before her death she had taken a great dislike to the bran, and would not taste it, and they tried graham bread, but they thought it did her an injury and made her a more easy prey to the disease which carried her off. You ask for particulars of her death, they are but few.

She went out this Saturday before Christmas to buy presents for the family and returned home very sick, took her bed, the Dr. came found her with fever and varioloid [mild form of small pox] symptoms. The family was not alarmed until the next Wednesday or Thursday, nor did Lizzie think herself so ill, for she sent [for] Mrs. Frost the first of the week and made arrangements to have a double wrapper made, for she expected a visitor on New Years and wanted it to wear, alas before that looked for day she was wrapped in her winding sheet and put out of sight forever. The disease soon went to the brain, and she was not sensible of anything or anyone for [from] Wednesday (I think) until she died which was Friday night. She suffered a great deal. Her death is a terrible stroke to her parents and a shock to all the friends. I had not heard that she was ill until after she was dead.

She was to have been one of Mollie Brown's bridesmaids. The girls are to be married next Thursday evening at 8 o'clock in Church. I called the other day to see them. They are all perfectly delighted. They have a very nice wardrobe, and Mollie showed me a number of handsome presents received. Her intended's present is a handsome set of fur. He had already furnished her in the jewelry line. They [will] visit the cities of course, on the return. Mollie and Mr. Hemmeger [will] stop in Pittsburgh which is to be their home. I did not suppose the girls would do so well as they have had so many love scrapes. I must not forget to mention that Moll Robertson is here as one of the bridesmaids, and what is surprising is to stand with Dewey. I saw his lordship on the ice yesterday. Don't think him very graceful.

We have had more rain and snow, cold and ice and sleet this winter that I ever remember. It is so slippery half the time you risk your limbs walking out. Button Caldwell fell and broke his thigh the other day. Today there is quite a fall of snow and the sleighs are going. Our old butter man came today with his nice butter, a couple of chickens and a beautiful turkey. He often inquires for you. We have had venison this winter until we are tired of it. We have partridges [partridges] and pheasants also, and the finest oysters which I think beats your rabbits. I think you would fare better here, so come on. I made some most excellent mince meat. We think about the best we ever tasted. I wish E[lizabeth Wylie McCalla] would write me how she makes apple butter. Our apples are rotting and I had best make something.

Susan was here to know if we would take her. She looks badly has been sick. I am very well. Visited Sam, did not take her. I have two very good girls. I found with one girl I could do no serving and could get out but at certain hours and Joseph [her husband] was scolding all the time. Concluded I had best get a half grown one too. Bird [Margaret Bell] still improves is getting a little flesh on her bones. We know nothing of Jack's movements. Do you ever hear from Andrew [Wylie, Jr.]. I think you might manage to fill your little sheet of paper. Write soon.

*Henry W. Ballantine to Jane M. Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Bombay Jan, 28<sup>th</sup> 1865

My dear friend Jennie:

You have not received a letter from me for several years, yet I hope you will not be frightened. My sister Mary's last letter informed me of your & Redicks [Wylie, her brother] uniting with the church and I could not refrain from troubling you with a few lines – a relief to the joy of my own heart.

I know you too well to suppose this a hasty step on your part— You are not of those who believe that mere Church membership can save us. I am sure you would not have taken such a step until you had already found in Christ that peace you so long have sought in vain— I feel therefore justified in rejoicing. Well do I remember your anxious period of years ago & your longing for this very peace. Often I secretly wished the impossible thing—that I might transfer to you my own joy in Christ & come again to seek Christ for myself – all these years I have not forgotten you & often on my poor prayers have borne your case before the throne of grace. How can not I be thankful now? I was made very sorry when I heard that you were not in good health not long ago; but when the soul health is good we can rejoice even under bodily infirmity— What are these our bodies? They are but dust & soon to perish. But one week ago I was at the deathbed of a lady who in a single day withered away from strong health. A lady staying with us in our house was taken with cholera last Friday morning & by 6 in the evening was a corpse— No, her body was left a corpse only — her spirit, I have no fear, went to Him whom in life she had loved. A godly life left nothing to be desired from her in the way of evidence when she came to die. By the power of the disease she was unable to say anything & yet we are confident & happy. But what a warning to us. “Be ye also ready” She was strong & well—in perfect health, it seemed. How is our life in the hand of God! & being there it is safe. May we only take care that we are under the shelter of his wing & all will be well.

Since I saw you last in 1859, was it? many changes have come to me — I am no longer the rattling boy you used to know; life & its labors & cares have made me steadier, I hope & the grace of God I trust has made me better. My home is no longer in free America, but in torrid India. Yet I do not regret my coming. On the contrary I know no higher pleasure than to sit down in the early morning or evening when it is cool & tell of Jesus to a listening company of these dark sons of the East — Lately the people have shown a great interest wherever I have gone – Daily in the street they gather about me & let me talk as long as I will of Him who alone can save. Do not suppose that Satan is giving up his hold on these his poor slaves — No they are yet bound hand & foot — but God's Spirit has lately increased in them greatly a desire to hear—or perhaps I should say a willingness to hear; for I have to go to them, they do not come to me — And is it not a privilege to be able to tell of Jesus & his love & of everlasting life to those who are in bondage & darkness? I could not choose a better & happier work & would esteem it my sorest trial if in God's providence I should be prohibited from it. Only may I have grace to keep myself near to Christ— May I not ask your prayers for me now — but you also, where you are, can tell of Christ to those who know him not & even if you are confined by illness to your own room, by patience & cheerfulness & trust can honor him before those who come to see you—

These years have brought many changes to you too — How very different your life now & your plans & thoughts must be from what they were when I used to visit you in your old home on

the hill among the beeches — We could not see the future then — nor can we now — but God has led us & will lead us — Countless are the mercies & deliverances I have received from him since then — I am so rejoiced to know that Redick can join you in this your peace & hope. Many many are the kindnesses he has shown me & those I love — I shall never forget them. Will you give him my warmest Christian greeting & love — May you long be spared to make each other happy in your new home — Will you express my kindest & most grateful remembrances to dear Mr. Bishop & his wife — to your own sisters & brothers & to all my friends in Bloomington — May God yet bless you all more & more abundantly with His good Spirit — I shall always love the old town as the place of my own spiritual birth — In Heaven we shall meet & talk over many pleasant things—

My wife joins me in all good wishes for you & Redick — She remembers R's kindness but had not the pleasure of seeing you.

It would give me great pleasure to hear from you at any time — Simply enclose your letter in an outer envelope—the outer one directed James M. Gordon Esqr., 33 Pemberton Square, Boston, Mass. — the inner one with my name.

Believe me ever your sincere friend

H.W. Ballantine

*Anderson M. Wylie to Jane M. Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Fall River [Massachusetts] Feb 6, '65

My dear Sister

I am so much gratified at hearing the news which came thro' Irene [Wylie Bell, their sister] that I must at once write you a line. You have long been the object of many prayers, & has not God answered them? Important as is the bodily health, is not the soul's welfare infinitely above th' of the body? It is unspeakably gratifying to know that you have been seeking rest where alone it can be found. Not in the visible Church alone, I trust, but by a direct surrender of yourself to the Him who taketh away the sin of the world. Now you must not be discouraged at the small beginnings. Remember that conversion is only the beginning of the Ch<sup>n</sup> life. As soon as you believe you are justified & rescued from the condemnation of sin, but this is only the beginning of the course of sanctificat<sup>n</sup>, "first the blade then the ear after that the full corn the ear". "The path of the just is as the shining light which shineth more & more to the perfect day." The grey of the early dawn & the struggling light of clouds of the morning must go before the noontide brightness.

Now all this is encouraging & to take the Bible view upon ch<sup>n</sup> [Christian]experience will save us from many an hour of unprofitable uneasiness & discouragement. The simple rule for us all to follow in the whole course of our race on earth is laid down in Heb XII: 2—"Looking unto Jesus["] &c—look away from self, from all classes of hindrances & keep the eye of faith always, steadily & forever resting upon Him alone. Do this & the clouds shall move & more break away, & ye shall go forward in as constantly increasing light.

I was much in hopes you w[oul]d write to me oftener. Remember I have two parishes on my hands. I preach three times every Sun' besides having two S. Schools to look after.

As to your bodily health do not forget th' believing prayer is better than any earthly remedies & must supplant the use of these. I may not have mentioned to you that for two years I suffered terribly from the Catarrh in the head. I am now I may say well, & when I am asked what cured me I believe I am bound to reply—prayer, I believe I am now so well almost wholly in answer to prayer. Often God may send disease for this purpose & when it drives us to Him as our sole reliance He may take it away. To be sure we must use the best known remedies but not rely upon these.

Have you heard of the wonderful power of yeast when used in your disorder? My friend in Brooklyn who has been cured tells me that the celebrated Cardinal Wiseman attributes his recovery to this as medicine. You had better inquire into the matter. But I must close — do write soon — of course Maggie [his wife] joins me in love to all—

Your affect bro'

A.M. Wylie

***L.D. Bishop to Jane Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana***

My dear Miss Wylie

A few friends are to be with us to morrow to tea. & it would give us much pleasure to see you with your Brother [Redick] at that time. If possible for you to come, be here early & so let us have a good, old fashioned, afternoon visit.

With love, yours,

L.D. Bishop

Monday Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>

1865

***Elizabeth Wylie McCalla to Andrew Wylie, Jr.***

Bloomington

April 7th '56 [sic; 1865]

Dear brother,

It has been almost a year, if not quite since your hurried visit of a day or two here. We expected to receive a letter from you on your return home, & have been on the look out for it ever since, but are pretty well convinced now that you do not intend to write that letter. Suppose you infer of us, as we do of you & yours, that affairs are about as usual. Last Fall we sold our Cot. & came down here to take care of Redick; we think an old bach, not at all competent to take care of himself. Mr. McCalla boards with his sister, he comes down Sat. evening & remains with us till Monday morning. Redick has a substantial & convenient house & has been at considerable expense in furnishing & fitting it up. When he has finished his improvements about the premises, there will be no more desirable farm in this part of the country; the view up & down the valley is lovely at any time & now that nature is putting on her verdant robes, 'tis enough to enliven even a Hypochondriac. We all desire you & Carry with little Pendleton to make us a long visit this Summer. Redick sends you his love & a most cordial invitation. Think you might rusticate out here a while to your physical advantage. Our family consists of the Professor, Jane, myself,

& Molly & the hired man Sam, a deserter from the Rebel Army, a good Union man always, but impressed by the Rebs, he took French leave of them the first opportunity. Jane's health is better than it was, tho she still suffers much at times & is quite discouraged as to her final recovery. My heart aches for the poor girl, particularly at meals to see the self denial she has to practice, living on that horrid sawdust bread. Meat has become so distasteful to her she eats but little of it & she is limited to but one or two kinds of vegetables which are now about done. Oh if we could see her well once more, what would we not give. Redick opened over 300 sugar trees, made enough sugar to do him the year, sold over 50 dols worth of molasses & has abundance for home consumption. Did most of the work himself, sitting up at night & all. He was quite worn out when the season was over. What with hard work, & good luck, think Red is destined to be the rich man of the family. Day or two since he sold the remainder of the bottom land, that lot below Prof Wylie's for over 16 sixteen hundred dollars. The whole price has netted him over \$2500, being only a portion of his patrimony. Wish Jane, as she is the most helpless, had got the Lion's share. Had not heard from sister Mag & family for over a year until last Aug we all received long letters. They were all well, but were enduring many privations & hardships. Provisions were an incredible price, clothing beyond their means, & water very scarce. Had to haul that beverage 3 miles. They are so dissatisfied with Texas they intend going to California as soon as the war is over. They think the South ought to have been let alone, rather than this awful war should have been inaugurated. Worst of all the bad news she sent us (as far as we can see) they have had 3 olive branches added to their family in an incredibly short space of time (since they went to Texas). Poor little things, they must have dry living as milk was not to be got in that forsaken land. Sam'l was preaching & teaching. The male part of his congregation consisted of 2 men, the rest having gone to war. He gets but \$200 a year for his ministerial services, the price Mag says of a Confed. Coat.

If you see Bollman within the next month please tell him to send Red a paper of Evergreen Corn. Was going up to tell him myself (he is here now) but it keeps on raining & fear I shall not be able to go. He might send two papers, one to Red & one to meself.

Wished Redick to write you this letter, but he pleads a press of business. He is paling in garden & yard, clearing land, making garden & getting ready to put in big crops. Wheat in these parts promises well & we are having an early Spring & shall have a great abundance of all kinds of fruit if Jack Frost does not visit with the besom of destruction. Hope however it is too late for his visitations. We are all just now happy, jubilant, over the fall of Richmond. Hope the Chivalry have found, or are running towards the last ditch. May the bottom be the bottomless pit was going to say, but upon reflection will take a more Christian view and wish them repentance & better minds if not & a speedy subjugation if not extermination. Mary & family are all well. Jane is not here, or she would join me in love to you all. Such a long, long time has elapsed since we have heard from you all. Hope Carry will write us if you have not time, immediately. We would be just as much pleased to receive a letter from her as yourself.

Affectionately your sister

E. McCalla

1856 [sic, 1865] April 7

Elizabeth McCalla

*R.D. Davisson to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Chicago June 3<sup>d</sup> 1865

Dear Lizzie

As I like to practice the golden rule to do as I would be done by; So I will try to write you, not waiting as many weeks as I waited years to get your good letter. however it was welcome when it did come, although it contains some things to make me sorry, as well as some things to make me glad, as most letters do. I was sorry that it seems necessary under existing circumstances for John [McCalla] to be so far from you through the week that he cannot ever be at home at nights for a season; at this place very many persons do business many miles from home yet the Cars [i.e. the railroads] take them home in a few minutes; but this as well as everthing else here takes money.

I am glad that you have at least one daughter [Mary] to love and care for, to instruct and pray for, and that you are more anxious that she like Mary of old choose that good part that shall not be taken from her, that is to take Christ and the divine life for her portion, This is infinitely better than all the world calls good and great, with this portion she may defy Satan and all his emissaries or even death itself will be the greatest gain: And my dear Lizzie you know that example is more forcible than precept alone, will you not shew her your faith by your good works, which is the effect, or fruit of faith and love, in meekness, patience, and submission to his will without whose self denying and loving spirit we cannot be his disciple. I am sorry to learn that your dear sister Jennie is so sorely afflicted with disease which is so hard to erradicate; But after all may we not hope that her affliction may prove a blessing, in disguise, if it leades her to the Phycitan of souls who has said “as many as I love I rebuke and chasten”, so if it has this effect, be sure it is sent in love and kindness from her heavenly Father, and will be removed in the right time. I was sorry to hear of the trials and suffering of your friends S.[amuel] and M.[aggie Wylie] Martin and Family in Texas, O if they had gone to California at first, as I advised them to do and preach for the Chinese there as he was somewhat prepared to do, or to any that would hear him. How much good they might have accomplished, and how much evil they would have shuned by avoiding that place which was anexed from liberty to Slavery. But O how thankful we should be now that not only that but the whole of our beloved Country through the Mercy of God had been delivered from that accursed evil. I think it looks well in our Country to shew such love and gratitude to the honored Instrument in Gods hand [Abraham Lincoln] who brought about this great deliverance before he was laid aside his work being done. Never one so honored and beloved in this world, because he sought it not but in his integrity and truth gave it to God. you know this is the time of the great monster Fair for the Soldiers, [it] is to be the last. They have spared neither money nor skill to make it grand and inviting above anything I could imagine, could not pretend to describe it. I wish you were here to see it[,] that is if you would enjoy it. I think Mrs Howe would have enjoyed it; but Agness T. would soon have tired of it. You could not have seen every thing in less than a week. I went yest[erday] for the first and last time I think, though I saw much of art and Nature that was splendid both from London, Paris and China & I was well entertained with sight se[e]ing, as well as with refreshments and Music. but now for the shady side of the picture after paying for my dinner and some lemmons and [being] ready to go home, a detective came to me and asked me if I had my pocket book, I said yes but then felt and found it was gone! I went to the Police room where they had the theif a woman. This morning

I had to go to the Armory[,] was sworn[,] got my emty purse[,] faced a well dressed woman that I had seen but did not see her take my purse nor emty it of nearly seven dollars. So I thought I was not fit to go to such places; but a much younger lady has had her pocket picked three times within as many weeks. this is a great harvest time for rogues from NY. and other cities as well as the dregs of the Army Most of my Fam[ily] are engaged assisting at the fair in some way. Julia H. is Rebecca at Jacobs well dressed in Orientle costume. the well contains a Soda fountain &c &c Mrs Charly Daniell's confined with a daughter &c Alfred's wife has lately had a Son! so the name may not become extinct. Your brother Andrew [Wylie, Jr.] is to be one of Jef Davises Judges; I hope he will find it his duty to hang him. Tom Brian [Bryan] who is your brothers [Andrew's] brother in law is President of the Fair, is very efficient, and essteemed by the Ladies.

Love to all Friends, Kiss Molly [her daughter] for me, and train her in the way she should go

Yours truly  
R Davisson

*Andrew Wylie Jr. to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Washington D.C. June 25. 1865

My Dear Sister

I deserve all the censure any of you may choose to heap upon me, for my neglect to write, to you. I have many public duties and much private business to occupy my thought and my time; but I must acknowledge that there are occasions which I might entrail for keeping up correspondence with members of my own family, at least, which I have not improved. But hard work makes Jack a dull boy; and after labor has fatigued and care and study have exhausted me in body & mind, I go into my garden, work among the flowers, and listen to the singing birds until my spirits revive and my mind & body feel again refreshed, But in this way the time is gone, and my letters remain unanswered.

Of the four judges who compose our court [Washington D.C. Supreme Court; see Glossary of Names for more], I am the only one who is here now, or will be here during the summer. I am holding court every day, and will continue to do so till about the 1st of September. By that time I expect to be ready for a trip of a month or six weeks to the mountains or the sea shore. Carry [his wife] remains at home this summer. The house I have recently bought is large and comfortable, with pleasant grounds about it, and is a high, airy location, so that she could be only a loser, by going away.

Our little Pendleton is a source of great sorrow to our hearts. We found that he could be taken better care of at home than where he was, and that we were constantly anxious about him when he was away, and so concluded to bring him back. He is a noble, handsome boy in appearance, and before the coming on of these epileptic attacks, evinced a mind of superior order. That is now almost wrecked, and we fear his condition is beyond the help of mortal remedy. Thus is our love for the dear child mingled with pity for his case, and, poor, afflicted, and well nigh mindless child, he is yet dearer to our hearts, for this very cause.

Old Mr. Bryan [his father-in-law], has become very infirm as well in mind as body, and gives a great deal of trouble, both to Mrs. B & to Carry. I am away so much of my time from the

house, that I escape the annoyance: but he is very imbecile. The old lady is remarkably well, and performs her part nobly. You know they are living with us.

Tell Jane [Wylie, his sister] the Lathrops are all going to spend the summer and till late in the fall, at their country place, about 15 miles west of Chicago. Bryan L. returned from Europe in the spring, & Barbour who is yet absent is expected in a few weeks.

I am solicitous to hear about Margaret [Wylie Martin]. So soon as you get news from her let me know it. Redick [Wylie] wrote me of Marys [Wylie Dodds] luck in her old age [birth of last child at age 48], upon which I beg she will receive my hearty congratulations. Remember me very affectionately to Mr. M.[cCalla] & give my love to all the other members of the old family at B, including the children,

Yr. affectionate Brother

Andrew

*Jane Ritchie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Baltimore Oct 29th 1865

Dear Elizabeth

I rec<sup>d</sup> the paper yesterday containing the notice of Jane's death. It was a shock to me, especially so from having heard from you so recently that her health was improved, from which I hoped she would soon be entirely relieved from the distressing disease she had been suffering from — What a sudden call, I rejoice that she was not unprepared, O the importance of being ready! “for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh” — We sorrow for her loss, while doubtless she is rejoicing & thanking the Lord for her deliverance — In speaking of her this morning to Dr Will Letterman, he remarked that he thought her death was in mercy to her, as he had no idea she ever would have been cured of the disease she had; not one in a thousand ever was under the most favorable circumstances — & her death from that would have been one of great suffering — We ought to consider that the Lord knows the right time to remove us — & that He saves every one whom it is possible to save, & loves every one infinitely better than we can love any one. No one can live the life of heaven unless in freedom he receives the love of heaven from the Lord If in freedom he prefers the love of self & of the world he goes of choice among the infernals & will not live any where else. Every one is arranged in the future life according to the goods & truths or the evils & falses which are with him — or more properly speaking which constitute the very substance of the man himself — The process of regeneration is a very hard & painful one & all who undergo it at the present day suffer a great deal — The account of the liberation & journey of the Israelites from Egypt through the wilderness is a correspondence of the regeneration in man — It is absolutely necessary thus we take this bitter painful & often almost hopeless journey — We must make it or remain forever in the society of the wicked malignant & insane spirits who constitute the Hells — Most persons at this day have broken off all orderly connection with the Lord, so much so thus they neither know nor care whether there is any God at all or not If they think sometimes there is or may be one, they only wish to use Him in order to get riches & power — They don't care what He wishes or what He thinks, but only wish to make Him the instrument of gratifying their own lusts, of setting them up in wealth

& power over others — This is merely diabolical & such people are precisely in the state of the Jews who crucified the Lord, They wanted & expected a Messiah who would lead them against & conquer their enemies & set them up in wealth & power over all nations, & they interpreted the scripture in such a manner as to confirm that view of the Messiah's Mission — The Lord came told them He was the Messiah & that they were all miserable & sinful men & that the best of them even the proud pharisees the most exact observers of the law must be born again before they could see the Kingdom of God — That moreover His kingdom was not of this world, that He was not going to set them up over other people but that on the contrary their temple which they considered so holy was going to be destroyed & the people scattered — This of course left them in a fury & in their rage & insanity they accomplished upon themselves all that He had foretold — It is just so at this day — The temples of Mammon & Moloch in which men worship, money & power will come to nothing, I mean the whole present insane manner of life — Instead of teaching children to be gentle & innocent contented with what they have & desirous to be useful to others they are taught from their Mothers milk to be discontented, covetous of wealth, desirous of superiority over others & sent into the world as thieves & robbers to contend with the other thieves and robbers of whom the world is full — This is the way to make devils & Satans & it cannot come to any good—our lives would be almost as gentle & happy as that of the Angles if we would only obey the Lord — To set Him at defiance is mere insanity & shows that man has lost the human & put on a brutal nature — I returned from the country day before yesterday, found the family here in their usual health Mr Pettibone & family left week ago for their home in the South — I wrote to you on receipt of your letter while in the country which I hope you rec<sup>d</sup> — I was not well for a week before I left there & am so sick to day that it is with great exertion I have written , I think I am a little bilious [*having or resulting from some ailment of the bile or the liver*] can't walk to day from giddiness — hope however I shall soon feel better, & will attend to your request as soon as able—in the mean time write to me if possible & let me know how you are, & give me the particulars of poor Jane's death—was she concious? her last words, was she calm & resigned? Sister Ann & Elizabeth [Smith] join me in much love & sympathey to you & Redick [Wylie] & also Mary [Wylie Dodds] & her family — May the Lord bless & keep you all & bring you in the way that He sees best to conjunction with Him is the prayer of  
your affectionate Aunt Jane—

*Anderson M. Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Tunbridge Wells England Nov 11, 1865

Dear Sister

Yours of Oct 19 is just received & I cannot help taking the comfort which a pen will give me in expressing the feelings of my mind. Cousin Theophilus' [Wylie] letter after much wandering came to hand the other day & I wrote you at once. I cannot tell you how thankful I am to receive this long account from you telling me of just those things which my heart yearned to hear. Poor afflicted Jane [Wylie, their sister] has at last been triumphantly released from her great bodily infermities; & can we lament the change, when it was made radiant with so much hope & even assurance! Is not this the chief, the one thing! and sh<sup>d</sup> we not be more than content to

suffer if God in Xt [Christ] brings such glorious visions out of the burning bush! Since of late, I had learned that the disease from wh' she was suffering is considered about absolutely incurable, my thoughts I found constantly reverting to the long painful future which seemed to be before her. But now while it is a sad thought to think I shall never see her again on earth, & still sadder to call to mind the great vacancy occasioned to you & Redick [Wylie, their brother] especially, by her departure; yet it is a relief to be able now when thinking of her to feel that she is in that better world where you[,] none shall say "I am sick" & "where the wicked cease from troubling & the weary are at rest." Now it will be an unspeakable consolation to feel that we may meet yet an unbroken family in heaven, let us try. I shall cherish the letter you were good enough to send, but let me say that you seem to be like a restless infant tossing & struggling in the hands of the stout armed parent! Do you not exhibit too much anxiety about (as the Germans w<sup>d</sup> say) subjective evidence! Why do you want proof to y<sup>r</sup> own consciousness concerning y<sup>r</sup> salvation? Is it not our plain duty & unspeakable privilege, to lie calmly, as the quiet infant in the strong arms—can we not take God simply at His word & appropriating Xt find our hope & consolation not in any state of feeling but simply in the conviction that I do believe — God has spoken I believe tho' the oracle be sealed" (Se 105). If you have ever so little faith it will be enough to save you—life is what we want & Xt does not set the measure that is required—a feeble look at the brazen serpent in the wilderness was as valid as the full gaze of the strongest—cease to look at self — look out of self—(Looking unto Jesus Heb 12:2) Means looking away 1 from every class of hinderances within & without us & 2—Denotes a positive looking to, at upon, toward Xt,—signifying a constant habit (positive) then we shall draw nearer & nearer & as we forget self we shall unconsciously grow happier Oh—This is the one secret to learn.

I shall greatly cherish the mementoes of which you speak, I long to pay the visit to the dear old home, the grave yard where Jane & Mother & Father lie together. Here I am still prosecuting my work with some success. I suppose Maggie [his wife] had sent you other of my published letters & this is one reason I did not write. How long I shall remain I cant say—the vestry have extended my leave of absence. Maggie I suppose will tell you the news about herself & children. I infer from what you say that Margaret [Wylie Martin] & family were well & I do hope they may get comfortably settled in the N[orth]—.

You must give my love & warm congratulations to Mary [Dodds, then 48 years old] — She may in deed call herself a second Sarah. I hope this last boy will go far to fill the vaccuum occasioned by Sam's death—that excellent boy — his place will be difficult to fill. When you write again tell me how all the children are doing.

Nov 14, After making about 50 calls in Tunbridge Wells I am back again in London & expect to spend a few days in Cambridge. If you write soon (fine paper) Maggie (who goes back to Fall River) [Massechusetts] will forward & I may hear again from you while I am in Eng<sup>d</sup>. The rich are returning home & if they do not respond I shall at once return. Give my my best love to all & be assured of my constant prayers—

Your affect bro  
Anderson

*Craig D. Ritchie to Redick Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

508 Walnut St. Philadelphia November 20<sup>th</sup>. 1865—

My dear Redick

I received a newspaper a few days ago (supposed from you) containing a notice of Jane's [Wylie] death. I was very sorry indeed to hear of it, having supposed from what I had heard that she was gradually getting better from Diabetes, but I see that that was not the cause of her decease. All my recollections of her, and they are many and vivid and pleasant ones, are of her in full health and strength, abounding in life and gayety, happy herself and making all around happy also. I loved her much, and should have been very much pleased if she could have resided East here with us. I was indeed thinking of writing to her and suggesting to her whether she might not take another trip on and perhaps find health and strength from our climate and the skill of our physicians when the ill news of her departure came. Still[,] feeling that she was prepared to go[,] one cannot help feeling that for her to exchange the trials and temptations of this world for the rest of heaven has been her everlasting gain.

I am in the midst of business just now and doing a pretty fair amount of it. Had I not risked & I am afraid lost a good deal in some oil speculations I would be beginning to feel tolerably comfortable as far as this world's goods were concerned, and as it is I am not so badly off having merely lost my savings while others have lost much more. I have lost what I had saved in two very good business years, but have since got out of the speculating mania—some time last spring—managed to recuperate partially, and if business continues as good as at present another year will see me whole again I hope. I have some lands however which if I succeed in selling at the price I hope will clear all my losses and bring me out about \$500. ahead.

I shall be glad to get a letter from you and hear how you are all doing. We are all well, except my grandmother [Dorsey] who is failing fast and I am afraid is not long to be with us. Mrs. Ritchie [Charlotte] desires her compliments to all of you.

As ever your affectionate Cousin

Craig D. Ritchie.

Redick Wylie, Esq.  
Bloomington  
Indiana

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla*

Carlisle [Indiana] Dec 1. 1865

Dear Elizabeth I send you these letters written to me from cousin Andrew [McKee]'s wife in answer to one I wrote interrogating her about her husband as I had heard through a newspaper of his troubles. Poor fellow he has seen hard times and would perhaps have lost his life but for the efforts of his wife [Hattie] and her friends I hope Dock will never serve so bad a cause again. I suppose he will be stung by remembrance of Southern ingratitude as long as he lives. Hope he

and his wife and babe are safely quartered in California with all they hold most dear I can hardly forgive my husband for not going there. Maybe he will go there yet, you know the Martins are migratory — Yesterday 29<sup>th</sup> was M's [Susan Martin] 76 anniversary Blessed, dear, good old woman, how all her children & grandchildren do love her. Is old Mrs Davisson still living? Do write me all about them as they have always been such good friends of the Wylies & Martins I always like to hear from them. I wrote you last Sunday night week ago in answer to yours. Do tell me about Andrew & Carry, Anderson [Wylie] & wife [Maggie], I intend to write to them when I have the time Tell John [McCalla] he must put in a word now and then too. Suppose you come over to see us Christmas or New Years? Tell R[edick]— this is his leisure time and to come too — Bundle up and come, but you must let me know.

Your aft. sister Mag—

P.S. As I did not know Irene [Wylie Bell] whereabouts hope you will direct and send my letter to her.

***Hattie McKee to Margaret Wylie Martin – enclosed with Maggie's letter to Elizabeth***

Alexandria La Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 64

Your very kind letter to my husband, my dear cousin, was received p[e]r last mail, and was read with much interest by us both, for, through him, I had already made your acquaintance, & felt as tho I knew you personally — The intelligence you heard some time since concerning Mr. [Andrew] McKee's having married is true, as you perceive, and while thanking you for your kind intentions in his behalf in the matrimonial way—he cannot avail himself of them, being already shackled. Also it is too true that my dear husband has known much trouble lately, having been assailed by bitter accusations by his enemies, who have endeavored by every unfair means, to take his character & his life. They have not yet succeeded, nor will they if he have justice done him—& we yet trust he will show fully to the world how foully he has been slandered & what unjust measures have been adopted to ruin him — It is truly said that “republics are ungrateful—,” & my husband can attest the truth of the adage, for, after serving the Confederacy most zealously since the beginning of the war, to the detriment of his health & his private interests, he is now reaping a harvest of ingratitude for his exertions & finds that nearly all those who, in his sunnier hours, flattered & accepted favors from him now join in willingly with his detractors[;] but his experience, tho' a painful one, has taught him a useful lesson, as he has learned to look less to the outer world & its vanities for happiness—& more to the “inner life” & especially to the Great Giver of all blessings.

My husband became acquainted with me here nearly three years ago,— he had then a large Beef Packing near the town & I resided in the neighborhood—& a Year afterwards we were married since which time we have been alternating between Texas and Louisiana — This country has twice been invaded by the Federals, who have so desolated it, that from the most productive & beautiful section of Louisiana, it has become almost a barren waste. Last spring my husband & I were on our way to Houston, Texas & passed Magnolia, on Trinity River where, he told me, you had formerly lived & inquired particularly for you & your family.

He has not heard from his mother [Eliza Ritchie McKee] & the rest of his relatives in California for nearly a year. At last accounts they were all well—his two older brothers had

married & were in business in San Francisco his father was engaged in mining in Sonoma — The almost impossibility of communicating with his relatives is a source of much regret to him—& we both long for this terrible war to cease, when we may be enabled to revisit those so endeared to him by every tie of recollection, & to me of anticipation —

Mr. John Ritchie is residing at Wallisville, Texas, He has visited us several times at Houston & I need not say how attached we are to him, for his genial, kindly nature, endears him to all—

Mrs Pettibone who resided in Mississippi wrote last year to Andrew that she has been almost ruined by the Yankees, & she was making her way to Baltimore, with her husband, who was hardly expected to live—in the hope of doing something towards restoring his health — This war has caused great suffering, great reverses, & either in the loss of fortune or relatives, the blight has fallen upon nearly every one!—

As yet we see no prospect of a change but Heaven grant that the end be not far off—

From what you say you must have quite a little flock around you, to whom please give a kiss from their cousins Andrew & Hattie & also from my little boy, Redick (a fine fellow of nine months nearly) with the hope that the fates may throw us all together some day.—

Andrew sends best love to you & your husband [Samuel Martin]& family—& hope this may find you in health & elicit an answer I am very affectionately

Your cousin,

Hattie B McKee

*Andrew Wylie Jr., to Elizabeth W. McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Washington DC Dec<sup>r</sup> 25 1865

My Dear Sister

Theophilus [A. Wylie] wrote me an account of the last illness and decease of our dear and afflicted sister Jane. When she was here I became convinced that her days on earth would be but few. But as her life was pure, and her faith in God, her Savior, strong, and her departure peaceful and happy, we ought not to grieve that she has been taken. At this moment her condition, is doubtless, infinitely to be preferred to that of any of us, or that of any of those whose lot on Earth we look upon as most prosperous. In the course of a very few years at the farthest, every one of us must follow her. The trials and tribulations which we are bearing now, are of no consequence in view of the great hereafter. Let us bear them with fortitude, perform our tasks, live contented, trust in heaven, and we shall then be blessed both in this life and in that which is to come.

I write now, more especially however, to say that I wish to transfer to you any share in [sister] Jane's estate, which may belong to me as one of her heirs. Please consult with Mr. M<sup>c</sup>C[alla]. and Redick [Wylie, their brother], and then write, and let me know, in what that share consists, and in what way you would prefer the conveyance to be made, and I will follow your instructions. I wish for your sake the value of this interest were much greater than it is, and I regret my inability to supply its short falling from other sources. Living in this city even in a very plain style is enormously expensive. My salary is only \$3000 a year and that taxed 5 per cent before it reaches me. It is really not sufficient to support myself, wife & child [Carry &

Pendleton], and I am compelled to make up the deficiency from some little income I have outside of it. Besides this I have bought a home for \$25000 to be paid for many year hence but interest payable annually. and this I have had to put in repair and to furnish, and these have cost me very heavily. I own a good deal of property to be sure, but much of it is not productive and would be glad to sell it, but cannot except at a sacrifice. So I am myself engaged in a constant struggle against the current, and am denied the satisfaction of giving as I should be glad to do.

A letter recently received from Thomas Bryan [brother-in-law] mentions that he had seen [brother] Anderson in Paris [France] and that he had enjoyed the interview exceedingly. All pretty well with us.

