

# Kansas Memory



## Belinda C. Miles to Lewis Allen Alderson

These six letters were written to Lewis Allen Alderson from his sister-in-law, Belinda C. Miles. Alderson later moved to Atchison, Kansas, in 1858 and was a prominent Baptist minister. He died in Atchison in 1881.

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Belinda C. Miles to Lewis Allen Alderson

Athens Oct 20. 1832

Dear Brother

I received your kind letter in due season and read it with pleasure. From your account of Lucy's health at that time we there was some prospect of her recovery: but from father's letter received last evening the prospect was less favorable and I very much fear that I will not stay with you long: but we must leave her in the hand of God and be resigned to his will. You see I have addressed you in manner in which I never addressed you before: which may in me appear rather bold: but if so I hope you will pardon, and tell me better in future. But however be this as it may I will venture (although aware of my unworthiness) to call you by this name connected as you are with my dear sister. Since we left you at Mr Downing's I have spent much of my time thinking of you and sister and have felt extremely ~~on~~ on her account. You cannot imagine how lonesome I was for several days our room where we have spent so many hours during L's sickness appeared as dreary as though someone had been removed by the hand of death: and being entirely free from the care of attending upon her, I was lonely indeed. I have often thought of our parting; and of the last lingering view which I had of your vehicle as the foliage obscured it from my eye and I was compelled to bid adieu to objects around which my affections had become closely entwined; perhaps to meet no more until we all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. After we left you there was scarcely a word spoken until the storm ~~came~~ on we were fortunate as to be near a house where we stopped and staid a short time. We were there accommodated with a chair and an umbrella and proceeded on our journey very comfortably and arrived at home about dark. Miss Susan staid with me that night, and set out the next morning in company with Mr. N for Marietta. They performed the journey in one day; but Mr. N was so much fatigued that he did not return until Thursday. You speak of our Sabbath School as affording you

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pleasure in retrospection. I hope you will not forget to pray for us in our school it is truly a responsible station and we need your prayers. Since you left we have had no male teacher except one Sabbath the whole care of the school has devolved upon the female teachers. The boys are somewhat unruly. We have not heard from Cousin E since he left we hope he will soon return. The camp-meeting which was anticipated was attended in Alexander it was very interesting people came from a great distance. There were a great many that were hopefully converts I do not know the number. Among them were Mr. Wether, Mr. Wilson, Mr & Mrs. Mc Quigg our cousins from Rutland, Louisa Fullab, A. Medberry and many others. There was a Cumberland Church formed. I believe the number of members received was one hundred and ten. Several families have left our church and joined them. Miss Jewett has joined them. Mr Steiger and family, Mr Knowles and family, Mr Hibbard, Mr Drar, and several others. There were only two ministers besides Mr Lindley from Pa. Mr Morgan & Mr Aston. Mr Mc Hoy united with them very cordially. Mr Spaulding did not go out. The state of feeling in our church is yet very unpleasant, and much to be lamented, I should not be surprised if Mr S should leave us soon. Mr S and Dr Wilson have now gone to Lancaster to attend Synod. A protracted meeting commenced in Logan last Monday which is still continued. They intended to continue it only three days but it became so interesting that they concluded to continue it longer and supply it with ministers from the Synod. Several of our Athens people have gone up. They had a protracted meeting in Marietta as Mr Morgan came out which was very interesting. Mr M has now returned to Pa. Louisa Lindley went in company with him. Mr Lindley is going to stay a short time. They were none of them permitted to preach in our meeting house. They preached those sermons in the Methodist houses. It appears to me that Mr M is very badly treated by our church after being the means of doing so much good. Mr Cutler and his sister were out at the camp meeting he looks very bad but I believe his health is improving slowly. Mr Taylors family are well. I saw Catharine today she always inquires for you. She says they are so lonesome without you. I see your flower boxes every time I go down street they look as though they had lost their nurse. Oif I could be with L and assist in taking care of her it would be a great comfort to me. But I am deprived of this

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privilege, perhaps forever. Little we thought one year ago, that two of dear sisters would ere this time leave their father's house, to seek homes in distant lands. Had we known this, our hearts would have been filled with sorrow: and the happy hours which we have spent together, would have been embittered with the thought of a future separation. It is indeed trying, for those who have been fed by the same hand, watched by the same eye, and guided by the same precepts, and whose affections have become closely entwined to be separated. It is almost heartrending. I feel that such is the separation between sister L and myself. But this is a world of disappointment, and we ought to bear them with resignation. You will probably receive a letter from C before you receive this. I intended to have written before this but the mail went sooner than I expected. I am glad you and L are contented and happy. Contentment is truly as great a blessing as one can enjoy.

