Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson

Section 2, Pages 31 - 60

These letters were written by Joseph Alderson to his son, Lewis Allen Alderson. Lewis later moved to Atchison, Kansas, in 1858 and was a prominent Baptist minister. He died in Atchison in 1881.

Date: January 1829-January 1834

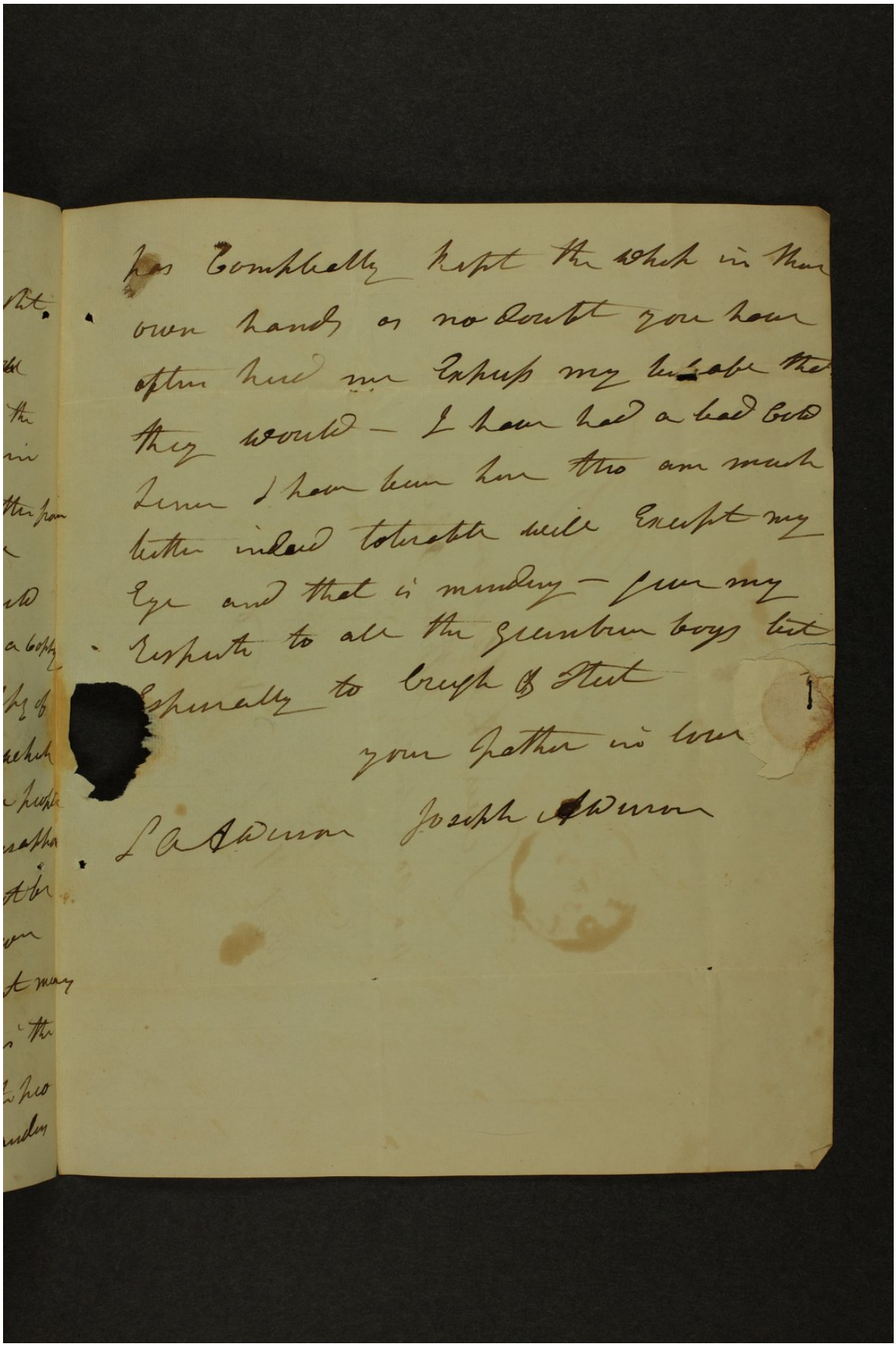
Callnumber: Lewis Allen Alderson Coll. #255, Folder 5A-5B

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 228643

Item Identifier: 228643

www.kansasmemory.org/item/228643

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson

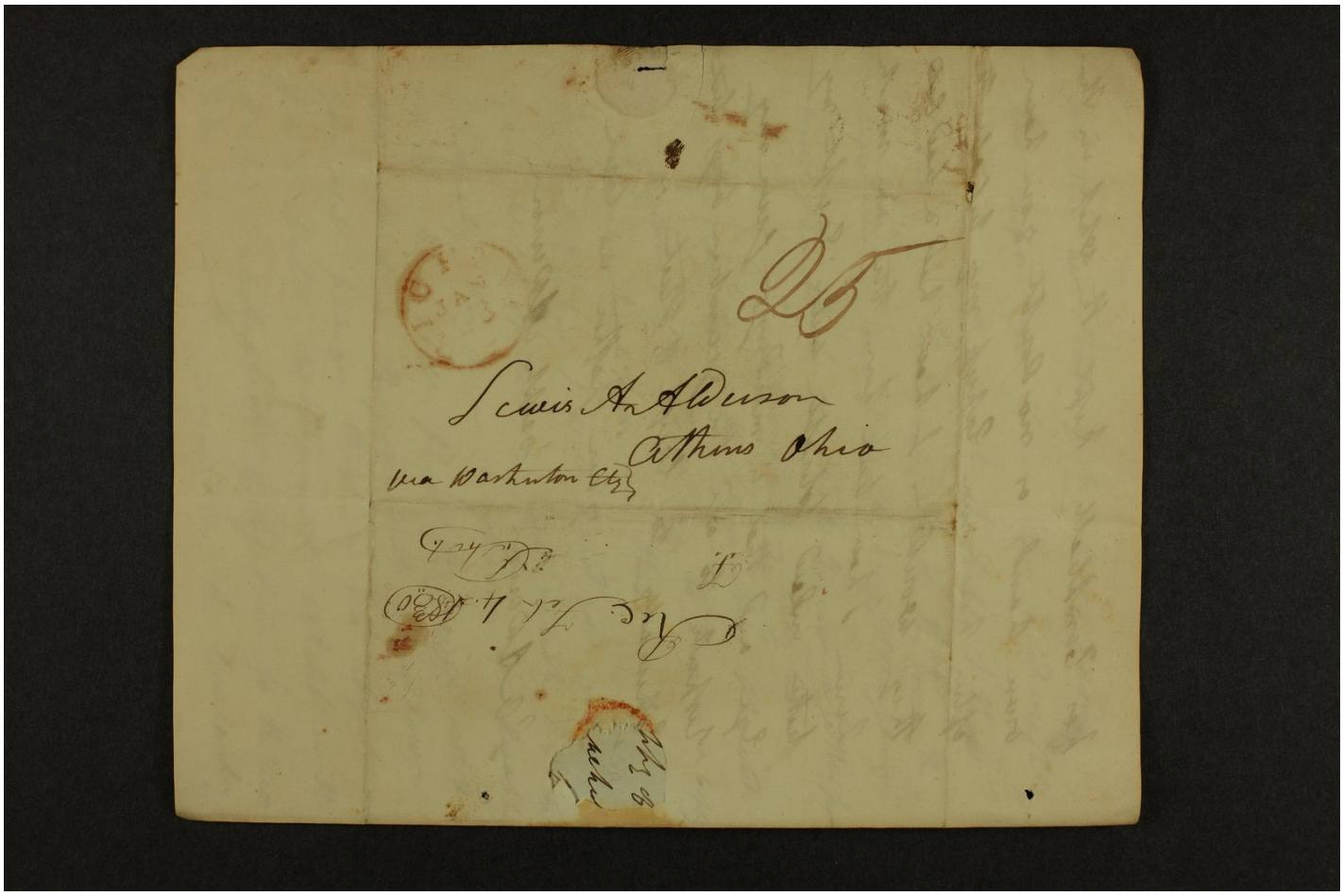


has Completely kept the stock in their
own hands or no doubt you have
often heard me express my wishes that
they would — I have had a bad cold
since I have been here tho am much
better indeed tolerable well except my
Eye and that is mending — Give my
respects to all the Greenbrier boys but
especially to Enoch & Fleet