Affectionately your Brother  
Andrew—

*Jane Ritchie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Baltimore Dec, 31<sup>st</sup> 1865

Dear Elizabeth

Your letter of Nov—was rec<sup>d</sup> in due course — I was writing to Cal<sup>a</sup> at the time, & to save my eyes some writing I took the liberty of enclosing it for your Aunt Abbie [Ritchie]—as I knew she & also your Aunt E[liza Ritchie McKee] would be interested in it, I was truly rejoiced to hear that you were so much better both mind & body & pray & hope it may continue — Before I rec<sup>d</sup> your last letter I had consulted Dr. Fouerden[?] in regard to your case — He thought your condition was most probably worse, from change of life. could not advise about going to a Hospital certainly without seeing or knowing more of your case—but thought if it were necessary it would be better for you to be nearer home then here, he supposed there was a good institution in Indianapolis — The price with him, to be comfortable, is \$10,00 per week — I trust however it will not be necessary for you to put yourself under Hospital treatment — I hope [sister] Jane's removal has been for good to you, as well as a happy release to herself — It is our business to make the sorrow for her loss incite us to dilligent preparation to join her in her (I have no doubt) heavenly home — Little did I think that she would be taken before myself — I who have suffered much for many years, & often thought by others as well as myself to be near my end here, still live, while relatives & friends & acquaintances drop around me like Autumn leaves. The Lord knows the right time for us all, & this should calm all our fears & anxieties, while we daily come to Him for strength to live according to The Commandments, as He has told us “if ye would enter into life keep the Commandments” — “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me &c” — Let me beseech you to come to the Lord, you feel your need & your request will be granted — “O thou who hearest the mourners prayer, how dark this world would be, if when bereft & troubled here we could not come to Thee” — We have just had a very pleasant visit from Mr [Redick] McKee, he wrote to your brother Redick while here, & of course told you all the news of himself & family — We suppose Mr [Samuel] Martin & Margaret [Wylie Martin] are with you now, poor woman, I think she will need a rest after the last four years of privation labor & trial — give my best love to her & tell her I wish I had it in my power to send her something for her present need — I was very glad that Mr McKee thought of her, & hope all the friends who can will come to

her help now — The family here are in their usual health, your Aunt Ann [Letterman] I think is a wonderful woman for her age, she is very active seldom complains of any bodily rongs, It is a great thing for E[lizabeth Smith] to have her assistance, as she is delicate & has too much to do, her health would be better if she had more rest, her position here is such, that it seems to be a constant press for her — With regard to myself—I live retired & quietly this winter, I am not nearly so well as I was during the summer, & my eyes trouble me so much that I have to keep in the house more than is good for my stomach—so it is, what suits one member injures another—but I have no cause to complain but on the contrary thankful it is no worse, & also for the many temporal mercies & blessings I have while thousands are destitute of every comfort — The state of the weather here has been very unfavorable for the out door enjoyment of the holidays, for which great preparation had been made by the young lovers of fun & frolick — This is Sunday & the last day of 65—all at church but myself; my eyes kept me in, but I don't think I shall gain much by it as I find writing very trying — The close of the year brings us to another way mark in our Journy of life, & tells me impressively that a very little time will bring me to the end of mine — I live now (as most old persons do) much in the past; memories crowd thick upon me at such periods—& were it not for the light from the Word it would be sad & dark indeed — But the hope of another & better state of being is a blessing that this world can neither give nor take away — I hope you will try & write to me soon I am anxious to know how you are getting along — If the family were at home they would no doubt join me in wishing you one & all a happy New Year—with the blessing of Him “who maketh rich & addeth no sorrow”

I cannot look over what I have written but must leave for your indulgence,

Your affect Aunt

Jane

1866

*Elizabeth Wylie McCalla to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Bloomington  
Jany 20th 1866

My dear brother,

Your kindness in proffering to donate me your share in Jane's patrimony is appreciated, just as much by us as tho we accepted it, but under the circumstances we decline it. A day or two before our dear sister's death, we suggested to her the propriety of making her will, at the same time remarking how well she looked & that we thought she was getting well. She replied she had been thinking of it, but said if she failed to do so, she wished me to be witness that she desired the little she had might go to the most afflicted or needy member or members of the family. Mr. McCalla is succeeding very well in business, realized 1200 profits of his share in the firm last year & the year before. In fact, my dear bro, we are better off than you, for we owe no man anything, & live far within our means. Had not Jane's land better be sold & the income from it for some time appropriated to erecting a monument over Mother's grave & her own, enclosing the lot where our dead repose; erecting a tablet to Sam's memory & enclosing his grave (he lies in the strangers portion & it is a shame to our name without a memorial yet to tell where he lies, a nameless grave). After all this is done, then let it be disposed of as our dear sister wished. Have been thinking of consulting you for some time in reference to a little matter about which would like to have a lawyer's opinion. Some years since my good husband gave me all right & title to my paternal inheritance. In case our only child should be taken from us & my husband survive me, to whom would this (the above inheritance) revert? In case he should marry again & have a family, of course I would prefer him to have it & his heirs, but in case he should remain a widower (as I know he would) I would prefer at his decease it should go to my immediate relatives than to the McCallas, as it would I suppose, he being my heir, & they his. Have I the right, or power, to make a will? If so in what form etc? Would like to do so without publicity or without consulting any lawyer here. & if you can write me a Testament in the District, that would be in force here, would be greatly obliged you would do so. John never opens my letters, so he would be none the wiser. Sister Margt, her husband, & six children (one at the breast) arrived at Vincennes the latter part of Sept. They remained at V (where mother Martin & one of her married daughters reside) 3 weeks, from thence removed to Carlisle, a village of 500 inhabitants not far from V where Sam'l had a call to preach. The season being late & part of the children being down with ague, she could not make us a visit, but designs coming next Summer. They were on the way 40 days, it rained great part of the time. Mag says it was a toilsome & hazardous journey. Their privations & hardships, whilst in Dixie were all you can imagine. It was to them a land of drought, alarm, penury. 3 of the summers they were there, it was so dry they had to haul water 3 & 5 miles for cooking etc & no vegetables or fruit, or milk to be got for love or money. This is indeed to them now, the promised land. Redick recd a few lines from Uncle McKee two weeks or more since, telling him about a hundred dollars he had, when South, sent them. The check must have got there after they had left. He wrote here enquiring their whereabouts etc as he wished to

repeat the operation. Now we think it more than clever in him to give so much, his own means being straightened & regret his doing so, especially as Margt says they are doing very well & have everything they really need. The Martins have been very generous, sending them money & clothing. We sent her a box of Jane's most serviceable clothing, a couple of blankets that were hers & I put in some flannel, stockings etc from the store. Sam'l applied to the Board to be sent back to China as missionary. His throat not being yet recovered, the Board had the good sense to refuse, having had to return 5 missionaries lately, the 2nd time, to this Country from throat disease. Margt writes he is now preaching to two Congregations & is much the worse of it, the little time he has been doing so. Mary & family are well. The babe is quite a beauty & the greatest pet with them all. Never heard a child of 8 months laugh as it does. Excuse for inflicting so much writing on you. Have been at Redick to write Uncle McKee, as he requested him to, but to tell truth, he has given up books, writing, society & everything almost, for work, work, work. Wrote Carry a long letter just after our dear sister's death, but as you make no reference to it, she may not have recd it. Kind remembrances to her. As ever affectionately your  
sister, Eliz. McCalla

***Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington***

Carlisle [Indiana] Feb 10. 1866

Dear sister E.

Enclosed I send a letter to bro. Anderson for you to direct as I do not know whether he is still living at Le Roy N.Y. or not. Husband [Samuel] & I wrote to you and Redick [their brother] last so I will only send you a note—this time. Do you take any religious newspaper? If you do not I wish you would send for the “New York Observer” It is a very large paper One half is the Religious Department the other half is the secular number. It is only 3.50 in advance. If you would like to get a Wheeler & Wilson sewing machine you have only to get 16 new subscribers for the Observer & they will send you in return either a Wheeler & Wilson or Grover & Baker machine whichever you desire. Please inform sister Mary [Wylie Dodds] about it, if she is still without I was on the point of going around but husband said he knew I would not get this number in this little place. You never said whether Mary's babe is a girl or boy—hope not the former. Wish next time you write tell me all about our little orphan niece, [Irene E. Wylie] bro. John's little daughter. Have you ever seen her? I got a letter from Irene [Wylie Bell] and Jane [Wylie] written Jany 24 1858 just the other day. They have gone the rounds and back have they not? Got to China after we left, and laid in our trunk of books five years at Philada. J.V.M [Jane V. Martin, sister-in-law] sent in the box of books 2 beautifully carved sandal wood fans, 2 ivory card cases 1 embroidered satin apron, I wish to pay for them and will send the money to R[obert] & P[ascal]— their little boys who can make use of it, one of the fans I consider very cheap at four dollars You have no idea how exquisitely it is carved. I believe I told you in my last about the arrival of the cook stove as a present from Joseph [Bell]. It came safely excepting a corner broken. I like it better than any I ever had. I hope some of these days you will come and see how nicely our girls can perform. Tell Mary [Wylie Dodds] Mrs W– Dodds lives only six miles from

here, hope she will come and see us when the weather gets warm

M.W.M.

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Anderson Wylie, Fall River, Massachusetts*

Carlisle [Indiana] Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. 1866.

Dear bro. Anderson

I would have written to you soon after our arrival in the north, but Elizabeth wrote me you were absent in England. Perhaps while there you met with some of our old Ningpo friends Rev. Mr Cobbold, Russell & Gough of your Church but more than all you may have met with Cousin Andrew W. McKee wife, & child who sailed for Liverpool in Nov. Like thousands of others he spent his money, time, and services in the Confederate Cause. He was brought on trial for selling cotton to the Yankees & came very near losing his life I suppose he would have been shot but for the exertions of his wife & relatives. His Father [Redick McKee] hearing of his sons troubles came out all the way from California. I had a letter from him a few weeks ago in which he said he had sent us a present of 100 dollars, and not knowing we had left for the north directed it to Lancaster Texas. Have not yet received it but hope it will soon come How kind Uncle M[cKee]—has always been to us all, to Irene [Wylie Bell], bro. John, and also toward our maiden aunts Jane & Abbie Ritchie. Hope the Lord will reward him abundantly for all his kindness to our family. He expects to be at Washington City & Baltimore for the next three months. Elizabeth [Wylie McCalla] writes me that you are blessed with two olive branches little Henry & Mary how much I should like to see them whether they look most like their Father or Mother [Margaret] or both Parents. As you are living in New York you may cross the path of our old friends Mr & Mrs Nevins who were once our associates in China. I think they reside at Ovid N.Y. We honored or remembered I should better have said by naming one of our little boys for them. Nevins & Claudius are the names of our boys, and with Flora the youngest make up the number of our little Texians. The others [Susan, Mary, and Emma] you were acquainted with They enjoyed our road way on trip finely, often gathering nuts & grapes, & persimmons, and some times we stopped long enough to allow them to bath themselves in some of the clear, pretty, creeks, we often crossed. We passed through some of the most beautiful country in the world in the indian country—but were repaid for the sight by having to keep watch by turns at night. I hardly think we could have got along in safty, but for the fact of our having two other armed men along as far as St. Louis. We often met with other movers, one company lost nine head of horses in the Indian Country, and others would frequently tell us similar instances illustrating the depravity of human nature. We invariably, past & kept ahead of all we met with who travelled on the Sabbath. Next week we expect a visit from bro. Claude he wrote he could not wait any longer to see us. Husband has three preaching places the farthest is 30 m. The last news from his bro. [William Martin] in Peking was rather encouraging. They both have better health there than when at Ningpo. He is translating the whole Bible in Mandarin The Testament only having been completed. He preaches once a day, and carries on a school for young men. Jane [his wife] teaches their own little boys [Robert & Pascal] Nevill & Claude and also a school of females. Their other boys are going to

teacher Long at Hartsville Pa. We had letters from them both short time since I would be pleased to hear from you both

Your afft. sister

Mag.

*Magaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Carlisle [Indiana] March 1. 1866.

Dear sister E.

Now that this is the first day of spring I wish to renew my invitation to you to come over and see us. You know it will not take you long to come by railway. For the last few days it has been almost warm enough to do without fire. "This winter came in like a lion and is going out like a lamb." Husband [Samuel] is getting his life insured again. While in China he sent to an insurance Co. in N.Y 30 dollars for several years. after going to T.[exas] he sent for one year, then the war broke out and he could not send, he has written to see if he can renew his payments and get the amount in the end; Owing to the great uncertainty of every thing in this world, I suppose it is a wise investment. Claude [Martin], yes dear bro. Claude was here the first of last month. I felt during the time as though we had almost received a visit from an Angel. He reminds me of a piece I read lately. "The Man, the woman, and the child" having the estimable qualities of each blended in one beautiful character. I am glad to hear Marys [Wylie Dodds] baby is a boy Tell her to call him something after this fashion, my own suggestion merely. If he were my boy I certainly would name him some one or the other of the following and I have the vanity to think I have a pretty good taste in this matter. Firstly Joseph Bell, Ritchie, Scott, Ralph, Francis. What is bro. Bishops given name how would it do to give him the name of your pastor? [She named him Willis Ritchie] What is the matter with Irene [Wylie Bell] I have not received but a short note of half dozen lines though I have written her two letters. Andrew wrote me a very kind letter short time ago with a \$50 in it, for this brotherly act I returned my hearty thanks. As I did not know the name of the street I merely directed the letter Andrew Wylie Esq Washington D.C. He said nothing about Carries [his wife] health, so I hope she enjoys better health than formerly. You asked me how we sold our things in Texas? Some things very well, others again were sold too low My sewing machine husband let go for a two year old colt, which became so lame the next day after we started on our journey he was obliged to stop and sold him for \$15 in greenbacks. Our house and land remain unsold. Husband rented to a drinking scamp and I doubt if he ever gets a cent of pay. Several told him as much. Before the war began husband lent out on interest \$800 which was what we saved of our salary in China He has never to this day received much more than half the principal and never expects to. So much for money matters in Texas. Now for something more cheering on the subject. Do you remember Will French who used to go to College at B[loomington]-? Husband got a letter from him and Wm Brown containing a present of \$75. They gave a very cordial invitation for him to visit them at Evansville. French said Mr Martin when you come to my house you will "Always find the string of the door latch on the outside". After Claudius [Martin] left here he went down to E.[vansville] preached for them several days as they had sacrament 10 persons joined the church. They gave

him a unanimous call to be their pastor, with almost double the salary he now gets. He says at Hamilton the Romanists hold the sway Their parading & drumming on sabbaths he says is very painful & annoying to all evangelical Churches. If his people will consent at H. then he will go to E — Their little boy is a very delicate little fellow and [I] fear they will not be able to raise him. Charlotte has a daughter by her first husband so you see they have both been married twice. What has become of John[McCalla]'s sisters write and tell me all about them.

Your afft. sister Mag.

*A.L. Bickle and Irene E. Wylie to Margaret Wylie Martin*

Richmond [Indiana] March 22<sup>nd</sup> [1866]

Mrs Martin

I take great pleasure in giving thee all the information concerning thy little neice that will be interesting. I very much regret that she should know so little of her dear father's [John H. Wylie] relatives, and should be happy to have any of her aunts or uncles maker her a visit when convenient.

She will be thirteen the 24<sup>th</sup> of April and is a well developed child, looks very much like her mother [Lizzie Leeds Wylie] with the exception of her eyes, they are like her fathers. She seems to inherit the disposition and intellect of both parents.

She is now going to Hadley's Academy and is in the preparatory department, is as far advanced as most girls of her age, though I have not kept her in school as constantly as I should have done had I not been fearful that she inherited weak lungs from her parents.<sup>7</sup> I thought she had better be well developed physically before her mental powers were much taxed.

She has been taking music lessons for some time, and her teacher says she is getting along nicely, she does not practice as much as I would like for after she has been in school all day I do not like to confine her too long at her practicing

She was baptized by the Episcopal minister of this place at her uncle Anderson['s] [Wylie] request<sup>8</sup> and attends that Sabbath School.

March brings many moornful recollections to my mind. March 10<sup>th</sup> 1855 the Doctor your dear brother [John Wylie] died, and was buried on the island of Kauai pronounced Kowi. March 1856 His wife our darling sister the youngest of our household was laid away to rest. March 1857 Our mother too was taken from us to be again united with those that had gone before. In March 1860 my precious daughter, my only child, was taken in her young girlhood scarcely seventeen. March has been truly a season of many sorrows with us.

Gods will be done, and may we so live that we may be again united with our kindred in a blissful Eternity where sorrow and suffering cannot enter, is my humble prayer

Respectfully A L Bickle

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7 Both parents died of tuberculosis, then an unknown disease; the mother caught it from the Father.

8 John Wylie was raised a Presbyterian, his wife a Quaker. Anderson Wylie seems to have been the only one of Andrew Wylie's children who followed their father out of the Presbyterian and into the Episcopal Church. It would be interesting to know why it is the most junior male sibling whose wishes were asceeded to here.

Dear Aunt

Aunty thought that you would like to receive a few lines from me. I am going to school to Mr Hadley, he is the Principal of the school, Miss Davis is my teacher I like her very much.

I should like very much to see all my little cousins and get acquainted with them.

Aunty thought of taking me out to Bloomington last summer but was prevented until the weather got too warm and then I had to begin school the first of September

I remain affectionately your niece

Irene Wylie

[note in another hand – probably Maggie Martin’s]

Christ convert and save her immortal soul! dear orphan niece

***Margaret Wylie Martin to Redick Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana***

Carlisle [Indiana] July 4<sup>th</sup> 1866

Dear bro R–

Your letter was received the other day and many thanks for your kind invitation. As we have deferred our visit this long, I shall have to put it off for several weeks, until after the blackberries are ripe, as I wish to put up some for winter. Husband [Samuel] bought seven dollars worth of cans the other day and I do not feel as if I could leave home until they are all filled. Mr Singer was here a week since and told us to come out near his house where there are [berries in] great abundance. I suppose our visit to you will be about the middle of the month. We intend going in the buggy and taking Emma [her daughter] & the two boys [Nevins & Claudius]. Flora is only three years, and is not old enough to appreciate going, so intend leaving her at home with the older girls [Mary & Susan]. As you are my younger brother may I give you a little advice on the subject of matrimony. Because you are an old bachelor don’t hold yourself too cheap, indeed since the war, any of the girls ought be glad of just such an offer as you. I know if you were at Lancaster [Texas] every one there would be glad to have you. And I must add I never saw finer girls any where. As there are so many young gentlemen at B[loomington]– I suppose the girls there are a little too particular. I hope whenever you do form an alliance, it will be with some one who will do you good all the days of your earthly pilgrimage. Has bro. Andrew [Wylie, Jr.] visited you yet? Do you ever hear of [brother] Anderson? Tell him when you write I have been waiting a long time for a letter. I wrote to him about the middle of last winter. When will sister E[lizabeth]. be at home I hope she may receive benefit from the change. Wonder if Irene [Wylie Bell] intends visiting B– this summer, hope she may be able to do so, but fear her health may not permit. The folks here are very kind to us and I like some of them very well. Many have gone to Sullivan to celebrate the 90th anniversary of American Independence. Truly as a people we have much cause for gratitude compared with other nations.

Your affectionate sister

Mag.

***Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Water Cure Dansville, New York***

Carlisle [Indiana] July 9. 1866

Dear sister E—

Had I known of your intention of leaving B[loomington] should have visited there before you left. You know “procrastination is the thief of time,” and here I am still. My chief reason for delay, was because I was waiting for husbands [Samuel] convenient time to arrive. From having to fulfill various appointments he could not go until about the middle of this month. As we kept a horse and buggy, we think it best to go this way. Husband says we can go as soon, as by railway. I hope you are feeling benefited by the water cure, and hope when I see you that you may be perfectly recovered both in mind and body. How precious a boon is health, and how few realize what a blessing it is until it [is] gone. — I cannot but think if you were to use the same means at home that it would do just about as well. Do write soon and tell me all about your situation, your companions, your every day life in all the minutest particulars. Claude Martin writes his little boys life, was despaired of, but when he wrote was much better, his wife is about to visit Corydon with him for a change of air, Evansville being not so good in the respect. While [his wife] Charlotte is visiting her friends he will pay us as visit. Grandma [Susan L. Martin] came and staid with us three weeks, we wished her to stay longer, but as Anna [Martin Morton] is in a family way she could not stay longer. Dear E. I hope you remember that you are an immortal, accountable being and,

“There is a place where spirits blend  
Where friend holds fellowship with friend,  
Though sundered far, by faith they meet,  
Around one common mercy seat.”

Did you go to cousin M[argaret Wylie Mellette]’s wedding? Was glad Theodore<sup>9</sup> came out and that you had his company in traveling. He is a very lovely christian in my estimation. I suppose you made Irene [Wylie Bell] a visit, as you would have to pass through Wheeling. I wrote to her last, and am looking for a letter. If she only knew how I feel living in the same house with two ungodly families who are every day wishing to borrow from the least thing to the greatest I think she would. I feel so tired of it that when I get to B I shall not feel like soon returning. Dear E. I will close with one of dear Fathers benedictions, “May the peace of God which passeth all understanding be with you and remain with you forever” Do not forget you have a sister who wishes your every welfare, good bye.

Your affectionately M.W.M.

***Note to Irene [Wylie Bell, enclosed in Margaret’s letter to Elizabeth]***

Dear Irene,

I thought I would direct this bit of a letter to you and let you direct it to sister E[lizabeth Wylie McCalla] as it might be necessary to write in the care of someone and I did not know to whom. Please send the tracts also. Husband [Samuel] has received good news from Texas lately half dozen of his former pupils have “passed from death into life” Having sought and found the Savior [“]whom to know is eternal life.” If you could have seen him how rejoiced he was,— not

<sup>9</sup> While MWM has a tendency to refer to Theophilus A. Wylie, “cousin M’s” father as “Theodore,” she probably means here TAW’s brother, Theodorus William John Wylie, especially in light of the phrase “came out” and the description that follows.

only so, But is there not joy in heaven when one sinner repenteth. I hope you are well again and wish if you could go visit B. the same time we do, which will be the middle or last of this month. Do write more frequently, if it is only to tell about the weather.

Your affect. sister Mag.

***Note in pencil:***

The weather has been fearfully hot hotter than for 20 years. We have had copious rains the last three days, and the atmosphere is now delightful

Irene

***Anderson M. Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, water cure, Dansville, New York***

Fall River [Massachusetts] July 9 1866

Dear Sister Liz—

Your letter written at Dansville N.Y. did indeed occasion me a sad surprise. I had been flattering myself that you were in a comfortable if not a happy state. I have never ceased to pray for you & I still feel that some day you will see things as you do not at the present. I would cling to the belief of God's goodness. What you now believe & to what extent you believe I am persuaded is of very little consequence. You may believe or not accept Revealed Religion, so that you hold practically to the conviction that God will listen to the cry of the suffer—or that at least you may approach Him with your burden of sorrows & trials, you perhaps know something of the history of Jane Graham. She reasoned thus—I have reason to believe that God has benevolence enough to furnish sufficient ground of appeal. We do not give over the hope of impertuning even wicked men successfully especially when we are well nigh driven to desperation.

Now close the Bible & say nothing about it—make it if you choose your prayer (like her first prayer) to know whether or not Jesus Christ was an impostor—in short it matters nothing what your present state of guilt or weakness, or unbelief may be, let it be the worst that ever fell to the share of mortal man—then tell it all to God—ask Him for guidance, & if it be not done in were mockery & pretense the answer will certainly come. It may not come at the time nor in the way you expect it, but it will come, only await God's will & way, Supposing He is but little higher & greater than a genius of earth—He certainly knows a little more than we do & we should try to yield something to His judgment & ability.

At all events did I suffer as you do I w[oul]d give Him no peace till He did hear me. My experience has certainly not been much & as for laying any claim upon any supposed goodness of mine it w[oul]d be more preposterous than the claim to unrivalled genius, but I have tested God's disposition to answer prayer & the results have been plainly manifest. A few years ago I suffered so from catarrh [inflammation of the mucous membranes, especially in the nose or throat] & my head began to be so affected I thought I sh<sup>d</sup> have to give up preaching — I did not neglect the use of remedies but I had some belief that prayer w[oul]d not be in vain. What is the result? Just this; I, in a little over a year, left off the use of medicines entirely & have taken nothing for two years & two months.

I hope the day will never come when I shall feel it is useless to pray; & still less that I

shall build my claims to answers upon my own righteousness.

How far you have merited your present misery is not a question that need be settled. It is enough simply to accept the fact; your duty & privilege is simply to seek your way out. If a man has been waylaid & nearly killed, & help, shelter & remedies are brot to hand, he is not to refuse these till he can see his assailants cought, & have it settled just what motives they had in combining against him & whether there was indeed any ground in justice. In all worldly affairs we do not pursue any such course.

Now all spiritual difficulties have quite as plain & practical a turn. You are the sufferer—the remedies are at hand, or at least others (& there name is legion thro' all the ages of our well tried religion) tell you that they have tried & not tried in vain. Now be it so that you have no faith in God, or in any phases of so called Revelation—surely I may take it for granted that you have some belief in mankind — you have not yet concluded that all men are liars in all the length & breadth of their religion's profession. Then you will believe that there have been & are others who have tried & not tried in vain.

Now if you tell me you have tried—then I reply, the prize is worth trying for again & worth a life long trial. If men esteem millions of earthly gain worth the painstaking & patient struggle of a long life time, surely we shall think the rescuing [of] the soul from all these torments present & prospective worth a very long & a very patient effort. If we are at all sincere we must acquiesce in this view as at least reasonable, & if so far, then we are bound by the conviction as if by a fiat; or an immoveable law.

To my own mind there is a very short cut across all these difficulties—it is the Cross. Did I lose sight of Calvary, & reason upon these awful themes I might become a maniac in six months—but I will not do it — I see no solution for the present life. I can only say—if man is free then he must have a choice and it is better to put all men under the privileges of the atonement than to challenge each one separately by the perfect law, for in this latter case, not one might have been saved it is well nigh certain that all w[oul]d have followed the example of Adam—& if there had been no atonement, then what?

But connected with this view there is another. The best proof that one can give that they are not rejected & are really not among those who shall despair, is just the anxiety which you show. The fear of having done something unpardonable is the best proof that nothing unpardonable has been done. Those who are joined to their idols & forsaken of God, are just the persons who have no care or concern whatever. They are indifferent, gay, or thoughtless or wholly absorbed in the pursuit of earthly things. Sensitiveness & anxiety are the best proof that God is not far off.

Another thought — Do not forget that many of your present feelings come of your bodily condition; just as the delerium tremens— only let the voice of healthy action once more be heard & these ten thousand demons will be put to flight. Dont forget that God had suffered enough (in Xt [Christ]) to show the sincerity of his love & you may go forward & rely upon that.

We & the children are quite well — I hope you will write very soon, shall be anxious to hear. Praying that these thoughts may do you some service  
believe me your affect' Brother.

***Margaret Wylie Martin to Redick Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana***

Carlisle [Indiana] Aug 10<sup>th</sup> 1866.

Dear bro. R

After having my trunk packed, husband [Samuel] took sick with ague I believe it is, an attack brought on by riding in the sun. He has been sick all week and unable to travel. Lest he should become worse I deemed it more prudent to remain at home a few days longer. I will not say when I intend starting, or when you may look for us fearing another disappointment. At this season of the year more than ordinary caution is necessary in order to perserve health. I do wish I could hear that our dear invalid sister [Elizabeth Wylie McCalla] is perfectly restored, I have not heard from her since the first of July and then it was through Irene [Wylie Bell]. Do some of you write and let me know. We are a scattered smitten flock now, but in another and better world may we be a united, happy family.

Your affect sister

MW.M.

***Irene Wylie Bell to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, water cure, Dansville, New York***

Steenrod House August 25<sup>th</sup> 1866

Dear Sister

We have been spending the last four weeks at this place two miles from Wheeling. It is pleasant enough for me, delightful for the children for whose benefit particularly the change was made. They have improved as they always do outside of the soot of Wheeling. Joseph [her husband] comes out on horseback every evening, which does him good. The [railroad] cars and omnibus both pass the door so that the place is very accesible . The property belongs to Judge Thompson of whom you may remember something. The house is full of the folks from town. Among the number is Harriet McCoy. No doubt you recollect the family. Mrs Delplaine is a sister. She remembers you, and enquired particularly for you. Harriet has become a most zelous Catholic. Their brother Will died with considerable, which left to H[arriet] and her widow sister makes them independent and they pass the time travelling about. The summers North, the winters South.

Why have you not written I have been anxiously expecting a letter from you. I wrote you about the time we came out here. I need not tell you dear sister, how constantly you have been on my mind. Amidst the gayity going on around, I know I appear to others very absent minded but they little know what is passing on in my mind, one moment thoughts and regrets of poor dear [sister] Jane, and then for you. How humbled in the very dust we ought to feel when looking back on our past history. The afflictions and disappointments we have under gone are sad to reflect upon. Let it not be in vain that these afflictions have been sent.

I infer, hope at least, that your silence indicates that you are better, for I notice when you are most wretched you write oftenest. Do let me know at once how you are. If you need me I will try and go to you. When do you think of returning to B.[Bloomington] I have not heard a word

from there excepting a few lines from Dr D.[Dodds] about the time you left this summer. Suppose Margaret [Wylie Martin] is there now. Some days I have a notion to be out for a short visit. I take a longing to see all the folks. Do you hear from [brothers] Andy and Anderson

We have felt some uneasiness in regard to the cholera, as Wheeling has always suffered severely, but so far the place has never been known [to be] more healthy. There have been two or three cases of cholera. The town was thoroughly cleaned early in the Spring and has been kept so, which accounts for the healthfulness. It has never been known more so.

There was a lengthy notice of Father [Andrew Wylie] in one of the late New York Observers. Did you see it It was a flattering but just notice of him. Do you know if there is a copy of the Grammer father published to be had I never remember to have seen but one copy. Judge Thompson who was a former pupil of father, and who admired him much has enquired several times for a copy. He considers it the best grammer ever published for the use of literary men, and as he is a writer, desires very much to have the book.

I think we will go into town in a week or ten days. The weather all month has been uncomfortably cool. I might say cold, with the exception of one week we have had no warm weather. You suffer from the cold so much I fear you have been uncomfortable in your more northern sojourn. How has Mollie [Elizabeth's daughter] been getting along without you I shall expect to hear from you very soon, don't disappoint me. The children join in love to you. good night.

Your affectionate sister  
Irene

*Anderson M. Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, water cure, Dansville, New York*

Fall River [Massachusetts] Aug 31. 1866

Dear Sister Liz—

Your note reached me to day & I may as well confess the truth I felt conscience struck for my neglect. Yet I am not without excuse. By the kindness of friends I was carried on a trip for recreation away to the White Mts. & was never in my life more benefited by a change of air. I had been up between 5 & 6 working hard in my garden, had kept up my writing in the hottest weather, have, I may almost say thousands to visit; & now I am among the dying & the dead every day. This is a large & rapidly increasing place—my work lies among the operatives, among whom I meet much poverty & distress—& I am the only Ep[iscopal] minister in the place. I find that my own brain imperatively demands more recreation than I have been accustomed to take.

I might go on with excuses, but independent of others, I might say that if I had at all thought that my letters w<sup>d</sup> do you good I certainly sh<sup>d</sup> have written you oftener, at any rate I did suppose you w<sup>d</sup> write me promptly & let me hear of y<sup>r</sup> condition. The questions wh' [ich] have preyed upon y<sup>r</sup> mind I am sure w<sup>d</sup> torment me did I allow my thoughts at all to fasten upon them—this I pray & struggle against. Perhaps your mistake was years ago in allowing your mind to dare a solution, & thus habitually venture in forbidden ground. Be this as it may there is one comforting christian principle which applies in all such cases:—"Forgetting the things which are behind & reaching forth unto those things wh' are before" & —oblivion of the past

is our privilege and our duty. Be the past lit in joy—checkered with sorrow—blasted by sin; or marred by mistakes, or plodded over by a painful legal observance of duties—it is all one; let it be forgotten & press forward to the better promises, the privileges, the crown of the future. Do with all the past as the husbandman does with decaying offal, bury it down & plant over its hidden presence the seed sowings of a new life—this is the way to bring things new out of old—to take a new start—to make that which in itself engenders only disease, to contribute to a green & pure growth & the nurishment of life. And how? The Gospel of the grace of God reveals the plan. Seek the open remedy. Accept the offered assistance & you shall see that it will prove infinitely better for you than you were a sinner—salvation implies that we shall go high in proportion as we have sunken low—redeemed men shall be above angels.

You, I know, have often thought that your case is like that of Cowper's [an infection of the male Couper's glands; may be being used here to connote a urinary or vaginal infection.]. It looks so. Then remember this. Let two men take their seat in the life boat. One is calm & unperturbed. The other is full of quakes, qualms & horrors at the presence of the tempest. He may be well nigh beside himself—talk wildly & frantically. Now the latter, is just as safe as the former his feelings have nothing at all to do with his actual state. He is no less safe because he is feeling badly than the other who is feeling all right. There are those who invent new terms of salvation, but we must not forget also th[at] there are those who invent new states of feeling & one is no better than the other. God does not look for any merit in us—he does not expect it. He simply asks for us to have trust in Him. We need not care a rusk about our feelings. Get into & cling to the boat that is the simple duty, then let feelings or no feelings[, ] doubts or no doubts take care of themselves

I freely confess with you that the questions wh' harass y<sup>r</sup> mind are not to be solved—I make no attempts to do it. Then all is dark & doubtful till I march straight up to the Cross & if there you find no solution agreeable to reason you will certainly find soothing to the heart. I cannot believe th' a God who took upon himself human flesh & subjected himself to such temptations & agonies as never fell to the lot of woman born; & when he says all this was done out of pure love & pity to us—this sh<sup>d</sup> be enough—we ought at once to seek aid & sympathy from him, & we shall find it.

Whatever your sufferings may be in this life they will soon be over & will appear then but as the drawing of a tooth, or like a short & horrid dream. Now if infinite good is appointed to come out of all this evil why sh<sup>d</sup> we object against it any more than agt the furry covering of the chestnut. To get thro' this rough husk is soon done; & what if the thistle cover is necessary? we shall be content & look at the one universal rule—“Tribulation worketh patience & patience experience & expe' maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad by the H.S. wh' is given unto us[“].

The ques' is asked of the angel. Who are those th' are clothed in white; he is told th' two things characterize them—(1) They came out of great tribulation; (2) They made their robes white with the blood of the Lamb. We know you have the first mark great tribulation — Why not demand the second? As to the future—as to your little girl [Mary McCalla]—why not trust her to him who takes care of the sparrow— it is no more difficult—the one case than the other. Why are you fearful? O, ye of little faith!

How much I w<sup>d</sup> like to come to you—but I am full of engagements—& besides I may as well tell the truth — I am \$300. in debt & have not the means to pay it. Each one has his peculiar trials & in all we must have faith & abide God's time to bring us out — It is hurrying that reacts

upon us to our own damage. But it is getting quite late & I must close. You may be assured about your little one—we shall not forget her — “Be not afraid only believe In the world ye shall have tribulation—but be of good cheer. I have over come the world.” Do write often; & believe me  
y<sup>r</sup> affect’ brother  
A.M. Wylie

P.S. Maggie [his wife] is still a great suffer — had one of her terrible spells today. The children are now quite well tho’ [daughter] Mary has been very sick with this dysentery, wh’ is carrying off a great many daily.

*Irene Wylie Bell to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, water cure, Dansville, New York*

Steenrod House Sep<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 1866

Dear Sister

Your two last letters have been received, The second, [husband] Joseph brought me out this evening. I am at a loss to know what to say to you, feel unable to comfort you, God knows how willingly I would take part of your sufferings, but that is impossible, How is your appetite and can you sleep. I would gladly go to you at once, and endeavor to relieve you, as far as possible; but there are, just now, several difficulties in the way. My girl, in whom I have great confidence, and in whose care, I expected to leave the house[,] who is perfectly competent to see to the wants of Joseph and the children, received a very severe fall, injuring the bone of her leg, and is suffering greatly and has orders to keep [to] her bed. I am now doing what I can to fill her place. We will go to town in a day or two, and I will get things put to rights, and house hold matters going on, and get ready to go to see you, if it is in my power. We have moved about, and packed up our furnitures often, we would be laughed at, to break up house keeping after so recently getting fixed, Our goods were packed away, 4 months last fall. My plan is to try and get one or two competent servants, to take charge of the house and cook for Joseph and Bird [Margaret Bell], and take Walter and Fanny [her other children], or perhaps but [ie, only] Fanny along with me, Bird begins school Monday. It will take some little time, to arrange home matters. so as to leave with an easy mind. The house being shut is hardly, inhabitable and must be cleaned. If there was any relative to look after the house I could go right away, but there is no one to whom I can look. If poor dear Jinny [Jane Wylie, died previous October] were only here, how quickly I would be with you, How would it do, to have John [McCalla] come on and see you, while I am making ready, I think he ought to go His not going will be remarked, both at Bloomington and at the Cure, Then do send word for him to come on, Have you Mollie [Elizabeth’s daughter] with you. Why will you worry about money matters, what earthly good will money do either John or you, if you do not regain your health There is dear Jinnies land, is it in crop why cannot you have the proceeds of that to help you. I will not go to B this fall, of course could not think of going any where, but to you as you need me. I am glad Margret [Wylie Martin] is at Reds [Redick Wylie] — Wheeling has never been more healthy, no cholera or sickness of any kind Write soon, Do Liz for the sake of your husband and child try and be more hopeful  
your affectionate sister Irene

*Samuel Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, water cure, Dansville, New York*

Carlisle Ind. Sept 28. 66

My Dear Sister Eliz—

You have now been absent, from home some months. I have thought of sending a line, to say that you were not forgotten, but still postponed it. I hope your health has been improved. Allow a suggestion, which if worth nothing may be thrown away. Change is what you need. You have been there long enough, to make the change, by returning among your friends. Come & see us, & if you can put up with our way of living — Stay a while with us — We would all be glad to see you. I want to have many a talk with you about those things that are of highest interest to us — Had you been at B— this fall. I would have gone there – [wife] Margaret will be disappointed in not seeing you — I have written for her to come home, as my absence shortly, & [daughter] Mary’s illness will require her presence.