I have about given up going to Putnam. Father thinks he cannot spare me. I suppose I shall spend the winter at home. Mr. Wetherbee talks of taking a lady school. I saw Mr. Marquess yesterday he said he had received a letter from you la [redacted] He is now rooms in Mrs. Hedges house. She is well. Lucy I suppose thinks much of [redacted]; and she will certainly never be forgotten by its inmates. The children of the Sabbath School will remember you both. They repeat the last words which you told them, every Sabbath morning. Though L is far separated from us; yet the thought is cheering that she has a friend, who is more dear to her than any other friend on earth and who I am sure will take much better care of her than I could were I with her. We were very glad that she was able to write. We are all well except little Mary she is about the same. Uncle R wishes to be remembered to you both. He will write soon. We shall expect to hear from you as often as once a week. You do not know how much I love you and how much joy it would give me to see you and L in this room as I was wont to see you. When you write tell me what room you occupy so that in looking at the picture of you home I may visit you in my imagination. Good night.

L.C. Miles

Believe me ever your sincere  
but unworthy B.C. Miles

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Attnm of  
Octo 24}

18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

Mr Lewis A. Alderson

Hockman Post Office

Gourbier Co.

Mo.

Dear Sirs I have the pleasure to

inform you that

we have

no news

of your

son

and we

are

very

anxious

to

hear

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you

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know

Yours truly

Belinda C. Miles

Post Master

Hockman

Kansas

18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

Mo.

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Athens, Nov 19, 1832.

My Dear Sister

We received your kind letter, dated Oct 27, on the 16<sup>th</sup> we heard from you before for two weeks; except by the Virginia students. We had before to think that you were going to neglect us. It grieved us much that you were able again to write to us. We were surprised that you had not heard from home since you left as Father and I both wrote soon after and Uncle R has also written. As this is the third Monday in the month we have had teachers' prayer meeting from which I have just returned. We had quite a good meeting. The state of our School ~~matter~~ is yet very doubtful. Some of the teachers seem to be very much engaged

I give you great pleasure though far separated from you to have the privilege of conversing with your letter, and in a poor way letting you my thoughts.

Could I now see you a few hours I imagine that I should not be at a loss for words to express my thoughts but I am denied this privilege and will endeavor to tell you something of your home and friends which I trust will not be altogether uninteresting to you. Since you left Mary has been very sick for three or four days that she could not leave. She is now better. We have had but very little sickness in town. I believe there have been not cases of sickness except bad colds.

We have all been more or less afflicted with them. I have myself been had a very bad cold and cough. it is now better. Since I wrote you, two of our young ladies have taken to themselves husbands. Miss Scoble returned from Dresden and after remaining at home two weeks was married to Mr. Webb of that place. She has now gone to Dresden to live. The market for Infant School teacher seems to be good yet. Last week on Tuesday I attended the long expected wedding at Mr. Budens. Miss Achsah (as it was formerly) is now Mrs. Brough. I had quite a time

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New Kendall and myself went down in the morning. They had quite a large wedding although they had not many from town I staid all night there Achrah is very much pleased and so are all the family. Rebecca is still left at home. I do not know that there is any prospect of her getting married. I think some of our girls are getting quite old. Hetty is here yet she is very much engaged in the duties of religion. She is called a Cumberland. Many of our people became very much revived at the camp meeting. Mr Lindley is in this vicinity yet preaching. I believe Mr Bryan is daily expected to take charge of the church in Alexander.

I received a letter from Susan Cotton week before last by her Father who spent a part of two days with us. She sent a great deal of love to you and brother. I lately received a letter from sister C in which she told me that she had just finished a letter to you. They are very much disappointed that you did not go to Orleans and spend the winter. I suppose they are now keeping house. I should be very glad to see them in their house, I think C will superintend household affairs very well. But C is in good health and O that I could say this of you. I do want to be with you although I do not think that <sup>my</sup> nursing would be any assistance. I have been talking to Pa about going to Va he says he would be very glad to have me go if I had company and he would be very glad to go himself if he had time but his time is all employed at the mill and I suppose will be all winter. Although I should be so much pleased to see you yet when I talk of going it is only for ~~talk's sake~~ so that I do not enjoy much in anticipation of such a visit. If we should not be permitted again on earth Oh may we all meet with joy to spend an eternity when the parting tear will cease to flow and all the ransomed will unite in one unceasing song of praise to him that sits upon the throne and unto the Lamb. O that I could keep that day ever in view and be prepared to meet the summons whenever it shall be put into my hands. Since Cousin Doctornest we get along very well in the S.S. C brought the time that you was so much pleased with home with her. We

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have learned it so that we have sung it once in Sabbath School I think it is very good. The Infant School is entirely done. Mr. Wethee has taken a school in the room with Miss Jewett. She is his assistant which I should think would not do very well, but it may. Mrs. Spaulding is going to attend to a class this winter as soon as Mr. S returns. She being now absent for a few weeks on an agency for the home missionary society. I suppose she will have twelve or fourteen pupils we expect to make three of that number. Jane is still here will stay all winter.