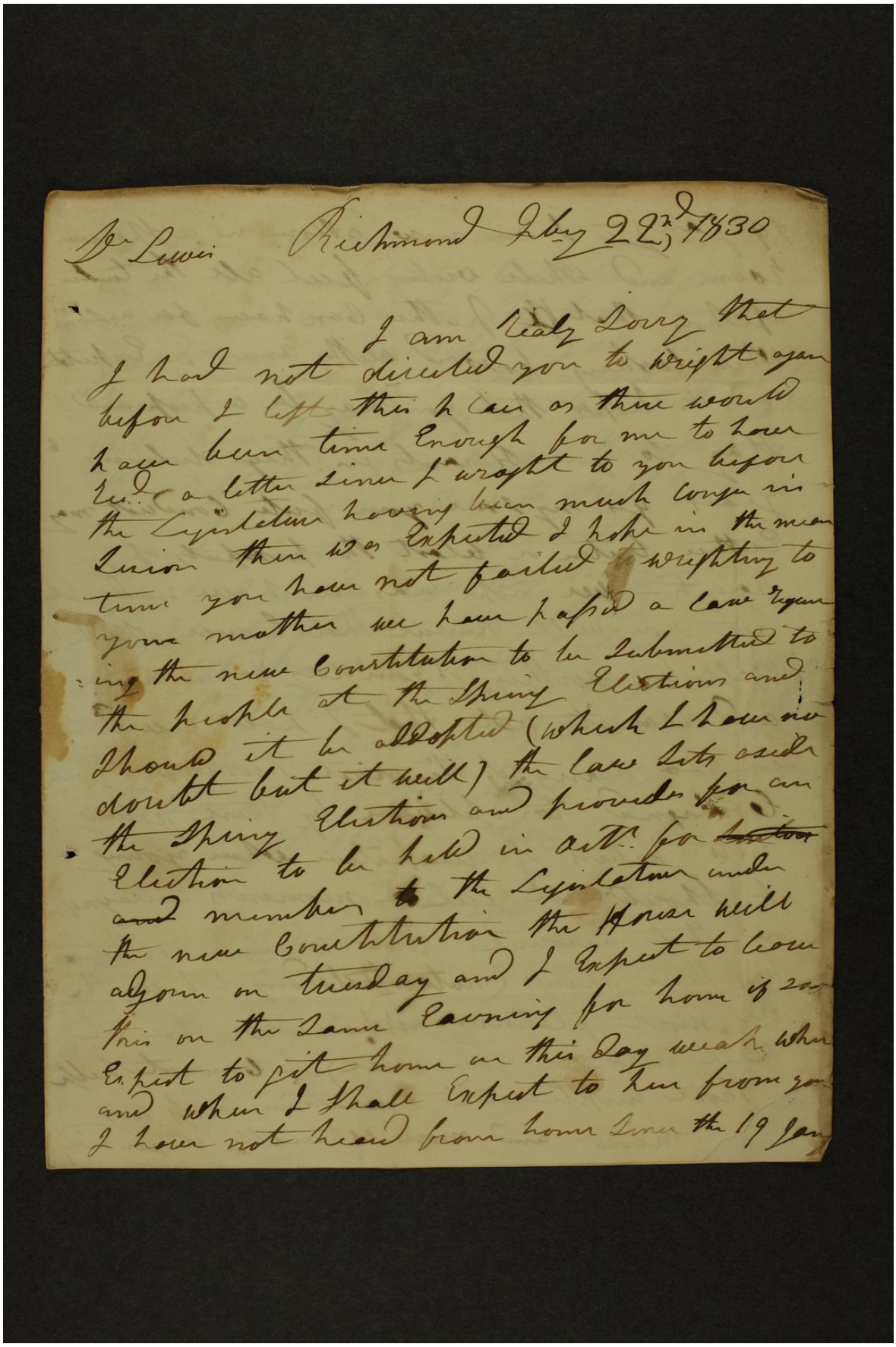
your father is love

L A Alderson Joseph Alderson

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



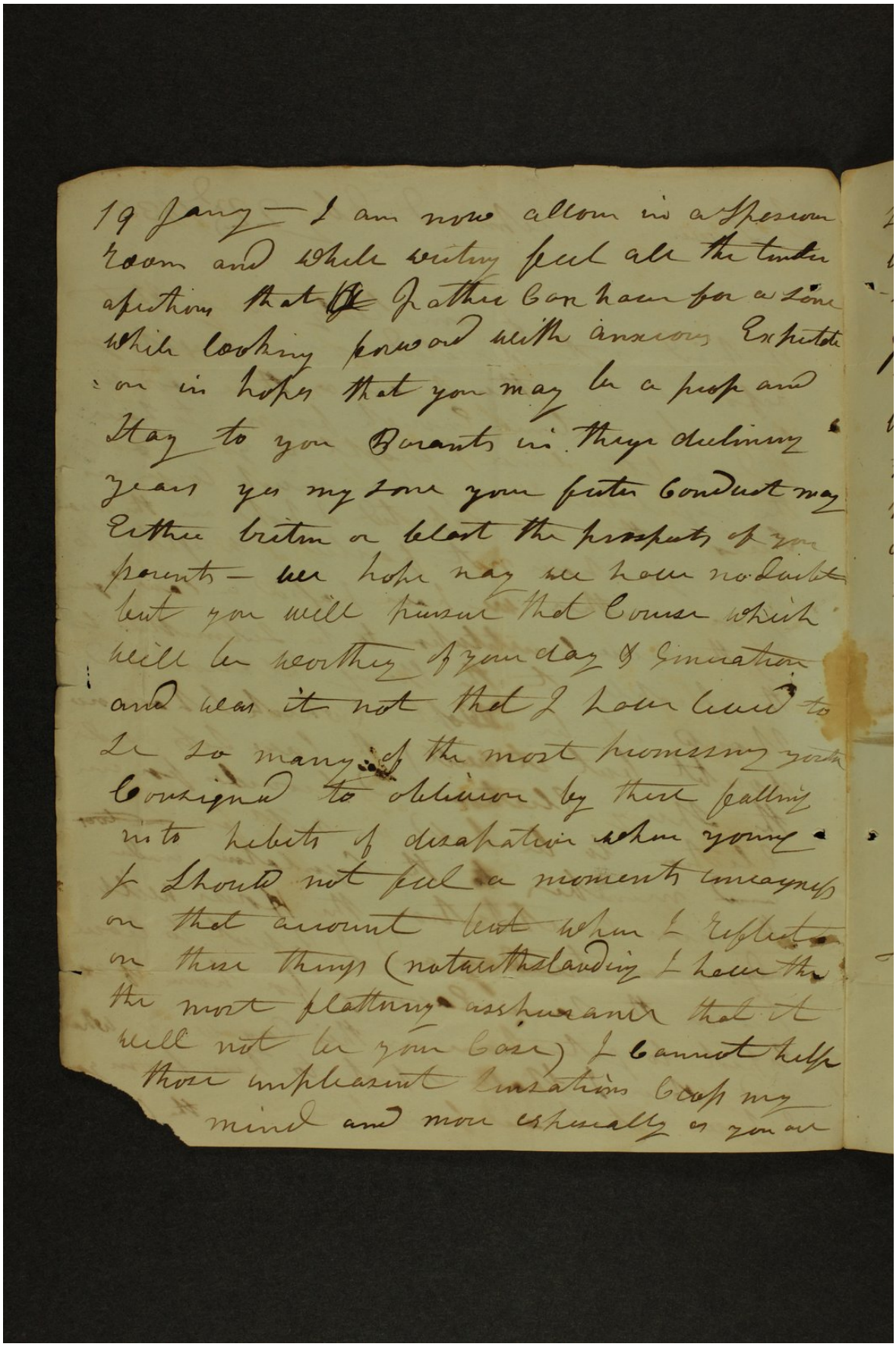
Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