I trust My Dear sister that you will try to feel reconciled to the will of God, mysterious & painful as his dealings may be — Our lot is never so bad but that it might be worse—in our severest trials it is solemnly true that “God exacteth of us less than our iniquities deserve” God is good & merciful if we do not obstinately blind our own minds & harden our own hearts. we will see his goodness & feel his mercy — “Like as a Father pitieth his children so the Lord pitieth those that fear (reverence) him.” 103 psalm—read it. “Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the Son of her womb? Yea she may forget yet will not forget thee—” Thus the very strongest affections & instincts of which our nature is capable do not equal Gods compassion for us—read the 16 chap of Luke. “God so loved the world that he gave his son,” to die the innocent for the guilty—that we might have everlasting life. Now I will ask you to read carefully & with prayer—the Epistle to the Hebrews you will find Jesus Christ just the friend you & I need—bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh—full of tenderness & love — & “Mighty to save” none ever perished at his feet— 133 hym of the prayer book. read it.

Write me soon I shall be glad to hear direct from you

Aff- yours

S.N.M

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, water cure, Dansville, New York*

Bloomington Sep. 1866

My dear sister

I received your letter yesterday and in answer I am puzzled what to write. You look too much on the dark side, there is a sunny side too if you could see it, “Taking the year around my dear there’s no more night than day”. Then don’t be sorrowful darling &c. [“]Taking the year altogether my dear You’ll always find the May.” These are a few lines of a song [niece] Lib Dodds has lately learned to play. I wish You were here and could appreciate the sentiment. From what you say I suppose you are much worse than when you went there. After trying it four months I would come home here at [brother] Redicks where I am staying with my two boys

Nevins & Claude.

Don't believe what they tell you to make you stay there longer They wish to make all the money out of you they can. Take advice from Cousin Theodore<sup>10</sup> and those who are really interested in your welfare. If you come home now I will write and ask [husband] Sam to let me stay with you all winter. Do bundle up right away and come. Mollie [Elizabeth's daughter] will get to care nothing about you if you stay away at this rate. I have been here staying between the Drs [Dodds] & [brother] Redicks for four weeks and I cannot go away without seeing you and you must come, it will be for your best good This place is the fountain of youth People here don't seem to get older in looks like they do other places. College commenced yesterday, do not know the number of students. For my part I would rather live in B— than any where else and if Sam's throat gives out this winter (which is more than likely) I will try and influence him to come and help carry on farming with R — I have heard from home several times. My girls are becoming quite expert at house keeping; since I left they have put up 2 doz cans of peaches besides making 5 gal of butter. Have you had any peaches this year? We have none here and I almost feel like going home to get some.

Are you not afraid to stay away so long — the young ladies will be setting their caps for John [McCalla] if they find out how poorly you are becoming — Come home here, so that if you do die you will have some who can shed a tear at your grave. Value the friends you have here they are old and well tried. Do not think and brood over your troubles. Affliction is the common lot of mankind. Think it not strange therefore. This is a state of probation for all. Try to cultivate cheerfulness. Have cheerful company — this you can have by coming home. Do not have more than one room mate this you can have by coming home. Dont stay there and die among strangers Home is the best place to die at. Come home and our good ministers here will pray new life into you. I wish you could peep in and see how many good things we have to eat, plenty of chickens, turkeys, melons apples and more of every thing good than you could name. I am determined to look for you very soon and will try to meet you at the depot. “While there is life there is hope and while the lamp holds out to burn the vilest sinner may return.” Rebecca [Mrs. Theophilus Wylie] is looking for Maggie Mellett [Rebecca's daughter] I suppose they must be a lovely couple. God be with you & bless you in your journey home. Did you ever hear the song of home ward bound?

Your afft sister

Mag

***Samuel Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, water cure, Dansville, New York***

Carlisle Ind. Oct 17<sup>th</sup> 1866

My Dear Sister Elizabeth

Yours of Oct 9<sup>th</sup> came yesterday. I am glad that you opened your mind, so freely, to me. It afforded me much encouragement to believe that before very long you will be much more comfortable both in mind & body. I do sympathize with you in your painful circumstances. But I will speak candidly, as you have done. I know that your bodily health is much impaired just now, but there is every reason to think that you will be well of these ailments in due time — Your great

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10 Most likely means Theophilus Wylie

trouble is about those nearest & dearest—now others can often judge for us better than we can judge for ourselves. & I do firmly believe that your anxiety about Mollie [Elizabeth's daughter], is wholly uncalled for—there is not the slightest reason to fear that any mental or physical disorder has been transmitted to her. She has a sound & healthy constitution—is growing finely, Margaret [his wife], says—& I confidently believe will make a healthy happy woman—& I think that instead of groundless forebodings, you may rejoice in the fair prospects of your beloved daughter — I am sure I do — You will live to see her a healthy happy woman well developed in mind & body—& then you will see the folly (I use the word kindly, my dear sister) of your present distrust — As for your husband [John McCalla], his chief trouble is on account of your unhappy state of mind—as for himself & Mollie, I doubt not but that he is happy & satisfied & that if you could be calm & hopeful he would be happy & cheerful so that with regard to them, you need not grieve, or feel anxiety. As to your own health, I cannot speak confidently not having seen you for so long—but I am persuaded that it would be much better, & more likely to be reestablished—if you were moving about, sometimes at home, & sometimes with us, & then again with other relatives—frequent change of place & air, & associations—with some domestic cares & occupations, these are what you need, & would almost infallibly benefit you, both in health & spirits, far more than continuing where you are; even though you may be well cared for & have able physicians — I hope you will soon return, & come while this beautiful fall weather continues— This is Andrew's [Wylie, Jr.] opinion—we had a letter from him lately. You could travel from place to place, out here, among your friends; without spending half the money, needed there— I know John [McCalla] or [brother] Reddic would go for you if you would come. Margaret returned two weeks ago—spent six weeks at B— enjoyed her visit well — My daughter Mary was only sick a few days, soon got well — Mrs Venable is now with us, on a visit. I wish you were here.

A word about your religious state — You are perplexed & troubled But I am relieved & more hopeful, since reading your last letter. I see the long & painful conflict of which we talked many years ago continues — But I feel that God's grace will yet triumph—faith & hope & love win the victory—you see, feel, & acknowledge that you have a heart full on enmity to god—how much better, for you thus to realise, your state, than to be deceived & blind—as many are. & you pray, & pray—without receiving light & comfort—such precisely has been the experience of Christians often—see Isa. 50:10. You desire know & believe the truth—to love & trust God, though you feel that you do not now — Let me beg you my dear Sister, to consider the fact that Salvation & mercy life & peace, have been prepared for just such cases as yours—& a very important part of the work is already done—viz you feel yourself a sinner, & miserable — Now just to such, the Saviour speaks. “Come unto me, & I will give you rest—” Your “will” still rebels. pride & opposition of heart oppose—bring these enemies of your peace to Jesus, that he may slay them. Cast yourself unconditionally on the bosom of infinite love — Jesus & all heaven will rejoice more over you, than over ninety & nine, just persons—You have enmity, unbelief &c. &c. bring them to christ—give yourself just as you are, with all your enmity, sin & imperfections, doubts, sorrows; all, all to Him who is “Mighty to save—” & who “came to seek & to save that which was lost—” I dont know why it is but somehow, I cannot help believing that you will yet be happy in the peace with God — True you are tried, but god in his all-wise & sovreign way, often tries, as in a furnace, those whom he has chosen for himself. Satan would tempt you to despair—he is a lying deciever—treat him as such—dont listen to his suggestions a moment — I do feel so happy to know that you have not given over praying—& that you ask

my prayers — “This is faith.” faith in God & in his promises — Continue to pray, but pray cheerfully, God is near, though unseen—graciously, waiting to receive — Jesus does intercede — “He ever liveth to make intercession for you—& him the Father heareth always. [“]No sinner was ever lost seeking mercy—such a thing, eternity will reveal, has never been—”but him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out! [“] “Venture on him, venture wholly [“] — “The Lord taketh pleasure in them that hope in his mercy” I pray & shall continue to pray for you—& something greatly encourages me — “Cast all your care upon him, for he careth for you—” Leave the interests of your family with God, you have no blame, or sin about them — all will be well in their case and your own — “Take no thought for the morrow” “behold the lillies, & the sparrows,” Your heavenly Father feedeth, & careth for them—you & yours are of more value than many sparrows— “sweet words of a precious Saviour! Now write soon—& often — I think it will do you good & come home soon. I send a few sheet tracts; read them as you feel able; they will interest, & comfort—

Ever your affectionate brother  
Sam—

*Andrew Wylie, Jr. to Caroline Bryan Wylie*

Leavenworth, Sunday  
Nov. 25, 1866

My Dear Carry,

We reached this place safely to dinner yesterday, after a more agreeable journey than I had looked for. The weather was fine, and during the day light, I was much entertained with the strange novelties which were constantly presenting themselves in passing through this vast, illimitable region just now opening to civilization and settlement. This city (Leavenworth) is by great odds the handsomest, and most attractive place I have yet seen in the West. Yesterday afternoon I walked out about four miles to the summit of a small mountain, where can be found a splendid view to a great distance of the Missouri River and the beautiful amphitheater in which this city is built on the one side and to the West and South of magnificent high rolling country dotted with neat houses and handsome improvements on the other.

In the city there are many large and elegant churches and other public buildings, many splendid private residences, and long rows of stores, which rent for \$2000 a year. Business appears to be brisk, and the people lively and cheerful. There are many persons here of wealth and intelligence and society is said to be unusually good for a Western town.

I have had an interview with Atwood & Co., my agents here, and from them have learned more about my lands as well in Western Iowa, as in this state than I could learn myself in any short visit to them. They advise me by no means to think of selling at this time, and give excellent reasons for their opinion. Tomorrow morning I think of taking a trip on the railroad West to Fort Riley, passing through the town of Lawrence, and stopping there several hours. We shall also pass through or near some of my lands and thus obtain a general idea as to the character of the soil, and other characteristics of the country where they lie. The next morning (Tuesday) I shall again turn my face towards St. Louis. Will remain there not more than one day and then make my visit to Indiana; and then with joyful heart hasten home to meet the smiles and embraces of my darling

wife, & dear little boys, whom I long so much to see—  
Andrew Wylie  
Give my love to your Ma and Father

*Andrew Wylie, Jr. to Caroline Bryan Wylie*

St. Louis, Tuesday  
Dec. 4, 1866

My Dear Carry,

I fully expected to receive from Bryan today a deed executed by him as attorney in fact for his uncle Thomas to enable me to close up my business with Boyd, but it failed to come. I am getting very weary and impatient of these delays, and feel very much like going and leaving the whole business to be concluded by correspondence afterwards. It is possible Bryan may have been at Cottage Hill when my letter reached Chicago. He is generally very prompt and attentive, and I am sure that in this instance there must have been some sufficient cause for the delay. Tomorrow's mail will surely bring the deed, and then I can finish up what I have to do here in less than two hours.

I have not a word of news to tell you. My time is spent mainly in reading, or in going about the City. Tonight, I believe I shall go to see a famous company of negro minstrels, to have a good laugh and dispel the homesickness which is oppressing my heart.

The weather is delightful after the heavy rains of the past two days. My own health is excellent, but if I am kept away from my dear dear wife much longer I must begin to pine away in flesh. Not having heard from you for so long a time is another source of uneasiness. If I had deemed it possible to be detained here so long, I should not have asked you to direct your letters to Bloomington. There I shall find a feast of love from your exuberant pen which will fill my heart with delight. O how dearly I love you. You shall never doubt it again. If you should, I shall say you are a most unreasonable little darling.

Good night sweet wife  
Yr. own true  
A.

*Magaret Wylie Martin to Redick Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Carlisle [Indiana] Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 1866

Dear bro. R—

I am sorry you had such a felon [deep inflammation around the nail] on your thumb, and hope ere this you are as able to use your right as your left hand. I feel indebted to you for the Bloomington news, and trust I ever shall maintain an interest and affection for the place. Am glad the College is in so flourishing [a] condition. Trust there will always be a goodly number

of young men “to rise up and call it blessed”. Hope Kemper [Dodds] may yet become a bright particular star in the galaxy to do it honor. The news from [sister] Elizabeth is truly encouraging compared with former reports. May not her absence from your domicile be a sufficient hint for you to procure a help meet? Are not Mother Eve’s daughters as fair as ever? “And are there not as good fish in the sea as ever was caught”? I cut out and send you some newspaper articles on the subject, lest my words of advice on the subject be unconvincing. I was very agreeably surprised on Saturday evening by the arrival of bro. Andrew [Wylie, Jr.] who left today en route for B— Was sorry he could not make us a longer visit Think he looks well for one of his age [52]. I know you will do all you can to make his visit pleasant & agreeable. When he went away he very kindly handed me a \$50 bill and this is the second time he has done so. Hope bro. A will visit Irene [Wylie Bell] and also uncle Craigs [Ritchie] family. I wish I had thought of asking him.

I wish you would take the notion and go along now as it is not a busy time of the year with you. Why could you not go and pay your brother Anderson a visit? Would he not appreciate it, and heartily welcome you to his home? Then you know he could recommend you to some none—such—a—one of the genuine Yankee stock.

Hoping soon to hear of your arrival in the state of Matrimony.

Yours affectionately

M.W.M.

1867

*Andrew Wylie Jr. to Redick Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Washington Jany 6 1867

Dear Redick

You remember it was Thursday afternoon that I left you at Bloomington. I reached home safely the Saturday forenoon next. Mr. Bryan [father-in-law] was still alive, but speechless, and paralyzed. He lived till the following Saturday morning, (22<sup>d</sup> ulto) when he expired easily and quietly at ½ past 2 o'clock. I should have been glad to make a short visit to Irene [Wylie Bell], on my way home. Carry [his wife] has written to invite her and her family to make us a visit this month, and we wish very much they may come. Aunt Eliza [McKee] will be here then and they will all be company for each other, and make the house more cheerful than it has been for a year past. I have experienced so much benefit to my health from my western trip, that, hereafter, I shall try to make one every year, and make it earlier in the season.

Little Pendleton [his son] appears to be getting better, though very slowly. His mind seems to be more composed, and rational than it has been for three years past, and we begin to entertain some hope that the dear boy may, by & by, outgrow his affliction.

We have heard nothing late from sister Elizabeth [Wylie McCalla]. I should myself have written to her, but for my apprehension that what I might write would not be suitable to the condition of her mind. Carry, I think, could perform such a task better than I, and I shall persuade her to write soon. Mr. [Redick] McKee appears to have taken up a permanent residence here, as agent for the prosecution of claims upon the government. It is likely he may succeed better in this, than in any other business which he has undertaken heretofore. He can risk nothing, and in that is his only safety. Andrew [McKee], it is reported, has lost very heavily in cotton speculations, since he has been in England: but, I presume, not near the whole of his previous gains in the same way. He is too much like his father [Redick McKee], however, to be content with any sure, regular employment, and if he were worth a million today, would probably lose it all in a twelve month by ill advised, and desperate operations made with a view to suddenly double the amount.

You will probably have a visit from them all next summer—at least from Aunt Eliza & R.McK. Give my love to Mary [Wylie Dodds] & her family.

Yr Affectionate Bro  
Andrew

*Irene Wylie Bell to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, water cure, Dansville, New York*

Washington Feb<sup>ry</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1867

Dear sister Eliz

We, that is Joseph and the two younger children, arrived here [brother Andrew's home]

ten days ago. It was a difficult matter to get started, but after a great deal of adue we got under way. Carry [Wylie, Andrew's wife] gave us urgent invitations to come on at this time and meet Aunt Eliza [McKee], who has been here for 4 or 5 weeks, She went over to Baltimore yesterday to see Aunt Jane [Ritchie] and consult in reference to Uncle David [Ritchie]'s effects who died very suddenly two weeks ago of induration of the liver. This is a sad blow to them, particularly to Aunt E, who had not seen him since her arrival on this side [of the country]. He left his means to Aunt Jane and Abbe [Ritchie, another aunt] 13 or \$14000 dollars, which, with what they have will make them independent Aunt E is in good health and looks remarkeably well for one of her age She is devoted to her children and very happy in them, She is very enthusiastic on the subject of California[;] would not come to this side to live for a mint. She suffers extremely from the cold, having been in a more temperate climate so many years, she is more sensitive. She and I spent last week sight seeing visited the public buildings and other points of interest. The public buildings are magnificent, but in other respects, I am disappointed in the appearence of Washington. Andy McKee is expected hourly from England. His business will probably oblige his return to England, and he concluded to leave David [McKee] and his family there disliking to bring his wife and little children at this inclemate season If he finds he is not obliged to return David will bring his family over, so soon as the weather is more settled. This is a great disappointment for Aunt E, who was confidently looking forward to seeing them all next week. Mr [Redick] McKee is here prosecuting claims, others think he will be disappointed but he, as usual is sanguine.

Andrew has a hansome home here, The situation is one of the best in the City, the house is large, and a beautiful yard, He is well, looks well. Carry has changed considerably in looks, but is full of vivacity She has been suffering from a severe cold ever since we have been here. She is as kind as can be, and presses us so, to prolong our visit, that we may stay a few days longer. Poor little Pendleton [their son] grows worse, in mind, He is a fine looking boy, and generally a patient good child. We are invited to dine at Mrs Lathrops today.

Today we set for having our pictures taken, but it is raining hard The atmosphere being so much clearer here, we want to have the childrens taken particularly. Bird writes me they are getting along well at home, We have two excellent girls, Birds music teacher stays with her, and Josephs [her husband] nephew sleeps in the house, so that they are well protected. And now dear Eliz, I want to know how you are. Every day we think of you, and wish you were well enough to be with us, I wrote you a few lines a day or two before leaving home. I shall expect to hear from you soon as I return hope you will be well enough to come on soon. We will leave for home the middle of next week I suppose. The weather has changed since we left from bitter cold to mild, The creeks and rivers are flooded, The long bridge here is partly carried off. There has been great destruction on the Ohio river. But I must close, hoping to hear from you soon I am as ever

Your affectionate sister

Irene Bell

P. S. Give me the Bloomington news when you write as I never hear.

*Anderson M. Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, water cure, Dansville, New York*

Fall River [Massachusetts] March 20, 1867

Dear Sister Liz—

I suppose, if I wait to write you a long letter I shall put it off till I be doubly ashamed, so I might just as well begin!

I was pleased to receive the papers & was much interested in their contents — Have a notion to subscribe, only I fear that I am receiving so many publications it will be no use to add to their number.

I hope by this time you are about yourself again we do not forget you either in our conversation or prayers.

Have you seen any of F. W. Robertson's sermons? I cannot but think you might be much benefited by a careful reading of them. He was certainly the foremost theological thinker of this age & he brings out with such power & loveliness the intense sympathy & pity of Christ for the sin stricken & suffering that you could hardly fail to be encouraged & comforted by many of his able presentations. And then whatever some may say I think a great deal of Ecce Homo—it is in many respects the book of the age. Many of the views penetrate to the very essence of the life & work of Xt [Christ], & to the relation of man to the Son of God.

How far your troubles arose out of your bodily condition, possibly the Drs can tell; but beyond that there are means which rightly used God will certainly bless. I have attended as far as I c<sup>d</sup> a very able course of lectures delivered here on Phisiology, & I heard Dr Miller insist upon many things which you have asserted & some of which are noticed in the papers you sent.

One thing you must remember, that the ailments of a parent are not by any means necessarily transmitted to their children. Proper care may prevent every dreaded development in your little girl [Mary], & you must try & set yr mind at rest upon this subject. I know that with temperments like yours & mine it is difficult to bid the ghost down just when we w<sup>d</sup>. Still I believe it can be done. I have had just those tendencies (or some of them) wh could easily have been developed into a morbid condition. But by the help of God I do not mean ever to be borne down by any thing earthly. I mean to try daily to act upon the invitation to cast all my care upon Him, remembering that he careth for me.

We are all getting on about as usual. Maggie [his wife] suffers still intensely from neuralgia. Henry & Mary are very well & as good children as we could ask.

We have had a good deal of interest in the church for three weeks we had service every eve'g—& it is very gratifying to see (as Sun—a bad day) three times as many men present as women.

Do write soon & let us know how you are getting on. Maggie joins in love—  
your affect' bro.

A.M. Wylie

Maggie says that no picture of Mary could be taken wh c<sup>d</sup> do her justice.

*Anderson M. Wylie to Redick McKee Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Fall River Mass. April 30. 1867

Dear Bro Redick

Does it not seem a little strange that we never communicate directly but it always seems it must be thro' [sister] Elizabeth [Wylie McCalla]?

I have been intending for some little time to write but have been awaiting an anxiously expected event in our household. Last Friday our 10 lb baby arrived & all is well. As we both have been admirers of the name Caroline we expected to call her this in preference to Margaret after her mother. So you see we are getting quite a household — Henry – Mary & Carry. But it, I am afraid[,] is wasting sweetness on the desert air to talk about the delights of children to an advancing & we fear a confirmed bachelor. You had better come on to the famed Mass., where Gov Andrew tells us there are 70,000 more females than men, & surely from so large a company sufficient temptation might be produced to induce you to abandon so lonely a life.

I suppose just now you are driving on the farming operations, And I often think of y<sup>r</sup> work when I am engaged in garden digging where I can assure there are no light tasks—here, I think is where the Yankee lived who declared that on his farm there were two stones to one dirt. I have out of land that has been cultivated for years taken out with my own hand tons of stone some of them heavier than I c<sup>d</sup> lift. I am exceedingly fond of garden work & it is decidedly the best exercise for me & those are the reasons which induced me to make an extra effort when begging money for a parsonage to obtain sufficient to purchase one third of an acre with the house & that is a very large garden in this place. F. River is growing more rapidly than any manufacturing place in Mass – immense factories are constantly going up & this summer we are to run more [textile]spindles than they work in Lowell.

You may well imagine that amid these busy thousands few are idle & the operatives come in upon us faster than houses can be provided. It very much enlarges our field as our work is almost entirely among this class. You must give my love to Mary [Wylie Dodds] thank her for her long standing invitation, & assure her that whenever my ship comes in I mean to surprise you all.

Do write us soon if it is only a line to say how you all do.

Love to all, your affect bro'

A. M. Wylie

*Anderson M. Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, water cure, Dansville, New York*

Fall River Mass Ap 30 1867

Dear Sister Liz—

I have been putting off my letter till I c<sup>d</sup> tell you that our 10 lb baby has arrived (Friday) As we admire the name Caroline that is to be her desegnation—so now you see we are 5 altogether with Henry Mary & Carry,

As I have so much writing to do you must excuse brevity & haste. And besides, I start for

the convention tomorrow.

Mrs Conklin [his mother-in-law] has been with us & I dont think there is a kinder more unselfish mortal than she. I cannot see what we c<sup>d</sup> do without her. I wish you c<sup>d</sup> see the children now. Mary is universally remarked upon as an uncommonly beautiful & cunning child. Henry goes into pantaloons & begins to think himself a man. He has a stubborn disposition but we have been firm & patient with him & he is growing to be a very obedient accomodating & respectful child. The baby you may imagine is large & is a pretty child, very dark hair & very dark blue eyes. We certainly have been blessed in our children & as they are the parsons' fortune we begin to think ourselves rich. Indeed I w<sup>d</sup> rather live on prison diet with children around me than have the board of kings & be childless. I love to have them even in my study sitting on my knee when thinking & on the table when writing, a la Thomas Scott.

I am still tugging at the new church fund but find it slow work. The people here do not love the Epl [Episcopalian] church & the rich are very slow to give. If digging among roots & stones w<sup>d</sup> bring the money I w<sup>d</sup> much rather do this than beg for it.

I do hope by this time you are almost well. We do not cease to pray that your trials may be sanctified to you; only wait wait the Lord's time & all will be well. There it is no condition but that of faith & patience which truly honors God.

Do write soon & believe me

Your Afft Bro—

A. M. W

*Anderson M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Fall River, Mass

Ap 30, 1867

Dear Bro,

I have three objects in writing you hastily at this time. 1, to tell you & Carry that our 10 lb baby arrived on Friday, all doing admirably. Always admired Caroline so we mean to have Carry Wylie No. 2. 2. Mrs. Conklin is here & begs me to thank you & Carry very warmly for yr kindness to Lucius & to say she did not dream of yr taking any of your time or bestowing any personal attention upon the lad. She feels very much in yr debt indeed, & expresses the hope that you will come to see them in Brooklyn—72 Sand St.

3. Now you will take me for a Yankee. I am working for a large number of the poor—it is my pleasure. Want to hold on & go forward to build a large new church. I must do something to meet advancing expenses. I have been offered \$500.00 a year from the very beginning if I give my time to the N.Y. Mutual Life In. co. This I cannot do but I propose to do a little incidentally. It is by far the richest, oldest, best paying Co in the U.S. & the best paying in the world. I have looked into the matter. If you have any money to salt down you can hardly do better with it than here. The enclosed papers will give you a slight outline. They are now dividing \$6,000,000 of surplus which those get who now belong or are insuring. You get 6 per ct. on all you pay in from the very commencement besides the additions by way of extra profits. In a few years, you cease to pay on yr policy & then at any specified year or at death the whole amt wh' the policy purchases. For e.g., a neighbor bought for an aged woman a \$1000.00 policy wh' he obtains by paying down

\$500. He has no other payment. He draws six per ct just what he got before in the bank & when she dies if it be tomorrow, he gets \$1000, instead of 500, besides his share in any surplus. For younger ages of course it is more favorable. You can pay up in a few years & have the benefit for yourself or anyone named after a term of specified time. Think over the matter & I will send you other documents. If ever I save another dollar I mean to use it thus.

Your affect bro

A. M. Wylie

Love to Carry

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Redick Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Carlisle [Indiana] May 21. 1867

Dear bro R—

Thank you for your last kind letter enclosing one from our maiden aunt Abbie [Ritchie]. I have really forgotten whether I answered your letter or not but to be on the safe side I thought I would again send you a few lines. Today as well as yesterday it has been raining & blowing so, that the children & chickens are all within doors, and such a noise & chirping as they do make, enough to make one's headache. I believe I would rather put up with what I do than to live in solitude and quietness. Emma & Flora [her daughters] have colds and come near having the croup and I am not sure that in Em's case it was not[,] as she had sore throat & difficult breathing and refused to eat for several days. I told Nevins [her son] I was writing to uncle R—"Well give him my love then" he quickly responded. This day week ago we took them up to Mortons [husband's sister and brother-in-law] to see their Grandma [Susan Martin] & little cousins, we returned on Friday, after quite a pleasant little visit. We are still plodding along in this little one horse town, and but for the help that has been sent from kind friends from abroad we could never have lived on the amount that we have received from the three small churches S[amuel, her husband]—has preached to, during the last year. We would gladly leave if possible and hope to do so by next fall. As the Church at Knightstown which is rather a large flourishing church I believe & only 30 miles from Indianapolis, is vacant, husband wrote to the elders but never received any answer although it has been two months since. Before writing to any vacant churches he addressed a letter to Mag Maxwell's husband Rev. W. Y. Allen Rockville who is clerk of the Presbytery and is posted as to who are the elders, and what are the vacancies. Strange to say he never even mentioned Knightstown or who are the elders, although it was vacant, at the time. I think I can explain why, though husband laughs at me for doing do. Rev. Overstreet who came from Texas last fall, married a cousin of Mrs Allens, and has already visited K, no doubt hoping for the situation. As is usual with the "long tail kin" they will always work for each others interest; and perhaps they have represented my husband as being a rebel to the Church at K, else why did they not answer his letter, true they may never have got it, as the letter was addressed To the Elders of the Pres Church Knightstown Ia [Indiana] as husband did not know their names[;] but it was W.Y. Allens business to have fully informed husband for he made many particular enquiries when he wrote to Mr A. I think some young man just married ought to take husbands place, and he ought to be where he could get a better support. I can say it with truth,

if S. only had the voice he would have few superiors in the ministry. You love Christ better, for every sermon you hear from him. I believe the good he accomplished in China, will continue while time lasts — To give an example Several of his pupils became useful ministers among their countrymen, one of them Ling Yien gathered a church of 100 in 6 or 8 years. These people from their penury contributed regularly to the support of the Gospel!

Tell one of Mary's [Wylie Dodds] girls to please write off a song I have forgotten the name "Taking the year around my dear you'll always find the May" is one line in it. Of all I heard them play this was my favorite.

Your afft sister

Mag.

We now have all the house to ourselves, Come & see us We have never yet received one cent for the rent of our house in Texas If you ever hear it intimated that S. was a reb please contradict it as an untruth.

***Irene Wylie Bell to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, water cure, Dansville, New York***

Wheeling June 17<sup>th</sup> 1867

Dear Eliz

Your letter of May 30<sup>th</sup> was duly received, since which time I have not found time to answer it, owing to an unusual amount of sewing and work, the fact is I seldom spend an idle moment, My good [hired] girls were obliged to go home to work in the field[,] gardening, and their places are but very indifferently filled, so that I am compelled to take a hand at every thing. This morning I was up at five, it is now eleven and the first time I have sat down since excepting for breakfast

Aunt Eliza and Mr [Redick] McKee are here the former came three weeks ago, the latter 10 days since, They will remain for some time yet I suppose They will visit Canonsburg for a few days next week and return here again, when David [McKee] arrives He with Hattie, (Andys [McKee] wife) and boy are now at Sea, and if fortunate will arrive at N York at, or about the 24<sup>th</sup> in<sup>st</sup>, Andys second child died, in London, since he came over They feel it very deeply, Hattie will be confined with her 3<sup>rd</sup> in August, Andy will find some quiet, cool, boarding place in the vacinity of N York, for his family during the summer, and Aunt E expects to join them, Andy and family go South in the fall, where he for the present will reside, ultimately his mother expects his return to California, where she hopes they will all live, and lay their bones She is a most enthusiastic admirer of that state, and thinks its future will be unparaelled We tell her the state could not do a better thing than to send her around to be seen, and talk up California. Every one is surprised to see her looking so well, She looks rejuvenated rather than the contrary She made a great many enquiries for you all, She is kind and affectionate and I wish you could meet her She continues to be wrapt up in her children. She can find no fault in one of them, and what is still more remarkeable is delighted with each of her daughters in law Hattie she has never seen but she knows she is all right Mr [Redick] McKee is as usual, full of business and projects, and will remain this side [of the country] through another sitting of Congress, Aunt E thinks she cannot possibly stay through another winter, but declairs she will take Dave and go back this fall, I think however it is likely she will not go until Spring,

The children look puny, particularly Fanny They all had measles and in Fanny's case succeeded by dyptheria They are constantly begging to get out of town, but of course we can make no arrangements to leave so long as we have company, You seem to write as though you confidently expected us to go to you, I dont think I wrote so positively, but think it likely we will. I am glad you are to remain where you are for the summer and expect you to be quite restored ere many months

The weather has been cool and showery all spring and summer, Vegetation looks splended, we are now at the height of the strawberry and green pea season, I do wish you were here to enjoy our nice dinners Aunt E compliments me considerably on the culinary department — I had a moral essay from [sister] Mag the other day Subject missionaries and Martins, she did not mention one of her children, Not a word from B. I only hear of them through you so continue to let me know what you hear, I can give you no more time today as it is now twelve, and the cook washing Aunt E joins in love to you Do write often, You have nothing else to do goodbye

your affectionate sis

Irene

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, water cure, Dansville, New York*

Grandview Ill. July — 1867

Dear sister E.

It was two weeks yesterday since we came here, and we have done little else than visit and receive visitors. I think we shall like the people here very much, as they seem very kind hearted plain and sociable. The manse is a neat pretty little cottage with two rooms above and four below, with a small kitchen & smoke house adjoining making the Ell end. Mary & S[usie] are quite delighted here as there are so many young girls of their own age here, and who among others do you suppose — Maggie Allen the daughter of your old friend and classmate Mag Maxwell. Her daughter came here about a month since to teach music. She is not yet sixteen! She is a round faced happy looking girl as you ever saw, and would weigh as much as both my girls put together. When she first came her Parents accompanied her and barely missed seeing husband, as he was then here on a prospecting tour. When we left Carlisle [Indiana] I came with four of the younger children by rail and husband and the two older girls went by the overland route in the buggy. I have met with several Pennsylvanians here who lived near Washington [Pennsylvania] and had often heard of Father. Dear Liz I wish you could see what a beautifully undulating country this is, and although it is prairie, there is still a goodly number of native forest trees to give a charm to the scenery. The folks here ride about very often in every variety of manner, vehicles of all sorts are almost constantly passing & repassing. The town is about half as large as Carlisle, about 3 or 4 hundred inhabitants but the Church membership is much larger They promise to give husband \$800 per year and the parsonage. It is also customary among them to make a donation party once a year. I attend sabbath School and have a class of [a] dozen little girls. Dear E it makes me feel blue every time I think of you as being away from home so long. If you do not feel well enough to go all the way, do pray by all means go as far as Wheeling and stay until Irene can accompany you home to B— I had a letter from Irene [Wylie

Bell] about month ago aunt [Eliza] & uncle [Redick] McKee were there on a visit. If it were not so much out of the way I would like to ask them too. If aunt and uncle wait there [a] couple years longer they can go back to C[alifornia] on the great Pacific rail road! We had a letter from Grandma [Martin] yesterday she is now receiving a visit from aunt Margery Alexander, Thomas A's widow, since the war, they like ourselves left Texas. They are living in Miss. Mrs A brought her daughter Rose with her, to attend school in Ky — I believe Bell [Taylor] is still a widow with her two little girls. You remember what a great friend she was of sister Janes [Wylie]. When I saw her in T[exas] she asked very particularly about J — I think they were near the same age. Tell bro R[edick] here is another good chance for him and Mississippi is not far and he needs to see something of the world. I never met with any one who treated me with more kindness, or who had so many questions to ask about all the Wylie family than Bell A Taylor when we were at her house in Palestine Texas Redick I suppose remembers her husband who used to board at Pap Campbells and go to College Poor fellow he was killed in the rebel service Northern young men who stayed at home during the war, might just as well marry the widows of rebels as any one. I have not heard from B— for a coons age. It is too bad, really provoking What can they be driving at that they can never get time to write me a letter. Miss Hannah has just called, she is a dark eyed maiden of about 25 or so, sister of Mrs Braden, both from Penn near Wheeling The Bell has just rang for Choir meeting—which meets every saturday at 5 oclock PM The young people here are mostly good singers. I hope you will be wise enough to train your child to become a good singer and keep the cursed corsets off so that she will not mince matters while singing I have no patience with Mothers who will allow their daughters to wear corsets especially while they are growing — When I was in B—I thought your Mollie seemed to wear her dresses too tight.

Sunday—This morning S[amuel Martin] — preached from the Text “If ye do my will ye shall know of the doctrine” &c A large and attentive audience were present. Although S—has but a weak, shall I say a still small voice? Yet he is the most animated, practical preacher you ever heard, He has always given entire satisfaction wherever he has been both as a minister and teacher. This is only saying the Truth. But few men possess as much versatility of talent. This evening S[usan] & M[ary] went to Dudley with their Father who preaches there every other Sabbath. As we came on, we spent couple of days at Kitty Newells, husbands sister, who is still living at Paris which is only 10 miles from here. We expect them all down on a visit soon. She has a fine family [ie, siblings] a preacher, two doctors with Robby & Sammy the youngest while she & Emma are young ladies. Claude [Martin] writes he intends coming to see us this autumn. Grandma M[artin] has indeed been blest in seeing all her children [become] devoted christians, and [a] happier family I have never yet seen. I sometimes fear mine will never be like them One thing we regret very much here, and that is there have not been a good school here for several years. We need a high school here very much. Hoping soon to hear of your “growth in grace” as well as physical health I am as ever interested in your entire welfare.

Your afft sister M. W. M.

*Redick M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Bloomington  
July 5th 1867

Dear Brother,

We are about to make some arrangement for putting up some kind of tomb stones to mark the spot of poor Jane's grave. We want to know whether you have any suggestions to make as to the kind of a monument or tomb stone which should be erected. We also want your opinion as to the kind of inscription which should be placed thereon. We wish the opinion of each member of the family and especially your's, you being the eldest one of the family.

Some time ago you wrote that Uncle McKee and Aunt Eliza were in this country, and that they intended to come out west on a visit this summer. Had intended to write Uncle at the time and urge him to make us a visit, but have neglected it so long that I do not now know where they now are nor where to direct my letter. If they are at Washington or if not, and should you write them, give them my love, and tell them that all their friends and relatives here would be very glad to have them make us a visit some time during this summer. I have not yet forgotten your promise to take a trip west once a year. Shall look for you confidently some time this fall. Would be glad to have you bring Carry with you if she can leave her household cares so long. Emma Dodds has been keeping house for me since last December. When you come, hope to be able to entertain you in a better manner than I did the last time. Elizabeth is still in Dansville, N.Y. She intends to stay until next fall. And then if Dr. Jackson thinks that he cannot get any more money from her, he will tell her that she can then come home without any risque of her old disease returning.

Had a letter from Anderson not long since containing the news that he had another daughter. He is making quite a start in the world.

Margaret and Sam are about to move to Grand View Illinois where they expect to better their condition very much. Mary's family are all well. Little Ritchie is running around everywhere and can talk well for a child of his age.