After you left home, in looking over things, I found many which you should have taken with you; and which I know you have wanted. This is owing to my carelessness and I am very sorry but I think considering circumstances I may be forgiven. I often imagine I hear you saying that is just like Belind and so it is. I often think of last summer when I attended upon you and hope that those who attend on you now do not so often need reproof as I did. Lucy we are often much troubled about your ill health, but you are in the hands of our Heavenly and he will do all things well. Uncle B has just gone to bed room he said you please give my love to them. It is quite late and I must draw to a close as the mail goes in the morning. Mr. Spaulding's people wish to be remembered in love to you. Please a large share of love from us all both for yourself and Mr. A I have taken the liberty to call him brother although entirely unworthy. Do write often. I shall expect a letter from brother A soon we are very much disappinted, when we do not hear every week.

I am really ashamed of this letter it is written so hasty but it has been done in haste. Good night.

Your affectionate sister

Mrs L O'K. Alderson

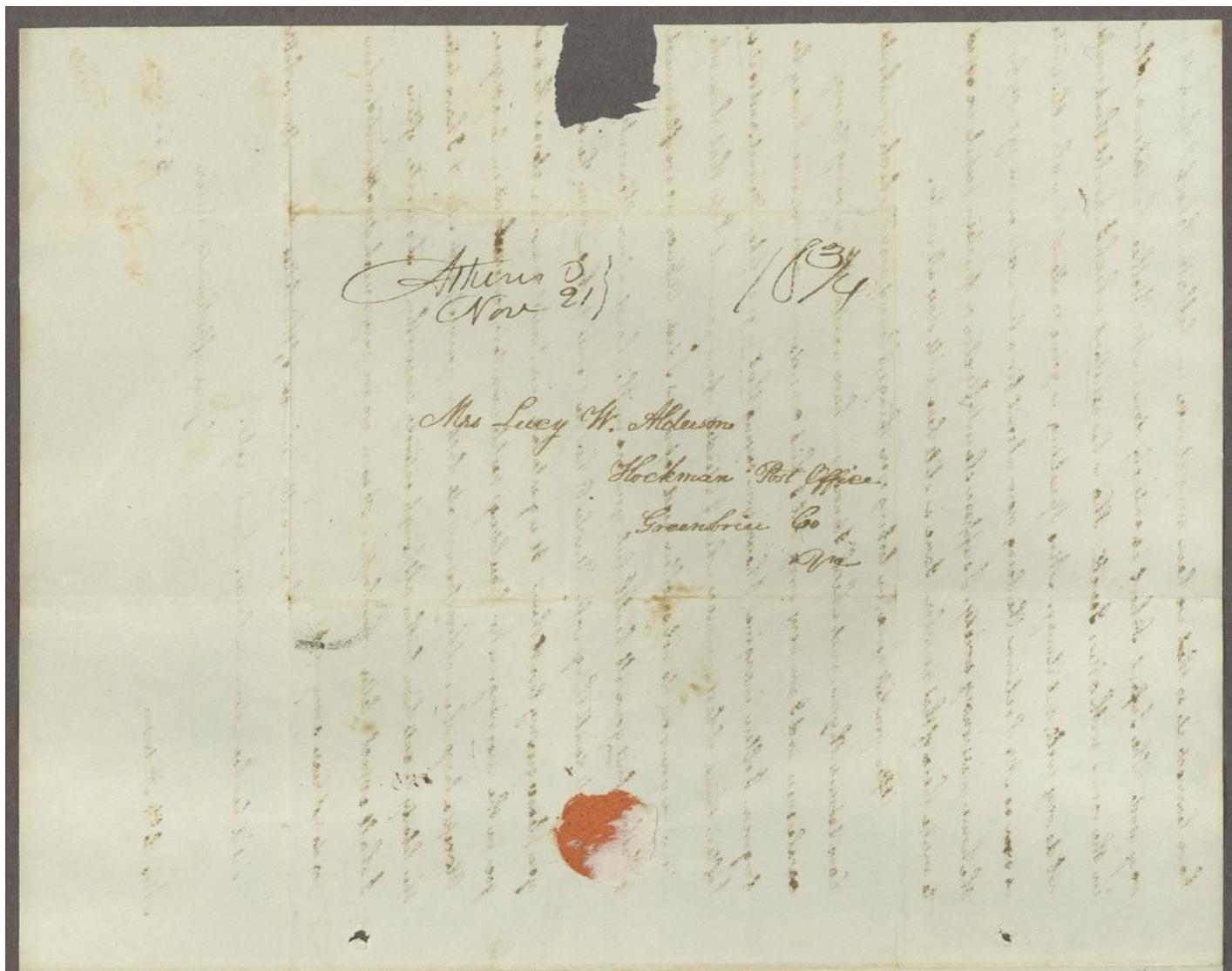
B C Miles

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Athens, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. 1832.