Dr Lewis Richmond Feby 22nd 1830

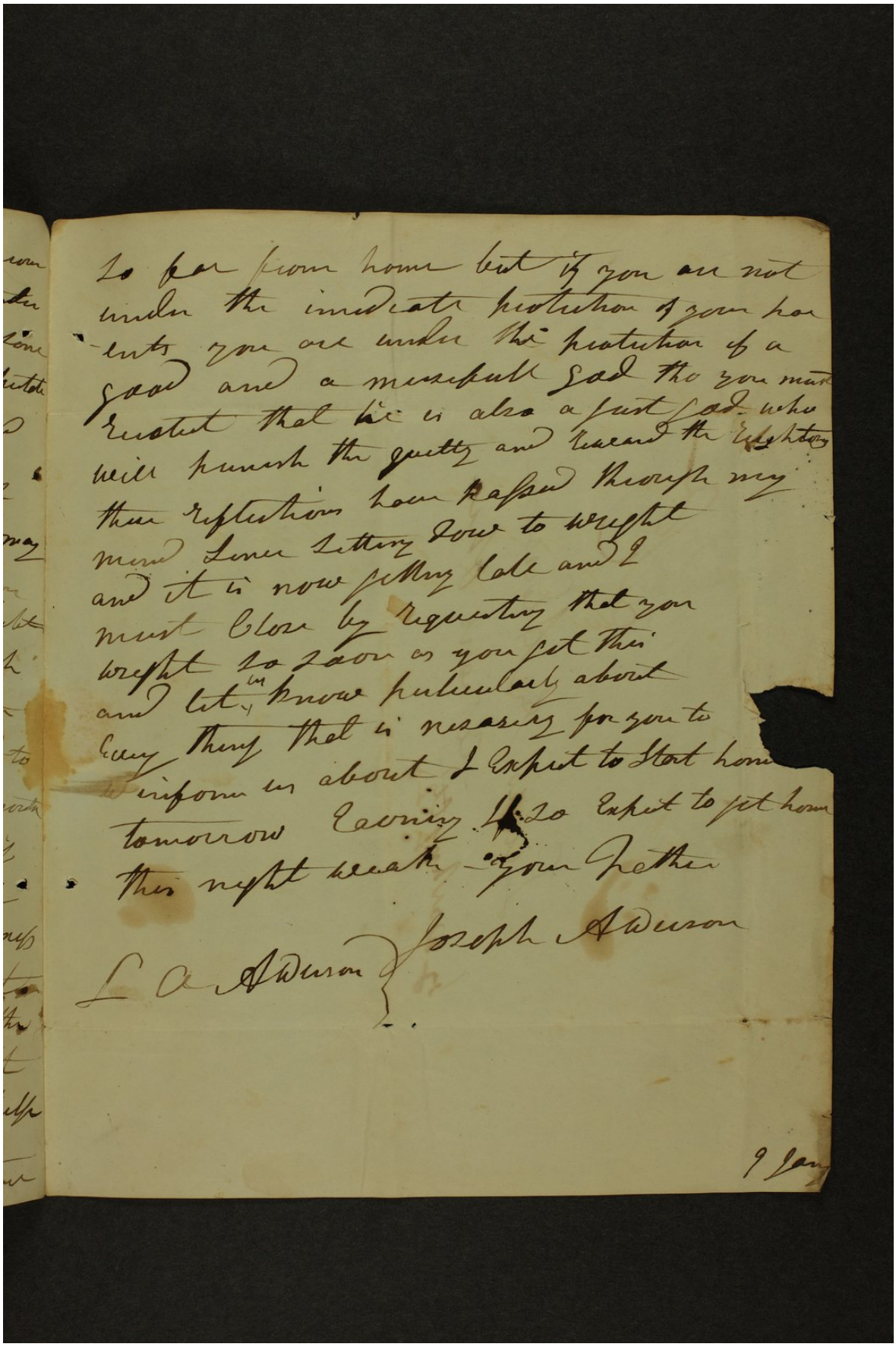
I am realy Sorry that I had not directed you to wright again before I left this as there would have been time Enough for me to have Recd a letter since I wraght to you before the Legislature hoveing been much longer in Session than was Expected I hope in the mean time you have not failed wrighting to your mother we have Passed a Law Requiring the new Constitution to be Submitted to the people at the Spring Elections and should it be adopted (which I have no doubt but it will) the Law Sets aside the Spring Elections and provides for an Election to be held in Aug. for ~~Governor~~ and members to the Legislature under the new Constitution the House will adjourn on tuesday and I Expect to leave this on the Same Evening for home if so I Expect to get home on this Day week when and when I Shall Expect to hear from you I have not heard from home Since the 19 Jan

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



19 Janry — I am now alone in a Prison Room and while writing feel all the tender affections that a Father can have for a Son while looking forward with anxious Expectation in hopes that you may be a prop and Stay to your Parents in their declining years yes my Son your future Conduct may either brighten or blast the prospects of your Parents — We hope may see brighter days but I doubt not but you will pursue that Course which will be worthy of your day & Generation and was it not that I have heard to [illegible] so many of the most promising youth Consigned to oblivion by their falling into habits of dissipation when young I should not feel a moments uneasyness on that account but when I reflect on these things (notwithstanding I have the the most flattering assurance that it will not be your Case) I cannot help those unpleasant Sensations Crop my mind and more especially as you are

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



so far from home but if you are not
under the immediate protection of your par-
-ents you are under the protection of a
good and a merciful God tho you must
recollect that he is also a just God who
will punish the guilty and reward the righteous
these reflections have passed through my
mind since Setting down to write
and it is now getting late and I
must close by requesting that you
write to us as soon as you get this
and let us know particularly about
every thing that is necessary for you to
inform us about I expect to start home
tomorrow Evening & do expect to get home
this next week from your Father