Have been very busy this summer as usual and am now about to begin my wheat harvest which is very good. Corn & hay also promise to be excellent so that there is a prospect now of making up some of the deficiency in the crops of the previous two years. Write soon, and don't forget that promised visit west this fall.

Your affectionate brother  
R. M. Wylie

Sacred to the Memory of our beloved Sister:  
Jane M. Wylie, youngest daughter of Dr. Andrew & Margaret Wylie; Born \_\_ day of 18--;  
Departed life the \_\_ day of 1866.  
"He giveth His beloved peace"

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Grandview [Illinois] Oct 13. 1867.

Dear Liz

I went down shopping this morning and as [I] came by the P.O. got a letter from you which is a little more on the cheerful order than any you have sent for some time past. I congratulate you on getting home at last, and [you] don't blame people if they choose to find fault somewhat. It is only the workings of an evil heart within that must find some vent. For my own part I would rather stay at home and "die at my post," than to leave it for any consideration whatever. Am glad you found your only child [Mary] so much improved. Whatever you do, or don't do, cultivate a loving and affectionate disposition in her. This is the point in which our Parents failed in their duty toward us as their children. I believe this is the secret [cause] of most of your suffering and of mine. I would rather bury every child I have than to have them marry unless they could love as they ought, and become proper subjects for matrimony. I now firmly believe about one half the world do not experience joy and happiness in the marriage relation, because they are not educated at home in a tender, sympathising & loving manner. I was reading a little piece in the paper the other day and must mention it. "Dr Franklin lived near a mechanic who he noticed as always looking very cheerful & good humored, always wearing a pleasant smile for every body. One day the Dr asked him why it was that he always looked so remarkably happy? He replied Dr I have the best wife in the world. When I come home she always runs to meet me with a kiss looking so thankful for her husband. Tea is always ready on the table and the children so clean & neat. My wife never complains and no wonder if I am happy" Experience is all the teacher ever I had on this most important subject, and often think I have been too slow in learning the lesson, "Perhaps better late than never". If the truth was known about half the men in every Community are driven to drinking habits by scolding disagreeable companions at home. Do not think I mean all this for you any more than for myself. These thoughts were suggested by what certain unsympathising folks of B[loomington] are; and have been saying. My object in writing in this way is if I have any influence my object is gained, if you live in such a way as to give the lie to their accusations. Live above their suspicions. I hope you may have "grace equal to your day" And may you have "every good and perfect gift" from our Heavenly Father whose loving kindness extends to all. S-[amuel] has returned home after seeing all his kinfolks and Mother M[artin] & uncle John Alexander are coming to see us in a week or two. Mr Morton's Mother from Ky is now visiting her son who you know married Anna [Martin]. S- took cold coming home which has so affected his throat that it is very uncertain whether he can preach tomorrow. When was Mag Melletts baby born? Is [it] boy or girl you did not say. I am glad they are so happy over it. I think this world would be still more dreary were there no dear little children in it. The birth of a child is a more important event than the creation of a world. Am sorry to hear of Irene's [Wylie Bell] illness hope she may be spared to her family. How are Amy Irvins folks? I cannot wind up without one thing more Do not forever dwell on the dark side of everything. Think more about a change of heart, than the change of life as you call it. Tell Rebeca [Wylie] I congratulate her upon being [a] Grandma and I hope she may take a Grandview of the whole subject. I wrote you the other day as soon as I heard of your arrival. Think I would go and see you if had the money.

*Mary McCalla [9 years old] to Ella*

BLOOMINGTON IND. OCT 30 1867

MY DeAR COUSIN ELLA

I TAKE THE PLeASURe OF WRITING YOU A SHORT LeTTeR I WeNT OUT TO GRANDPAS FRIDAY AND CAME BACK SATURDAY. gRANDMA WAS IN TOWN AND STAIID A WeeK — AUNT SALLie IS CLeANING SOME ROOMS TODAY AND FRINK, AND HARRY WeRe UP TO AUNTieS, AND FRANK SAID He WANTeD TO gO HOME AND SAW WOOD. ELLA AUNTE gAVe Me THE KITTEN TO Me, IT IS A gReAT BIg THING. MA [Elizabeth Wylie McCalla] HAS COMe HOME AND SHe BROUgHT Me A BOOK AND SOME TUMBLERS MA IS STAYING DOWN WITH UNCLE ReDICK [Wylie]. I gO DOWN WITH MA ON THE HORSe TWICe A WeeK — PA IS gOING TO geT A BUSHel OF PeACHES, AND He IS gOING TO gIVE AUNTie PART OF THEM — PA SAYS THATS THE LAST We WILL get THIS YeAR — PA HAS ReNTeD A HOUSE, BUT We CANT geT THE MAN WHO IS IN IT TO gO OUT YeT A WHILe — IT SNOWeD YeSTeRDAY — I AM GETTING TIRED AND SLeePY I WANT YOU TO WRITe Me OFTeN

I ReMAIN YOUR AFFeCTIONATe COUSIN  
MARY McCALLA

1868

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla and Irene Wylie Bell, Bloomington, Indiana*

Grandview [Illinois] Oct 5. 1868.

Dear sisters

You no doubt think I am a long time about making you a visit, but the truth is, it is too uncertain to say anything definite about it. Husband [Samuel] is obliged to be absent a great part the time seeking a location, was absent yesterday (and expects to be gone next Sabbath also[.]). If our whereabouts is settled and he returns by the middle of next week, I can then try and be at B— [loomington] the 3rd week of this month. Mr Venable & auntie [Martha Venerable] have been making us a visit. We let them take Emma with them, I felt some reluctance to let her go, but as her Father thought best for her to live with her aunt Martha this winter she left this morning. I do not, nor never can miss E. like her sister Flora who was all that any Parent could ask. How like a flower was she[,] broken from the Parent stem, to be transplanted above. “Heaven ought to be nearer, and Jesus dearer to us now.” Willie & Flora were both taken suddenly, another warning “to be ye also ready, for ye know not the day or the hour when the Son of Man Cometh”.

Yesterday (Sabbath 4<sup>th</sup>) you all no doubt bring to rem[em]brance our dear youngest sister [Jane Wylie]. It is three years since, she breathed her last in this world and we hope she is “Where the inhabitants can no more say they are sick” Is it not the greatest boon the living can have to feel certain the departed are saved? Alas! If it is not so. What then can sustain. How much more comfort sister Mary [Wylie Dodds] has in thinking of Samuel than Kemper. [Samuel died in the Civil War, wheras Kemper left home and was never heard from again.]

Though it must have been a severe trial to bury her hearts treasure, yet we all know he was Christlike and only exchanged this world for a more enduring inheritance. I hope Annas [Dodds] intended is a christian if not I hope she may try to make him one. E you did not say one word about him. I do not even know his name. When Claude was out here we were talking about weddings &c, His opinion is that to have the family and as many of the kindred present as can conveniently come. None else, no offence; If any of my girls ever marry I intend to act on his advice He has wed (?) so many & observed how matters end, he is certainly able to give advice on this all important subject. Saturday we received a letter from William [Martin] who is now in this country. He & wife [Jane] came with their two younger boys [Pascal & Robert]. They are to go to college at Yale, so that their P.O. is New Haven. I have no doubt it will feel like Heaven compared with their past residence. He intends returning to Pekin shortly as he is to be President or Proff of the New University established by the Chinese Government. He has no connection with any boards, is paid his salary by gov — Will be out to see us sometime in November.

Oct 7—Irene I wish you would let me know exactly how long you intend remaining at B— It is impossible for me to leave now as S—[amuel] is absent so much of the time. Next Sabbath he expects to be absent at Greenville O. It is the next County east of Richmond Ia[Indiana] If we locate there I hope to see something of our orphan niece [John Wylie’s daughter Irene] I have her

photograph but the original I have never yet seen. Henry Newell, husband's nephew, has been preaching for several years at G[reenville]— and has lately left for a more extensive sphere of usefulness at St Joseph Mi[Missouri] a city of 30,000 inhabitants. Have you heard whether Carrie [Andrew Wylie, Jr.'s wife] has been confined yet? If you write let me know as I am anxious to know how she is doing. I knew nothing of it until the other day. Why did you not mention it sometime.

Your afft. sister.  
MW.M

*James F. Dodds to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Bloomington, Inda  
July 31st 1868

Dear brother

I write to you, partly, on a little matter of business—On the 6th of Decr 1866, I sent an appn to the Treasury Dpt for the \$100 allowed by Act of Congress to the certain specified legal heirs of soldiers who lost their lives in the late War. Sometime thereafter I recd notice that the appn had been recd & would, in due time, be examined & if anything were due, it would be forwarded, etc. (I cannot now lay my hand on the circular or letter)

Prof T. A. Wylie, about the same day, made appn in consequence of the loss of his son (R.D.W.) He informs me that he recd some 6 or 8 months ago, a draft for the \$100.

My son (S. W. D.) was in the same Co. & Regt (Co H 18th Regt Inda Vols). Both died (of disease contracted in the service) near the same time (Oct & Nov '61), in the same state (Mo). The circumstances all were very much alike & the appns were made out in the same way. I employed no Atty to attend to the case, but filled out the blanks myself in, as I supposed, legal & proper form & manner & myself & wife were sworn to the facts & statements by the Clerk of our Circuit Court. I directed the papers to The Treasurer of U.S. 2nd Auditor's Office. Why the matter has been so long deferred or delayed I am at a loss to know. Had any further declaration or testimony been necessary I suppose I would, ere this, have been so informed.

You will confer a favor & much oblige us by calling at the 2nd Auditor's Office & making the necessary inquiries. I had thought of addressing a short letter (of inquiry) to the Dpt, but it occurred to me that you could do more & better by a few words, could you find the time to call at the Office in person, and most likely we would be able to get the money in a shorter time. Please let us hear soon.

We & the rest of your friends & relatives here are in usual (ordinary) health, notwithstanding the excessive depressing long continued midsummer heat. The health of all this region round about for the last 22 or 23 months has been good—better than during the same period for the last 23 or 24 years.

The harvest here has been heavy & protracted. Crops of wheat, oats & hay are good—corn & potatoes & pastures are, in many places, now needing rain.

Reddick has, today, just finished getting in & putting up hay. He found some trouble in getting help sufficient during the hot weather. He seems, himself, to drive on about as much. He has a good man & his wife living with him & keeping house for him etc. Hence I presume he will still delay getting a helpmeet of his own. He can't take the time to look around for one & indeed it is hard for him to find anyone that would just suit him. I suspect he has been too long batchelorizing.

Elizabeth McC seems to be in good health & cheerful spirits. John, I reckon, is doing a pretty fair business in his store.

S. N. Martin, I learn, is thinking of leaving Grandview Ill. He don't seem to realize a very sufficient support, as money is now hard to get.

Old Joshua Howe died about 3 weeks ago, worn down, most probably, by the infirmities of age.

We are likely soon to have quite exciting times in Politics. I shall endeavor to keep clear. I am somewhat disgusted with party leaders.

The State University is in a prosperous condition. Our town & surrounding country are steadily advancing in general improvement, but the scarcity of money is the common, every day complaint. We need more agricultural products, consequently more scientific & skilful tillers & cultivators of the lands ere plenty & prosperity can reign.

Our sincere & affectionate regards to all your family  
Jas F. Dodds

***Irene Wylie Bell to Andrew Wylie, Jr.***

Beach farm  
Oct 11th [1868]

Dear Andrew,

Your letter of the 27th containing the gratifying intelligence of the birth of the babe was duly received. We thought to have written at once a congratulatory reply, but deferred from day to day, hoping to write you of Anderson's arrival. We felt some anxiety in regard to the event, from the tenor of Carry's last letter, and we were happy to learn of the safe arrival of the little stranger. May he prove a blessing, a well spring of pleasure in your household. We feel somewhat inclined to demure at your selection of a name, the friends here say, do not name him Horace. After two weeks daily expectation Anderson (and Margaret whom he induced to accompany him) arrived a week ago today. He met with so much kindness amongst the friends at Chicago, the time passed so pleasantly that he made a much longer visit there than he anticipated. He is quite enthusiastic on the subject of Chicago. From C he went to Grandview where he remained with Margaret a day or two. He found a number of letters from the Conklings awaiting his arrival here informing him of the severe suffering of his wife, who was undergoing one of her terrible attacks of neuralgia and her friends thought he ought to be at home. Of course he was extremely uneasy in regard to her and could not be prevailed upon to remain longer with us than Monday. He felt as much disappointed as we that he could not remain two weeks longer, as was his intention. Anderson is not in robust health. His throat is weak, and he suffers from chronic catarrh. He felt he was gaining every day whilst here. Began to breathe freely through his nose which he had not been

able to do for months. How we did regret to have him go away. Annie Dodds is to be married next Tuesday evening. Anderson was expected to perform the ceremony. It is so unfortunate he was not able to do so. We hope Annie is making a good match. I have not seen the gentleman. His youth to me is an objection. He is not yet of age. He is a druggist and making a support. Margaret became uneasy about her family and anxious to be at home preparing for their anticipated move this fall and left on the same train with Anderson. Poor Margaret shews the marks of care & hard work. She is an excellent Christian, bearing her trials with great fortitude. It is uncertain where they will move, probably to a little town in Ohio not far from Richmond, Ia. Martin has been without a church since April, preaching here and there during the summer, endeavoring to make up his mind where to locate. The children and myself have been here since the first week in Sept. Joseph is now West on an extended business tour and expects to return for us in the course of 20 days. It was thought when we left home in July that he would visit Cal this fall, and we let our house until the first of November, hence our long absence. The weather is now pleasant, and the woods gorgeous in their autumn tints. If you think of visiting the west this fall come now. I do wish you could be here next week before our return. All say come. Red says come to stay longer than 24 hours. I came down yesterday & shall remain until Saturday. Red is starting for town and I have written hurriedly that he might carry the letter. Remember us affectionately to the family. Let us hear from you or Carry soon. Your affectionate  
Sister Irene

1869

*Anderson McElroy Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

293 Cumberland St  
Brooklyn Feb 23<sup>d</sup> 1869

Dear Sister Liz—

It has been on my mind for some little while to write you. I presume Irene [Wylie Bell] told you of our projected visit to Wheeling. Annie Conklin [Anderson's sister-in-law] was to accompany us but in the meanwhile she became engaged to a young merchant in N.Y.—Mr Ed<sup>d</sup> Goodwin—who is an excellent man of about 35, & a member of the Cong<sup>l</sup> [congregational] Ch<sup>h</sup>.

We were partly packed ready to start at the first of this month & on the Sunday preceeding Margaret was taken with such fearful attacks of suffering with her old enemy that we were obliged, greatly to our disappointment, to give it up.

She has continued to grow weaker & weaker & she has given up all hope of recovery. For myself I do not share that hopelessness but have felt from the beginning she w<sup>d</sup> get well. She has just now come out of 10 or 12 hours of mortal agony, when we had to support her for every moment & witness such paroxysms as I never saw endured by any other person.

The children, except the baby, have to be sent to their grandparents who are devotedly kind; & all have to study Margaret's condition. You may be sure it is a fearful trial & sometimes I think it is too much to endure, yet underneath it all I do not lose the consciousness that it will yet, thro' God's mercy, all work together for our good.

Broken up as I am I scarcely know what to do or where to look, but am determined to keep on promptly to work at anything which can give me employment & secure me a support.

I have just had a splendid offer from Chicago for the establishment of a school, near the city, on a handsome property, & have been guaranteed \$5000, personal interest in the premises if I will undertake the [?]. Besides this I can preach regularly in the chapel which is already built to hand. As I am situated, of course I cannot hope to do anything toward perfecting such plans. I must therefore wait for something to present itself here, tho' I have no notion of waiting in idleness or indifference. Tell Mary [Wylie Dodds] I meant to have written both to them & Annie [Dodds Thompson] before this but night & day ever since work & anxiety have pressed upon me so I have been obliged to throw aside all extra efforts—

Give my love to all & write soon

Your affect' Brother

A. M. W

*Anderson McElroy Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

293 Cumberland St  
Brooklyn Mar 23/69

Dear Sister Liz—

I do not know when I last wrote but take it for granted I am in your debt, & now on this rainy, Marchy day when kept in by a cold, I purpose to cancel some of my numerous debts.

Maggie [his wife] is still in bed tho' better than she was a month ago.

Her sufferings have been dreadful & at last under an old school practitioner she was reduced to a state in which anodynes [generic name for pain relievers such as landanum] alone c<sup>d</sup> afford her any relief. In the midst of this great anxiety Mrs Conklin [mother-in-law] hearing, thro' a friend, of a wonderful woman doctor sent to N.Y. for her & she has been in attendance for about a month. She is a clairvoyant, & has certainly done well—banished the opiates, uses only herbs & simple remedies & Maggie has scarcely had one such an attack as those she had every other day under the old system. This woman says she will recover entirely, but must have great care & attention.

I look forward, with great hope to the time when we may again have a home in a village—city rush, & city excitement, & the tyranny of fashion—well it is too much, & growing worse day by day—so I long for my plainer home, with garden & yard, & more of quiet.

Irene [Wylie Bell] tells me of a letter you wrote [to me] directing to Wheeling, but I have not rec<sup>d</sup> it—of course you know that Margaret's sudden prostration prevented our going tho' we were partly packed.

She sends her love & says she can now surely sympathise with the miseries you have suffered. And moreover, she says, if she gets well enough & you want to have a little more trial of small fry, we will pack up—full six strong, for we sh<sup>d</sup> bring someone to look after the little ones—& launch ourselves upon Monroe Co. much it may be to the surprise (to use no milder phrase) of all. Indeed the visit I had last Autumn only whetted my appetite & I have not yet forgotten the taste of that chicken you put into the basket it was one of the most agreeable R[ail]'way companions I ever had—”this speaks well for my wife but tell her I” (says Maggie) “put that in”)

Indeed my mind is on farming & gardening this summer & I do hope we shall not be disappointed. I sh<sup>d</sup> tell you I am wanted to take charge of a new work in Newark [New Jersey] (near by), but I really feel that after preaching near 11 years in the Ep<sup>l</sup>[Episcopal] Ch<sup>h</sup>[Church] I am not unreasonable in expecting something above an initiative work—still it may be my duty & I only wish I were satisfied as to that. Do write soon & be sure & give me Anna [Dodds Thompson]'s full address in Ill—for I want to write to her,

Your affect' bro—

*Andrew Wylie Jr. To Redick McKee Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana (on mourning stationary edged in black)*

Washington May 11<sup>th</sup> '69

My Dear Brother

Our dear, afflicted, boy, Pendleton was taken from us at 10 minutes past 8 o'clock Sunday last, and his mortal body is to be consigned to the tomb this afternoon, at 5 o'clock.

His helpless condition, and the cheerlessness of his life these many years, in connection with our recollection of his beauty and brightness as a child, had rendered him doubly dear to our hearts. But whilst we pour out our sorrows and tears over his beloved form, we know that he is now in far happier world than this, and bow submissively to the afflicting dispensation of our heavenly Father who orders all things well.

His final sickness was brief. On Friday last he was rather more unwell than usual, but still was able to be out of doors and take exercise in the yard. That night he had several severe convulsions, and these continued to increase in frequency & severity till Saturday evening, when it became apparent that his earthly existence was rapidly drawing to its close. As the end drew nearer the struggles of nature grew feebler, until life seemed to ebb away as quickly as an infant breathes. After death, his features seemed to have received a heavenly impress, as though he had died in the full possession of his rational faculty, and the soul which was originally so gifted, had at length been set free from its earthly prison where it had suffered so long from pain and trouble and distress.

Our other dear little boy [Horace] is now nearly eight months old and is a fine, bright, healthy child—almost the express image of our first Andrew. He is the source of infinite joy to our hearts, especially now.

In consequence of our present affliction, we regret exceedingly that we shall be denied the pleasure of shewing that attention and extending those civilities to your friends, during their bridal visit to the capital, which we had intended.

Carry [his wife] bids me send you her affectionate regards, in which unites

Your Brother

Andrew

Please inclose this to the family at Bloomington

AW

*Anderson M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Wheeling

May 14th, 1869

Dear Bro

We all wish to express our sincere sympathy for you and sister Carry in yr recent bereavement.

Pendleton was indeed a most beautiful boy and had there been no eclipse of his mind he doubtless wd have exhibited unusual powers. As it was, there being no hope of his ever emerging from the deep cloud which obscured his brilliant powers, perhaps you are fully resigned to the trial and you must find no little comfort in the reflection that he is now in the possession of not only the fullness of his intellectual powers, but of immortal glory.

Hard indeed must it be for parents to see their fondest hopes thus taken away, and we shd not fail to consider that the removal of these precious little ones from the evil in the world is not only a source of negative consolation, but the consciousness of their presence in the heavenly world often proves by the blessing of God a most powerful means to induce the parents to set their affections upon things above.

Irene and Mr. Bell as well as my wife bid me assure you and Carry of their sympathy and kindest regards.

We are all glad at the prospect of seeing you next week and Irene says be sure and do not fail.

I sent a letter yesterday to sister Annie and directed to your care as I was afraid they might not send to the office.

Margaret still remains weak and easily affected by any changes and excitements but I cling to the hope that she will gradually improve.

Please assure sister Carry of my kindest regards,  
Your affect' bro  
Anderson

*Andrew Wylie Jr., to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Chicago May 31<sup>st</sup> 1869

My Dear Sister

I came to this city on Tuesday last, to look at a piece of property I own two or three miles South of the city, which I have never seen, and which is said to have become quite valuable, intending to remain just two days, and then run down to Bloomington and make you all a visit, of three or four days. But ever since I have been here it has been raining, raining, raining, until the roads have become impassable, and the whole of this flat country is covered with water. I am going to try to reach my land to-day, and it is the first day since I have been here, that the undertaking has seem[ed] practicable. This forced delay in Chicago, compels me to forgo my visit to B, my duties requiring me to be in Washington, by next Thursday evening. I regret this exceedingly, as I had set my heart upon seeing you all, and having two or three days of pleasant time about dear old Bloomington.

I hope it will not be very long till I can find or make another occasion for the visit.

If you, or any of you have any letters for me, please have them forwarded to Washington. At last advice from home [wife] Carry and Baby [Horace] were pretty well—but Carry's spirits are still much depressed by the loss of our dear boy [Pendleton]. The more afflicted he was, and the less value there was in life to the child himself, the more she clung to him whilst living and mourns for him [now] that he is gone.

Remember me kindly to Mr. M,C[alla]. and give my love to Mary [Wylie Dodds], & all the other members of the family—  
Your affectionate Brother  
Andrew

*Andrew Wylie, Jr. to Caroline Bryan Wylie*

St. Louis  
Oct. 7, 1869

My Dear Wife,

Yesterday's sale at Lowell amounted to about \$15,000 and those at Clark and Dillen's Addition to about \$8,000 more. The Lowell property is actually worth less today than it was 15 years ago. Most of it is subject to overflow from back water which rushes up a ravine called Jiupa Creek, whenever the river is high. Along this creek there are slaughter houses at every point where a house can be built. The smell from these houses overspread the whole of that territory. In addition the City has built and keeps up 7 or 8 powder houses on parts of this Lowell property which were sold soon after it was bought by Mr. Withers and the others, and these powder houses are so distributed that most of the lots are in dangerous proximity to some one or more of them. We sold several thousand dollars worth yesterday which in my judgment are not worth the taxes. All things considered, the sale has turned out pretty well.

The first day's sale amounted to about \$20,000, as I wrote to you. But we bid in about \$35,000 worth. That is really beautiful property—1000 feet front on the St. Charles road by 260 in depth.

This is the great day of the fair and all the business places in this city are closed, and everybody gone to the grounds; so that I have been prevented doing anything except to talk over affairs with Mr. Hutchinson and to endeavor to sell some of Thomas' and my property to him. But he is as shy and stealthy as a fox, so that it is next to impossible to obtain from him the statement of a fact even which he must be aware I can learn elsewhere in five minutes. Of course I would not assume to make any contract with him except subject to Thomas' approval.

I did not go to the fair today simply because everybody else was going, but I propose to go tomorrow. The display of animals and of manufactures is said to be the finest ever brought together in the West, and the crowds that go, the largest.

The weather continues very fine. I shall remain here till Saturday afternoon and then take the cars for Kansas City, and shall be there probably 3 or 4 days.

As yet I have received but one letter from you since leaving home—that which I acknowledged in mine of Sunday last. I have written to you every alternate day since my arrival here. I have beaten you in writing letters, this time, unless you make quality the test and then I yield you the palm, for one from you is sweeter to me than a thousand of mine can be to you.

I meet friends here almost every day and am having a rather good time, so far as it can be away from my dearest treasures. My health has improved. I think the dirty Mississippi water must be very wholesome.

My best love to everybody, and a hundred kisses to dear Baby [Horace].

Your own  
A.W.

It occurs to me that you may want more money than I left you, and I will remit a check in next letter.

*Andrew Wylie, Jr. to Caroline Bryan Wylie*

St. Louis, Saturday  
Oct 16th 1869

My Dear Wife,

On my arrival here yesterday from Kansas, I found awaiting me your own three letters of recent dates and one from Thomas, for which you both have my hearty thanks as they all brought news which relieved my mind of uneasiness, as to how you all were, and how you were doing. In the absence of news from home one is apt to imagine that some sickness or trouble may have happened to those absent ones who are most dear to his heart.

After leaving Kansas City I became quite sick and suffered great pain in my back, bowels etc., all the way. On arriving at Topeka, I had to go to bed. Had it been at home I should have sent for a doctor, but I was afraid to put myself under the charge of such doctors as I was likely to find there, so I sent for the apothecary, who proved to be a very intelligent, sensible fellow, told him how I felt, and that in my own judgment it was an attack of bilious dysentery. He gave me a dose of medicine of his own preparation and left me also a bottle of the "Essence of the Benne Plant." A medicine which he said was more used and had a greater reputation in all the Western States for diseases of that character than any other or all others put together. I took the Benne plant according to directions, eat nothing through the day, kept myself warm in bed, and next morning was quite able to go about the town although not perfectly strong and well. The wind was cold and fierce, blowing from the Rocky Mountains across these wide and extensive plains and my lands were 10 miles away from the town. I thought it best not to run the risk of making a visit to see them, but engaged a reliable and responsible person there to act as my agent for paying taxes on and selling them. He is soon to make a visit to that part of the country and will report to me the result of his formal inspection. There are, however but three of those tracts each of 160 acres, one in Shawnee and the other two in Jackson Co.

That afternoon I started back, but the car was very cold—an elegant sleeping car too—no fire, and insufficient covering. My own blanket, however, saved me from suffering. The conductor stated that the cold had come on so suddenly as to find them unprepared and that the next trip they would have fires.

This brought back on me another attack of my disease, but it has been slight compared with the first. Yesterday I remained as quiet as possible, took a little of my medicine last night and this morning feel better than I have done before since I left here. I have arranged all my affairs here now, as far as it has been possible to do so. Mr. Hutchinson has declined to accept the offer I made him for the sale of Thomas' and my interest in the property six miles out the St. Ch's road. But we have entered into a written stipulation that next spring he is to proceed to have the Collinsville property divided into suitable parts for sale and sell it all out on joint account

according to our interests. The liens on the other property will prevent a sale of that for another year, but at the expiration of that time, it too is to be sold.

This being Saturday, there is no afternoon train out of this city either to the North or East, so that I must remain where I am unless I should decide to go up to Quincy or some other point on the river by steamboat and thence take the earliest train Sunday night or Monday morning for Chicago.

I am watching the Chicago papers and I think it may be of importance to my interests to go there. Besides I want to have a settlement with Bryan Lathrop, who ought to have several hundred dollars of mine in his hands.

May Heaven bless you, my darling wife, and precious little Horace. How happy I shall be to see you again.

Your devoted

A. W.

1870

*Anderson McElroy Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

231 Cumberland St  
Brooklyn Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 1870

Dear Sister Liz—

I feel as if I must write to you among the first respecting the decision to which I have recently arrived. Dr McElroy is to present my name, in a few days, before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbytery of N.Y. for my formal reception into the Pres<sup>n</sup> Church.

I have been hanging on by the eyelids to the Ep.[iscopal] Church, until now it seems a matter of plain Providential indication that I sh<sup>d</sup> go to the church of our forefathers<sup>11\*</sup>, & now especially that they are coming together again.

I have been passing through that cold isolated region which stretches between far removed worlds, & now I feel as if I am drawing near to a body where there is warmth & life.

It looks as if there was but little to hope for by the Evangelical Party. Schism or surrender are the alternatives. I am weary of strife & contention, & want to go where I can preach at least the elementary principles of the Gospel without being regarded as a heretic.

Most of the Ep. Churches seem now to be used as societies for the promotion of aristocratic pride & pretention; & for the display of worldly wealth. Even old St Ann's here—which has been for over 50 years distinguished for its Quaker like plainness—has built a new edifice which, in decoration & display, & for reckless extravagance, outvies the finest opera houses.

For myself I no longer feel at home in these wedding parties where the Church is marrying itself to the worst features of the world. I abhor it & condemn it, & preach against all such weak surrenders to the Spirit of the world & thus I find myself carried out of the body which in its plainer & more evangelical aspects I love & admire.

My brethren protest against the decision, & had I seen any hope of being really useful in such a state of affairs, I sh<sup>d</sup> have been willing to endure the bitterness of the approaching contest, but I began to believe with Mr Barnes, that Prelacy, with a system of unyielding forms, is utterly inimical to the system of the Gospel. Read his famous essay, written many years ago, on the [“] Prospects of the Evangelical Party — The Ep' Church,” He foretold just the present condition of things.

I hope I shall soon, in the good Providence of God, be settled in a Pres<sup>n</sup> parish.

I have written to [brother] Redick & hope we may see him & his bride this way. Do write soon—

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<sup>11</sup> Anderson Wylie was, apparently, the only one of Andrew Wylie, Sr.'s children to follow their father out of the Presbyterian and into the Episcopal church. Earlier generations, however, had actually been Covenanters, Scotch-rite Presbyterians, who in America called themselves Reform Presbyterians. If the “they” later in the sentence refers to those two branches of the Presbyterian faith, Anderson Wylie was being prematurely hopeful; the two sects are still disjoint today.

Love to all & believe [me] your affect bro—  
Anderson

*Birdie [Margaret] and Irene Bell to Redick and Madeleine Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Wheeling Jan 1870

To my dear Uncle Red[ick] and his wife Madaline on this their Wedding day. I write a few lines to assure them that they are in remembrance on this “Day of Days,” and to offer them our congratulations and kind wishes. I will not[,] as Fanny [Frances Bell] did Cousin Annie, wish for many happy returns, but hope that Heaven’s choicest gifts may be yours.

We are very much disappointed about you not coming to see us now, for if you put it off, we are very much afraid, that the visit will never be made; for when you are settled down it will be twice as hard to find time, in which you can conveniently come I am going to school as usual, and have commensed taking music lessons again, this time from a gentleman he is a most excellant teacher, and I like him very much; I still keep up my German; it is so much more interesting since we have commenced translating; we have just begun Schiller’s Don Carlos.”

I would like to write a longer letter but as I have my lessons and practicing I will close by sending my love to all.

Your affectionate neice,  
Birdie Bell

Dear Red and sister Madeline

As I am opposed to any blank space in a family letter I shall add a few lines to Bird’s. Of course we have none but the kindest wishes for your happiness in the new relation you have assumed. May you go through life ever, and more, realizing that you are well mated; and that it was a happy, happy day when you were first acquainted.

Joseph [her husband] is reading near me, and says congratulate the new benedict for me, and say, if he had of been sure you would have yealded up your liberties on the day indicated; and if he had of known just how to reach Albion (Illinois) and how much time the going would have occupied, he really thinks, (as he was in Cincinatti at the time) he would have made an effort to have been with you on that trying and interesting occasion.

What I wanted particularly to say, is that we think you have treated us really mean, in not coming to visit us now. I very well know, there will be no moving you, after you are settled at home. A mountain will ever be in the way. I suspect you wanted to have wife all to yourself, that you made such haste to get back home. I have so much, or great a desire to see you in your new character that had I have known you would not come up I think I should have taken [her other daughter] Fanny and run out for a couple of weeks. The reason the date of your marriage was not inscribed upon the ring, was that was some uncertainty was expressed as to the time. In each of your letters you refered to the event as taking place “about the 7<sup>th</sup>”. Not feeling positive, we thought best not to put the date, thinking it might be added when you came up. I thought I had explained when he [Joseph] sent the ring as I asked him to do so, but man like, he forgot I

suppose. Do let us hear from you soon. Love to all.

Your affectionate Sister  
Irene Bell

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Sullivan [Indiana] June 13. 1870.

Dear sister E.

Do I owe you a letter or do you owe me? My impression is I wrote you last. Be this as it may you will say, sisters ought not to be particular or exacting toward each other, which to say the least is a wholesome doctrine.

Yesterday S[amuel] & the boys went to Vincennes to attend Grandmas [Martin] funeral As S did not ask me to go along I said nothing on the subject.

Martha Venable stayed with her Mother and attended her day & night for many weeks past. The old lady died in great peace at Claudes [Martin]. "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace." Enclosed is a note from Claude which you will no doubt read with some interest, as you were acquainted some what with the old lady yourself. Mr V— has been here twice recently, seems lost without his wife. He preached last Sabbath, before preaching began the democratic editor asked Sue [Martin, her daughter] if V— was to preach whereupon he & several others left the Ch. V is a strong republican and the other party here dislike him very much. Miss Dorris school ended last week & the girls are now at home. When Bettie Mathews & Ida Morton comes up to pay them a visit I shall feel like leaving for B—[loomington] and let them have the house to themselves. Mrs Allen (Wm Dodds daughter) says she is going over to B— about commencement maybe Ill take the notion too. Tell Mollie [Elizabeth's daughter], the children have been in extacies over Kates pretty little mare colt. It is dark brown with black mane & tail with a single white spot in forehead.

Affect M W M

1871

*Fragment of a letter from Irene Wylie Bell, who is staying with brother Anderson and family in Brooklyn, New York, to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

...on her return Maggie [Anderson's wife] will have her do more sewing, and in that way save many a dollar. Mr. Conklin [Maggie's father] gave M[aggie] 50\$ Christmas with which she bought a sewing machine. Anderson, M, and the children were remembered by their relatives Christmas, quite liberally. Anderson is driving at the pen pretty constantly. I think his constant writing, thinking, and anxiety about money matters certainly is very wearing. He preached by invitation 2 weeks ago at Plainfield a nice place not far distant and he has just gotten a note from them asking him to preach for them next Sunday. We hope they may give him a call. Margaret appears very well. She is able to go out through the day, and of evenings, and be about mostly all the time. I think worry brings on her attacks. Her mother thinks, and from the two attacks she has had since we have been here I think[,] they are of a nervous nature. The children are active and wide awake. Andrew is a little fretful now from teething. He is a good child and improves on acquaintance vastly. He did his first crawling on Christmas. He is backward in his efforts both of walking and talking. The smartest trick he does is throwing himself into position for a picture for his aunt Lizzie. You must have become very much attached to the child from all accounts. Henry is a much better child than when I saw him last. We all get along very well, without a jar so far. We did not think of coming to Anderson's when we came on. He seemed to want us, and if I did not think the board we pay would lighten his expenses I would not consent to add to his house hold. Of course it is pleasanter for us to be with them than in a boarding house. They are quite comfortably but plainly fixed. The situation is remote from all places of interest. We are nearly 2 hours time from Broadway. The [railroad] cars go constantly [but are] crowded making getting about in that way uncomfortable. On some accounts it would be more pleasant for me to be in a more central location and I think when Joseph [Bell] returns we shall go farther down town or perhaps into N York. I think I heard you say Mrs Watts was at a very nice house when here. Do you remember the address. Joseph left for wheeling this morning. He looks so much better since we left W. I think he ought to leave it for good. Bird [Margaret Bell] spent the holidays (2 weeks) with us. She is very well, has grown both taller and stouter since September. I had all her dresses to lengthen and enlarge when here. She is much pleased to have us so near. She continues well satisfied with Vassar. We have been entertained at the houses of Maggies relatives. They all live nicely though not amongst the ultra fashionable or rich. We expected Stephen C's carriage today for a drive to the park, but it is wet. Mrs Conklin is the handsomest, most interesting of her family, and her powers of endurance seem double that of any one of them though considerably past middle life. Mr C is kindness and gentleness personified. —

Your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> has just been handed me. Mag [Conklin Wylie] and I had a good laugh over it. We think it very well for S.N.M [Samuel Martin] that he is not about. He would likely get a piece of your mind evidently. What can the man be thinking.<sup>12</sup> Surely he has very mistaken notions of his duty to his family. I don't think there seems to be a much better prospect

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12 A later letter suggests that he is thinking of returning to China as a missionary.

ahead for poor Mag [Wylie Martin], until some of her children are able to give her a home. I am glad to hear such good accounts of her boys. Hope they may grow up a comfort to her, be prop in her old age.