Dear Brother,

Having a few leisure moments, I know of no way, in which I can spend them more pleasantly than in conversing with you. Your kind letter of the 25<sup>th</sup>, was received in due time, and over it were shed many tears; tears of sorrow mingled with joy; of sorrow that sister Lucy's health is no better, and, that we shall probably no longer be deprived of her society, and of joy, that there is a bright prospect of her entering on a better and enduring inheritance; and, that you both appear entirely resigned to the will of our Heavenly Father. This certainly lightens the affliction, more than any thing else. What more could we wish?

You wish to know something about our Sabbath School. It is now in a very low condition. The number of scholars is very much decreased in both departments. Mr Shipman is anxious to resign the superintendance into the hands of some other person. I think however, that he will not, as the teachers are all unwilling. I suppose we may assign the unpleasantry of the weather as one reason, why the Infant department is not better attended. We have the same teachers, that we had when you were here, with the addition of one.

I believe the number of students in college, is about the same, that it was last session; I think they attend to their studies remarkably well, as they visit in town but very little.

I often think of our parting and think that I probably then beheld for the last time the face of a dear sister. Yes Lucy, You and I, by stream, by shore, In song, in prayer, in sleep, Have been, as we may be no more

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Kind sister! let one week. I can hardly bear the thought; but if we attain to that rest which is prepared for those who love God, all will be well with us. I do long to see you, and if Dr's life should be spared until spring, I think no trivial occurrence will prevent my visiting you. I hope you will continue to write every week, as we are always anxious to hear of Lucy's health. If I could see you and sis, this evening, my eyelids would not be as heavy as they now are, neither would I fall so far short of words to express my feelings; but now every attempt proves ineffectual, and I must say Good night.

Please accept love from the family, and as much from myself as you think me capable of possessing.

Your unworthy sister

Tuesday, Dec 25

Dear Brother & Sister

Since writing the above on Friday, several things have transpired, of which Ionest inform you before I send this. On Saturday morning last Elder Bree left this world. He has not been able to go out this winter. His funeral was attended on the Sabbath by a numerous audience. Sermon preached by P.G.W. Also on yesterday morning old Mr Harper entered into rest, as we believe. The funeral services will be attended to day, in the Methodist house, at eleven o'clock.

Mr Spaulding has now returned from his agency: the affairs of the church are in a deplorable state. Dr Wilson, on Sabbath before last, preached a sermon, which was not well received by the majority of the church: in which he said many things against the Cumberlandis, even calling them by name in the pulpit; but he undoubtedly did it from pure motives, being very much blinded.

How matters will turn out, we know not; but the church is in a very critical situation. If I understand, there is to be a Cumberland church formed this evening. I presume many will go from our church.

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There is to be a wedding this evening at Mr Steiger's. Miss Elizabeth & Mr L Jewell are about to leave the ranks of single life; and, as is the fashion of the present day, lead a married life. I wish them all the happiness, which mortals are capable of enjoying. Pa was quite unwell this morning but was able to attend to his work. Pamela, C & myself are studying with several others, and recite to Mrs Spaulding. She takes a great deal of pains with us, and I think if we do not improve it will be our own fault. My time is wholly occupied, so that I am obliged to neglect my friends more than I would wish: if it may be called neglect, to omit troubling them with my uninteresting scrafs. We received your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> on last Friday also one from Mr Dart they were then well. Miss Kendall wishes to be remembered to you. I must now close as I have a long lesson to get in one hour.

I forgot to tell you that this is Christmas day with us. I wish you a happy Christmas. Your loving but unworthy sister