Joseph Alderson

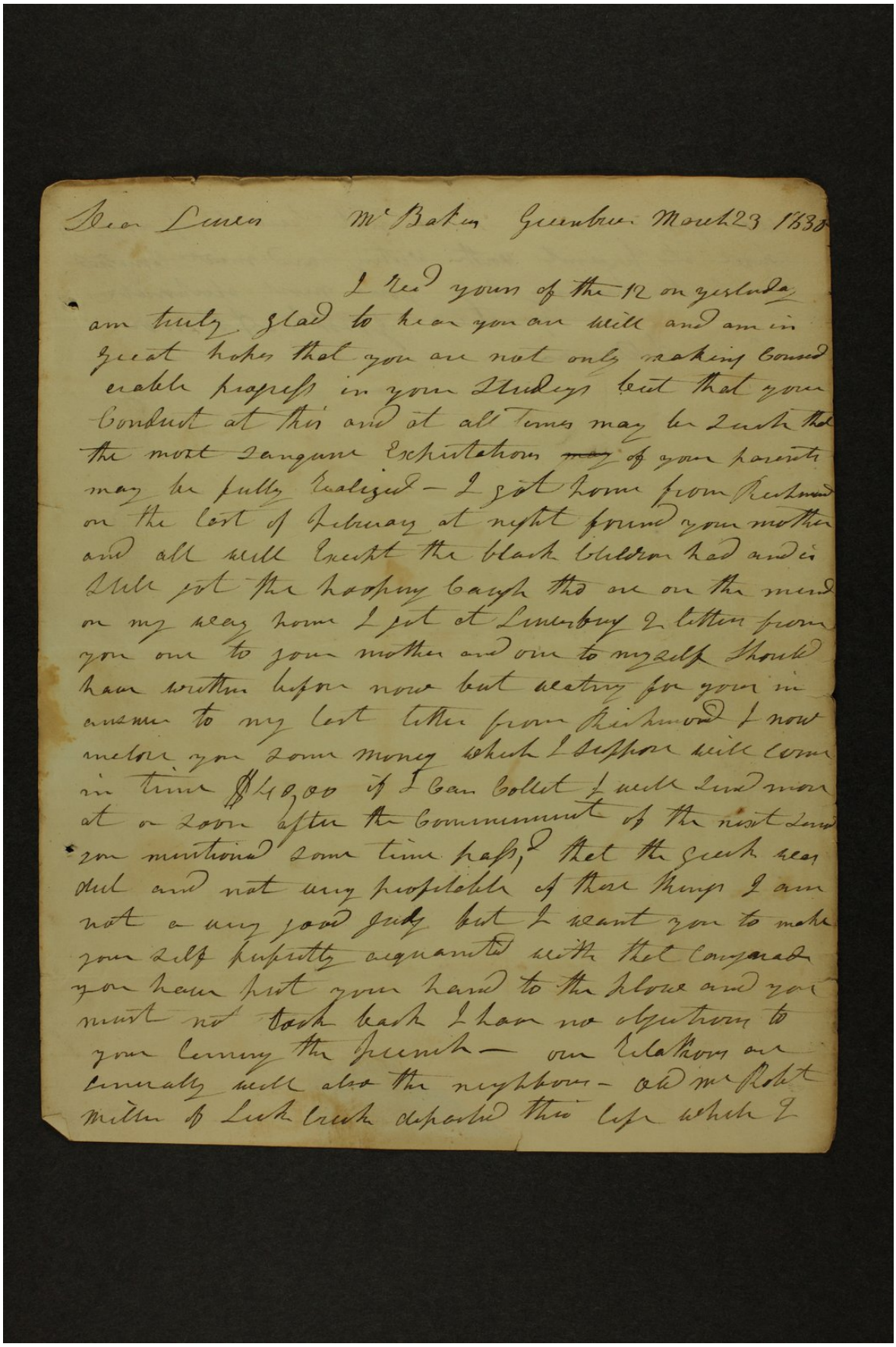
L A Alderson

9 Jan

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



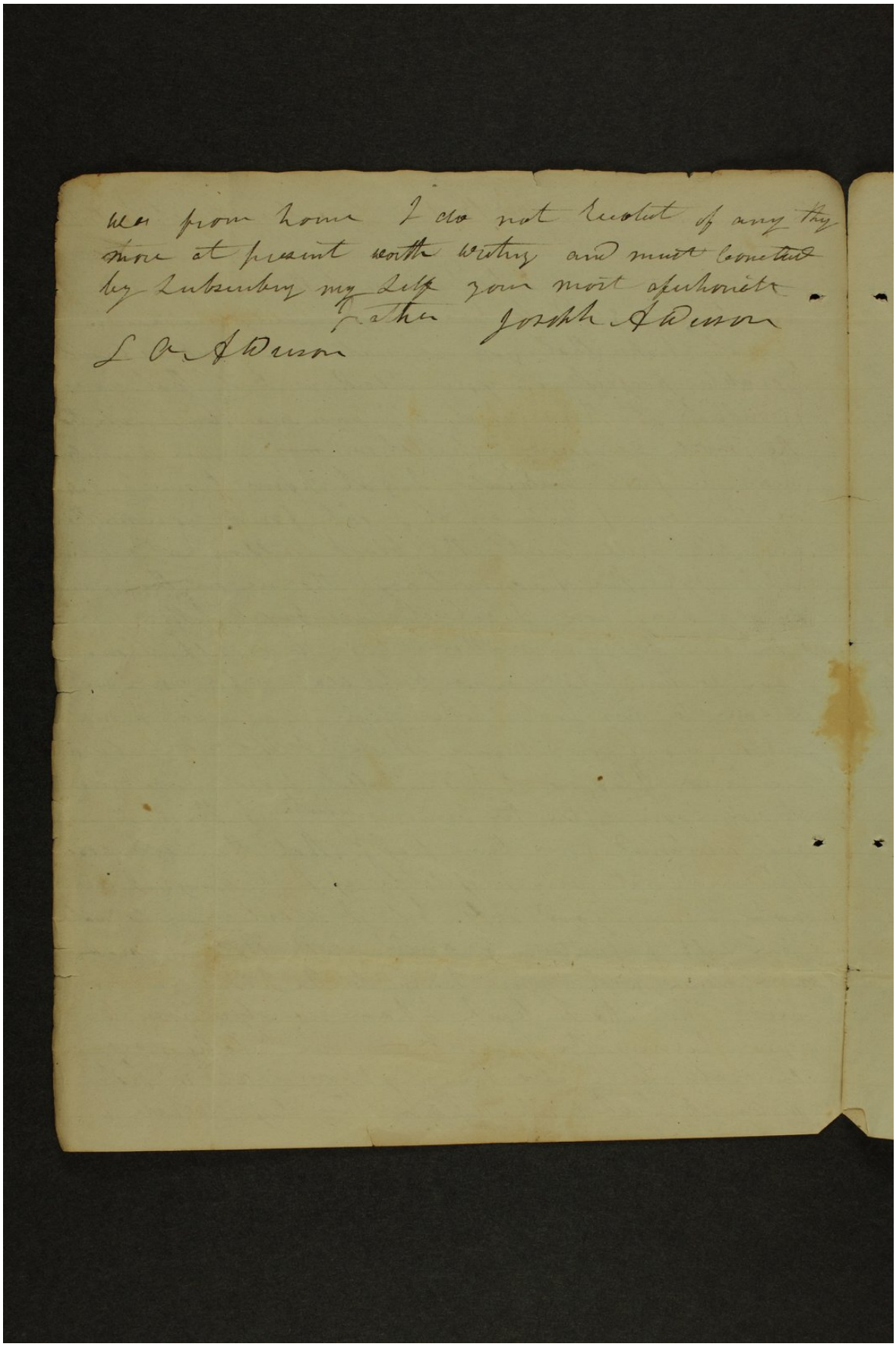
Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



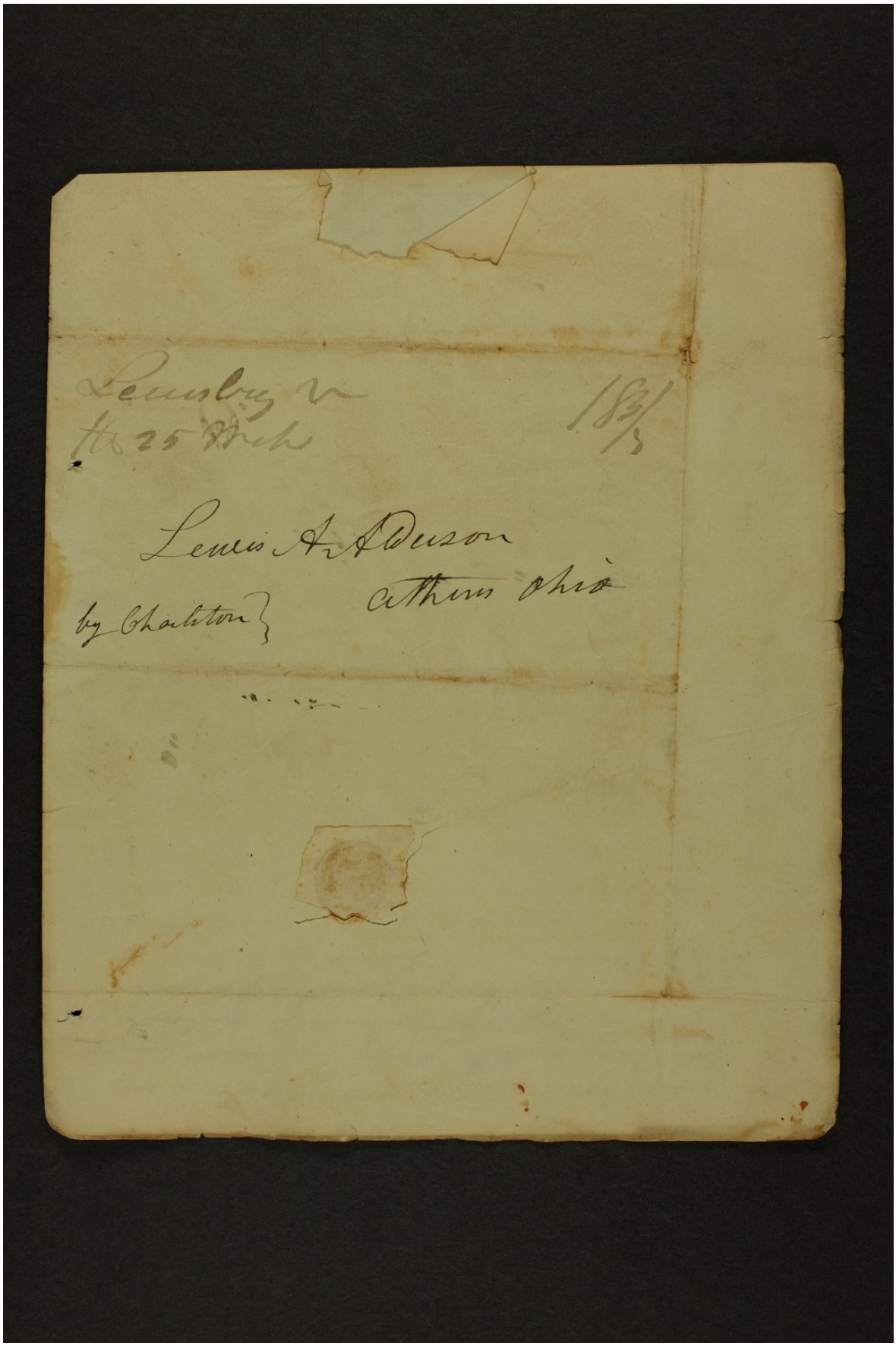
Dear Lewis Mt Baker Greenbrier March 23 1838