*Anderson McElroy Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

159 Madison St  
Brooklyn Apr 12/71

Dear Liz —

Perhaps a short letter is better than none, & now that Irene [Wylie Bell] has gone I cannot depend upon her for writing. She & the children went to N.Y. to spend a few weeks before they leave the city. We enjoyed their stay with us very much, & the winter has gone like a flash. I confess I like a house full of a big family.

We are now in the midst of the delicious experience of house-cleaning, & [wife] Margaret stands it very much better than I thought she would or could. I wish you could see the children. Henry has an appetite like a cormorant, & the three juniors are not much behind him. And would you believe it? even Mary's cheeks are as red & full as cabbage roses. Every body votes that your tuition has made Andrew about perfect, for certainly I never saw a better boy. It is a real pleasure to have him about, & he is so bright & so sweet. For some time whenever we w<sup>d</sup> speak of you he w<sup>d</sup> lift up his hands & point away off, but now Lib Dennis' name seems to confuse him. He is very lazy about walking, & can take but a step or two alone, but he makes up for it by rapid crawling. He is a very observing child. The other day John Henry Wise<sup>13</sup>, who is on a visit East from San F., made a call, & while busily talking he scratched his head, Andrew immediately stretched out his hand pointed at him & with two or three baby interjections scratched his own head with his other hand; & he will go through the same performance every time you ask him.

Henry has quite changed his notion & thinks now he would like to go to Bloomington to live. He has great ideas of Bloomington[,] liberty & scope with horses & cow &c &c.

For two months I have been filling the pulpit of the church to which Dr Scudder of San F. was called. He has taken charge and creates quite a sensation. I was treated with great kindness & consideration by the people, & many did not hesitate to say that they w<sup>d</sup> a great deal rather that I had been continued in the pulpit — however I let the matter pass without a single remark. Perhaps the day will come when I shall be over a church again; & in the meanwhile the exercise of patience, no doubt, will be of great profit.

We are purposing to have nice pictures of the children [made], but want to wait until the weather is warmer & a little more settled. Margaret very often speaks of what a blessing you were last summer, & especially to Andrew, so you must consider yourself a recipient of much love from her. Love to all the friends, & dont forget Margaret [Wylie Martin]— tell her to write — I write so incessantly that I get tired of the pen — Write soon —

Your affect bro—

Anderson

Henry says he sends his love & Mamy [his daughter Mary] sends you ten kisses.

---

13 An old and nationally important Wylie family friend

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Oswego [Kansas] July 14<sup>th</sup> 1871

Dear sister E.

Today is just two weeks since we left dear old B-[loomington]. We did not make much of a stay at P-[Paris, Illinois] only from Friday night until the next Tuesday AM. Mary [her daughter] came on with us, and we left Susie & Emma [her daughters] at P-. I left it entirely with them whether to stay where they were or come along. We had only to change [railroad] cars at St Louis & Sedalia. We left P- at 7 AM and reached here about the middle of the afternoon next day after travelling all night think we aright. I was not well at P- and worse for several days after reaching here. Do not know what would have become of us but for Mary. For ten dollars per month we have two small rooms kitchen & small porch. Not a tree or shrub in the yard large enough to make a particle of shade, but the grass still looks green, have not seen any blue grass yet. We have no garden but we buy corn, beens & potatoes. As for the corn I gave 20 cts for 16 ears each one wormy. The man said it was because of the new ground. Have not had any potatoes as good as you had, though have not heard any complaint from bugs. As this has only been settled two years there are no fruit bearing trees as yet. These parts are not settled up like the N.E. portion. Oswego lies [a] mile from the RR. and half this distance from the river. The Neosho is a narrow rather deep & swift running stream. The boys [Claudius & Nevins] are for going there every day excepting Sunday but Pa [Samuel Martin] & Ma say no. However they go with their Pa two or three times a week to learn to swim. We rather broke our rule this afternoon by letting them go off with some larger boys who are good swimmers. The school house is quite a creditable looking building. The Congregationalists & Methodists have their Churches, but the Baptists & Presbyterians worship in unconsecrated halls. Thank God we have no lordly Bishop to trick us up about it either. Wednesday prayer meeting was held at our house of about a dozen real clever looking folks. Most of the ladies of our little flock have been to call and think I shall like them all. Tomorrow we are to have a pic-nic and I have just got through cakemaking for the occasion. The Sabbath school children as well as some others are invited. I suppose I must go but don't care much about it. However it will be the best way to get acquainted. Some fellow in bragging about Kansas gave the population of this place as 2000 but it is not half that. I suppose you found there were a great falling off in the population of B- after Commencement. I often think of your nice cool cellar when I put our melted butter on the table. Some however have them, but often people are living in tents while their house is being put up. Wood is only 4 dollars per cord but it is knotty, scrubby looking. Flour is 4 dollars per hundred. The weather is not much warmer than with you, thermomoter 94 in shade. We have better water than is generally found in the S.E. of the state. In the eastern adjoining county it is mixed with alkali as to taste even in tea & coffee. The only difficulty about ours is we have to carry it from [a] neighbors' but the boys are very willing. And love you know lightens labor. Since I came I often think of the many things we as good as gave away[,] among others the soap I toiled over I sold for a dollar what would have lasted me perhaps a year and now we have to pay 12 ½ cts [a] lb for hard soap. Paid 31 dollars the other day for a cook stove and I dont like it half as well as the one I sold for 9- Has Mattie gone home yet? Kiss Mollie [Elizabeth's daughter] for me & love to yourself & kind regards to all

M. W. M.

P.S. The girls were much pleased with the collar & ribbon you sent them they each send their thanks Do write soon How is John [McCalla] getting along with his house building. Emma sent many thanks to her aunt for her dress Have just been told the thermomoter has been as high as 102

*Andrew Wylie Jr. to Redick McKee. Wylie, Bloomington, Indiana*

Washington Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 1871

Dear Redick

Inclosed herewith I send a draft for fifty dollars which you will please hand over to Sister Margaret [Wylie Martin], with my love.

I have been engaged the whole summer in holding court, but am now about to have vacation for five or six weeks. We think of leaving in a few days for Saratoga [New York]. I am wearied and exhausted, and need a change of air & scene, and rest both of mind and body— and of all the places I am acquainted with, Saratoga, for those objects, is, to me, the most attractive. Irene [Wylie Bell] is there too, with her family, as we infer from a newspaper received from her a few days ago — another great attraction.

Our little Horace is a splendid child, and is already my companion in walks, rides, going to market &c. He is large and in fine health, but would also be better to have a change of air in these days when the Dog Star is over us. Carrys [his wife] health is not very good, and she, in truth, requires the trip more than either of us. Her mother lives with us, is 77 years of age, totally blind, and in consequence of some peculiarities of character and the childishness of old age, is a source of unspeakable care and trouble, especially to Carry. She is abundantly able to employ a special nurse to take care of her, but will not listen to the proposition, and insists that Carry shall be present with her continually, and wait upon her. She too is to go with us, and this is the circumstance which causes me to dread the trip. But to take care of aged parents, and bear with their infirmities, is a duty which we owe them, and should perform with willingness, since we ourselves may require the like attention from our children.

Last spring I had a large lot of choice seeds put up for and sent to you from the Agriculture Dept. which I hope you received. You can direct your letter to this place, and it will be forwarded to me, to such point as I may have directed. Present me affectionately to your dear other half [Madeline], to Mary [Wylie Dodds], Elizabeth [Wylie McCalla], and their children & believe me your affectionate brother

Andrew

*Irene E. Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington*

Bristol [Pennsylvania] Sept 17 1871

Dear Aunt.

I received your pleasant letter two or three weeks ago, but being very busy I could not answer until now. I arrived here Monday afternoon, have been here a week and not felt homesick yet. I suppose my turn will come some time.

This school is very pleasant they make you feel very much at home. this will suit you very much when I tell you that they dont want us to wear corsets. they dont believe in it They have good wholesome food, but no dainties or extras, go to bed at nine and arise at six

I dont think I will not go to this school more than one year.

The people that govern the school are all old maids and are very peculiar extremely so, so much so that I find it very hard to control my tongue and temper some times, dont mention this part of the letter to any one for if you do it will [be] sure to come to their ears some way every body you meet is some relation of the Peirces There are two young ladies here from Brooklyn NY.

I am the only Western Girl here and I feel a stranger in a strange land. I wish you would prevail on Aunt Irene [Wylie Bell] and Uncle Andrew [Wylie, Jr.] to come and see me I think they might come, nothing more than right that they should do so when I am a perfect stranger here and have no particular friends I shall nearly die if I have to stay here during the Holidays I can not go home it is to far. Just think of it I wont get to see my Auntie until next summer I am beginning to feel a little blue this morning. I ought not to feel so for it is a beautiful Sunday morning and also a very pretty place. our lawn goes down to the banks of the Delaware River. The town is just twenty miles from Philadelphia, the New York railroad passes by Bristol no trouble for my Uncles and Aunt to come to see me, if they only feel inclined to do so. It is a shame for me to talk so saucy and plain about them, but I think they deserve it, and I always say what I think. Forgive me I wont say another [word] about them to you. Write soon for I enjoy letters when I am here shut up in Prisen

Love to Uncle John [McCalla] and Mollie [Mary McCalla]. Love to all of them, they are to numerous to mention seperately. Tell Maggie that would like to write to her very much, but they do not [allow] but two letters a week. one of the ridiculous rules that they have here. a large share of love for yourself

I remain your affectionate niece

Irene

Write soon and cheer me up. I wish you would write to my relations and tell them where I am and how much I want to see some of my blood kin. Direct to Miss Irene E Wylie Bristol Boarding School Bristol Pa Box 97. I only wish the directions was Richmond [Indiana] instead of Bristol.

I don't want you to show or read this letter to anyone but your own self.

*Anderson M[cElroy]. Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

159 Madison St  
Brooklyn Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 1871

Dear Liz

Margaret [his wife] says she w<sup>d</sup> like to be present at the opening of a certain box, which, I presume you will soon receive. I gave orders for the freight to be prepaid, but have not learned whether it was done.

Now for the contents — the china tea set, with gilt finish, is to help in your house warming. Knowing you dote as much on nice candies as the young love of a lady did a blue ribbon, we have sent for your & Mollie's [Elizabeth's daughter] disposal a 5 lb box — contents freshly grown. We send two toilet sets, one for Mary [Wylie Dodds] & one for Madaline [Thompson Wylie], & a duck of a mug for Richie [Dodds]. I hope you will be as well satisfied with the pictures of the children as we are. We found it was better to have them taken separately, & I have had the pictures framed. The children were highly delighted at the proposition to give something out of their little savings to put in the box for aunt Liz, & cousin Mollie, uncle John [McCalla], & aunts Mary & Madaline. So you must consider that their little hearts are represented. I had the box directed to John, but tell him he must not open it at the store. He will know it by the signs. We sh<sup>d</sup> have had all this attended to before, but to tell the truth Margaret has been so miserable & kept in so much that it has caused a great deal of delay. She is now better, & we still cling to hope that she will get well, but is unable to use her eyes, or in fact to exert herself to any degree, for it is sure to bring on the most terrible paroxysms of pain.

We w<sup>d</sup> you c<sup>d</sup> see Andrew Since his hair was cut, he looks, for all the world like a vigorous Wylie boy, fat as a dumpling & red as a Seek-no-further [a well-known old variety of apple] He is getting quite ready with his tongue, is a universal favorite, & affords us a great deal of amusement. You may take ever so much of the credit to the good training he got at your hands in the memorable summer of 1870. Wife says he looks enough like Mollie to be a baby brother.

I suppose you will feel quite large when you get into "our big house" in the aristocratic quarter of the Athens of Indiana. I wish you w<sup>d</sup> make up your mind to come on & see us, we will give you a warm welcome & a warm house, & we will promise you plenty of turkey & cranberry sauce &c &c.

Henry goes to school & progresses very well, is very quick at figures; the other children grow fast & are very well. You must excuse this scribble for it is late & I have had a great deal of writing to do. Be sure & write soon. All join in much love —

Your affect. Brother

A. M. Wylie

I send you a Phrenological [journal] containing one of my reviews of Mr Beecher's great work [his "Life of Christ"].

*Irene Wylie Bell to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

New York Dec<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 1871

No 17 Lafayette Place

Dear Eliz

I have been over hauling my desk for your last letter but cannot lay hands on it just now. It duly reached me, and I think there was nothing in it requiring an answer, or rather no questions to be answered, consequently shall proceed with this, without having yours to refer to. You will understand from the heading of this that we have changed our locality. We left 36 W. W. a month ago. I selected the house and made the move before Joseph [her husband] came on. We are well pleased with our new quarters in every respect. It is quite a large boarding house. (About 80 inmates.) A smart enterprising maiden lady is the proprietress. And she has made it a success. Joseph came on from W[heeling] ten days ago. Miss Senseney, one of our young lady friends accompanied him and will make a visit of a month. Her room is next to ours. We enjoy having her around. Mrs. Cambden, and her mother Mrs. Thompson from Wheeling are also inmates of the house. Mrs C has been an invalid for 16 years, and is here for medical treatment. They are all here, because we are. And when we are all together, it seems quite like being in old Wheeling. Joseph has been all fall constantly engaged with matters connected with the rebuilding of the mill [the Wheeling Iron and Nail Works]. The buildings have been put up in a more substantial manner than the old, and they hope to be able to make nails by the first of March. They got all their insurance money, in which they considered themselves very fortunate, as several of the companies in which they insured, broke soon after settling with them, owing to the disastrous Chicago fire. Joseph expects to remain here, the remainder of the winter. Says it is now rather late to visit California this season. Bird came down last Wednesday. She is very well, and has been gaining flesh ever since she went up in Sep<sup>r</sup> which she attributes to brown bread, and good milk. She continues satisfied at school, although compelled to study hard. We are excessively happy in being all together again, although but for a short time. Bird [Margaret Bell] leaves us in another week and will not be down again until Spring. She says if you are writing to Aunt Lizzie give her a great deal of love from me. I am delaying to tell you, one of the most important items of news namely that I went over to Andersons [Wylie] this afternoon to see our niece Irene Wylie who came on by A's invitation to spend the holidays with them. She certainly resembles her father [John Wylie] very much. I was glad to see her looking so well. She is fat and rosy, with no appearance of having inherited her parents weakness [consumption-i.e.; tuberculosis]. She says she has not been home sick, likes her school, and expects to remain until the close of the session in June. She had many enquiries to make about you all, and says she wants to see you in your new house. She complained you did not answer her letter written you, just before she came on to school. We hope to have her stay two days at least with us. We are all to take tea at A's next Friday. Mr Leeds (Irenes uncle) lives on this same square we do. He and wife have boarded in the same house for 13 years. Anderson wonders they do not hear from you. He sent you a box a while back, and thinks he ought to have heard of its being received ere this, I would liked to have sent something in the box, but did not know when it was sent. A's family got about an express wagon load of presents Christmas. Andrew [Anderson's son] did not seem very well today. The others are hearty and belong to the order of bedlemites [ie, bedlemites a referral to England's

Bedlam Assylm and here very likely refers to being very over-energetic]

Andy McKee's wife, Hattie, died on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November last. She had suffered when near Chicago with the chills which finally brought about congestion, from which she died after a few hours illness. They were living in St Louis Co[unty] She and Andrew were in St Louis but two days before her death. It seems hard to think of her early death. I have not heard what has been done with her children. Andy I fear has not been doing well Mr [Redick] McKee and David [McKee] continue in W[ashington Territory] David expects an increase in his family soon. My eyes are some better Do let us hear from you soon love to all

Irene

1872

*Anderson McElroy Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

159 Madison St  
Brooklyn, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> 1872

Dear Liz—

I have been in a fiz to answer yours of Dec 30. for several days, & now am determined that I will & must. Your good long letter did us good like a medicine, & we had our usual fun over its contents. I am truly glad that we hit your wants so squarely & successfully. I gave directions to have the freight prepaid & was sorry to learn after the box was sent that it could not be done. I suppose that by this time you are all arranged in your new mansion & rank yourself among the tone of the town. As to going out, by the way, tell Dr. McP[heeters]— that I have received no official notification as to having been elected by the alumni to address them next year. It is impossible for me to decide so long beforehand but hope I may be able to arrange it. To get the time to prepare is the rub especially as I shall probably accept a call to Nyack which I have received. The place is about 20 miles above N.Y. on the Hudson & is the finest location on the West side which is preferable to the East. The only drawback is that the inadequacy of the salary will compel me to earn a great deal outside with my pen, but the place having lately been reached by a railroad is growing very rapidly & that with the best class mainly from the city. Margaret [his wife] expects to go with me to-morrow to stay over Sunday & help me to judge of the place. If I decide to go will write you soon again.

Those beautiful Cromos [chromolithographs] given by the “Ch[ristia]<sup>n</sup> Union” are in such demand that no more can be got until Feb. — they will make it all right. The publishers are making a fortune out of Mr Beecher’s Life of Christ alone, so enormous is the sale.

I hope you will hurry up that R.R. & make B.[loomington] a little more accessible — what a comfort it will be!

I wish you could make up your mind to throw down your broom-stick & come on to see us — you must if we go to Nyack. If you could drop in & see our juvenile quartette I am sure you would be surprised. Andrew looks a great deal prettier than his picture, & is as bright as a basket of diamonds. They all throw up their hands in favor of [moving to] the country, only Maggie is not so enthusiastic. She is afraid we will never be able to keep a girl. The widow we had for over a year became very much broken in health & left taking her daughter. We are now well fixed having a good industrious cook from the country, and an excellent Baptist woman who sews & looks after the little folks when necessary, & we do enjoy the great comforts of a city house & are loathe to give them up. We enjoyed Irene [brother John’s daughter]’s visit from her school & I think she did, although the weather shut her in for most of the time. She has grown quite pretty & seems to have a fair share of good hard sense, or at least talks in that direction. I find she had a great deal more admiration for the Episcopal Ch<sup>h</sup> than she had for the Hicksite Quakers, & says she means to be an Ep<sup>n</sup> if anything at all. The school, from her account, seems to be a real home-like, hearty affair where they practise common sense as to health, studies, & exercise &c. She says she has gained most decidedly in flesh since she went there.

We feel quite anxious to hear as to the prospects down at the farm, & we do hope all may turn out well, & that Redick [Wylie] may have his full paternal share of midnight squalls for the next year or eighteen months. When summer comes we have some desires toward B[loomington]— but when winter is on us we have too many visions of mud & Egyptian darkness & then we congratulate ourselves on our smooth pavements & well lighted streets. I have heard nothing yet from Evansville. I suppose Claud [Martin] went to Louisville.

Now be sure & tell me sister Margaret [Wylie Martin]'s exact address when you write— I do want to write to her so much.

Maggie joins in much love, but her eyes are hardly in a condition to write — she suffers some at times, but on the whole is better. Love to John [Elizabeth's husband] & Molly [her daughter] & all the family & friends. Do write soon—

Your affect' bro'

Anderson

P.S. I said nothing about [sister] Irene & Mr [Joseph] Bell as I presume she has written you all the news.

***Margaret Wylie Martin to D.T. Lowrie of the Mission Board***

Oswego [Kansas] Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 1872

Rev Mr Lowrie

Dear Sir

Without consulting me in the least my husband [Samuel] has written to you in regard to returning to China. I must confess I do not look at things in the light he does. As to our children, 5 out of the 7 are still living but they are mostly very delicate. Last fall Nevins came near dying of the typhoid fever. The enclosed letters of our absent daughters will give proof of what I write. As for myself I am by no means robust and am not sure but that I am in the same condition as I was when after six weeks in Texas, after travelling 1000 miles from Ind, Nevins was born.

As for leaving our children with relatives — Both Mr M's as well as my own, are not more than able to care for themselves pecuniarily and I do not feel like imposing myself & children upon them. Last year for 7 months Mr M came out to Nevada MO where he taught school & preached several times as he was invited to in the D.T. Ch of that place.

Where then were his family? "Scattered like sheep without a shepherd" among kindred who in all truth & candor, and to say the least, did not relish the responsibility. After a prayerful consideration of the whole subject I leave it to the wise council & consideration of the board of which you are an esteemed member.

Yours very sincerely

Mrs S. N. D. Martin

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Mount Vernon [Missouri] May 29<sup>th</sup> 1872

Dear sister E.

Your very valuable letter containing the \$50 from bro Andrew came [a] few days since. During the past year we have had to pay about this sum for freight alone, our things cost more to bring them from K[ansas]— here than from Ind to Oswego [Kansas]! This is because the route is very indirect and [there] being no competition they charge higher. Think S—[amuel] says about double. If you at B— have had a freak of nature we too have just had the same Sunday night it poured all night. A rather oldish couple scarcely living a mile from here in a valley near a creek, were awakened very suddenly by a rushing in of water filling the house, they managed to get upon the rafters, but [it] somehow the old lady missed her balance and was carried down the stream. Yesterday there was a general search for her body but has not yet been recovered The water in our well has not been fit to drink this month We are living east of Africa (a negro settlement) most of whom frequent our well at all hours of the day and I fully expected to hear of some of them being drowned as some of them live down in the gullies [;] but their all alive & kicking — to use an undignified expression but this is quite natural & pardonable you will say in speaking of the colored bretheren. I am beginning to like Mt Vernon better now since becoming acquainted. Our Ch[urch] as I told you is five miles in the country [and] is not yet finished but has already cost \$6000 it is of brick painted & penciled As there [are] only 2 dozen members male & female female especially they received 800 from the Ch Erection fund.

You were very kind in wishing to write to Susie [Martin, her daughter] to make you a visit. I told her she had my approval if she wished to make you a visit Her school is in the country 4 or 5 miles from Paris Illinois[;] as she boards with Mr Joseph Alden you will direct the letter in his care. Susie is a delicate sensitive creature a real Martin and improves very much on acquaintance. I know Cousin Theophilus folks will not only like but love her. She plays some on the organ and for her slender opportunities does very well indeed. Mary [another daughter] is beloved at home and where ever she is — She is now corresponding with a beau[,] a real genial fellow[,] a man of heart as well as sense I do not know how it will end but they certainly are both in love — just at present. Nevins [a son] is out helping on a farm for a few weeks poor Claude [the other son] is very lonesome without him — The last we heard from Will [Martin]'s sons three of them had and were still having the typhoid fever Janes [William's wife] intention is to return to China in the autumn. The measels are beginning here, but it is always healthy at B— you know. To contrast B— with this — S— went all over this place the other day to buy a crock & porcelain kettle and could find neither! If any one wishes to have a sleepy time let them just come here We are all a very unambitious good humored set of people; never know what excitement means The boys do not like it half so well as Oswego. Am sorry [for] Prof B[allantine]'s unfortunate loss in the burning of his house It is a wonder you did not take them all under your wing, you are so much inclined in this way. Do not lose your temper over the cost of your house If men make money they have a right to spend it as they please. Write soon love to all enquiring friends

M. W. M.

PS. Hurrah for Grant [then preparing to run for his second term as President]

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Andrew Wylie, Jr.*

Mount Vernon, Mo.  
June 2nd 1872

Dear bro. Andrew,

Am sorry to hear of your nervous disorder through a letter from Elizabeth who I know can sympathize with you for she suffered for years from the same. On the other hand I am glad to have again received your kind donation of \$50. We are such nomads that almost all we have goes to defray travelling expenses. When we first went to Oswego, Kan. the few ch. members there thought of building but for various reasons it proved a failure, at least for the present. We have been here since end of April. The children do not like living here half so much as K but I am inclined to think it healthier than southern Kansas. The Drs here however are predicting an unhealthy summer on account of the immense quantity of rain that has fallen this month. Yesterday was the first mail we have had for week past. The great freshet which began last Sunday night carried away bridges, damaging the R. R. which is by the way ten miles from here. But the most direful calamity was the drowning of ten persons that we have heard of. One woman whose husband was absent waded up to her neck in water carrying her two children with her! Less than a mile from where we are a man & wife were obliged to leave their bed by the torrent rushing through their house, they retreating to the rafters. Mrs. L however lost her hold as she was rather a feeble woman, and was carried by the swift current away. Two days after her body was found among some drift wood. One poor man whose farm lay between high hills had not only all his fencing swept off but all the very soil itself, leaving only the barren rocks. The farms here are on the creek & river bottoms, and in valleys between the hills. This accounts for the great amount of damage. We are living in a small frame upon an elevated spot, so that our loss was quite inconsiderable, only a few garden beds. I doubt if we are here over the year as my husband is such a stirring enterprising man one place never holds him long. He is preaching at three places, the farthest point is Avilla, 30 miles distant. Goes to each place on horseback, as railway communication is scarce in these parts. Susie will be 21 years old next month and has been teaching school in the country near Paris, Illinois. Emma is 14 and living with her aunt who also lives in P so that they see each other every Sabbath. Mary & Claude are with us, while Nevins is several miles in the country learning to work on a farm. This long spell of the fever last autumn left him so weak that we thought best not to put him at books, but work rather. Your dear little boy H is three & a half years old by this time. Who does he look most like, Father or Mother? I saw his picture at B taken when a babe. Yesterday a letter came from Morton S's brother-in-law who is about starting for Oregon and if he finds it as represented will move perhaps next fall. His own, as well as his wife's & several of their children's health has not been good for some time and a change of climate may be all they need. I take it for granted Mt. Vernon, Mo. is quite a different looking affair from Mt. Vernon on the Potomac. Remember me affectionately to C.

Your ever so much obliged sister  
M. W. M.

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Mt Vernon Mo July 12<sup>th</sup> 1872

My dear sister E—

I almost forget whether I have written you since we came here, though think I have. One thing we have a plentiful supply of here and this is fruit & vegetables. Our garden however is more than half mile off where we lived for the first three months after coming — Our present quarters are more contracted as we have but one family room where we and the boys sleep. Mary [her daughter] has a little room on the end of the porch about the size of a steamboat berth and [that] was boarded around for her especial benefit. Our kitchen where I spend considerable of my time of course, is about a stones throw across from the house proper. S—[amuel] made the thing out of a corn crib & what used to be the kitchen is construed into the dining room — I am feeling about used up at present canning cherries, we bought them for 50 & 60 cts for [a] wooden bucket — Cheaper then I ever knew them to be — We canned 12 gal and have about 1 gal dried. We used our fingers in stoning them notwithstanding the latest Yankee invention. Today I bought a few blackberries for only 5 cts per quart S— says I must put a stop to buying any more and set the boys [Claudius & Nevins] to picking. About the only amusement they have here is bathing they have several fine bathing places where they go about three times a week. Think if they can have a good school here this winter the boys will like the place better. The teacher they had employed left for Tennessee. Our nearest neighbors are from there and say they are going back in the fall I feel the heat much more here than in K[ansas] as we do not have the fine breezes here[,] we only have the zephyrs — Providence permitting I suppose Marys dearie from K will soon be here. They have written to each other every week for the last three months. He is a very genial, sensible man but is 40 years old! Does not look more than 30 however. Long before we left K M— asked him how old he was. Had he said he was 10 years younger we would all have believed him. Susie [another daughter] has astonished us by making such a short visit to B— but her reasons were good[,] wishing to attend the Teachers Institute. I fear she will make herself sick studying [in] this warm weather. She is always so willing to do her utmost. Small children love her dearly as a teacher, this I had from others. Neither she or Mary ever had 25 dollars spent upon their schooling what they know they learned mostly from their own individual effort. I suppose Susie told you that she & Em's [third daughter] to keep house for their uncle & aunt during their absence Susie is very partial to Paris [Illinois] likes it so much better than we do here that I would rather for her own sake she would stay where she is at present Mary had a letter from her yesterday enclosing the programme for Commencement [at Indiana University] & a scrap of the dress her uncle John [Elizabeth's husband] was so kind as to give her. Am glad he gave her something with pink in it for neither she or Mary ever will wear anything with pink, unless it is a ribbon or bow. Our girls are so delicate compared to the rest of the big strapping Missourians that look like so many holly-hocks — Mary went to see some of them lately who were making calico dresses polonaise<sup>14\*</sup> with scallops bound with red! I recon Mollie [Elizabeth's daughter] would laugh if she could see the big ear rings some of them wear. Since coming here, I begin to think I am pretty good looking for beauty is real scarce in this region. Have not been out in the country but once since we came, and this was in road wagon over a road macadamised by the hand of nature instead of the Irish Not only did the driver drive over rocks but stumps for it was new road [of] considerable distance. Well it took me all the next day to get over it, as well indeed it might — Curious why my man dont get a nag for his dear Mag you will say. Well he is hard to please in the matter, and when

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actress with the skirt divided in front and worn looped back over an elaborate underskirt

he wants to ride he first goes to the livery stable and hires. “The glorious 4th” I spent at home with my daughter Mary who made gold & silver cake for home folks especially. The darkies however had a grand kick up of a dance[;] kept it up the during night and some said until 10 oclock next day — The Springfield & Pierce city boys got up a baseball match some went from here and were highly pleased that the Pierce city boys [got] beat. Before closing this I must tell you what a nice quilt Mary pieced had it quilted for only \$2,50 She has about half finished another, it is called the T- pattern as it looks like the printed letter T-

Have they ever tried to get any word from Kemper [Dodd’s, sister Mary Ann’s son]? Perhaps Miss Pullam of Vincennes where he once boarded, might know if indeed he is in the land of the living. Did Mollie & R[edick Wylie]- attend Commencement? I hope she will forgive my having imposed my company for so long a time once, I would like you & Mollie to write soon as it is so long since I saw your hand writing. Hope you are all enjoying that cool retreat in your new house As you are the only member of the family given to writing I hope it will be forthcoming.  
our afft sister M.

*Nevins Martin to sister Susie Martin in Bloomington, Indiana*

July 13<sup>th</sup> 1872 Mt Vernon Mo-

My Dear sister,

I rec’d your very welcome letter day before yesterday and I now take my pen hand to drop you a few lines in answer. Today is so warm that I think it almost hot enough “to roast a turkey,” at least it is 10 degrees hotter than it ever was in Kansas. I believe I am a “leettle” discontented though I dont have any reason to be so or right either. We have ‘put up’ three dozen jars of cherries and are going to put up as many black berries, but we are ‘putting up’ some for [sister] Mary when she goes away. We have potatoes large enough to eat. Apples have been ripe for nearly a month I ‘chomp’ a dozen every day. I wish you would send me Jenny’s [Wylie] Natural History and the other books you spoke of [;] there are none here. I have no nice books at all except the philosophy and Chemistry and Astronomy. I have lately read a pamphlet on Spiritualism and think it very conclusive. I had several discussions with some old Spiritualists and if I had read it before I could have made more lasting impressions on their minds. I am fully convinced that there is no form of infidelity more noxious and poisonous, it does entirely away with the distinction of right and wrong. It completely degrades an[d] brings men lower than the brutes themselves. I dont see how men in their right mind could beleive such folly unless they were possessed of devils which I firmly beleive to be true it is as devoid of reason logic or common sense as it can possibly be, it is the best invention of the “old scratch” to delude human souls and if what they say is true he is making rapid progress[;] but I dont see how it can [be] scince it is to foolish and absurd for any sane mind to dwell on. I hope he wont get any but fools as indeed they all are. But I guess I have lectured talked or wrote or preached if you may choose to call it[,] but as you are in no danger I had better stop. Mary has no beau but she has a lover and a mighty good one too—that is what I think. Ma is shelling peas and I am writing We got some blackberries yesterday. Dont you like to be examined? I do tis splend[ed] fun A neighbor of ours is having his well drilled I am through the Algebra part one I will soon be in Cicero or Virgil. I think Well’s Chemistry is perfectly splendid. Claude [his brother]

studies History and Latin he is in the fourth conjugation. Ma says she is going to write you a letter directly she says she wants to know if you made the acquaintance of Prof Boison (the German Prof at B[loomington]). I go a swimming three or four times a week am in good health and so are we all. I hope you are to. I think the joke you spoke of was a real good one. If I had room I would sermonize a little more but while I am 'gassing' I take up more of the paper than ever if you can manage to make out this letter you will do well — give a hundred weight of love to all the cousins and keep a ton for u and [sister] Emma tell her to write to me soon. I will write to you once a week if you will do the same to me. Excuse the Egotisms and so forth although I dont propose to be formal from your loving brother

*Susie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Paris [Illinois], July 21, 1872

My dear aunt:

Over two weeks have passed since I made my departure, and I have been impressed for several days with the thought that it was time for me to inform you of my transit and safe arrival. I became very tired of waiting at Greencastle, at last the hours had dragged their weary length along, the train arrived, and I reached here and found my cousin absent somebody else, however, escorted me home. In hard work I have been for two weeks one more and it will be over and I shall not be at all sorry. After I have been sitting four hours, consecutive, I begin to wish I was possessed of Samson's spinal column or one like it. Yesterday evening a letter from pa [Samuel Martin] came. He was very glad that I had visited B— and approved of my reasons for returning. He states that the longer they remain the better they become satisfied. He advised me not to apply for a position here unless I should receive \$50.00 per month as I can receive that in a number of [remainder of letter missing]

*Andrew Wylie Jr to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Washington Aug. 11. 1872

My Dear Sister

Along with this I have mailed to you, a photograph of our little Horace, taken about six weeks ago, just before we took him to the mountains. It is a perfect likeness, and a fine specimen of the art. We all went to the Alleghany Springs early in July to escape the heat of the city, and the other discomforts, and risks of sickness, consequent upon the tearing up of the streets, putting down sewers &c which were going on in every direction around us. I had myself been suffering from nervous prostration produced by long confinement to business and study. Soon after reaching the springs, I was attacked with dysentery, which, for a few days, was very severe and painful. After recovering, and having been there four weeks, we came down from the mountains and, a week ago, I left Carry [his wife], her mother and the servant woman at a private house in a beautiful and healthy

country where they have an abundance of fresh, ripe fruits and vegetables, and spacious rooms and open grounds with shady groves round, where they expect to remain till the middle of next month. I am now quite well, and feel better than I have before for twelve months. After a few days more here, I shall return to them, but shall be back here again in about two weeks — private interests demanding my attention. Contrary to the general expectation, and the opinion of all the doctors, the city has remained unusually healthy, and I feel better here than I did in the mountains. My appetite has returned, I sleep well, am gaining flesh and strength, and my head is now clear, and spirits cheerful.

The season in this particular region has been very hot, and dry. It has been unusually hot every where, but this is the only part of the country I have heard of, where the drought has been so severe. Indeed, for about three years, we have not had a single month with the ordinary amount of rainfall. Still our crops are up nearly to an average, with the exception of the grass, which is a total failure.

I send three copies of the likeness [of Horace], one for yourself, one for Mary [Wylie Dodds], and one for Redick [Wylie]. I think you will say, the original must be a handsome little fellow. He is better than that, noble, ingenious, intelligent, and well behaved.

We have not heard from any of you, at Bloomington for a very long time. Write soon and bring up the history of your families for this intermediate period. I do not know, but that I may have one or more little nephews or nieces at Redicks of whom I have never heard. Your letter may be addressed to New London, Campbell County, Virginia. With much love to you all, Your attached brother

Andrew

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Mt Vernon [, Missouri] Aug 12 1872

Dear sister E.

Yours of last month informing me of [daughter] Susies short visit &c I will now answer by saying she & [daughter] Emma expect to come home by the first of next month. Am not at all surprised Susie made a favorable impression even at B— for a less selfish and more honorable girl is not very often found. Very few girls nowadays have had so little spent on their education, and the little finery they have they earned it for themselves. I think [daughter] Mary has a much better judgment than S— and can take it rough & tumble without feeling it so sensitively. Owing to N— [evin]'s long spell of the typhoid fever last fall, he even yet scarcely weighs as much as when he left B—. Claude outweighs Nevins several lbs and is disposed to crow a little on the subject. Our boys have not yet found any congenial friends among the boys here. Such a set of ignoramuses beats any place we have ever been yet. Coming here has had the tendency of increasing my self esteem as neither my family or myself suffer in the least by comparison with the best in this S.W. region. Most [of] the women tell me I look so well, and so young for my age, and I really do think this a healthier climate than Kansas. Though I have felt the heat more here than there because we do not have the northers and then our house is small and situated between hills and a very thick growth of trees especially eastward. Two of our neighbors are down with billious fever and I do pity sick folks

here that have the fever, no ice have I heard of or seen in any shape or form this summer, though last winter was such a favorable time to have had it put up. Nobody here seems to care anything at all for the luxuries of life. It is what they have never been accustomed [to]. Presbytery meets 12 of Sep in our new brick Ch[urch] in the country which will be entirely completed by that time. There are but two or three Presbyterians in Mt Vernon and if I was much of a one myself would feel like a fish out of water. I suppose you have heard of the recent marriage and embarkation to Persia of Mrs Allen's daughter as missionary also Mr & Mrs Oldfather, Felicia Oldfather! I did most assuredly laugh when I heard the name— They were both married at the same time and are now making their way in the “Wyoming” over the distant waters. I guess the Persians would little rather have the “loaves & fishes” just at present. If they only had the railroads[,] relief would reach in time to save thousands. By & by the heathen will begin to understand the good of having R.Rs.