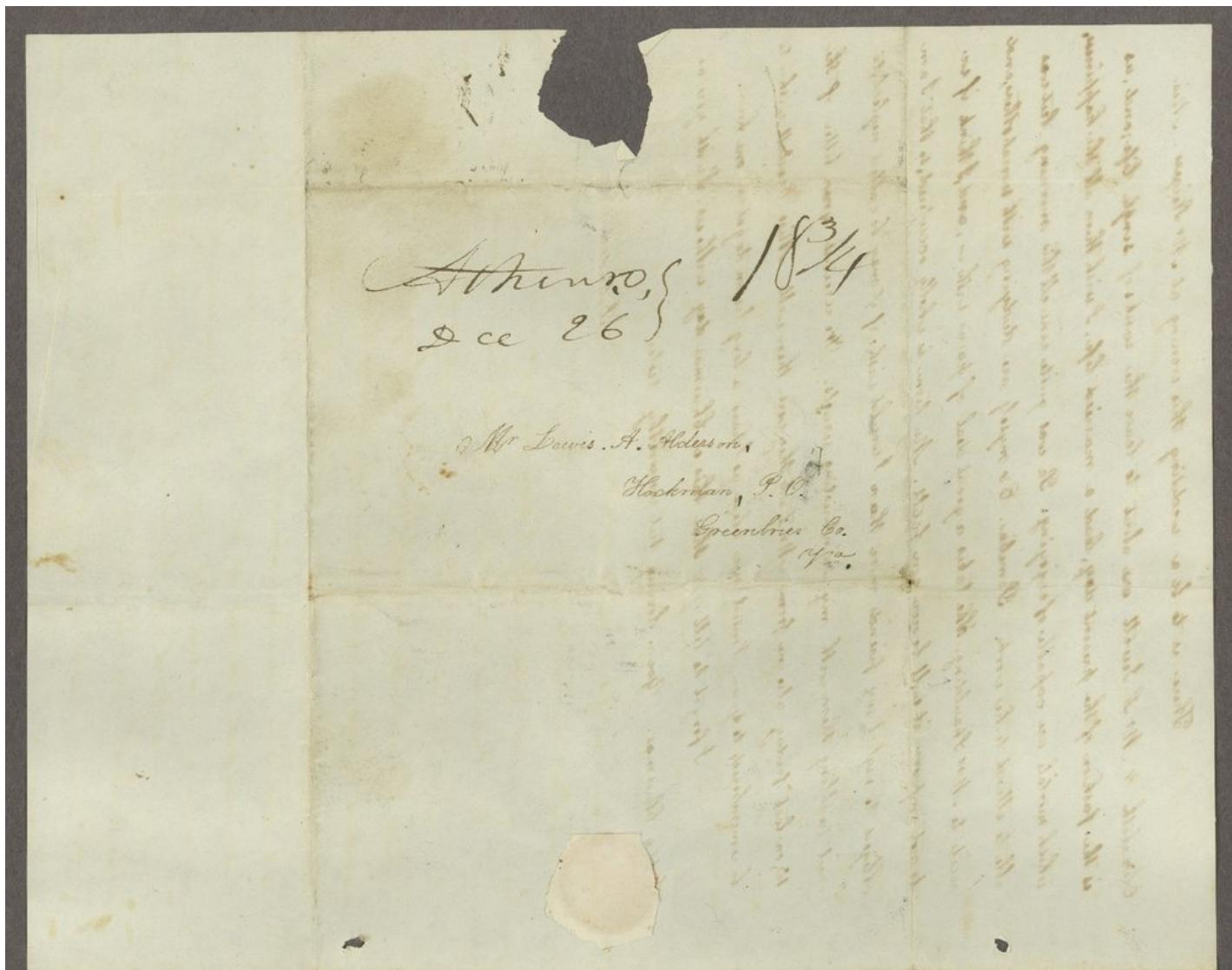
Belinda.

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Athens June 24, 1833.

Dear Brother Lewis.

After looking and waiting a long time I last Friday evening received your kind letter, which I have perused and reperused, and which I now have before me. You may now imagine me sitting at my chamber window where I used to sit, while I can & several walking over the hills enjoying the pleasantness of the evening. Tuesday eve. Last evening I was interrupted by Ebenezer coming in, he sat until meeting time, when we both went, and heard Mr Morgan preach. I again find myself seated as before to answer your letter. The <sup>account</sup> which you gave of your journey was to me painful as it was much worse than I expected, but I rejoice that you arrived safely at home, and that you enjoy yourself so much. While I am here alone I think much about Palestine, and the scenes of last winter. There I found those whose friendship I highly value, and there, has buried the remains of one who was dear to my heart. often do I think of that little mound of earth, and look upon the things of earth as vanity. Why should we place our affections on this poor world, when we are so near to vast eternity? We have but a day to prepare for an eternal state and still our affections cling to earth.

You mention having seen the red laurel on your return home: from the description you give of it, it must be very beautiful. I should like very much to see some the flowers. Mrs Chapman has the white and orange lily, which are the most beautiful flowers I have ever seen. The perfume of the lily is very pleasant. Since you left I have attended to botany a little - have several dried flowers. I intend to continue the study during the summer. I should be glad if you were here to study with me: any study is more interesting, where there are more than one engaged together. Now I have no one to assist me, except & occasionally,

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Our S.S. is quite interesting at present. The number of scholars is considerably increased of late and I think will still continue to increase. There has been a committee of four, appointed to visit all the families within the bounds of the Athene Sabbath School. I think many scholars will be brought in through their instrumentality. Last week there was a Sabbath School agent of the Methodist denomination with us: he preached on wednesday evening. We expect to have a celebration on the fourth of July, similar those we have formerly had. William Emerson was appointed to write one hymn to be sung, and the female teacher another. They have not yet made their appearance, although it is time the children were committing them. We need Mr Howe here very much. I suppose Cousin E will leave the school before long. What we shall do for a Superintendent, I know not. I suppose Mr Guthrie would be willing to take that place, but the teachers will none of them agree to that. He is too domineering.