I rec'd yours of the 12 on yesterday am truly glad to hear you are well and am in great hopes that you are not only making Good enable progress in your Studies but that your Conduct at this and at all times may be such that the most sanguine Expectations ~~may~~ of your parents may be fully realized – I got home from Richmond on the last of February at night found your mother and all well except the black Children had and is still got the hooping Cough tho one on the mend on my way home I got at Lynchburg 2 letters from you one to your mother and one to myself should have written before now but waiting for your answer to my last letter from Richmond I now inclose you some money which I suppose will come in time $40,00 if I can collect I will send more at or soon after the Commencement of the next term you mentioned some time past, I bet the Greek class did and not any profitable of those things I am not a any good judge but I want you to make your self perfectly acquainted with the Language you have put your hand to the plow and you must not look back I have no objections to your learning the French – our relations are generally well also the neighbors – old Mr Robt Miller of Lick Creek departed this life where I

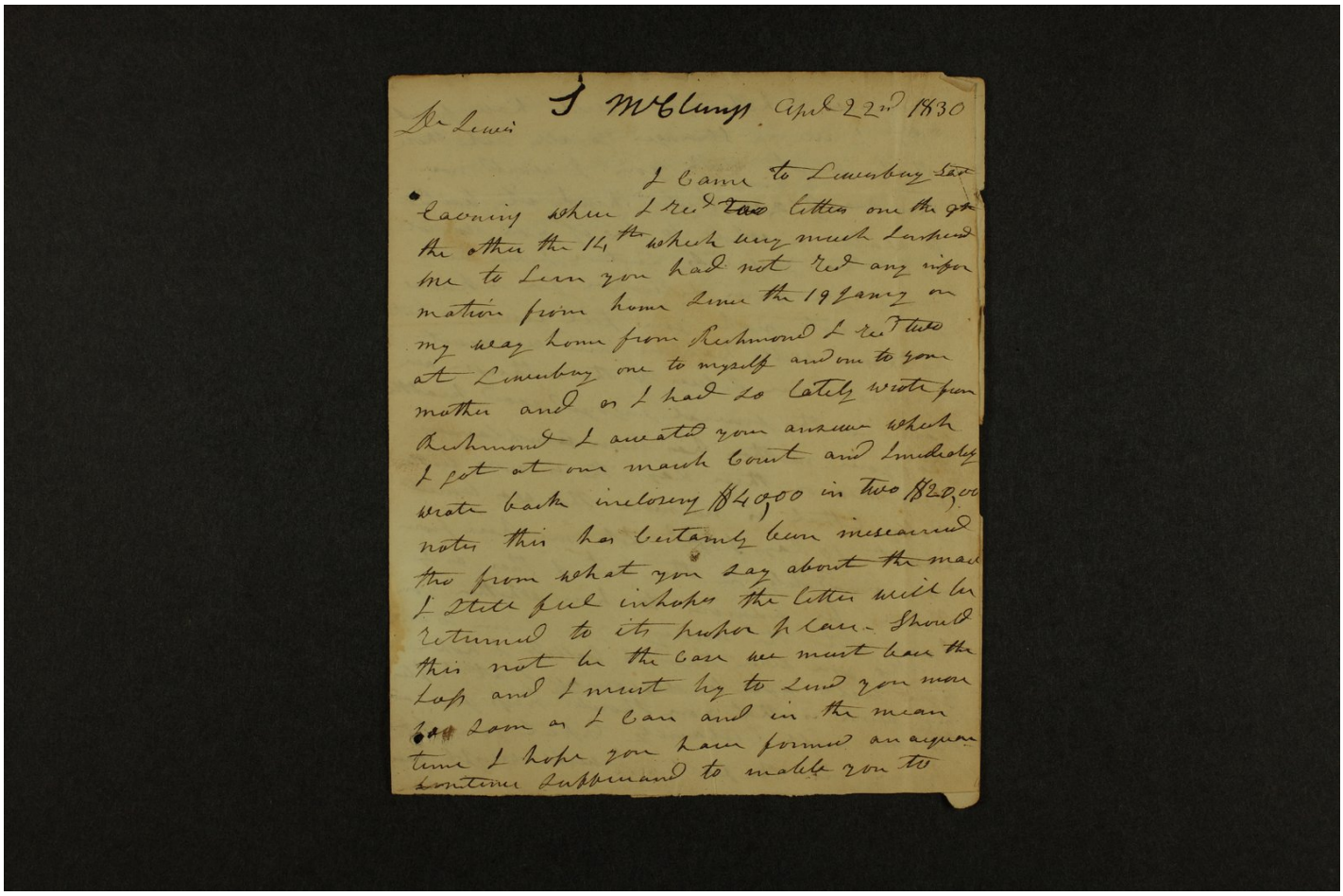
Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson

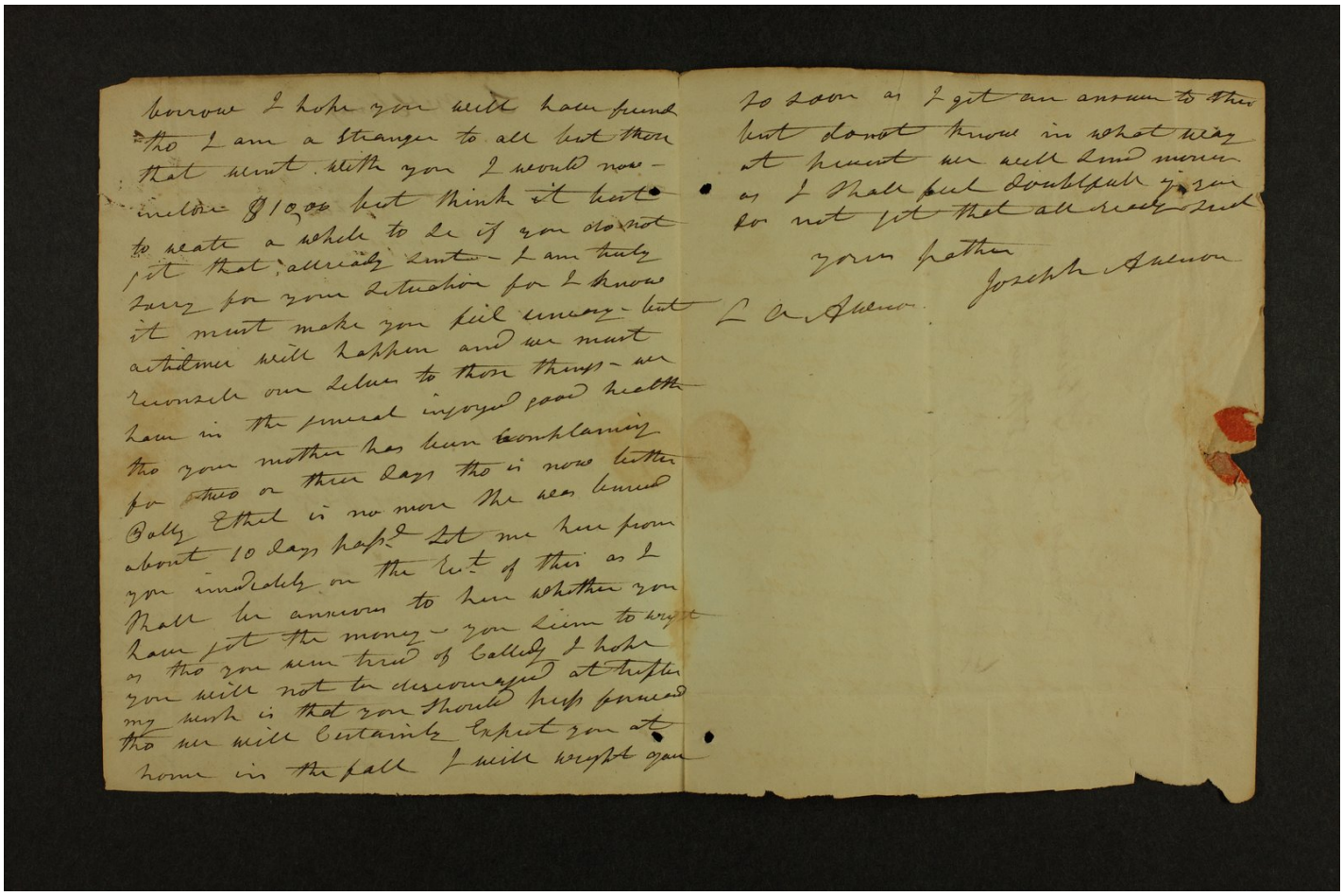


Dr Lewis

I M'Clungs April 22nd 1830

I came to Lewisburg last Evening when I rec'd two letters one the 9th the other the 14th which very much surprised me to learn you had not rec'd any information from home since the 19 January on my way home from Richmond I rec'd two at Lewisburg one to myself and one to your mother and as I had so lately wrote from Richmond I awaited your answer which I got at one march Court and Imediately wrote back inclosing $40,00 in two $20,00 notes this has certainly been miscarried tho from what you say about the mail I still feel inhopes the letter will be returned to its proper Hand. Should this not be the case we must bear the loss and I must try to send you more soon as I can and in the meantime I hope you have formed an acquaintance sufficient to make you so

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson

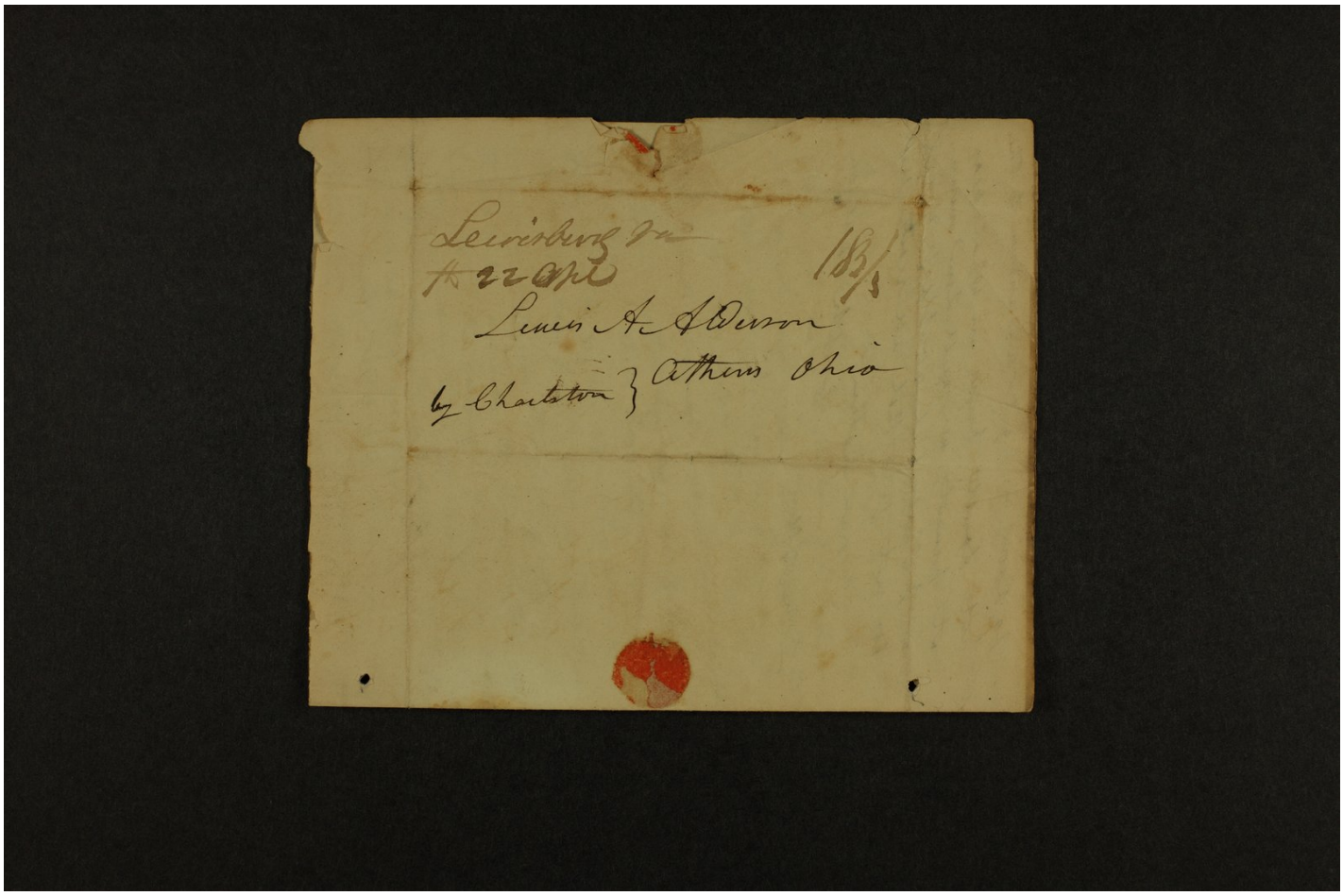


borrow I hope you will have found
tho I am a stranger to all but those
that went with you I would now -
inclose $10,00 but think it best
to wate a while to se if you do not
get that already sent - I am truly
sorry for your situation for I know
it must make you feel uneasy - but
affairs will happen and we must
reconcile our selves to those things - we
have in the general injoyed good health
tho your mother has been complaining
for two or three days tho is now better
Polly Ethel is no more She was buried
about 10 days back Let me here from
you imediately on the rect of this as I
shall be anxious to here whether you
have got the money - you seem to regret
as tho you were tired of Calloway I hope
you will not be discouraged at trifles
my wish is that you should keep pursuing
tho we will Certainly expect you at
home in the fall I will write you
so soon as I get an answer to this
but do not know in what way
at present we will send money
as I shall feel doubtful if you
do not get that all ready sent