Aug 13 Yesterday when I had got this far along in my letter, in come an old b[1]ack with half [a] bushel of peaches, the first ripe [ones] I have seen this season he says he will bring plenty in next time. Really insignificant looking ones this year. Mary still continues to correspond with her J. C. W. of Chetopa [Kansas]. You seem to take it for granted they are engaged and to be married soon! He writes to her as a friend, & they have no serious intentions as I know. I hope you have not said anything about it to anyone. Had a letter last week from Jane [Martin, her sister-in-law] who mentioned that her son R[obert]— had received a \$600 dollr pecuniary reward as prize in graduating at Princeton. It is considered as one of the highest honors of the “Classical Fellowship” for which he obtained the prize. Shortly after[,] he left for Berlin Germany where he expects to be for the next several years. Pascals [Martin, Jane's youngest son] health had been so poor for several months that Dr says he must give up study entirely for a year. I hope you dont suppose that I am cross or fretful. You are indeed vastly mistaken if you think so, but I am used to being misunderstood and think I can now survive most anything Write soon as a goodly portion of my happiness depends on the P.O. Hope you are enjoying your new house [in] this warm weather. The thermomoter stood 95 in shade most last month. Hope my girls will get home without melting. By the By we cannot keep the house we are in only until first next April when we expect the pleasure of changing houses again. I am learning in whatsoever sort of house I am therewith to be content. Am glad Mollie [Elizabeth's daughter] is learning Music and hope she will be an apt scholar. With love to all inquiring friends,  
Your afft sister M—

1878

*Andrew Wylie to Caroline Bryan Wylie*

Washington  
Aug 2nd 1878

My Darling Wife,

I arrived home from Wheeling this morning at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 o'clock. It was a most melancholy visit. The cause of poor, dear Irene's death was a fall from an open carriage. Lilly Ritchie, Uncle Craig's second daughter, was to be married (and was married) on Thursday of last week. Irene and Fanny intended going up to be present for the occasion. The horses were attached to a small open carriage, and they started (Mr. Bell driving) to go by a short cross road, to meet the cars. At one point the ascent was very steep, and Mr. Bell left the carriage to walk up, holding the reins. Irene was seated on a camp stool which was not fastened to the body of the carriage, and was holding some packages on her knees. The horses, as was natural to them, rushed up the ascent, and the camp stool turned over throwing Irene out on the road, her head striking the ground first. The skull, however, was not fractured, but the fall produced a severe concussion. Immediately on being lifted up, she said that she felt that the injury was fatal. Up till Sunday evening, however, the doctor and all the family thought she was recovering. At that time symptoms of nausea and aberration of mind began to appear, and Monday morning these symptoms became more aggravated. The doctor became alarmed and requested Mr. Bell to send to the city for a consulting physician, but before the messenger could get outside the gate, her spirit had taken its flight. We can see now how careless it was to attempt to drive over such a piece of road with a wagon like that, and seated on an unfastened chair. Both Irene and Mr. Bell were always regarded as persons of extraordinary prudence and carefulness in all matters of that character, and it is hard to account for their negligence in this instance except on the ground of some fatality.

The corpse wore a most natural and placid look, indicative of the noble character of the spirit which had gone to its "blissful abode."

The funeral took place on Wednesday at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 o'clock P.M. and was very largely attended by friends from the neighborhood as well as many from the city. When I wrote to you on Monday, after receiving the news, I said that I proposed to start that night. I concluded afterwards, however, that the funeral would hardly take place before Wednesday and that it would be most advisable not to arrive at the place till the morning of that day; and so I did not leave home till Tuesday evening, arriving at Letherwood next morning before 10. Anderson arrived a short time after. I left yesterday evening about 6, but Anderson remained, intending to prolong his visit to the extent of about a week. His presence and society will be a comfort to the hearts of that sorely afflicted family. All the children happened to be at home at the time.

It was a sad, sad—most sorrowful affliction, and my own heart now feels sore, as though it had been pressed by some instrument of torture. Your long and most precious letter dated 29th ulta was here awaiting my return this morning. I cannot now reply to it fully, as I have many things to look after, as well as to shave, and dress so as to get off to Baltimore by the 1 o'clock train. I shall be there but two hours this afternoon.

The servants are both performing their parts as well as I could wish. The lawn is in fine order, green and beautiful. Pears are not yet ripe. Rain occurs about as often as it is needed. Last night there was a heavy storm, and some hail with it. I long to join you, and will do so, I think, some day next week, but on which day it is not now possible for me to say.

God bless you, thou choicest heart of my heart, and many affectionate kisses to my dear boy  
A. W.

1879

*Elizabeth Wylie McCalla to Andrew Wylie, Jr., Washington*

Bloomington May 23, 1879

My dear brother,

Your note of 20th rec'd Be assured we are all extremely disappointed, that you could not make us a visit, poor Dick and Jenny [Redick Wylie's children], who have not forgotten you, are just ready to cry over it; the disappointments, of childhood, how keen they are, but happily short lived. Madaline [Wylie, Redick's wife] thinks Frank, the baby, the Solomon of the household, and was anxious that you should witness his incipient wisdom; she thinks he resembles you, and is proud of it. Dick is our favorite, he is so merry, cute, and such an affectionate creature, he wins us all, and has a lovely face whithal[;] fear he will be a [?] little man however, he is so short for his age, and grows so slowly. Frank has a large frame, & head, & is a large person for his age. Your persona, old Age, & remarks upon him, moved us all to laughter; your treatment of him, is quite original. The cold dry weather still continues what Old Jackson our Water Cure physician calls Solar System, (the stomach,) & now she is a mere wreck, & of course has but small comfort, or enjoyment in life, & often longs to leave it.

We were so in hopes to see you, Carrie [his wife] and Horace [their son], out here this Summer, but your reasons for not coming are good, & we shall have to submit to the inevitable. Walter [Bell] had a letter from his father [Joseph Bell] yesterday, he writes as tho it may not be possible for him to come, but thinks the girls may come out to hear his (Walter's) speech [at Commencement] Irene Wylie (our niece) expects to make us a visit about that time also, it will be pleasant for them to meet. We have a honeysuckle just by the porch, for possession of which, a red bird, sparrow, & robin, got up a civil or rather uncivil war, they wished it for building purposes The red bird, on whose side we are, was conqueror, & now she is in great possession, which you lawyers know is 3 points of the law, a setting on her nest, whilst Mr R.B. sings to her at dawn of day, & feeds her with dainty worms, bugs, & other things. [text missing] in fact we are having a drought. The preachers are praying for rain in their pulpits, but prayers do not avail, people look skyward oftener with in the last 3 weeks, than ever in their lives before, for the signs of rain, but fail to discern them; the ways of Providence are mysterious, early in the Spring we had a deluge, now the Earth is cracked & parched for the want of it; the only green things, we have are lettuce & onions, & for these we have not much taste or preference. We heard some talk of your being invited here, to make a Tennenicentennial [word for 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary] Address, before the Alumni, of this Uni. but have not heard if you were; it would have been just the right thing, for you to have accepted as you are a member of the first class that Graduated here; next Fall being 50 years since the Ins. was dubbed a Univer. & father having been its 1st Pres.<sup>15</sup> Old Age, [I] suppose, imposed his veto; take care you do not saddle old age with too many of your short comings; for our part, we are enjoying a green old age, & run about, & enjoy ourself, more than we have done these 20 years, & are fat, & flourishing, & have fallen in love with life now, more than ever in my

<sup>15</sup> The institution was actually raised to "college" status in 1828 and did not become a "university" until 1838. Andrew Wylie, Sr. did indeed assume the presidency in 1829 having been elected thereto in 1828; but his graduated in 1832, a class of no particular numerical distinction.

life before, & am more loath to leave it, now that I have to leave it pretty soon. Redick [Wylie] and family are well as usual. Maddie [Redick's wife] thinks of making a visit home in 3 weeks from this time. Redick is worn out with cares & work: has altogether too much real Estate on his hands, houses & lands he has had to take for debts due him; then too, he is a merchant, & has to lend a helping hand [at] busy times. We have had a late letter from Margaret [Wylie Martin]; they are all well, but she is bothered about many things, whilst I am troubled, about but one, "the one thing needful," which she professes to have, & which I cannot find; it seems to me, if I had that, nothing could trouble me, for in that, I would have all things, or at least everything else would be so trifling, of so little account, that I could not but esteem them, the small discomforts, on my journey to the Celestial City. Marg [Wylie Martin] is some better, tho far from well: that household devil Dispepsia has about destroyed.

Hoping old Age may deal very tenderly & peacefully with you, & that you may have a proper respect for him, we are with much love to you all, your loving sister, E. McCalla

P.S. Nevins Martin has been to your City since I wrote you on his behalf; did not say if he called to see you, infer he did not, the Hoodlum, or he would have said so, he had when he wrote almost determined to go on the Woodruff expedition.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> May refer to one of Gen. C. A. Woodruff's military expeditions into Montana in retaliation for the 1876 Custer "masacre". Might also refer to a potential federal armed expedition against the Utah Mormons, then presided over by Wilford Woodruff, as part of a then-peaking national anti-polygamy crusade.

1881

*Andrew Wylie Jr. to James A. Woodburn, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana*

Washington March 13<sup>th</sup> 1881

To J A Woodburn, Esq.  
Corresponding Secretary of [the] Alumni Association of Indiana State University

Dear Sir:

Your favor dated 3<sup>d</sup> inst. was received in due course, communicating the invitation of the Association that I should make the annual address, in June next. I have delayed, till now, to acknowledge the honor conferred by this invitation, hoping that I might discover some practicable way, consistent with engagements here, by which I might be enabled to assume the part which has been assigned to me, for the occasion. But, with me, June is the busiest month of all the year, and, besides my official duties during the coming June, I anticipate the occurrence of special circumstances, of a private nature, which will render a visit to Bloomington, at that time, altogether impracticable.

Soon a half century will have closed its cycle since Alma mater crowned me with her blessing, and how happy should I be, to be witness again of the same ceremony upon my younger brothers, for whom, although unknown to me at present, I invoke all the blessings which reward a life of industry, integrity, and devotion to duty. —

Very Respectfully  
and Sincerely Yours,  
Andrew Wylie

1882

*Susan L. Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Winnebago Agency, Nebr. April 16 1882.

My dear Aunt:—

In your letter to my father [Samuel Martin] you expressed a wish to hear from me. I take pleasure in acting upon that hint. My father resigned the superintendency of this establishment, but I still continue as teacher. Both the Agent and superintendent are very willing that he should remain in the building so he boards with us to the delight of the employes who think there never was such a nice man as Mr. M[artin]. nor so good a superintendent. I came here to be the real matron and brought ma [Margaret Wylie Martin] [with] me to be the nominal much against her wish. I began teaching in Oct. (our teacher married) at the earnest request of the agent. We thought we could get along till the end of the year [after] which my father had planned that he would go out of the school and go into the missionary work to which he was appointed before this was offered him. During this time ma conceived a violent dislike and jealousy for our seamstress – she [ma] talked and acted most dreadfully in our rooms – but we did not know that she was doing even worse to the woman and talking it to strangers and abroad for a long while tho' I suspected so. Then when the whole country was talking, I just told her she had to leave, that everybody took pa's part, and that she had spoiled enough of our lives, and it had to stop now. She asked advice of the superintendent of the Omaha mission school[;] he told her it was best for her to go, and afterwards told us that the agent had heard so much of her that he had determined to put her out of the school. Affairs are in transitu nothing settled. The agent has suggested that the school be put under the care of our church, its support continued by the gov't. In that case I will be glad to continue. The children when not agitated by wicked designing persons are very pleasant to deal with, and we (so people say) have already effected quite a reformation. Emma [Martin, sister] writes that ma thus far seems quite contented, takes an interest in garden chickens etc. Emma is trying hard to lay up money to attend the state Normal one year. We will help her if it were only for the change. My sister Mary [Martin Norris] is I think the poorest of all the kin, and I know that by far she is the happiest, sometimes I wish I were with her to help. But I shall never desert my father for any one. I've seen men of all grades, and there are very few of the highest who can approach to him in general attractiveness, and none in sound sense and clear thought. I'd rather live ten years with him than to live forty with any man I ever saw. My old friend Georgia Fee & I have renewed our correspondence, she is matron of the Lapwai school so we have much in common.

Your affec niece S. L. M.

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

South Mound [Kansas] April 18th 1882

My dear sister E.

I think I wrote you last, but I am alone all day long now only when C—[laudius Martin, her son] comes to his meals. Today week since E—[mma Martin, her daughter] began her 2 months school in country 10 miles off. She is to get 27 dollars per month and if she had her washing & ironing done at home will get her board for \$2.00 per week. Had she been one day earlier she could have got a school 3/4 mile from lawyer Camberns and made \$36 per mo. If things do not grow any better (and I have no reason to think they ever will) lawyer C will have a say no doubt as he is named for S[amuel Martin, her husband][—] Samuel Montgomery— Although Dr Henry is an enemy of Col Edwards the former [Indiana] Agent he never once implicated him but assured me several times of the certainty of Miss Lindsays condition and she is now superseded by another seamstress. [see previous letter for more on this controversey] Susie [Martin, daughter] did not mention her name. Miss L— however has the audacity to remain a few weeks longer and sew for the employes while the other sews for pupils. Susie is having some bother about her salary which is the only one not restored to the former amount. Through the influence of her Pa [Samuel Martin] in writing to the [Indian Affairs] Dep at Washington City she said it was done. He pressed the claim of the Matrons position which was abolished by Col Edwards but restored by the present Agent Wilkinson to 300 per year. S— with the importunity of a certain widow mentioned in Bible has had them all restored excepting Susies!! She says she has written to Gen [Oliver O.] Howard on the subject When S— wrote to me about going he said the position of Matron was merely nominal. Just before I left I read a letter of his written to headquarters on the subject of having it restored which he pressed with a [great] deal of Ernestness & importunity. Those 3 indian schools ought never to have been placed so near together Mr Partch & Coles school are only 3 miles apart while the other Government school that Susie is in is 10 miles distant. Mr Ps school is under the Board the other two are Government Schools. In Mr P's school there are 4 old maids and one young widow from Topeka I asked her if she knew a druggists wife there by the name of Mrs Arnold Yes she answered she was acquainted All 3 schools are run by widows & maidens with the exception of the Superintendents. Judging from what I know I suppose I have seen the last of S— for a long time if not always. If I was in a place like B—[loomington] it would be nothing to be alone but away out here 8 miles from Parsons [Kansas] without a human voice excepting now & then a word from C at meal time [is hard] 3 times I have staid all alone of nights when Harker staid in town over Sabbaths. Poor E staid this way for six weeks and was chilling in the bargain. I think you might bundle up and come right along and stay with me until E's school is out. Out of 4 or 5 families of Sams kin only Mrs Cambern has been to see me. For this state of things I can thank the Rev fully one half. Old Mr Harker is now building a new dwelling house near the store, when finished Col H with his Mother & sister will occupy the same. A blacksmith shop too has lately gone up As I am not acquainted with only one or two in Parsons you need not be afraid of a rush of callers— Mrs Jones is about the only one who would come. She is a niece of Ezra Perings of B— they live in sight of here. Now I am going to look for you next week or the week after. I think you would like Kan real well in May and June If I were [of] an unforgiving disposition I think I would soon go crazy at this rate. Sam sent for feather bed pillows & counterpains &c a month since. All winter I was without a stove in my room or a feather bed either. “Truly every bodys is nobody's body”[.] a homely adage but a true one.

April 30 — William [Martin] & wife [Jane] were to sail from Italy 7th last month— They will have very afflictive news when they get back to China — The very sudden death of poor Pascal [their son] I hope he was insane when he did it— Mr Cambern got a paper with a few lines without particulars

*Frances L. Bell to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Leatherwood May 6, 1882

Dear Aunt Elizabeth,

If it would be convenient for you to have me, I would like very much to come and make you a visit this spring. I have not been in Bloomington for a long time, and I want to see you and all the other relatives. I expect to go down to the Cincinnati Music Festival, leaving home next Saturday, the thirteenth, and Birdie [sister Margaret Bell] tells me that I can reach Bloomington in one day from that city. I am going down with an excursion from Wheeling and would leave Cincinnati on Wednesday morning, the seventeenth inst.

Walter [Bell] is still in New York and will remain there all summer, coming home only for a short vacation in September. We expected him about this time for the whole summer, but he decided that after the session closed he would go into a lawyer's office and see some of the practical workings of the profession.

Birdie is home after a long visit in the East. In fact I was left in sole charge of the place for Papa [Joseph Bell], too, spent a week in New York this spring.

You will scarcely believe me when I tell you that the work on our house is not yet done and we are still much torn up. Repairs were begun last July, and we have been waiting pretty nearly ever since to have them continued.

I went over to Cousin Em's the other day, and found her just through house-cleaning. Genevieve is a dear little thing and as good as can be. Aunt Mary Ann Ritchie was down last week and spent a day or two with us. She has been in Philadelphia all winter with Cousin Craig [Ritchie], and will spend most of the summer with her daughter Sue, Mrs. Waugh, who lives near Wellsburg, thirty miles above Wheeling.

Please let me know at once whether you will have room for me or not, and if you have room please tell me how to make connections from Cincinnati and whether I must go to Indianapolis or not. Will there be any one from Bloomington at the Music Festival? I must start next Saturday so I will be anxious to hear from you. With much love for yourself and all the family,

Your niece,  
Frances L. Bell

*Anderson McElroy Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana  
[stationery of the "Remedial Institute. Open All The Year. Drs. S. S. & S. E. Strong. Send for  
Descriptive Circular."]*

Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Sep. 2. 1882

Dear Sister,

I rem<sup>d</sup> th' when I started on my vacation I was in your debt. Engrossed in vacation diversions the time has fairly flashed away. I've been dividing [time] between ocean side (at Asbury Park) & spring-side here. Ran home for two or three days & buried one of my oldest [congregation] members. Have needed rest & quiet, & fear I've been in too much excitement. Could not resist the temptation to attend the great meetings at A. Park & Ocean Grove. The crowds of people were surprising. The whole Jersey Coast is rapidly becoming a continuous settlement. You may imagine the change when you learn that the entire lands now within the limits of A. P. [that] were sold in 1869 for 16\$ an acre, now bring as high as \$8000 to \$10,000 for a large hotel lot. Untold millions are spent in splendid hotels, mansions & cottages. The attractions of Saratoga, however, continue to take the lead. A veteran summer-goer remarked that one ought to go to S.[aratoga] last, as all other places seem poor & mean by comparison. Certainly, so say those who have visited the chief springs of Europe, there is no place on earth where the conditions are so attractive. The grandeur of the hotels, (the Grand Union will accommodate over 2000) the electric colored lights flashing upon the fountains, appearing as rushing sprays of red or orange, or purple or green producing the most fairy effects imaginable. The music is one of the most attractive features at all the chief hotels & in the park three times daily: 5000 a day, in the height of the season, visit Hathorn spring which yields as much, then, as \$300 a day. This famous spring was discovered (across a side st from Congress Hall Hotel) in 1868 while they were digging for the foundation of a house. It is now the most valuable & noted of all the springs here. If you want to find any old acquaintances you may be sure to stumble on them, in the course of a week, in Saratoga. Met with John Foster [Indiana University Alumnus and professional diplomat] & his wife here, having also seen them & also their daughters, who are fine looking girls, & Mrs McFerson, at Asbury Park. Dr Muchmore bro't his bride to Saratoga. He introduced me to her. She hails from Wilkesbarre [Pennsylvania] & I thought her an exceedingly handsome woman; she is tall, of fine form & carriage, has regular features; fine complexion, heavy black hair which lies in graceful waves, while her eyes are dark & bright. When I congratulated him "on finding the right one at last," he turned his head to one side & seemed unable to speak — you can conjecture why. One of my delights here is to have almost all day converse with scholars, theologians, travelers &c. Sometimes 50 clergy meet together. You may well understand why the clergy love to come here. I venture to say that in no place in the U. S. can one so soon forget their cares as here, & so soon have the tons of pressure lifted off their brains.

But Prof. Hopkins is waiting for me to go to the park & you must excuse this hasty scrawl. I hear that everything is going on nicely at home; wife [Margaret] has been better since she returned from the shore. Mrs Conklin [his mother-in-law], who will always be a cripple is still at our house & remains until near Oct. Henry [his son] comes home on his "vacation" next Sat. I do hope you will

let us hear from you soon & return me a long letter— Love to all & our kind sympathies for Mary [Wylie Dodds] & Madaline Thompson Wylie]—

Your aff. bro

Anderson

Is Mrs Temble still in Westchester?

*Margaret Conklin Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

[no date, probably late 1882 or early 1883]

Dear Liz,

A[nderson] says I am to write of the family. Andrew is real well going to school and getting on well in his lessons He grows some but slowly which troubles him very much. Carrie I think I wrote you went to Brooklyn with her Grandma [Conklin] this winter to take care of her, while she is boarding, as Annie and Ned are in Europe. Mamie is at home this winter and keeps pretty busy at the housework and sewing She expects to begin painting next week but has done nothing at it this winter. Henry was home in a short visit election day he is real well and enjoys boarding in the same house as Mother and Carrie. The old gentleman himself is very well[,] thinks when he can raise the cash he will have a new set of teeth put in but I think it is when he can raise the courage The old lady, meaning myself, is very well for her She can scold lively. Tell Madeline [Thompson Wylie] I did not forget the samples of silk for Jennie [Jane Wylie, Redick's daughter] but I have seen none worth sending, for less than a dollar a yard Give lots of love to them all. These samples have just come from Wanamakers I think them very cheap for the money so enclose them to you Lots of love to you all. In haste

M. C. Wylie

1883

*Frances L. Bell to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Leatherwood March 2, 1883

Dear Aunt Elizabeth,

Your letter came a few weeks ago, and you may be sure we were very glad to hear from you, especially after such a long silence.

The winter has passed pretty much as usual with us. We have had a good deal of cold weather, and are rejoiced now that spring is upon us. We wanted very much to go south, but could not, as there was no one to leave in charge of the house. Walter [Bell] was home at Christmas for two weeks, and is again with us now, getting rested. There is nothing serious at all the matter with him, but the doctor advised a short vacation. Eliza Dupera is also with us, and has been here for nearly a month. Her health broke down from overwork, and she came east last September to visit her friends and relatives. Her younger sister, Celina Warfield, is living in Piedmont in this state [West Virginia]. Eliza spent a good part of the winter with her, and was also in Washington at her uncle's, David McKee. Eliza is the eldest child [of Sarah McKee Dupera], and is a very lively attractive girl. Celina is married to a civil engineer, and has two children, a boy and a girl. The next sister, Leonide, is keeping house at home, and expects shortly to be married. Then there are three brothers, Angelo, fourteen years old, Redick, about twelve, and Alphonse, aged nine. Aunt Abbie [Ritchie] still lives with them, and at times is confined to her room, and then again she can go about freely. Altogether she is very well preserved, and though she is seventy two, Eliza says you would not think her over fifty. Mr. [Redick] McKee is living in Washington, supported by his son. He is entirely blind, having a cataract over each eye, but otherwise I believe his health is good.

We see the Ritchies occasionally. Both Sue Waugh and Lillie Crothers, with their children spent two or three days with us only a few weeks ago. Lillie has a darling little girl, Charlotte (named after Cousin Craig [D. Ritchie]'s wife) three years old. She is very, very cunning. Then Sue has a baby, Henrietta, born in September. She is a[s] good [and] healthy a baby as ever was. Sue is perfectly radiant with happiness, and as for Lillie we all think she has a splendid husband. It was only just the other day that we heard from Ellen [Sue's sister]. She had little twin boys on December 21st, the third anniversary of her marriage. Ellen was very sick for a long time, but is now quite recovered. Aunt Mary Ann [Chickering Ritchie], that lovely woman, has been with her all winter, and is now going to visit her other daughters and relatives.

We do not hear much from the Irwins, except that Cousin Will [Married into the James and Mary Wylie Dodds family, Rachel Emma] is thinking of buying a house in Rome [Georgia]. His father has gone down to see them, and to learn what their prospects really are.

The Public Library was opened last fall, after having been closed for over two years. We revel in it and have three books out all the time. I am particular to choose those choice ones of Darwin, which contain so many interesting statements. Tell Mama that I have at last learned that Mexican work, that I was talking about last summer. I am making a bureau cover, two yards long, and am putting a great deal of this work on it. That linen towel that she declared I never would finish was done long ago. I have been knitting silk socks for Papa [Joseph Bell], and am just finishing

them. Otherwise I have not been doing much besides reading; I have not even gone to many parties. It has been much more quiet this winter than it was last year.

Bird [Margaret Bell] went down to the Opera Festival at Cincinnati, last month, and enjoyed it hugely. It was a rare treat, and she declares that she never saw opera given better, or as well, either in Europe or in New York.

Please ask Uncle John [McCalla] to be on the lookout for some first class white yarn. Papa's worsted socks are worn out, and the ready-made ones do not last. If Uncle John would get enough yarn for half a dozen pairs of socks, and also five yards of white country flannel for drawers, Papa would be very much obliged, and would send the money as soon as he knew the amount. Of course there is no hurry, but I thought I would ask now, so that Uncle John could get them when he finds it most convenient. I believe Papa is wearing some socks still that were made of Bloomington yarn.

Mrs. Pryor is a grandmother. Her daughter Mollie Woods has a splendid baby, a girl.

We still have our good German girl Annie. Our man was married some weeks since, but works for us as usual, coming out from town early every morning. The railroad you ask about was surveyed through our place. It is not yet decided what route will be chosen; at any rate it will not be built for some time. The road will be a through line, and will be a grand thing for Wheeling if it is built.

We would like to see you all very much, and if only all or any one of you would come to see us, we would give you a warm welcome. Please give my love to all the kin, and save my very best for your own family.

As ever,  
Frances L. Bell

***Rachel Emma Dodds Irwin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana***

Rome [Georgia] March 8<sup>th</sup> 1883.

Dear Aunt Lizzie:

Your long entertaining letter was quite a happy surprise—and I felt like answering it instantly; but thought 'twas better not to be too hasty as a prompt answer might not be as satisfactory or newsy as a dilatory one — we have changed our boarding house, for a more salubrious atmosphere — as our room became a cemetery for the rodents — we made the change Mar 1st — rats and negro's (or "niggers" as they are called) are two articles that I prefer enjoying from a distance — but every habitation in Rome has a quantum sufficet—of both nuisances — I advise Northerners to stay where they are well off — Is pa [Dr. James Dodds] too ailing to write? I think it is almost time for a postal card from them [James and Mary Wylie Dodds]— many thanks for your accommodating letter but they needn't conclude that releases them, from their share — now that you have got your hand in I reckon that you will write to Lib—Anna—& Maggie [three of Emma's sisters] also—will be delighted to hear from you whenever you feel inclined to shell out the news—indeed I think that you are the very best letter writer yet—you are so news-givey—and I appreciate your kind and accommodating spirit more highly because I know that your correspondents are so numerous— am sorry to hear that you were lamed, hope that you are not a permanent cripple — better come down here to rejuvenate—(you & ma)—after we get settled (if we ever do) and see, and

hear, and form your own opinion. “(They say)” the people of the south are too lazy to raise fruit, or anything excepting cotton—the negro’s do about all of the work—they buy all eatables from the north, even hay—reckon we’ll soon be like them alas! William [her husband] is doing very well in his bussiness & with small profits will doubtless succeed. his father arrived here last Sunday at 10 A.M. quite unexpectedly—put up at the central—& hired a boy to trace us out but couldn’t find us until late in the afternoon he left yesterday about 3 P.M., took the trip partly for his health—he has a cough. says that he will have to spend his winters in Florida probably — all are well—the Bells as usual—he bought our Wheeling property for 5,000 dollars—which will relieve William of much bother—as we have no debts, & about 7500 dollars (mostly in the bussiness)—hope that we are secure of a good living at least—if we only had a good house—I’d be better satisfied—though we have a better boarding place than we had—beautiful situation on a hill, large yard, & garden 28 peach trees on the place—and forest trees in the yard—a large nice looking frame house—good enough dinners, but the cooking don’t altogether suit me, I don’t appreciate boarding house hash We will rent as soon as we can, the right sort of a place—Most of the houses here are mere shells set up on sticks—(or rather small blocks of bricks) open underneath—can’t have cellars too damp—but Rome is an inexhaustable subject—you will have to come & see for yourself, if you wish to understand the situation—it certainly is a picturesque city—the view from our windows is very fine—you would both like, & dislike the place & people—while it is far from being paradise it isn’t in the suburbs of ‘tother place either—though if you could hear the screeching yells of this boarding house, you would think it was within hailing distance, there are only 3 babies in the house with their maniac mothers—people began making garden the last of Jan & 1st of Feb—planted peas &c—am glad to hear that Pa is better, hope that he will take care of himself—will be glad to hear that you are “set up” again—you are mistaken about me being swindled in my sewing machine—I wasn’t! but that B’n [Bloomington] New Home Agent was saddly swindled—no doubt!—I suppose that Mary [McCalla] will have no difficulty getting ready in time for the occasion—when?

Love to all—write again.

Affec Neice E Irwin

Burn this letter

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

South Mound [Kansas] March 12<sup>th</sup> 1883

My dear sister E.

I’ll not be as long in answering your last as you were in answering mine. If my son Nevins is any where visible in your horizon I wish you to inform him his presence here is indispensible. Now for the reasons: Jenkins the man who has been occupying the other half of the house since Claude [her other son] went to Florida will be in one of his own the last of this month, perhaps sooner. He had at first intended building, but has bought a house and will move it on the spot he wishes. When they [sic] go I will have no one with me unless Nevins comes As I have written several times to him at Cincinnati but [have gotten] no reply I thought perhaps he might be at B— if so let him read this and forthwith proceed this way. Emma [her daughter] cannot be here until the middle or last of June. She is very anxious that I remain here so that she can stay with me during her summer vacations

so long as she attends State Normal. Claude left the middle of Jany for Florida. Would send you his last Postal but want to give it to a neighbor who wishes all information he can from there as he thinks if C likes it well enough to locate, he will likely sell out and go there too. I will copy it for you to read so here it is Lake Eustis March 5<sup>th</sup> 1883. Dear Mother One month since I reached Florida. Have found it all it is claimed to be, and am really better pleased than I had expected. Have travelled and learned a good deal. Have been on the Gulf Coast & on the St Johns [?] and all through the interior and find that 3/4 of Fla is not suitable for northern people while the other 1/4 is as near perfection in regard to health climate resources &c as a man could desire. Have just returned from land office where I went to enter 100 [acres] in high pine land 5 miles from Centre State near 3 beautiful clear water lakes with plenty of fish and game adjacent. Good prospect for town & R.R. in the near future. Will write you more at length soon meantime address me at "Minneola[,] Sumpler Co[,] Fla".

How I do wish Mary [Martin, daughter] & family were there instead of away out among the Mts of Washington Terr[itory] near Goldendale which to them at least is a misnomer. In your last you asked me about their locality which is 2 miles from Goldendale. Mr Norris is a great worker but is too generous ever to [be] worth much pecuniarily. The Meth[odist] preachers know him far & wide. Mary too has joined them since she went out there[;] anyhow she is the best one of my flock. They now have five children 3 boys & 2 girls Their names are Ray, Eva, Walter, Beulah, and the baby who is a boy and came last Nov. Mary has done all her work ever since she was married as they have never yet been able to hire. When he first went there he bought a piece of land just as nature made it, built a cabin, and went to hard work. About all they can raise there is wheat, oats, potatoes. They generally have fine wheat but last year was [one of] poor crops. Mr N[orris]— still thinks he has the best wife in the world and truth is Mary has done nobly. He always brags about her every letter he writes which is seldom however. The Northern Pacific R.R. will pass through G— and they expect to have it completed from east to west by next Aug. Am glad C has gone in a diametrically opposite direction. In Ore & W.T. It rains every day all winter and not one drop in summer. In Fl they have plenty of rain all summer & just enough in winter[,] & the summers owing to sea breezes & no Mts is not as sultry as Kas. Last winter I lost 1 doz half gal glass jars [of] tomatoes & gooseberries for [it was] cold here as anywhere owing to the Northers which they call blizzards up in Neb. Have you heard from Susie [a third daughter] lately. Remember a mans nature is an incomprehensibility to one of her feeble frame. So with Emma[,] and I do hope you will take my word for it that their judgments are their weak points. She will do or say anything her Pa [Samuel Martin] wishes[;] for the past 10 years he has been the Wyliest one of the family.

*Andrew Wylie Jr to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Washington March 25th 1883

My Dear Sister

I received yesterday the newspaper sent by you, I presume, containing an account of the great fire at Bloomington from which M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>C escaped so narrowly with his life, and he and Redick [Wylie, brother] sustained so heavy a loss in property. I trust that M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>C's injuries were no more serious than they are reported to have been, and that the losses have been exaggerated, as generally

happens in such cases. It was probably the deed of some incendiary — the same by whom Prof. [Theophilus] Wylie's barn was fired the same night, who deserves to be caught, tried by Judge Lynch, and burnt at the stake on the public square. A rascal has generally so many chances to escape punishment in a regular trial, that crime is encouraged: but I have never known, or heard of any errors committed in Judge Lynch's court. What do you think of that sentiment from a judge? But as the affair did not occur within my jurisdiction, I ought not fairly to be held accountable in my judicial character, and it may be treated by you as sentiment only.

I should be much pleased if either yourself, or Redick would write me fully about the occurrence, in the light of such discoveries as you may have made since the fire. I think it probable that Redick would have lost his life, had he been present. I observed the name of "John Wylie"<sup>17\*</sup> mentioned in the newspaper account of the fire: but cannot place him. His behavior was very brave and creditable, and I should like to learn something about him.

Carry [his wife] is in bed to-day with a heavy cold which she contracted whilst supervising the servants in house cleaning yesterday — a cold, raw day. Her mother [Mrs. Bryan] is about as usual with her. She is now well advanced in her eighty ninth year, and is, of course, quite infirm.

Horace [his son] is doing very well in his studies, preparing for Yale, or some other college, and will be ready to enter in about eighteen months. He is strong, well grown and active, and has become quite an expert in the manly art of self defense, in which he has taken two courses under a skilful professor. He thinks that any sophomores who should undertake to do hazing upon him, would have a rough time in the experiment.

Please shew this to Redick and Mary [Wylie Dodds], to whom I beg to be remembered most affectionately as well as to your families all.

Your attached Brother,  
Andrew

***Emma Palmer to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana***

# 782 Sixth Avenue  
New York City

E. McCalla

Mch 29/83

Sir or Madame,

I wrote to the editor of Christian Union some weeks ago for spare copies of that paper to forward to Home Missionaries, and in reply rec<sup>d</sup> from them a copy of your letter, saying that you had copies of the C.U. to give away. It may now be too late to write you concerning them, but sickness and trouble have prevented an earlier application on my part. I should be pleased to have the numbers for this year (only, as I think the others too old for my purpose) and on receipt of them by mail—sent at the usual rates of eight cents per pound—will gladly remit to you the cost of postage on the same. I have been accustomed to secure year by year the last names and addresses of missionaries from the different denominational boards, and make up a weekly parcels of such papers as I can secure and send [them] to a new name week by week from the lists printed by the Boards, selecting those far away in the west and north. If you would prefer sending your papers direct to

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Most likely a grandson of Samuel Wylie, Andrew Wylie, Sr's second cousin and Bloomington contemporary.

such parties it would possibly be more acceptable to you, and would save the necessity of sending through me.

I have lived long enough in those far away regions to see and understand something of the privations endured by those noble men and women, and to know how very welcome and acceptable and comforting good reading matter similar to our excellent paper, is to their hearts and homes. If you would like a list of names and cannot readily procure it, I will try and forward it to you if you will kindly let me know which denomination has your preference.

Permit me to suggest one or two ways for disposal of the papers older than Jan /83. They may be sent (express or post[, ] paid) to Rev. W. D. A. Matthews, Bethel Home, corner Lake & Desplaines St. Chicago Ill. who will distribute them thro' the various prisons etc. in the south and west. Altho. I have no personal acquaintance with Mr. Mathews, I have seen a letter from his former pastor giving his work the highest recommendation.

Or, they may be sent (post or expressage paid) to the care of Chief Signal Officer of the Signal Service Bureau, in the Equitable Building #120 Broadway, New York City, for forwarding by the yearly supply ship to Natives in Alaska and the far north-west, to signal service men in those far away regions where there is certainly a great dearth of reading matter. If the latter should meet your within the papers should be forwarded within two weeks, or they may be too late.