The late news of our place is not very pleasing. There has been excitement in all parts of the town, on account of stories told by Mrs Drake, which have been proven to be falsehoods. The word came to the Dr's ears, that his wife was a liar. He was very much enraged, and determined that it should be proven. The matter was brought before the church, and some numbers, of most of the families in town, called upon to relate what they had heard. After spending a week in trying the case, the Doctor and all others were fully convinced of her guilt; but she still says she is innocent. She stands suspended from the church. When the Dr was convinced that she was guilty, he appeared heart broken. It is painful to relate these things and how much more so to be the husband of one who is thus guilty. I think I should go immediately, where I would not be known. Circumstances have taken place in college which ~~had~~ have made a great deal of hard feeling among the students. Last week one of students by the name of Leahon, was expelled for ~~outragey~~, no worse than had been often committed, without the least notice being taken of it. It is probable some will leave on account of it. Mrs Mudberry was married back before last to Mr Goodspeed of Alexander. I do not know what the Doctor will do now. I believe there

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is no talk of his getting married at present. The Cumberlands have had a camp-meeting in Alexander. It commenced last Thursday, and closed on Monday, on account of the rain. Mr Morgan preaches and exhorts with as much power as he ever did. I never saw a person who always appeared so much engaged in the work of God. It is his constant endeavour to bring souls to Christ. Mr Allen is in town at present. His appearance is considerably improved. He is not prepared to preach.

From your description of Palestine it must be delightful at present. O how I should like to ~~be~~ have you so near, that I could visit you. I am every day wishing for an opportunity of going into the country. I am of your opinion with regard to living in the country and were I permitted to live a country life I should enjoy more happiness than could possibly be enjoyed by the votaries of fashion. I am much pleased with Zimmerman and I think if all were to peruse it the world, solitude would be more delightful to the ears of many. I often at twilight imagine you bending your steps towards sister Lucy's grave, there <sup>to give</sup> your feelings by floods of tears. But as often as you there bend over her grave to weep, think of her happy spirit freed from sin and sorrow: this will take away the bitterness of grief.

I forgot to give you the collar that I brought home to finish. This is given to me, you know. When you come to Athens you shall have it. I hope you feel more willing to visit A, than you did before you were here. You have many warm friends here. Do not say that you will never visit us. I have scarcely seen Mr Marquess since you left. I believe he is well. People are generally healthy. Please remember affectionately to your father and mother. I never shall forget their kindness to me. <sup>remember me</sup> also to your sisters they appear almost as near to me as sisters. Tell your sister Sally that intend to write her before long. I can say this of this of the Virginians, that they have learned to "deal gently with the strangers heart." Give my respects to all my friends. When you write please tell me whether you succeeded in getting those roots to live, that you took from here. I received Mr Dart's letter before I did yours. Thank you very much for opening it and sending it on. E has received a letter from you. My letter was a long time coming. E says he will write to you soon. Do not forget that we shall expect letters from you often. Catharine

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Found Mr Dart at Natchez where they stopped and expect to spend most of the summer. I am, and shall ever be, your affectionate but unworthy sister,

Belinda.

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Athen<sup>s</sup> Jun 29

Mr. Lewis A. Alderson  
Rockman P.O.  
Greeneville Co.  
Va.



P.S. I am ashamed of this letter but it is to one that I think will excuse all imperfections  
I think you told me when I wrote to you to write carelessly. Yours  
B.C.M.

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Belinda C. Miles to Lewis Allen Alderson

Athens Oct. 5, 1833.

L. A. Alderson

Dear Brother Lewis

It is with feelings of sorrow and pleasure that I now seat myself in my room to address you, of sorrow that by not writing sooner I have deprived myself of the pleasure of soon receiving a letter from you, and pleasure to think that <sup>perhaps</sup> the reception of this will bring an immediate answer.

The intelligence which your last letter brought was to me truly mournful. I regret that I had lost a dear friend, and that your family and especially yourself had been deprived of an affectionate sister. She is now released from all her sufferings and we trust is forever happy. Why should we mourn the loss of friends when our loss is their eternal gain. You say that the event is not more heartrending to any than to L Evans. She was indeed a mother to her and she must deeply lament her death. She long enjoyed her kindness and protection and I know she very sensibly feels her loss.

When I received your last letter I thought I would answer it immediately but since that time I have been so much engaged that it seemed impossible. I think that in future my rule will be let things be as they may, to be more punctual in answering letters from my friends than I have been of late. I have done just as you told me I would before you left but it has not been as I wished to do. You know, Lewis, that although I receive letters with avidity and peruse them with pleasure yet it is with reluctance that I sit down to answer them. This is somewhat strange but it is no more strange than true.