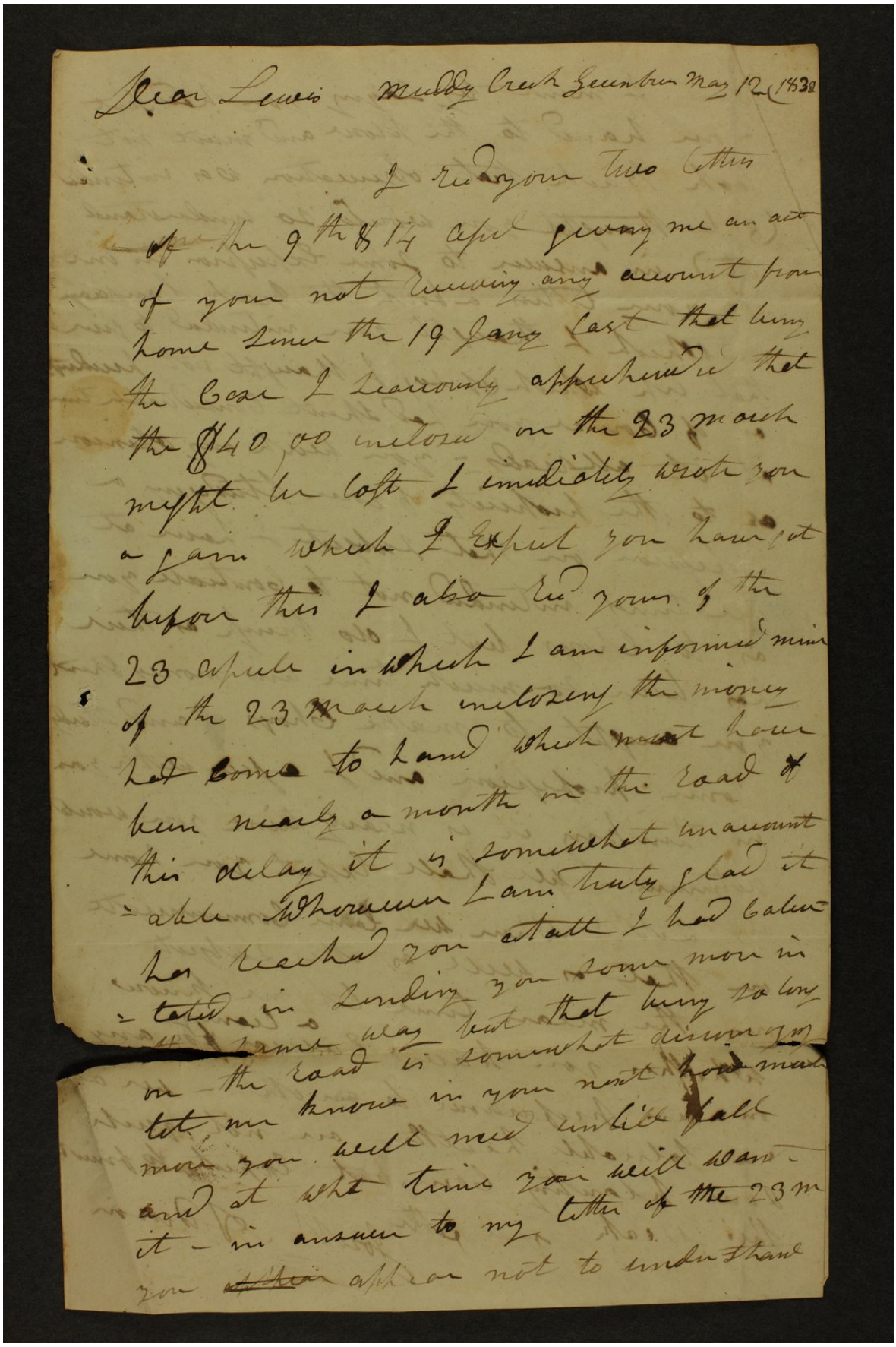
your father
Joseph Alderson

L A Alderson

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



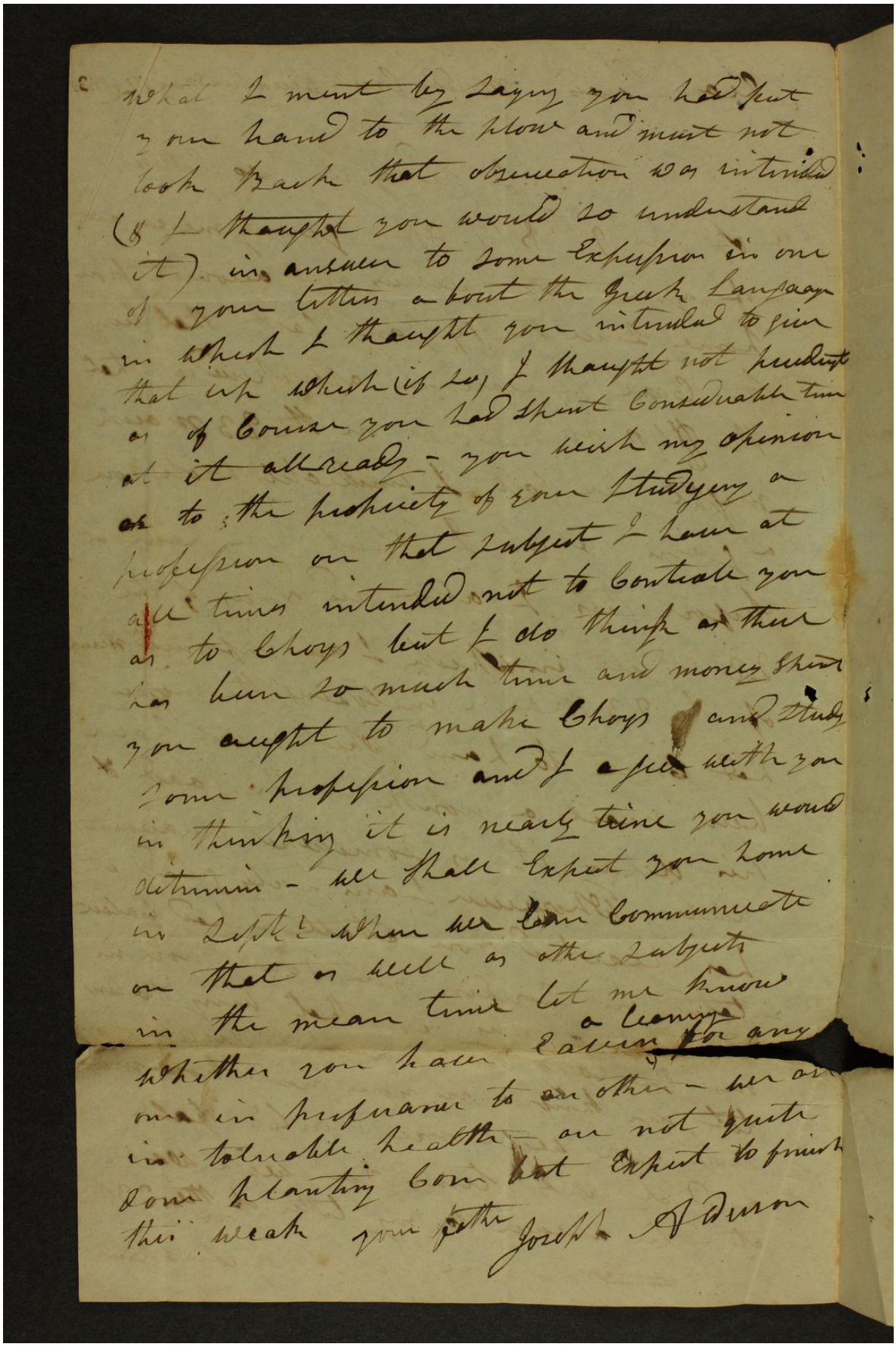
Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