Trusting that you may be able to dispose of your papers for great good, to whomever sent, I am,

respectfully yours  
(Mrs.) Emma St. Palmer

***Margaret "Birdie" Bell to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana***

Wheeling W. Va- April 22. 1883

Dear Aunt Elizabeth,

I am certainly the bad one in the connection about letter writing. I've been intending to write every day since the receipt of your letter which we forwarded to Uncle Anderson [Wylie] as requested. I don't wonder your nerves are shattered after such a terrible experience, and we are thankful to the Providence that saved Uncle John [McCalla]'s life from such a horrible fate.<sup>18</sup> We hope he has entirely recovered from the effects of the shock & his bruises. Fan says Maime<sup>19</sup> [Molly McCalla] promised to make us a visit; why can't she come now. The change would settle her nerves and do her good. Fan's plan now is to go abroad in June for a year; sailing on the 21 with Miss Halsted with whom I went. Maime could make at least part of her visit before Fan leaves. You know we dress plainly and Maime would need little if any addition to her wardrobe so she can start on short notice. Do send her on to us.

Our cousin Eliza Duperu was with us six weeks, and is now making Mrs. Deleplain a visit. She is a very striking looking girl, tall, fine figure and a decided brunette. she has a good carriage & perfect self possession. She has suffered greatly from nervous diseases brought on by overexertion. Her next younger sister Cellina is married and living in Maryland, a short distance from Baltimore.

<sup>18</sup> His general store was burned earlier that year; owned in partnership with brother-in-law Redick Wylie

<sup>19</sup> "Maime" is the family nickname for Anderson Wylie's daughter Mary while "Molly" is that of Elizabeth Wylie McCalla's Mary; Francis Bell is clearly referring to the latter.

She has two interesting children. a boy & girl. Eliza will stay east until Fall and possible all winter. She says Aunt Ab. [Ritchie] is quite an invalid, not able to get down stairs for several days at a time. She told us all about our McKee cousins, but I have no very clear idea about them only that the daughters of, John, Andrew and William, three in all, are married, and Andrews only son is east making his home with Cousin Dave in Washington. Cousin Dave's wife is using part of the fortune she received at her grandfather's death in building a fine \$50.000 house in a fashionable part of Washington, and is devoted to money & style, She has three children, all boys, fortunately—

We are still “rastling” with the house, though nearly through, I am happy to say. Papa [Joseph Bell] and I went to Pittsburg a week ago and bought some furniture and carpets, which are expected to arrive in a day or two. The selection of such things here is very poor. The furniture is for the Library, and is very plain, no carving about the frames, and covered with green leather, the only ornament being a little brass inlaid work. There is considerable more to be done in the way of furnishing, but the dirty work, with the exception of one fireplace that has still to be set, is about finished. Outside every thing is beautiful, the grass is like velvet and the fruit trees are covered with bloom. If the much dreaded late frosts do not nip us, we will have an abundance.

Do you know anything about Pet [Irene E. Wylie]? She wrote us a very curious epistle, from which we might or might not infer her engagement.

Aunt Mary Ann [Chickering Ritchie] is in Canonsburg again after a long visit to St. Louis to Ellen and her twin boys. Auntie has promised to visit us this summer and we are looking to her coming with much pleasure. Sue [Waugh], her youngest daughter has a darling little girl now six months old, so there is quite a troop of grandchildren. Frances [i.e. Fan] sends her special and particular love. Walter [Bell, her brother] is still home and is considerably improved—

With much love to all the kin and your family in particular

Your affectionate niece

M. W. Bell

*Anderson Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Newtown, Pa— 4-23-'83

Dear Sister Liz:

Your last, tho' breathing the spirit of the fire, was very welcome. Am glad to say that, at least, three of us are looking forward to visiting B—. Wife [Margaret] is doing a great deal at sewing & house-cleaning, & Carrie [his daughter] is an excellent helper. Mary [his older daughter] escapes because she is still in B'klyn & now tells us she has an urgent invitation to visit Hartford while we are in B— So we think we'll send Carrie to the country, Harris [his wife's brother] Conklin to Trenton where Helen [his wife's sister] has moved, & then we'll shut up the house; so our minds will be less burdened. I need rest & change — my brain has been over worked & premonitions have returned. We hear that Theo. W[ylie]— has carried thro' his great coal-land scheme & the papers have been signed. If he does what, I hope he may do, we may get something back, but we shall see, &, meanwhile, I don't want to prejudge the case. As to the sentiments you express in your letter I hope we may discuss the matter fully when we meet. As to all these thrice terrible things (& the burning of property is not the worst) the only place of rest is in faith. We must believe that God is,

in everything, ruling in wisdom, justice & love supreme, or we can find rest & comfort no—where. As to myself, if I for a moment lose sight of the enormity of (my own) sin, the infinite horror of the soul's loss, & the infinite value of sal<sup>n</sup>, all these things perplex me, if they do not challenge my criticism & excite my resentment. Christ replies—”What thou knowest not now thou shalt know hereafter.” God does not give account of Himself to us during our earthly probation, & He has infinitely wise reasons for not doing so. We need real & unaffected humility in order to accept all this, & if you ask how we can reach this state, I can but reply:—”If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God + + + & it shall be given him.” That is the way out & we shall be happy indeed when we do find the way thro' to light & rest.

Augustine's cry has always impressed me as one of the most remarkable ever uttered by a man uninspired:— “O God, thou hast made me for thyself, & my soul is without rest until it finds rest in Thee!” The older I grow the more heartily I can respond to this, & also to his other exquisite address to God— “Command what Thou wilt & give me the will to obey.” If the terrible fires you now so much lament will excite you all to escape the infinitely worse fires of the future, you will all then agree, that they were very light afflictions considering what they were designed to effect. That is my way of looking at it, & I think, it is the right way—or else it has no meaning at all. Tell Redick [Wylie, brother] I had intended to write to him, but I am compelled to forbear all writing I can—you may shew him my letters is you wish.

With love to all—  
Your affect. Bro—  
Anderson—

P.S. I think I'm profiting by you[r] & Mollie's [McCalla] hints as to the speech. Tell John [McCalla] we are sorry to learn that he still suffers from the hurt he got—but hope he may be well mended soon. All join in much love.

*Anderson McElroy Wylie to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Newtown, Pa. Nov 15/'83

Dear Sister:

Y<sup>r</sup> very long & very welcome letter (wh' I burned as you requested) came duly to hand. Now, while Margaret [his wife] is out, I am scratching off 4 or 5 letters, you shall have y<sup>r</sup> turn. Got myself a little tired over our splendid celery. Have some roots which have over 20 stocks—what do you think of that? I've never seen the like. I do enjoy a garden & wish I had four times the space. Well, will you wonder? I've not seen Irene [E. Wylie]. Tho' I wrote to her, have not rec<sup>d</sup> a reply—of course I invited bride & bride-groom to visit us on their trip; but, presume, I did not write soon enough. Was away to the S. S. State Con. at Scranton, & went fr' there to attend the Synod at Pittsburgh. Had a delightful time—saw new parts of this splendid state—whose mts & valleys in autumnal tints presented a continuous panorama of glories. At P-[ittsburgh] was delightfully entertained at lawyer Christopher Magee's (who married, you rem<sup>t</sup>, Louisa McLeod) & who lives in a spacious home outside of the city on a commanding eminence—such eminences are not scarce about P-g. I travelled about a 1000 miles, & appreciated it all. Jennie & Walter M- were at home &

seem nice children. Chris jr is going to the Univ<sup>ty</sup> in Philad. No one c<sup>d</sup> be kinder or more attentive than Louisa & Mr M-; the urged me to stay a number of days after the Synod adjourned. I remained one, in order to see Allegheny &c. Did not get down to Wheeling. Haven't heard fr' them lately. Since my return have been very busy. Wrote 5 articles in one week, besides my other work, & then prepared an hour sermon on "Luther & Liberty." Stirred up the Catholic priest & if he challenges me to a pub. debate, mean to accept. If so we may have lively times in our fine new hall, which is now being finished. We are to have an excellent course of lectures & some fine entertainments. We have a stirring little place in winter. Numbers of buildings are going up & all are in good taste.

We were very sorry to have missed Rebecca [Mrs Dennis Wylie] & not to have had her here. We drove over to L—[eatherwood, Joseph Bell's home], & Lou & B—[oisen] were to have been here to—day. We expected them & made some preparation, but they didn't put in an appearance. I will leave M— [wife Maggie] to tell about family matters. Tell Margaret [Wylie Martin] I w<sup>d</sup> like to have a letter fr' her & I'll promise to write. Tell Molly [Mary McCalla] I'm very glad to hear she has such a prize in prospect. We'll look for them in their wedding tour—ask her to write.

Hope John [McCalla] is not going to be ill. I feel sorry for Bro. Bowers & hope his exp. will do him good. As for yourself—do take care & dont invite the "blue devils" back again. Next time you write I wish you wd give me the address of Claudius [Martin] in Florida. Love to all—don't forget Mary [Wylie Dodds] & Red [Redick Wylie] & Maddie [Madeline Thompson Wylie] Tell Red to write—

Your Affect Brother

1886

*Margaret Wylie Martin to Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, Bloomington, Indiana*

Winnebago [Nebraska] Dec 27– 1886

My dear sister E.

Can it be that we who a few years since were five in number are now only two sisters left, yes your last letter disclosed the sad, though not unexpected event. Could it be said of them [Dr James F. and Mary Wylie Dodds, died 12/14/1886 and 12/16/1886] “They were lovely in their lives and in death they were not divided” If so thanks be to the Spirits presence and power who is ever willing to “save unto the uttermost.” How comforting the thought that whosoever will may come, “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden” saith our sympathizing Savior. It is here alone we can find rest [,] that rest which is both sure and stedfast and is as “an anchor of the soul” How busy old Father Time with his sickle[,] garnering into the many mansions fair one and another of those we should hold dear; for where our treasure is there will be our heart also. “So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom” is the prayer of the sweet singer of Israel. Our days are gliding swiftly by and what improvement and preparation are we making for the unnumbered years that follow; for that world where it will “always be as long to spend as when it first begun” Jesus has brought life and immortality to light, and how shall we escape if we neglect so great [a] salvation “Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh” Jesus has hallowed the portals of the tomb, for he has been there, and to his all sustaining grace his children can all testify, though not all to the same degree. To be sure there are many very weak christians just barely saved but as one “star differeth from another” so is it with the redeemed. How much we think of these perishing bodies while so prone to forget the souls health. Satan our insidious foe, is ever ready to insinuate against Him who is our souls best friend, the only author and giver of salvation. “How petty are the books of the philosophers with all their pomp” says Rousseau [,] compared with the Gospels! Can it be that writings at once so sublime, and so simple are the work of men? Can He whose life they tell be Himself no more than a mere man? Is there anything in His character, of the enthusiast or the ambitious sectary? What sweetness, what purity in His ways, what touching grace in His teachings! What a loftiness in His maxims, what profound wisdom in His words! What presence of mind, what delicacy and aptness in His replies. What an empire over his passions! Where is the man where is the sage, who knows how to act, to suffer and to die, without weakness and without display? My friend, men do not invent like this; and the facts concerning Socrates which no one doubts, are not so well attested as those about Jesus Christ. These Jews could never have struck this tone, or thought of this morality, and the gospel has characteristics of truthfulness so grand, so striking, so perfectly inimitable, that their inventors would be even more wonderful than He whom they portray. Yes if the death of Socrates be that of a sage, the life and death of Jesus are those of a God”. I trust this tribute to the truth of Revelation coming from such a source may help increase your faith as I hope it has helped mine. If possible you ought to get and study our Fathers lectures on Christianity that to this day none of his own daughters have read as I know of. I know I never saw a line. If you think best you may send this to N–[evins Martin,

her son] who is still at Cincinnati. Please do not ask cousin T. A. W. [Theophilus A. Wylie] for that manuscript, if it were printed it would be different. Hope the children are getting well again. Love to all inquiring friends

M.

We have not heard anything from the Bells in a long time or the McKees please inform if you know Is aunt Abbie Ritchie living I believe she was the only one of the R[itchie] family [i.e., their mother's siblings] remaining Give my sympathy to our bereaved nieces and tell me all about them when you write again.

1887

Anderson M. Wylie to Andrew Wylie, Jr.

E. Hampton, L. Is

Aug 15 '87

Dear Brother,

Your welcome letter was forwarded to me at this place where I am given a grand vacation by my best friend, Rev. Dr. Matlock, of Philad. Who has rented a spacious house in the extended grounds of Mr. Jeffrey's. It is the most ideal place it has ever been my lot to happen upon for an Aug recruit. The weather is simply perfect, the bathing fine, the old place exceedingly quaint with its old fashioned houses & wide reaching elms, extending their arms across the main St, 120 ft in width; & best of all, the resort is very quiet & has not been spoiled by fashion. Margaret I sent off to her sister's at Morristown N. J. Has not been well enough to go with Mrs. Goodwin to the shore & I've just recd a line stating she has gone to Henry's in B'klyn & is no better (she got out of bed to come with me to N.Y.).

I shall ponder the advice you gave me. Have been talking the matter over with Dr. Matlock. I've found the pen a useful prop—indeed do not know how I cd have got on without it, but fear it wd fail for full foundation & support. I felt that I was called to the ministry & I love to preach, & in case I receive no call, must accept it as a Providence to determine my course. Were I just beginning & without experience, there wd be no difficulty in receiving invitations & calls. I've preached here on two Sabs & Dr. Talmage was with us in the pulpit yesterday & can say that in the presence of our ablest men, I uniformly receive marked expressions of endorsement. Many tell me that my mistake has been in shunning large cities & remaining in the country, but I must say that I shd dread beginning a work in a great town. Yet that may be the call before me. This fall all the children are to leave us & in Margaret's state of health it wd be almost out of the question to continue housekeeping in Newtown. The place does not agree with her, but I fear she will be a tortured sufferer wherever we may go. Mary thinks of going to Oberlin. Andrew is to return to Laurenceville & Carrie is to enter a course of training as a nurse. She has broken her engaget with Alfred Torbert. I expect to be at home Sept. 1st & if you can with Carrie take us on going or returning, we shall be only too glad to see you.

With much love to yourself, Carrie (who I hope is much better) & not forgetting the absent boy.

Am your aff. Bro

A. M. E. Wylie

# 1918

## *Frances L. Bell to John Harris*

801 N. Swinton Ave, Delray, [Fla] April 8. [1918]

Dear John,

Your letter was an interesting one—I came here on Tuesday & am leaving tomorrow, having made the trip to see Elizabeth & also Charlotte Crothers Claypool (cousin on the Ritchie side from Pittsburgh). Wylie is still at Camp Davis, near Wilmington, N.C. & Eliz is going there next week with Hubbard, the younger boy, 8 years old, for quite a stay. Ted, now 14, is at a boys' boarding school at Asheville, N.C. Wylie & E. sold their beautiful Basin Drive home here, recently, (built it only 6 years ago) & E & Hubbard are now living in a small home near the Claypools.

About the Martin family. When my father & mother [Joseph Bell and Irene C. Wylie] were married in May, 1849, it was a double wedding, the other couple being Margaret Wylie & Samuel Martin. They went to Philadelphia & sailed from there around Cape Horn for China. Their children Claudius, Nevins, Mary & Susie, were born in China [This is incorrect—see Appendix for genealogical chart]. Uncle Samuel was a brother of the celebrated Dr. Wm Martin, a favorite of the Chinese Emperor. The Martins were wonderful linguists. Uncle Samuel could not stand anything in the way of comfort & after things became easier<sup>20</sup> for the missionaries in China, they came back & lived in the wilds of Texas, & later went to live among the [Plains] Indians, & convert them. The trials & hardships of her life were too much for Aunt M. & broke her down both mentally & physically. Nevins [Martin] was in Bloomington [Indiana] for a year about 1879, attending the University, & he stayed at your Grandmother [Elizabeth McCalla]'s home. He was remarkably bright, but had no training, barely enough clothes to cover him & no prospects. In 1888 he was at our home in Leatherwood for a couple of weeks. At that time he was a roving printer. He was very poor, & I never heard what became of him. Claudius [Martin] at one time had an orange grove somewhere in Florida. I do not know about the girls, or whom they married [see appendices, geneological]. In our family we were brought up to have a poor opinion of missionaries, because of the hardships of the Martins. Walter Bell [her brother] went north in his car a month ago. I shall probably stay in Daytona until late in June & I expect to be in Walter's home for two or three months during the summer.

While in China Aunt Martin sent a large box of Chinese curios to her sisters. We had a number of them & the Chinese articles that, as a girl, I saw in the McCalla home, undoubtedly came from her—

I am in good health & I consider Walter as being usually well.

Your attached cousin

Frances L. Bell.

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20 The Martins went to China at the tail end of the first Opium War.



# APPENDICES

## A. Genealogical Charts

The Andrew and Margaret Wylie Family

Margaret Ritchie Wylie

The Martin Family

## B. “Two Friends, Pals in Boyhood, Died as Comrades in Civil War”

## C. The Water Cure

## Andrew and Margaret Wylie Family

Andrew Wylie (1789-1851) m. Margaret Ritchie (1791-1859)

1. Andrew (1814-1905) m. Mary Caroline Bryan
  1. Andrew
  2. Pendleton
  3. Horace (m. Katherine Hopkins)
  4. Andrew
2. William (1816-1835)
3. Mary Ann (1817-1886) m. James F. Dodds
  1. Rachel Emma (m. William W. Irwin)
  2. Samuel Wylie
  3. Mary Elizabeth (m. Dr. Samuel Quick)
  4. James Kemper
  5. Annie Louisa (m. Julius Thompson)
  6. Margaret Irene (m. Theodore Rose)
  7. Lilian Madora
  8. Willis Ritchie
4. Craig Ritchie (1819-1840)
5. Elizabeth (1821-1900) m. John McCalla
  1. Mary Ballantine (m. Charles Harris)
6. John Hosea (1823-1855) m. Lizzie Leeds
  1. Irene E.
7. Samuel Theophylact (1825-1850)
8. Margaret (1826-1898) m. Smauel Martin
  1. William Boone
  2. Susan
  3. Mary (m. Newton Norris)
  4. Emma
  5. Nevins
  6. Claudius
  7. Flora Ballantine
9. Irene Catherine (1829-1878) m. Joseph Bell
  1. Andrew Wylie
  2. Joseph Henry
  3. Margaret (m. Mr. Ewing)
  4. Walter
  5. Frances
10. Redick McKee (1831-1904) m. Madeline Thompson
  1. Jane (m. Harry Axtell)
  2. Redick Andrew (m. Thana Winslow)
  3. Francis B. "Frank" (m. Mary Grouch)
  4. Madeline (m. Lewis Sentney)
11. Anderson McElroy (1833-1892) m. Margaret Conklin
  1. Henry
  2. Mary
  3. Caroline
  4. Andrew
12. Jane Melheme (1836-1865)

## Ritchie Family

Craig Ritchie (1758-1833) m. Mary Price (1769-1836)

1. David
2. Margaret (1791-1859) m. Andrew Wylie (1789-1851)  
See previous chart for children
3. William m. Susan Dorsey
  1. Craig Dorsey
4. Matthew
5. John m. Ellen Campbell
  1. Lib
6. Anne m. Jonathan Letherman
  1. jack
  2. Mary
  3. Will
  4. Anne
  5. Elizabeth
7. Mary m. George Herriot
8. Eliza m. Redick McKee
  1. Andrew Wylie
  2. Sarah
  3. David
  4. David
  5. Will
  6. John
9. Catherine m. Samuel Leake
  1. Samuel
  2. Kitty
10. Jean
11. Craig m. Mary Ann Chickering
  1. Susan
12. Abigail
13. David (2)

## Martin Family

William "Billy" Wilson Martin (1781-1850) m. Susan Lawson Dupuy (1789-1871)

1. Smauel N. D. m. Margaret Wylie
  1. William Boone
  2. Susan
  3. Mary
  4. Emma
  5. Nevins
  6. Claudius
  7. Flora Ballantine
2. William A.P. m. Jane Vasant
  1. Winfred
  2. Newell
  3. Claude
  4. Robert
  5. Pascal
3. Claudius B. H. m. Mattie (1) m. Charlotte (2)
4. Martha Alice m. Henry Venable
5. Anna m. Mr. Morton
  1. Ida
  2. Alice Agnes
  3. Betty Sue
  4. infant son
6. Catherine "Kitty" m. Mr. Newell
  1. Henry
7. Emily m. Mr. Cambern
8. Louisa m. Robert Clayton Matthews
9. William W. Jr.
10. John L.

## APPENDIX B: Two Pals

THE INDIANA DAILY STUDENT, October 26, 1891

### ***“TWO FRIENDS,” PALS IN BOYHOOD, DIED AS COMRADES IN CIVIL WAR***

Story of Devotion of Samuel Dodds and Richard Wylie, Recorded by State Librarian in 1864,  
Recalled by Recent Reference.

(By Agnes McCulloch Hanna)

Among the many hundreds of young soldiers whose names are found on the war roll of Indiana University and who served the various wars in which our country has engaged, there are probably several who were intimate friends, but Samuel Wylie Dodds and Richard Dennis Wylie deserved the title of the “Two Friends” in every way.

They were Bloomington boys, sons of families well known and loved in the community; and had many friends among the townspeople and the college students. Samuel Dodds was the eldest son of Dr. James F. Dodds and Mary Wylie, a daughter of Andrew Wylie, first president of Indiana University. His home was opposite the Howe-Maxwell house, now the home of the Burton Woolery post of the American Legion. Sam was born in 1841 and was a sober, studious boy of exemplary habits, more often seen in school and church than in play of any sort. As a college student he was interested in the study of Greek, and is remembered by Dr. John H. Lemon, now of New Albany, as always bending over his lexicon in an upstairs room at his home.

He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and as its secretary he wrote to other chapters. Mr. Karl Fischer, now of Washington and Lee university, Lexington, Va., sent in copies of three letters written by Dodds to Earl Cranston of the Ohio university chapter, dealing with college politics in the spring of 1858.

Richard Dennis Wylie, his intimate friend, born the same year, was a son of Prof. Theophilus A. Wylie and Rebecca Dennis, from Gemantown, Pa. Their home was that now owned by Professor and Mrs. Amos S. Hershey, which was built by president Andrew Wylie for his numerous family. Mrs. T.A. Wylie was a most attractive woman with lovely clothes which she lent to ladies of the town when occasion arose for specially elaborate garments.

Richard was a delicate lad and early showed marked artistic ability and instinctive knowledge of scientific apparatus, which he manipulated with great facility. He was, during his college days, a valuable assistant to his father in scientific work. He was fond of astronomy and spent many evenings observing the stars from the flat “walk” or space on the roof of the Wylie house.

When the boys were very young their devotion was already well known. What one initiated the other helped along. When he was not more than eight or nine, according to his sister, Mrs. Margaret Wylie Mellette, widow of Governor Arthur T. Melletter of Pittsburg, Kans., Richard set up a crude printing press, and both boys were absorbed by it for some time. Mrs. Mellette owns a copy of the booklet printed from wood blocks.

“My father, Prof. T.A. Wylie, drew the pictures on cherry blocks, “Mrs. Mellette wrote recently, “and the boys cut out the designs with their knives. The press was mostly Richard’s contribution, as he was of a more mechanical turn, but both took great interest in the printing for a good while.”

The designs are crude, some fifteen or twenty in number. Among them is a woodcut of

Indiana University when it stood on the site of the present Bloomington high school; one of “the minerologist,” probably Prof. Wylie; one of John Dunn at a forge; the others include pet animals and temperance subjects. For more than eighty years this product of the two friends’ handiwork has endured.

The boys were attending college by the time they were sixteen, working at their special subjects, but always together in the preparation of their work. Apparently their only other interest was in church.

The story of the youths’ enlistment and brief service is told in “Indiana’s Roll of Honor,” prepared by David Stevenson, State Librarian, published in Indianapolis in 1864, after the Legislature had authorized such a history of the state’s contribution to the Civil War.

The call came for Bloomington volunteers on Apr. 15, 1861. At the meeting held at the railway station many citizens spoke with seriousness and spirit. Some deplored the conflict and condemned the abolitionists for stirring up fratricidal strife. Men who had served in the war of 1812, gave advice from their own experience, and much bitterness was displayed.

It is not certain which boy was the first to enlist, but it is remembered that Dodds said, “Dick is determined to go, so I’m going, too.” Dodds had been graduated one month before his service began, with a record of high scholarship.

By the twentieth of April the enlistment of the company was complete, and on the twenty-second the officers were commissioned. On May 10 a Miss Mitchell presented the company with a hand-made banner, and the men were taken to Camp Vigo, Terre Haute, for training. Almost at once dissention rose and the company was divided. Dodds and Wylie were assigned with fifty other Monroe county men to Company H, 18<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Captain W.W. Charles was in command, with James S. Black of Indianapolis first lieutenant and Hiram W. Rooker, Noblesville, second lieutenant.

On Aug. 16 the company was mustered into service and was sent to St. Louis to take part in the Missouri campaign. These two young men, accustomed to every comfort, had about two months’ participation in difficult warfare, for which nothing in their previous experience had prepared them.

Under General Lyon of the U.S. regular army they were sent up the banks of the Missouri river, to find that the confederates under Gen. Sterling Price had fled to Booneville and were defending that point. Near Warsaw a Southern officer, Lieut-Col. Walter S. O’Kane, of Indianapolis, was in charge of the enemy.

General Price had been commander of the Missouri State militia. He, with others, proposed to disband the state guards, disarm them and keep all firearms out of the state if the U.S. troops would at once withdraw beyond the state limits. When this plan was rejected, General Price and his sympathizers left their old organization and went to Jefferson City to direct the secessionaists. Price took command.

The Indiana Volunteer forces, including company H, 18<sup>th</sup> regiment, went with General Lyon to rout the Confederates under General Price. Their way lay through swamps and rough lands. The autumn rains had begun and the green troops had had no training in guerrilla warfare. Richard Wylie became ill when near Otterville, Mo., late in October, possibly from ptomaine poisoning, and was left behind. Sam Dodds, who had been made sergeant, was busy on scout duty or on a special assignment. Wylie made a partial recovery and attempted to rejoin his company then in full pursuit of General Price. Almost at once he was prostrated again and was ordered to fall out. He was left at the house of a German-speaking woman and was unconscious

from the time he entered her home. Unable to speak, it is said, he smiled and his face had an expression of peace and joy when death came within a few hours.

David Stevenson concludes his sketch of Richard Wylie with these words: "It is not only on the battlefield, but also on the march, in the bivouac, in the trench and in the hospital that patriots are called to die."

Samuel Dodds, returning from his special duty, asked at once for Dick, and on being told by a sutler that Wylie had been sent back ill, he received permission to go in search of his friend. he found him dead, and the poor German woman tried to tell him about the boy's end, of the smile on his face and his expression of peace.

He was ill himself, and was sent to the City hospital in St. Louis. In what proved to be his last letter to his family, dated Nov. 1, 1861, he wrote, "If it were not for Dick's death weighing so much on my mind, I could be more contented, but poor fellow, he is in a far better world and it is only I who am to be pitied."

Within a few days he, too, had died, in the twentieth year of his life. "The happy intimacy of these youths was soon restored...in that brighter land," was Stevenson's closing sentence in the story of Samuel Dodds.

Two pages in "Indiana's Roll of Honor" are given to the brief histories of these young men. Stories of their mutual affection must have appeared in local papers, as their sisters, Mrs. Theodore Rose of Muncie, who was Margaret Dodds, and Mrs. Arthur Mellette of Pittsburg, Kans.,--Margaret Wylie--report that clippings were preserved carefully for many years. Mrs. Rose has a daguerreotype and two letters of Sam Dodds', and Mrs. Mellette allowed her photographs of the two friends to be copied for publication with this account of their devotion. She has also the booklet of woodcuts.

Dodds is a serious looking youth in his uniform; there is in the records of Beta Theta Pi a picture taken in undergraduate days; Wylie, who was more delicate in appearance, is shown in the shawl that was the conventional winter garment for both men and women of that period. The long pin by which it was fastened can be seen.

Many persons have said they remember the story of these Indiana University boys who gave their lives in the struggle to maintain the Union. It was their absolute devotion to each other and their inherent capacities which made them remarkable.

## APPENDIX C: THE WATER CURE

To better understand the letters in this collection that concern Elizabeth Wylie McCalla, it is useful to know something of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Water Cure movement, and more particularly of the Water Cure in Dansville, New York where Liz received treatment. This concept of healing began in Silesia in 1826 at Priessnitz's famed Grafenberg institution. It was introduced in America in the 1840s and was popular until the early 1890s. The Cures were located in pleasant settings primarily in New York State, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, but there were some all across the country. Dansville was one of the best.

The Cures' purposes were to heal reversible poor health conditions and relieve suffering, both physical and emotional. Differing from conventional spas where it was claimed that healing came from warm mineral water and an active social life, the Cures placed their emphasis on various treatments of bloodletting, purging, and use of drugs--particularly mercury, which was popular at the time--were totally rejected. Instead there was a daily health regimen of cold water treatments, simple food--especially vegetables and the first cold breakfast cereal, Granula--non-stimulating beverages, loose clothing (as opposed to corsets), sunlight and fresh air, regular exercise and rest, moderate emotional stimulation, personal hygiene, and psychological healing powers of the staff by communication and touch. Cold water was prescribed for both drinking and bathing. The baths varied from soaking to dousing to a pouring bath, and a technique known as the wet sheet pack in which the patient was wrapped in a cold wet sheet, covered with several dry blankets, and left for some hours. Patients said this both warmed and relaxed them.

The Dansville "Home on the Hillside" had "a brilliant man and perceiving woman at its head"--Dr. James Caleb Jackson and his wife, "Mother" Jackson.<sup>1</sup> They trained their own doctors and nurses thoroughly in their method, and the staff was very stable. They felt competent to treat over fifty "complaints." Their clientele included both men and women, with women predominating. There were female doctors and nurses for the women patients. From the 1840s to 1870 the cost of treatment at Dansville was \$10-\$15 a week; after 1870 it was \$15-\$18--affordable costs for skilled workers and above.

The Jacksons maintained that good treatment at the Cure should lead to self-doctoring at home, and to that end they published a newsletter to encourage former patients. There was also a national Water Cure Journal with a circulation of about 100,000 by the 1860s. Such well-known figures as Clara Barton, Horace Greeley, Robert Dale Owen, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, Mrs. Samuel Clemens, Catherine Beecher, and Harriet Beecher Stowe sought treatment at the Cures. Reformers, clergy, and intellectuals found the caring communities of the Cures to be "oases from life's battles."<sup>2</sup> Life-long friendships formed.

With all this great interest and success, why then did the Water Cure movement fade in the early 1900s? This happened primarily because Pasteur's germ theory of disease (1862) gradually brought important improvements in conventional medicine. Also, the development of in-home plumbing systems made water cure methods easy at home. The Dansville Cure existed for almost 100 years, the last years in a less rigid health-resort form, but like the other Water Cures, left a valuable legacy. For it was from methods learned and contact made there that interest was stirred in the temperance and women's rights movements, in vegetarianism, dress reform, personal hygiene, and physical exercise programs, some of which actually contributed to the Cure's demise.

Why did Liz go to the Dansville Water Cure? We do not know her specific health problems, but oblique references in many letters suggest nose disfigurement and psychological concerns. (See especially letters dated May 4, 1858; December 6, 1860; July 5, 1862; April 1, 1863; July 7, 1863; October 17, 1863; December 31, 1865; September 3, 1866; October 17, 1866; and October 13, 1867.) From the letters, we surmise that she left home for the Cure in July 1866 and returned home in October 1867.

<sup>1</sup> Susan E. Cayleff, *Wash and Be Healed* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1987), p. 94.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 108.

See also Donegan, Jane B., [Hydropathic Highway to Health](#) (New York: Greenwood Press, n.d.)



## GLOSSARY OF NAMES

**Alexander, Herber.** Susan Lawson Martin's "nephew," son of Thomas Alexander. *see Alexander, Thomas.*

**Alexander, John (Uncle).** Thomas Alexander's brother.

**Alexander, Thomas.** Susan Lawson Martin's "brother". In the terminology of the time, this may also refer to a more distant relationship--half brother, step-brother, or brother-in-law, "Uncle Alexander" to Samuel Martin's family. Father of Heber, Rose, Belle (Taylor), and perhaps Joe and William.

**Ballantine, Anna T.** Daughter of Indiana University Professor of Languages Elisha Ballantine and sister of Mary O. Ballantine.

**Ballantine, Elisha.** Born 11 October 1809 at Schodack Landing on-the-Hudson, New York. Graduated Ohio University at Athens, studied at Union Theological Seminary, Virginia, and subsequently taught languages at both schools. Presbyterian minister in Virginia and Washington DC 1840-52. Professor at Indiana University 1854-63, becoming Chair of Languages. Secretary of American Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church 1863-66. Professor of Hebrew at Lane Theological Seminary, Cincinnati, 1866. Returned Indiana University as professor Emeritus of Greek in 1867 until he resigned in 1878. Ballantine several times refused honorary DD degrees as "inconsistent with his Christian precept," but accepted a literary LLD from Indiana University in 1878. Served as Acting President from November 1884 to January 1885, between the administrations of Moss and Jordan, and thereafter as Vice president and Professor of Greek until his death at his home in Bloomington in the spring of 1886.

"Professor Ballantine was highly esteemed by all who knew him, as a scholar and as a Christian. He had taken the man Christ Jesus as his model, and came perhaps as near to that faultless character as but few of the human family have attained. Professor Ballantine was a sincere man; there was no dissembling about him. He was no flatterer; his words were the true representative of his thoughts. He was benevolent--kind to all whom he was brought in contact. He was in constant demand when the desponding needed comfort, and when the dying needed a spiritual adviser. His services of this kind were freely rendered, and often sought by Christians of every name. He was highly esteemed by all classes--Protestant and Roman Catholic, Jew and Gentile. As a preacher, Professor Ballantine was plain and practical, often eloquent, never ostentatious."

"As a literary man and scholar, Professor Ballantine stood in the first rank. He was thorough in his scholarship. In addition to his knowledge of the Greek and Latin, he was an excellent Hebrew scholar, and has also considerable knowledge of other Semitic dialects, and of modern languages he spoke and read the German language, and was an excellent French scholar." As scholar and clergyman, his "life was spent in the service of the church and the cause of education." (*Theophilus A. Wylie, Indiana University, Its History from 1820, When Founded, to 1890, page 120.*)

Two of Andrew Wylie's granddaughters--Mary Ballantine McCalla and Flora Ballantine

Martin--were named in honor of this family.

**Ballantine, Henry “Hal”** Son of Elisha Ballantine, Indiana University graduate in 1856, minister and missionary to India, friend of Sam Dodds, and correspondent of Jane Wylie.

**Ballantine, Mary O.** Daughter of Elisha and a good friend of Jane Wylie.

**Banks, Nathaniel Prentiss.** 1816-1894. Born in Waltham, Massachusetts. Politician and Civil War general. Served as Speaker of Massachusetts House of Representatives and as Governor of the same state. Member of US Congress as a Democrat, then a Know-Nothing, then a Republican. Impartial and able speaker of US House of Representatives. Defeated by Stonewall Jackson at the second battle of Bull Run and in the Shenandoah. Returned to Congress after the Civil War.

**Beecher, Dr. Henry Ward.** 1813-1887. Liberal Congregational minister whose oratorical skills & social concern made him one of the most influential Protestant spokesmen of his day. First pastored a small Presbyterian congregation in Lawrenceburg, Indiana (1837), then in Indianapolis (1839-1847), then in New York. Leader in the antislavery movement, proponent of women’s suffrage, convert to the theory of evolution. Brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Catherine Beecher.

**Bell, Frances “Fanny”.** Youngest child of Joseph and Irene Wylie Bell.

**Bell, Irene Catherine Wylie.** Born 1829 in Bloomington, Indiana, the ninth child of Andrew and Margaret Wylie. Married Joseph Bell 17 May 1849 in a double wedding with her sister Maggie. Mother of five, two of whom died during visits to Bloomington and are buried in Rose Hill Cemetery. Irene

**Bickle, William.** Maternal uncle of Irene Wylie, the daughter of John and Lizzie Leeds Wylie.

**Boisen, Herman Balthasar.** Born 11 December 1846 in Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany; educated at the University of Wurzburg. Boisen came to America in 1869. Professor of Modern Languages at Indiana University 1870-74 and 1876-80. Wed Theophilus Wylie’s daughter Louisa in July, 1873, with whom he had two children. A talented scholar and kind and energetic educator, Boisen went on to teach at Williams College, Massachusetts, Martha’s Vineyard Summer Institute, and Lawrenceville School in New Jersey, and authored two course books in German. He died in Lawrenceville after a sudden illness of the heart 21 January 1884.