I was pleased with the account you gave me of your visit on Halloway and of the religious excitement that existed there at that time. You did not tell me that you were preaching but I supposed that you were. Why could you not come to Athens when you were so near, a ride of a day and a

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half would have brought you here. If you knew what pleasure it would give us to see you I know you would not come so near again without visiting us. Will you not visit us the next time you are within their days ride of us?

Since I last wrote you dear cousin E has left us. It was like parting with a brother to part with him. He was always so kind and affectionately that I miss him very much. You cannot tell how lonesome ~~we~~ I am now. There is hardly any body in town, that is of my most intimate acquaintance. It is now Tuesday night eleven o'clock it has been two days since I wrote the first part of my letter. I have this evening attended Mary Wilson's wedding. She is now Mrs Irvin Mr Irvin came last week and also Joseph Wilson from Chillicothe. Catharine Taylor and Mr S Wilson were attendants. They had quite a large wedding party about 50. Dr Wilson's other daughters are at home. Mr and Mrs Irvin will leave town on Thursday. I do not recollect the name of the place to which will go to reside. He has commenced preaching gave us a very good sermon last Sabbath evening. Samuel expects to go to Allegany Seminary this fall. All the male members of the Dr's family will soon be ministers of the gospel, only five in number. I will send you some of the wedding cake in my letter.

Tomorrow the Presbytery will meet in this place. A protracted meeting will be held during the week. We expect to have two sermons every day until next Monday. We very much need something to revive us. Spiritual deadness prevails in our church. I do hope that the privileges of this week will not pass by uninspired. I have heard that P L McCabry will preach his trial sermons tomorrow evening I suppose it will be so. After he gets license to preach he will go to Amherst where he expects to stay a year. He is a promising youth. Leeland, has been since the commencement in the and visiting the towns on the Ohio, I believe he has spent some time in Charleston. We expect Cousin E here this

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week when he will make his last visit for some time. But I must tell you something about our S.S. as I know you always hear something about it when you hear from others. I am sorry to tell you what I hear. - Mr. Mathes is now our Superintendent. He has been in two Sabbaths. There is not the same order in the schools that we once had and I fear that its most prosperous days are past but I will hope for the best. It is now very late and I must leave you to say hark back upon my pillow and forget all my cares.

Morning has arrived and finds me at my writing table as I was last night. If I could now see you, instead of conversing upon paper at so great a distance from you, how glad I should be! But we have parted and know not when we shall meet again, yet the recollection of the pleasant hours we have spent together, and the scenes through which we have passed, will never be forgotten. Though our bodies are far separated yet I trust brotherly and sisterly affection will unite us, above all may we be one in Christ Jesus, so that when we are done earthly things we may have an inheritance, incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. If we are Christians our happiness is but begun upon earth it will continue to increase throughout eternity.

Mr and Mrs Spaulding are expected in town tomorrow

they will probably stay a week or two

Saturday evening. It is now a week since I commenced my letter. The presbytery has closed and the ministers have left all except Mr. Fisher, who will remain over the Sabbath. He will assist Dr. Wilson in administering the sacraments. Our church is yet in a cold and stupid state: how unfit for the solemnities of tomorrow. There is so much division, that there little prospect of any thing better yet we hope for better times. We have heard from Sisters this week, they were very well. Our friend C.G. Taylor has gone to Chillicothe to spend six months at school there. She told me to tell you not to forget her. She said she should have written you but had not time. She wishes to be rem-

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Belinda C. Miles to Lewis Allen Alderson

Embered to you. Remember me affectionately to ~~all my friends~~ your Father and Mother. Tell them I remember with gratitude their kindness to me when I was in Va. Please give my love to Mrs Edwards and Mary with the rest of the family and to all my friends.

Yours of  
Oct 19<sup>th</sup> from

1834  
1834  
3 1/2

Mr. Lewis A. Alderson,

Lockmans

Greenbrier Co.

Concord  
Va:

Lewis A. Alderson  
M. W. Alderson



When you write tell me the particulars of the family whether you preach or not. And I do beg of you, not to do as I have done about writing as I intend to do so no more. You are always telling me about careless letters, I think you have one this time. My love to your sisters and Mary and Tom Lewis and accept for yourself assurance of the love of your sister Bel.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Belinda C. Miles to Lewis Allen Alderson

Natchez March 31, 1834.

Dear Brother Lewis,

It was with a great deal of pleasure that I this morning received your kind letter of Dec 5 & 6, after it had been from N. Y. to Burg to Athens and a two months journey from Athens to this place, which I suppose is owing to the disorderly government of our nation. I have been indeed long and anxiously looking for letters from you, and had almost concluded that you had forgotten me, but these thoughts are dissipated by the brotherly affection which your letter breathes and while I read it over I almost imagine myself with you and hearing you relate the interesting scenes through which you have passed since we last parted in Athens.