**Breckenridge, Elizabeth “Lizzie”.** Born 1843 in Bedford, Indiana. Afro-American woman who served the Theophilus Wylie family for over 50 years. Daughter of a former slave, she went to work for the Wylie’s at the age of thirteen, living as one of the family. Professor T.A. Wylie took great pride in teaching her to read and write, which she learned very well. She was particularly interested in good literature and astronomy. (Professor Wylie had a telescope and shared this interest.) Breckenridge’s nephew Willis Tyler graduated from Indiana University in 1902 and went on to study law at Harvard. On the occasion of the celebration of Rebecca (Mrs. Theophilus) Wylie’s hundredth birthday in 1912, Lizzie served the dinner. *See letter 6-14-1862.*

**Bryan, Daniel and Mary.** Parents of Caroline Bryan Wylie, father- and mother-in-law of Andrew Wylie, Jr.

**Bryan, Thomas Barbour.** Cincinnati attorney and brother of Caroline Bryan Wylie.

**Cambern, Emily Martin.** Daughter of Susan and William “Billy” Martin, and sister-in-law of Margaret Wylie Martin.

**Campbell, Matthew Monroe “Pap”.** Born 12 November 1810 near Cumberland Gap, Tennessee. Came to Bloomington to study in 1829, drawn by the fine reputation of Andrew Wylie. “In 1836 he graduated with honor and with high reputation for a devout and consistent piety. Soon after graduating, he married Miss Martha McPheeters, and in 1837 he took a school in Mississippi at a salary of \$1,200 a year. In 1840 he was called to take charge of the preparatory department of Indiana University, and though the salary was but \$500, he, through his attachment to Dr. Wylie, whom he regarded as his personal friend, accepted the offer and hastened to return. Instead of finding a full faculty and only the usual amount of work, he found but two professors--death and a college cyclone had swept off all the others--and thus the work of six men devolved upon himself and the other two. On the ground of his assisting so frequently in teaching the regular college classes, he was made adjunct Professor of Languages. In 1853, his health failing, he retired to his farm.” From 1861 until the end of the Civil War, Campbell was chaplain for the Eighty-second Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, and then served briefly as Superintendent of Public Schools in Monroe County, Indiana before retiring. In later years, he wrote and campaigned extensively for the reform of our system of spelling. (*Theophilus A. Wylie, Indiana University, Its History from 1820, When Founded to 1890, pages 110-11.*)

**Conklin, Mr. and Mrs. N. H.** Parents of Margaret Conklin Wylie, father- and mother-in-law of Anderson Wylie.

**Cutter, Rev. Dr. B.C.** Episcopal minister who married Anderson Wylie and Margaret Conklin in 1860. Anderson served for a time as assistant minister under Dr. Cutter at St. Anne’s Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, New York.

**Daily, William M.** Born 1812 in Coshocton, Ohio. Grew up in Franklin County, Indiana, where he “took charge” of a school at age 15. Famed as a “boy preacher” of the Methodist Episcopal Church at age 16. Continued his education while preaching, culminating in graduation from Indiana University in 1836. Held positions with the ME Church in St. Louis, Missouri; Madison, Rising Sun, and Evansville, Indiana; and Asbury University (now DePauw). Wed Permelia A. Northcraft of Madison. Third president of Indiana University 1853-59. The College building burned during his term. Dr. Daily was regarded as brilliant, rather flashy and fond of society and politics, a fine-looking man and popular platform speaker.

**Davis, Jefferson.** 1809-1889. President of Southern Confederacy. Grew up in Kentucky and Mississippi. Educated at Transylvania University and West Point, where he graduated in 1828. Served in the Old Northwest Territory, Black Hawk War, and Mexican War, in addition to the

Civil War. Was a U.S. Senator from Mississippi who argued against secession from the Union. Inaugurated President of the Confederate States, February 1862. Imprisoned for two years after the South surrendered in 1865. Released May 1867 with no further prosecution.

**Dennis, Elizabeth S., “Lizzie.”** Youngest sister of Rebecca Dennis Wylie (Mrs. Theophilus A. Wylie). Lived with her sister’s family for several years in the early 1850s, during which time she formed a friendship with Jane M. Wylie. Settled in Bloomington permanently about 1880; ran a boarding house with another sister, Susan Emma Dennis; died in Bloomington in 1908.

**Dodds, Dr. James Findley.** Born 1807 in Lincoln County, Kentucky. 1834 graduate of Indiana University, studied medicine at Louisville Medical College and with Dr. Mitchell of Corydon, Indiana. Married Mary Ann Wylie, 12 December 1838. Practiced medicine in Bloomington. The Topoligus Building at 403 North Walnut Street was the Dodds home in Bloomington. Dr. Dodds died there 14 December 1886.

**Dodds, James Kemper.** Fourth child of James and Mary Ann Wylie Dodds. Left home as a young man and was not heard from again.

**Dodds, Lilian Madora “Lillie”.** Seventh child of James and Mary Ann Wylie Dodds; died young.

**Dodds, Mary Ann Wylie.** Born 15 September 1817 in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, third child of Andrew and Margaret Wylie. Married Dr. James Findley Dodds, 12 December 1838. Mother of nine. She and her husband died within two days of each other and are buried in the same grave.

**Dodds, Mary Elizabeth “Lib”.** Third child of James and Mary Ann Wylie Dodds. Married Dr. Quick of Edinburg, Indiana.

**Dodds, Samuel Wylie “Sam”.** Born 22 May 1841, second child of James and Mary Ann Wylie Dodd. Died 7 November 1861, of disease in the Civil War. *See Appendix.*

**Goodwin, Willis, Beverly.** Native of Utica, Indiana. Freshman at Indiana University in 1861, and boarder at the home of Theophilus Wylie.

**Harris, John.** Son of Charles Harris, Professor of German, and Mary B. McCalla Harris, daughter of Elizabeth Wylie McCalla. John Harris collected and donated to Indiana University Archives the family letters which now comprise *Affectionately Yours*, volumes one and two.

**Howe, Mrs. James.** Wife of Bloomington merchant James Howe. The Howes owned the piano which was displayed for many years in the parlor of Wylie House, and which now belongs to the Monroe County Historical Museum.

**Irwin, Rachel Emma Dodds.** Eldest child of James F. and Mary Ann Wylie Dodds, born 9 January 1840. Married William W. Irwin.

**Lathrop, John Hiram.** Fourth President of Indiana University, 1859-1860. Lathrop was born in Sherburne, New York, 22 January 1799. Salutatorian of his graduation class at Yale in 1819. Taught in various colleges in the East. Elected first President of the University of Missouri at Columbia in 1840. Chancellor of University of Wisconsin 1849-1859. Accepted the twice-offered Presidency of Indiana University in 1859, but after only one year he returned to the University of Missouri as a Professor, and later was reelected President there. Lathrop died in 1866 of typhoid fever.

**Lathrop, Mariana Bryan.** Wife of Jedidiah Hyde Lathrop, daughter of Daniel and Mary Bryan, sister-in-law of Andrew Wylie, Jr.

**Leake, Rev. Samuel S.** Of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. Married Catherine Ritchie, sister of Margaret Ritchie Wylie.

**Leeds, Noah S.** Of Richmond, Indiana. Brother of John H. Wylie's wife Lizzie Leeds Wylie.

**Letherman, Anne Ritchie "Aunt Ann."** 1798-1870. Sister of Margaret Ritchie Wylie. Married Dr. Jonathan Letherman, physician of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. An ardent secessionist in 1863, as was her son Will. Son Jack was an officer in the Union Army.

**Letherman, (Letterman), Jonathan "Jack".** Son of Jonathan Letherman, a physician of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania and Anne Ritchie Letherman, a sister of Margaret Ritchie Wylie. Doctor of Medicine and an officer in the Union forces during the Civil War at Antietam and other battles. Petitioned Congress for formation of the first Army Ambulance Corps, which was refused at first but finally granted in 1864. He turned to private mining business in California after the war.

**Letherman, Will.** Brother of Jack Letherman, and cousin to the Wylie children.

**Liz, our darkie.** *See Breckenridge, Elizabeth.*

**Martin, Claudius B. H. "Claude".** Brother of Samuel Martin. Attended Indiana University as a freshman in 1846. Became a Presbyterian clergyman prominent in the Midwest. Lived in Bedford, Indiana for a time. Married first to Mattie, and, after her death, to Charlotte. Of him, sister-in-law Maggie Wylie writes "dear bro. Claude was here the first of last month. I felt during the time as though we had almost received a visit from an Angel. He reminds me of a piece I read lately. "The Man, the woman, and the child", having the estimable qualities of each blended in one beautiful character." *See letter 1 March 1866.*

**Martin, Emma.** Born in China, fourth child of Samuel and Maggie Wylie Martin.

**Martin, Flora Ballantine.** Born 31 May 1863 in Texas, the seventh child of Samuel and Margaret Wylie Martin. Died 1868. Of her, mother Maggie Wylie wrote "Flora ...was all that any Parent could ask. How like a flower was she broken off from the Parent stem, to be transplanted above." *See letter 5 October 1868.*

**Martin, Jane Vansant.** Married William A.P. Martin in 1849 and went with him to the missionary field in China. Mother of five. *See Martin, William A.P.*

**Martin, Margaret “Maggie” Wylie.** Born 1826 in Washington, Pennsylvania, the eighth child of Andrew and Margaret Ritchie Wylie. Married Rev. Samuel Martin, 17 May 1849 in a double wedding with her sister Irene and Joseph Bell. Accompanied her husband as a missionary to Ningpo, China 1850-1858. Samuel and Maggie continued to serve the church after their return, in Lancaster, Texas; Carlisle, Indiana; Grandview, Illinois; Winnebago Indian Agency, Nebraska; South Mound and Oswego, Kansas; Sullivan, Indiana; and Mt. Vernon, Missouri. Everywhere they worked for very low pay and with few material comforts. Maggie was mother of seven, four of whom were born in China. Maggie died of paralytic stroke in 1899 in Seligman, and is buried there. Her son Claudius lived in nearby Joplin, Missouri.

**Martin, Mattie.** Claude Martin’s first wife.

**Martin, Nevins.** Born in Texas ca. 1859, the fifth child of Samuel and Margaret Wylie Martin. On 7 February 1872, mother Maggie writes: “As for myself I am by no means robust and am not sure but that I am in the same condition as I was when after six weeks in Texas, after traveling 1000 miles from Ind[iana], Nevins was born.

**Martin, Pascal.** Youngest son of William and Jane Vansant Martin.

**Martin, Samuel Newell Depeu.** Born 11 January 1825 at Livonia, Indiana, son of Presbyterian preacher Billy Martin and Susan Lawson Martin. AB from Indiana University in 1846, and AM from McCormick Presbyterian Theological Seminary in New Albany, Indiana. Samuel became a Presbyterian minister, as did his two brothers William and Claude.

Both William and Samuel aspired to enter the mission field, and both, it is said, loved daughters of Andrew Wylie. Dr. Wylie disapproved of missionaries marrying and taking their families into the field. On 25 November 1848, he wrote to his son John in Richmond, Indiana: “There are cases where a man may and ought to sacrifice his happiness in this world for the cause of Truth and Right, in other words for the benefit of the Race. This however requires the spirit of the martyr. The two Martins [William and Samuel] have compelled me to think of this matter. Had they and their intendeds the true spirit of martyrdom I dare not say a word against their project of going to China as missionaries. But I doubt and yet I do not like to interpose my veto, & know not whether it would avail if I should. Were I unmarried & thought it my duty to go a missionary to a heathen land I am sure I should never think of taking a wife with me as our missionaries do.” William married Jane Vansant instead and went to China. Samuel married Margaret Wylie, 17 May 1849 in spite of her father’s misgivings, and the couple departed soon after, also for China. (Samuel’s sister Martha and her husband Henry Venable were missionaries there, as well.)

Samuel and Maggie worked in Ningpo, China from 1850-1858. Upon their return, Samuel was offered a post working with the Chinese in the San Francisco area, but he declined, preferring instead to work among American Indians and new mission congregations in the West. As a result, he and Maggie served, sometimes under appalling conditions, in Lancaster, Texas; Carlisle, Indiana; Grandview, Illinois; Winnebago Indian Agency, Nebraska; South Mound and

Oswego, Kansas; Sullivan, Indiana; and Mt. Vernon, Missouri. They had seven children, four of whom were born in China. Everywhere they worked for very low pay and with few material comforts. Samuel, it seems, did indeed have a spirit of martyrdom, but his wife was eventually worn down by a life of privation. Samuel is buried in Golden Dale, Washington, where his daughter Mary lived, south of the present Yakima Indian Reservation. Further information about the Martin family is available in the Indian University Archives and at the museum in Salem, Indiana.

**Martin, Susan Lawson.** Beloved mother-in-law of Margaret Wylie Martin. Wife of Rev. “Billy” Wilson Martin, and mother of ten.

**Martin, Susan Louisa “Susie, Suzy”.** Born in China in 1851, the second child of Samuel and Margaret Wylie.

**Martin, William Alexander Parsons.** Born 10 April 1827 in Livonia, Indiana, son of Presbyterian preacher Billy Martin and Susan Lawson Martin, and brother of Samuel Martin. Graduated from Indiana University in 1846 and entered the McCormick Presbyterian Theological Seminary in new Albany, Indiana. Married Jane Vansant in 1849, and entered the mission field in China, as did his older brother Samuel and their sister Martha with her husband Henry Venable. William and Jane returned to the US in 1860 for William’s health and to put their sons in boarding school, but William returned in 1862 to Peking. There, at the close of the Opium War, he met US Minister Reid whom he helped with translations and other information for our government and the Chinese Emperor, including a translation of Wheaton’s International Law, which became the basis of diplomatic practice in China and Japan. He also wrote a number of other books, copies of which are at the Lilly Library at Indiana University. Martin was appointed President of the Interpreter’s College in Peking in 1869. Having much work to do for the Emperor, William resigned his missionary post. The Martins retreated to the US in 1900 when the Boxer Rebellion forced most foreigners out of China, but they returned a few years later, as William felt he was “too young to quit the field” at age 78. He held several different posts there in subsequent years, and died in Peking in 1916 at age 89. He is buried in Peking. John W. Foster, himself a man of distinction, called William Martin “the greatest alumnus of Indiana University.” (*More information about the Martin family is available in the Indiana University Archives and in the museum in Salem, Indiana. See also the Indianapolis Star Sunday Magazine, 9 November 1975, pp. 24, 26.*)

**Martin, William Boone.** First child of Samuel and Maggie Wylie Martin. Born 29 April 1850, on a ship bound for Ningpo, China. “We had only been out two days and were just entering the channel of Formosa when an event occurred which we did not expect for two months later. About 4 Oclock, on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April, we became parents of a son.” --Samuel Martin. “By the good providence of God there was a physician on his way up to this city. Of his professional services I can never feel too grateful... As soon as the missionaries heard of our arrival they made haste to see us. Among the number was Bishop Boone at whose house we are now... They have been exceedingly kind to us. Mr and Mrs B have made me feel perfectly at home. Out of gratitude for their kindness I intend calling him William Boone Martin.” --Maggie Martin. Little Willie died in his father’s arms 12 September 1851. *See 23 May 1850, 21 November 1851 in Vol. I of*

*Affectionately Yours.*

**Martin, William Wilson “Billy”.** 1781-1850. Born in Pennsylvania. Married to Susan Lawson Duprey. Sent to Indiana in 1818 by the Presbyterian Mission Board of Philadelphia as a “horseback pastor” to the area of Livonia, Indiana. Sons Samuel, William and Claude all attended Indiana University and became Presbyterian ministers, and the five Martin daughters all married ministers. Billy Martin founded churches in Livonia and Salem, Indiana, and a school in Livonia. “There can hardly be a Presbyterian Church in a dozen counties around Washington [Indiana] at which he did not preach some time or other, and if a neighborhood desired to organize a new church Billy Martin was always sent for and he seldom failed his purpose. He delighted to preach in log cabins and was not a stickler for church rules in every instance. He usually preached three discourses on Sunday and on communion days began the work with a sunrise prayer meeting.” (*The Centennial History of Washington County, pp. 355-6*)

**McCalla, Elizabeth Wylie.** Born 1821 in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, fifth child of Andrew and Margaret Ritchie Wylie. Married John McCalla, 17 June 1856, and had one child, Mary Ballantine McCalla. In the 1860s, Elizabeth suffered a period of severe health problems which led her to seek treatment of a plastic surgeon in New York and at a water cure in Dansville, New York. She lived until 1900.

**McCalla, John.** 1818-1899. Obituary in the Bloomington Telephone, 24 March 1899, states: “John McCalla was born in Chester, S.C. and was the son of Samuel and Jennett McCalla. After the death of his mother in 1833 he emigrated with his father to Indiana and settled near Bloomington, later engaging in business in Bloomington. He formed a partnership with his brother Thomas, and under the firm name of McCalla Bros., conducted a general store from 1844 to 1852. In 1852 he assumed entire charge of the business and moved in the Wylie block where he conducted the dry goods store that bore his name until the summer of 1888, when he sold to Adams Bros. And retired a private life. With the exception of about 3 years, a portion of this time being spent in Chicago, his entire business career had been spent in Bloomington. In the fall of 1856 he was wedded to Miss Elizabeth Wylie, daughter of late Andrew Wylie, the first president of Indiana University. The result of this union was one child -- a daughter, Mary, the wife of Prof. Charles Harris, of Adelbert College, Cleveland, O., and whose home he passed the last few years of his life. On Tuesday last he sustained a stroke of paralysis, and it was due to this and his extreme age that caused his death. His only sister, Mrs. Jane Paden, resides at Salem, Ark. Mrs. R. C. Foster, Henry A., Samuel and Margaret McCalla, of this city, are his half brother and sisters. He is also a brother-in-law of Redick M. Wylie, south of the city. Mr. McCalla was a man of the highest integrity, of strong business capacity and his death will be mourned by all our older citizens who held him in the highest esteem. The remains will arrive on the early train in the morning from Cleveland and will be taken to the residence of Miss Kate Hight, east Kirkwood avenue, from which place the funeral will occur at 10 o’clock. Services in charge of Rev. M. G. Allison, of the Walnut Street Presbyterian church. Interment at Rose Hill.”

**McCalla, Mary “Molly” Ballantine.** Born 1857, daughter and only child of John McCalla and Elizabeth Wylie McCalla. Married Charles Harris, Professor of German. Their son John Harris collected and donated to Indiana University Archives many of the letters, which are now

transcribed in Affectionately Yours, volumes one and two.

**McFerson (McPherson), Eliza J.** Sister of Indiana University Professor of Languages Daniel Read. Married Rev. McFerson, Presbyterian minister of Salem, Indiana. In 1846, when widowed with three small children, Mrs. McFerson came to Bloomington to fill the position of Principal of the Monroe County Female Seminary, an excellent school previously directed by Cornelius Pering. In 1857, she became principal of the Glendale Female College in Glendale, Ohio, near Cincinnati. Jane Wylie, Andrew's youngest daughter and two daughters of Theophilus Wylie, Louisa and Margaret, attended Glendale while Mrs. McFerson was serving as administrator there.

**McKee, Andrew Wylie "Cousin Andy."** 1830 - 1879. Son of Redick and Eliza Ritchie McKee and cousin to the Wylie children. Married to Hattie.

**McKee, David.** Son of Eliza and Redick McKee, cousin to the Wylie children.

**McKee, Eliza Ritchie.** 1802 - 1871. Younger sister of Margaret Ritchie Wylie. "Aunt Eliza" to the Wylie children. Married Redick McKee of Wheeling, Virginia. Mother of Andrew, John, David, Sarah, and Will.

**McKee, Hattie.** Wife of Andrew McKee. Died 4 November 1871

**McKee, John.** Son of Eliza and Redick McKee, cousin to the Wylie children.

**McKee, Redick.** Married Margaret Ritchie Wylie's sister Eliza. "Uncle McKee" to the Wylie children. Andrew and Margaret Wylie named their tenth child Redick McKee Wylie. The McKees lived in San Francisco in the 1850s and later, where John H. Wylie visited them in 1854 while traveling for his health. McKee made & lost several fortunes in CA.

**McLeod, Dr. John.** Presbyterian minister. Married to Theophilus Wylie's sister Margaret. Son of Dr. John McLeod, a leader (with Samuel Brown Wylie, 1773-1852) of the early Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

**Mellette, Arthur Calvin.** Born 23 June 1842 in Henry County, Indiana. Indiana University graduate BA 1864 and LLB 1866. Boarder at the Theophilus Wylie home in early 1860s. Married Professor Wylie's daughter Maggie. Governor of the Territory of Dakota, and first Governor of South Dakota, which became a state in 1889. Died 25 May 1896, in Pittsburg, Kansas. His home in Watertown, S.D., Mellette House, is now a museum.

**Morgan, John Hunt.** 1825 -1864. Confederate General. Born in Huntsville, Alabama. Lived in Kentucky and there joined the Confederate as a cavalry scout in 1862. Famous for leading his company of Morgan's Raiders in daring and skillful raids at Hartsville, Tennessee in December 1862 and in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio in the summer of 1863. Captured in July 1863, escaped in November. In April 1864, was given command in southwest Virginia. Killed at Greenville, Tennessee in September 1864

**Morrison, Sarah Parke.** Called “Parke” rather than “Sarah.” Daughter of Judge John I. Morrison. Educated at Salem Female Institute, Indianapolis Commercial College, Mt. Holyoke Seminary, Massachusetts, and Indiana University. First female graduate of Indiana University (1869). Taught at Vassar College, State Normal in Terre Haute, Indiana, and as Adjunct Professor of English Literature at Indiana University.

**Morton, Anna Martin.** Sister of Samuel Martin.

**Norris, Mary Martin.** Born in China, third child of Samuel and Maggie Wylie Martin. Married Mr. Norris and lived near Goldendale, Washington. Mother of five. Susan Martin wrote “My sister Mary is I think the poorest of all the kin, and I know that by far she is the happiest.” --*16 April 1882*

**Poindexter, William A.** Native of Stamping Ground, Kentucky. Sophomore at Indiana University in 1863, and boarder at the home of Theophilus A. Wylie.

**Pope, John.** 1822 - 1892. Union General in the Civil War. Born at Louisville, Kentucky. Graduate of West Point 1842. Served in the Mexican War 1846-1848, and was commander of the Army of the Mississippi and later the Army of Virginia (June 1862) in the Civil War. Removed from command after being badly defeated in the second battle of Bull Run, which he attributed to disobedience of Fitz-John Porter. After the Civil War he campaigned against the Sioux Indians and commanded the Department of Missouri 1870 - 1883.

**Ritchie, Charlotte Weigand.** Wife of Craig Dorsey Ritchie.

**Ritchie, Craig Dorsey.** 1830 - 1910. Son of William and Susan Summeral Dorsey Ritchie, grandson of Craig Ritchie born 1758. Became a lawyer and respected Congressman in Illinois.

**Ritchie, David.** 1812-1867. Thirteenth child of Craig and Mary Ritchie. Brother of Margaret Ritchie Wylie. Studied in Heidelberg. Attorney, Congressman.

**Ritchie, Jane “Jean.”** Aunt Jane to the Wylie family. Sister of Margaret Ritchie Wylie. Unmarried and often unwell.

**Springer, William M.** Born 30 May 1836, in Sullivan County, Indiana. AB and AM degrees from Indiana University 1858. Became a lawyer and respected Congressman in Illinois.

**Stowe, Harriet Beecher.** 1811 - 1896. American humanitarian, teacher, and author of Uncle Tom’s Cabin (1852). Born in Litchfield, Connecticut, daughter of Calvinist preacher Lyman Beecher (1775-1863), and sister of Henry Ward Beecher and Catherine Beecher. Moved to Cincinnati when her father became head of Lane Theological Seminary there. Married Calvin Ellis Stowe, Professor of Sacred Literature at Lane. Strongly supported reform movements of antislavery (not abolitionist), temperance, and woman’s suffrage. Wrote novels, religious poems and articles, and housekeeping manuals totaling sixteen volumes expressing the predominant values of the middle class. Mother of six.

**Thompson, Anna Louisa Dodds.** Fifth child of James F. and Mary Ann Wylie Dodds. Married Julius Thompson.

**Trudy.** Mary Gertrude Hobler. Born 1875, illegitimate daughter of one of Dr. James F. Dodds' brothers. Trudy grew up in the James and Mary Dodds household.

**Venable, Henry.** A Presbyterian minister, married Samuel Martin's sister Martha and went with her to the mission field in China in the 1850s, where they joined Samuel and William Martin and their families.

**Venable, Martha Martin.** Sister of Samuel Martin. With her husband Henry Venable, a missionary to China in the 1850s, where they joined Samuel and William Martin and their families.

**Woodburn, James Albert.** Born in Bloomington, Indiana, 30 November 1856. AM degree from Indiana University 1885. Teacher in the Preparatory Department of Indiana University, Secretary of the Indiana University Alumni Association.

**Wright, Joseph A.** Born 17 April 1810, in Washington, Pennsylvania. Entered Indiana College with its first class of ten men in 1825. Studied two years and was admitted to the bar. Served in the state legislature and US Congress. Elected Governor of Indiana at age 39, serving from 1849-1857. New Indiana constitution adopted and State Board of Agriculture formed during his term. Later US minister to Prussia. Died in Berlin, Germany, and buried in Brooklyn, New York.

**Wylie, Anderson McElroy.** Born 12 December 1833, in Bloomington, Indiana, eleventh child of Andrew and Margaret Ritchie Wylie. 1852 graduate of Indiana University. Taught for three years in Philadelphia, then attended Episcopal Seminary in Virginia. Thereafter a preacher, first in the Episcopal Church and later in the Presbyterian, with pulpits in LeRoy, New York; Fall River, Massachusetts; and Brooklyn, New York. Married Margaret Conklin in 1860, with whom he had four children. Died 1892 in Brooklyn.

**Wylie, Andrew.** Fourth child of Anderson and Margaret Conklin Wylie

**Wylie, Andrew, Jr. "Andy".** Born 18 February 1814, in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, the eldest child of Andrew and Margaret Ritchie Wylie. Attended Jefferson College, Canonsburg. Graduated from Indiana University in 1832, BA and MA. Studied law at Transylvania University, Kentucky, then read and practiced law in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania with noted attorney William Forward. Admitted to the bar in 1838. Married Mary Caroline Bryan in 1845. In 1848, moved to Alexandria, Virginia, then Washington DC, where he pursued a long and distinguished career in jurisprudence. Appointed Associate Justice of the D.C. Supreme Court by President Lincoln in 1863, which office he held until retirement in 1884.

An article by F.L. Bullard in The American Bar Association Journal of February 1938 gives further insight into the character and reputation of Andre Wylie Jr. Apparently he received his Supreme Court Justice nomination from President Lincoln through the influence of Secretary

Stanton and Senator Lane of Indiana. He soon showed his mettle for the position. “The courage and independence of Justice Wylie were impressively exemplified in 1865. The military court established for the purpose had completed the trial of the conspirators charged with the slaying of President Lincoln and four of them had been condemned to death. In a final desperate attempt to save the life of Mrs. Surratt, her attorneys applied to the Supreme Court of the District for a habeas corpus writ. Long before dawn they came to the home of Justice Wylie. They pleaded that the illegality of the trial and sentence of Mrs. Surratt by a military commission, and consequent illegality of her detention by the military authorities for execution, constituted sufficient ground for such action. Justice Wylie listened with grave attention to their arguments, retired to consult his wife, and returned to say that he might himself be lodged in jail for what he was about to do. In disregard of the hysterical state of the public mind, and in pursuance of what he conceived to be his duty, he issued the writ.

The next morning, while a large company of spectators waited in the yard of the Capital Prison, an army officer accompanied by the US Attorney General, came to the home of Justice Wylie and informed him of their refusal to obey the writ on the ground of its suspension by the President [Johnson], and execution proceeded.”

Two years later this court conducted the trial of John H. Surratt, Mrs. Mary Surratt’s son, also charged as a conspirator but who had escaped to Europe and was later arrested in Egypt. The trial resulted in a hung jury and the defendant was set free.

In 1881, Andrew Wylie Jr. presided over the lengthy and multiple Star Route trials concerning corruption in planning and administering mail routes. The second Assistant US Postmaster, several senators, and other officials came under public scrutiny as to their integrity. There were no convictions, however.

A professional peculiarity of Judge Wylie was that he seldom wrote out an opinion. “I am always kept busily employed, so that even if I wished to write out my decisions I have not time to do it,” he stated. He had the reputation of being a most impartial and able judiciary, and “clearly a scholar--extremely intelligent and hard-working,” notes descendant Peter Lawrence.

Andrew Wylie, Jr. outlived all of his family generation. His papers and publications are in the Library of Congress and Harvard Law School Archives.

**Wylie, Andrew, Sr.** Born 12 April 1789, in Washington County, Pennsylvania, to Adam Wylie, native of County Antrim, Ireland, and Elizabeth VanEman, native of Washington County. 1810 graduate of Jefferson College in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. Unanimously elected President of that college two years later. Married Margaret Ritchie in 1813, with whom he had twelve children. President of neighboring Washington College (1817-1828). First President of Indiana University 1829-1851. Also instructed the seniors in literature, philosophy and ethics, and political economy. 1840 graduate Matthew Elder remember him thus: “Mr Wylie was stout, had a fine healthful appearance, slightly tinged, however, with sadness which only disappeared entirely when in a mirthful mood he became a boy again. He was very intellectual...thoroughly conversant with all the metaphysical theories that had agitated the world, was one of the finest Belles Lettres scholars, read Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French and German as fluently as he did his native language, and he was one of the best readers of English I ever heard. ...I became very familiar with Dr Wylie and learned that instead of being distant and stern he was remarkably social and as tender hearted as a child.” Wylie died 11 November 1851, of pneumonia at his home in Bloomington.

**Wylie, Andrew III.** First son of Andrew Wylie Jr. and Mary Caroline Bryan Wylie. Died in April, 1859 at a young age after a three-months' illness.

**Wylie, Caroline "Carry."** Born late April 1867, third child of Anderson and Margaret Conklin Wylie.

**Wylie, Elizabeth "Liz".** *See McCalla, Elizabeth*

**Wylie, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Leeds.** Native of Richmond, Indiana. A Quaker. Married John H. Wylie, 28 May 1851. One daughter, Irene E., borne 24 April 1853. In December 1853, after a protracted period of declining health due to consumption (tuberculosis), John Wylie left home for extended travels in the West in search of an environment in which he might recover. He never saw his wife and baby daughter again, but died on the island of Kauai on 10 March 1855. Lizzie herself had also contracted tuberculosis and died one year later in March 1856. Their orphaned daughter Irene was raised by Lizzie's relatives, the Leeds family.

**Wylie, Elizabeth Louisa "Lou."** 1839-1930. Eldest child of Theophilus A. and Rebecca Dennis Wylie. Second cousin to Andrew and Margaret Wylie's children. Graduate of Glendale Female College in Ohio, and Indiana University (1871). Taught at Glendale College, University of Missouri, and Bloomington public schools. Married Indiana University professor Hermann Balthasar Boisen in 1873. She returned to her parents' home in Wylie House in 1884 following the death of her husband, where she raised their two children, Anton and Marie. Lou was the last Wylie to reside in Wylie House.

**Wylie, Henry.** Eldest child of Anderson and Margaret Conklin Wylie.

**Wylie, Horace.** Born 16 September 1868, third of four children of Andrew Wylie, Jr. and Mary Caroline Bryan Wylie, and the only one to survive to adulthood. Grew up in Washington DC, attended Yale and Harvard Law School. An avid lover of literature. Wed Katherine Hopkins (1872-1941), with whom he had six children. Active social life in Washington DC. Horace later traveled in England with famed American poet and novelist Elinor Hoyt Hichborn, whom he married and divorced. She continued to write under the name Elinor Wylie. Horace died in 1960.

**Wylie, Irene E. "Pet."** Born 24 April 1853, daughter of John H. and Lizzie Leeds Wylie. Orphaned at a tender age, she was raised by the Leeds family. Died 6 February 1909, and is buried in Earlham Cemetery, Wayne County, Indiana.

**Wylie, Jane Melheme "Jen, Jenny, Dolly."** Born August 1838, in Bloomington, Indiana, the twelfth and youngest child of Andrew and Margaret Ritchie Wylie. Attended the Monroe County Female Seminary and Glendale Female Academy and became an accomplished pianist. Left Bloomington in 1860 for lengthy visits in Philadelphia, Wheeling and New York state after her mother's death and the sale of the family home. Returned to Bloomington, where she stayed with brother Redick. Suffered from diabetes, but cause of death was termed "congestive failure." Died October 1865, in Bloomington.

**Wylie, John.** A distant relative of the Andrew Wylie branch of the family. Saved John McCalla from the fire that destroyed the McCalla store.

**Wylie, John Hosea.** Born 14 February 1823, in Washington, Pennsylvania, sixth child of Andrew and Margaret Ritchie Wylie. Graduate of Indiana University in 1841, M.D. from University of Louisville in 1845. Established a medical practice in Richmond, Indiana. Married Lizzie Leeds, a Richmond Quakeress, on 28 May 1851; they had one child, Irene. After a protracted period of declining health due to consumption (tuberculosis), John made the decision to travel in search of an environment in which he might recover, and spent time with the McKees in California and on his own in the Washington and Oregon Territories before finally arriving in the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) where he died at Likna Plantation on the island of Kauai, 10 March 1855.

**Wylie, Margaret Ritchie.** Born 8 September 1791, in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, second child of thirteen born to storekeeper Craig Ritchie, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, and his wife Mary Price, a native of Maryland. Married Andrew Wylie in 1813. Mother of twelve. Died 10 February 1859, at her home in Bloomington, Indiana.

**Wylie, Margaret “Maggie” Conklin.** Wife of Anderson McElroy Wylie and mother of four.

**Wylie, Mary Caroline “Carry” Bryan.** Native of Alexandria, Virginia. Niece of Justice Barbour of the Supreme Court. Married Andrew Wylie Jr. in 1845. Mother of four sons, only one of whom (Horace) survived to adulthood.

**Wylie, Mary “Maimie.”** Second child of Anderson and Margaret Conklin Wylie.

**Wylie, Pendleton.** Second son of Andrew Wylie, Jr. and Carry Bryan Wylie. Sickly, perhaps epileptic. Died in childhood, May 1869.

**Wylie, Redick McKee.** Born 22 May 1831, in Bloomington, the tenth child of Andrew and Margaret Ritchie Wylie. Graduated from Indiana University in 1851. Married Madeline Thompson of Albion, Illinois in 1870. Farmer and Bloomington merchant with brother-in-law John McCalla. Father of four. Built a house very similar to the home of his parents. The Redick Wylie house stood near the present location of Bloomington High School South, and has since been dismantled. Died 21 December 1904, in Bloomington at the home of James and Mary Dodds which is now the Topoligus Building at 403 North Walnut Street.

**Wylie, Rebecca Dennis.** Born 1812 in Germantown, Pennsylvania, just outside of Philadelphia. Daughter of Colonel Richard Dennis and Susannah Salter Smith. Married Theophilus A. Wylie, November 1838. Mother of eight. Theophilus Wylie’s diaries record the happy celebration of their Golden Wedding Anniversary in November 1888. Rebecca Wylie died June 1913, at her home, Wylie House, in Bloomington, Indiana, lacking just two months of reaching her 101st birthday.

**Wylie, Richard Dennis “Dick.”** 1841-1861. Eldest son of Theophilus and Rebecca Dennis Wylie. As a young man, showed considerable artistic talent. (One of his paintings is in the

collection of Wylie House Museum.) Volunteered in the Civil War, died of disease near St. Louis.  
*See Appendix*

**Wylie, Theophilus Adam.** Born 8 December 1810, in Philadelphia, son of Samuel Brown Wylie and Margaret Watson Wylie, and half-cousin to Andrew Wylie (same grandfather, different grandmother). Graduate of University of Pennsylvania. In 1836, named Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry at Indiana University. Married Rebecca Dennis in 1838, with whom he had eight children. Pursued a distinguished career of teaching and service at Indiana University until his retirement in 1888, except for a brief hiatus 1852-54 when he taught at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. A remarkably versatile and learned man, Wylie was a scientist and inventor with diverse interests and talents, a classical scholar and collector of rare books, compiler of the first Indiana University library catalog, author of the first history of Indiana University, and Presbyterian minister. Theophilus purchased the Wylie House in 1859, after the death of Margaret Ritchie Wylie, and lived there with his family until his death on 9 June 1895. His widow Rebecca stayed on in the house until she too passed away in 1913 at the age of 100 years, 10 months. Professor Wylie's extensive personal diaries, transcribed and indexed, are available for use at several locations, including Indiana University Archives and Wylie House Museum.