April 1st I was prevented from writing yesterday by the arrival of visitors they had left for a short time and I again find time to devote to you. You have probably heard of my coming to N. by letters which you have received from Uncle R. he is here also. I left home in December in company with Uncle Miles of Meigs Co. and family, came as far as Arkansas with them; from there I had the company of Mr. Miles of that place to Natchez. My journey was not as pleasant as it would have been if Uncle R. or you had been with me. I find that in travelling especially by Steam Boat ~~and~~ persons can enjoy themselves much better if they some gentleman of their acquaintance with whom they can converse, and whom they can look for protection. I think if Uncle had come down with me I should have had a fine trip, but he did not think of coming until after I left, and to perform his trip alone as well as myself. Being the middle of winter, the sky on the Ohio and Mississippi presented a very gloomy appearance not soon look more dreary than the moss covered trees on the banks of the Mississ.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Belinda C. Miles to Lewis Allen Alderson

completely dressed in mourning. When I came here the weather was very cold. The past winter was much colder than has ever been known in this country by the oldest settlers. I felt the cold quite as much as I should in Ohio, and I think that on account of the sudden changes the winter is as hard for the people here as for those at the north. You can judge of the weather when I tell you that the Multiflora rose continued perfectly green and the monthly rose was in bloom nearly all the time in the yard. You will perhaps wonder that vegetation was less affected than we, but it is no more strange than true.

Natchez is much smaller than I expected, and the buildings are not to be compared with those at the north—they are mostly one story high, and generally of frame painted white and surrounded with shade trees and shrubbery of every variety and present a very neat and pretty appearance. I never before have seen so much taste displayed in gardening as I have seen at many places here—they also have a greater variety of plants than we have at the north. I might have a fine opportunity of to study Botany if I had some one to study with me as I had last spring when I was in Va. I often think of you when I am picking flowers and of the pleasure which you take in cultivating them, and wonder if we shall ever gather flowers again in company, and although it seems improbable it is not impossible but that we shall spend many hours in each others society, and may we not cherr ourselves with the hope that we shall meet again in this world: but we shall meet one day of this we are certain, before the bar of God, and if we are prepared for Heaven it will be a happier meeting than earth ever witnessed—a meeting ~~now~~ which will be rendered happy by its being one where parting will never be known. Nothing in this world is worth a thought when compared with the vast concerns of eternity. It is strange indeed that such creatures as we should think so much of the things of this world when we have such an eternity of bliss or woe upon prospect, and liable every moment to be taken from earth and launched

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Belinda C. Miles to Lewis Allen Alderson

on that boundless ocean without a bottom or a shore.

Sister Pamela Uncle R and myself are with brother and sister and it appears very much like home - we enjoy ourselves very much indeed. I expect to set out for Ohio in May and expect to take Emily brothers little daughter with me to go to school in Athens. I do not know yet what company I shall have, but it is probable some acquaintance will be going up, as is usual in the spring. Brother has been trying to persuade me to stay but I cannot think of staying from home when R is away also. I expect sister Elizabeth is very lonely without us.

Your journey to western Va must have been delightful, and I am very happy to learn that you enjoy yourself so much. I sincerely hope that you may succeed in your studies and be one of those who are efficient promoters of the Redemeer's kingdom. There is great need of ministers of the Gospel in this country - a great many are perishing yearly without the sound of the Gospel. Trials have been made a missionary in this place but no one was willing to come into this climate. The pastor of the Presbyterian church in this place is one of the best preachers I have ever heard, but he is old school and not much in favor of new measures. The church is in a very cold and lifeless state. There is a great deal of formality in this place - the people do not seem like Athens people at all.

I received a letter this morning from Cousin E.B. He writes that he is very well pleased with Seminary, and appears to be the same good little fellow that he was in Athens. I think he will be a useful man. I brought those Sweet William seeds that you sent from Va here with me. I have planted them and they are growing. We have a great variety of shrubbery in a spot of ground in front of the house and it is now most of it in bloom. Sister C. has been talking of writing you some time but she has become an old woman and not writes often. I have filled my sheet and have not said much that will interest you, but you will I hope have patience to read it. If it affords you any pleasure

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
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SOCIETY

Belinda C. Miles to Lewis Allen Alderson

... go an answer that is all I wish. Your letters always afford me a great deal of pleasure from the instruction which they contain and from the fact that they are from a very dear brother. From your connection with sister Lucy and the kindness with which you have treated me and our intimate acquaintance, not an own brother could appear nearer to me, and I thank

May 1834  
New York  
4 B 1/4  
Mrs Lewis A. Alderson,  
Williamsburg  
James City Co.  
Va.



I can feel otherwise towards you. I hope you will think enough of us to visit us before a great while. Remember me to your father & mother & sisters when you see them, if you please. Uncle wishes me to give you his best respects, says he is sending a letter from you. Sisters C. & P. send their love. I would ask an interest in our prayers dear Brother and say good night as it is late,

Do write soon

Your unworthy Sister Belinda.