Dear Lewis Muddy Creek Decumber May 12th 1838

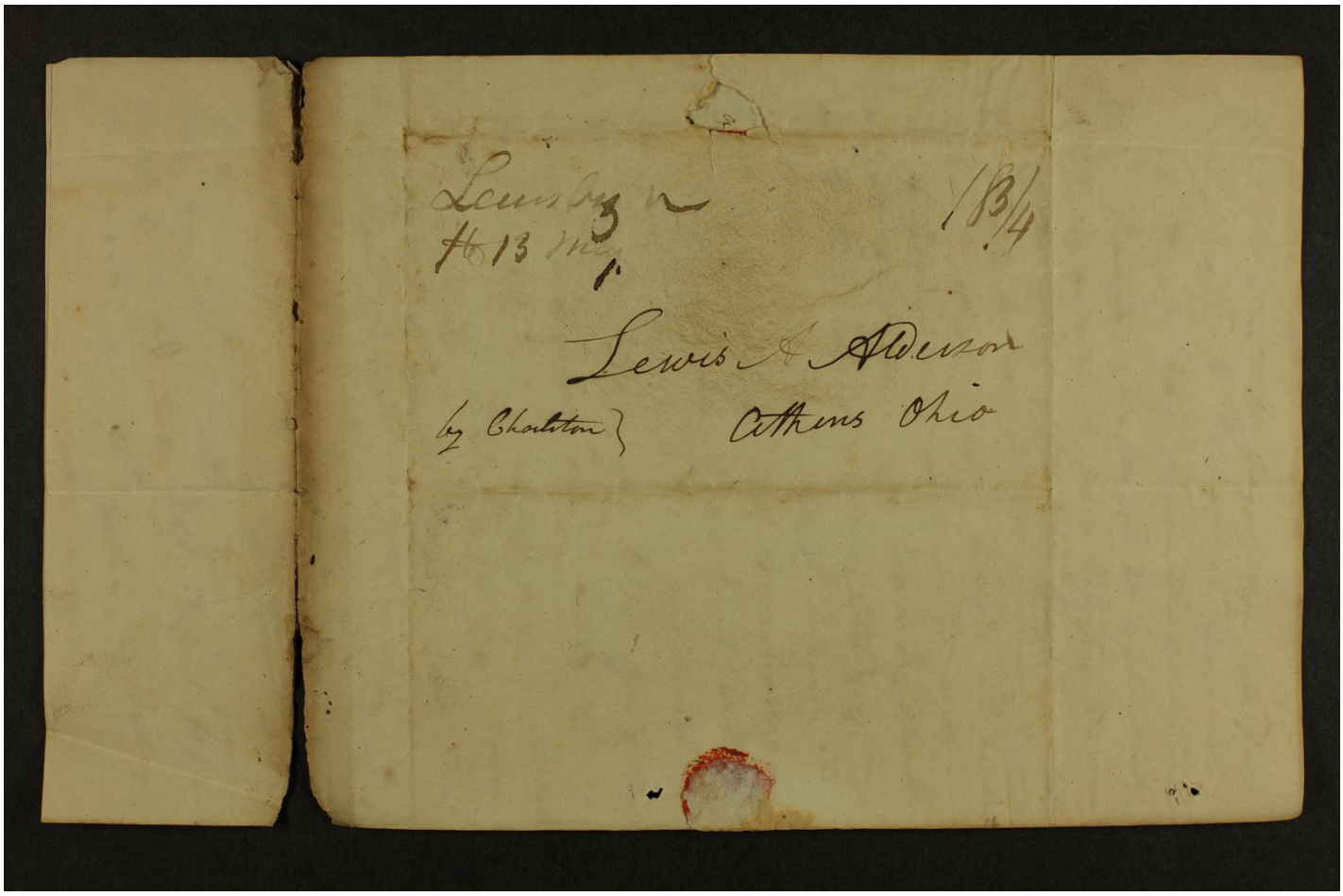
I Recd your two Letters of the 9th & 14th Sept giving me an acct of your not Recving any amount from home since the 19 Jany last that long the Case I Seariously apprehended that the $40,00 mileage on the 23 march might be lost I imediately wrote you a Leter which I Expect you have got before this I also Rec'd yours of the 23 April in which I am informed mine of the 23 march inclosing the money had come to hand which must have been nearly a month in the Road & this delay it is somewhat unaccountable However I am truly glad it has reached you at all I had calculated in Sending you some more in the same way but that being so long on the Road is somewhat discouraging let me know in your next how much more you will need & at what time you will want it - in answer to my Letter of the 23rd you ask me not to understand

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson

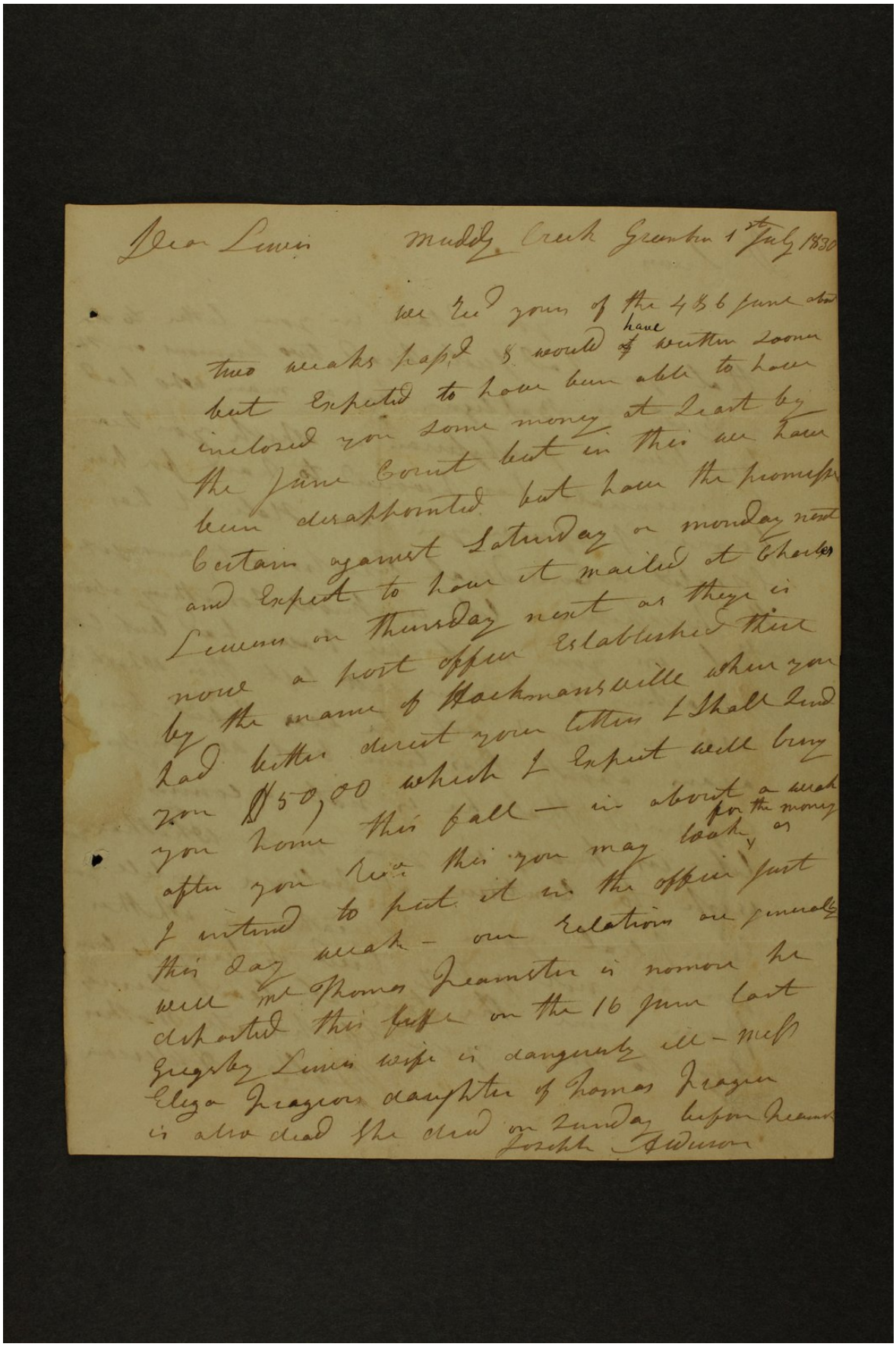


what I ment by saying you had put your hand to the plow and must not look back that observation was intended (& I thought you would so understand it) in answer to some Expression in one of your letters about the Greek Language in which I thought you intended to give that up which (if so) I thought not prudent as of Course you had spent Considerable time at it allready - you wish my opinion as to the propriety of your studying a profession on that subject I have at all times intended not to Controle you as to Choys but I do think as there has been so much time and money spent you ought to make Choys and study some profession and I agree with you in thinking it is nearly time you would determin - we shall Expect you home in Sept! when we can Communicate on that as well as other Subjects in the mean time let me know whether you have Cause for any one in preference to another - we are in tolerable health - are not quite done planting Corn but Expect to finish this week you[illegible] Joseph Alderson

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson

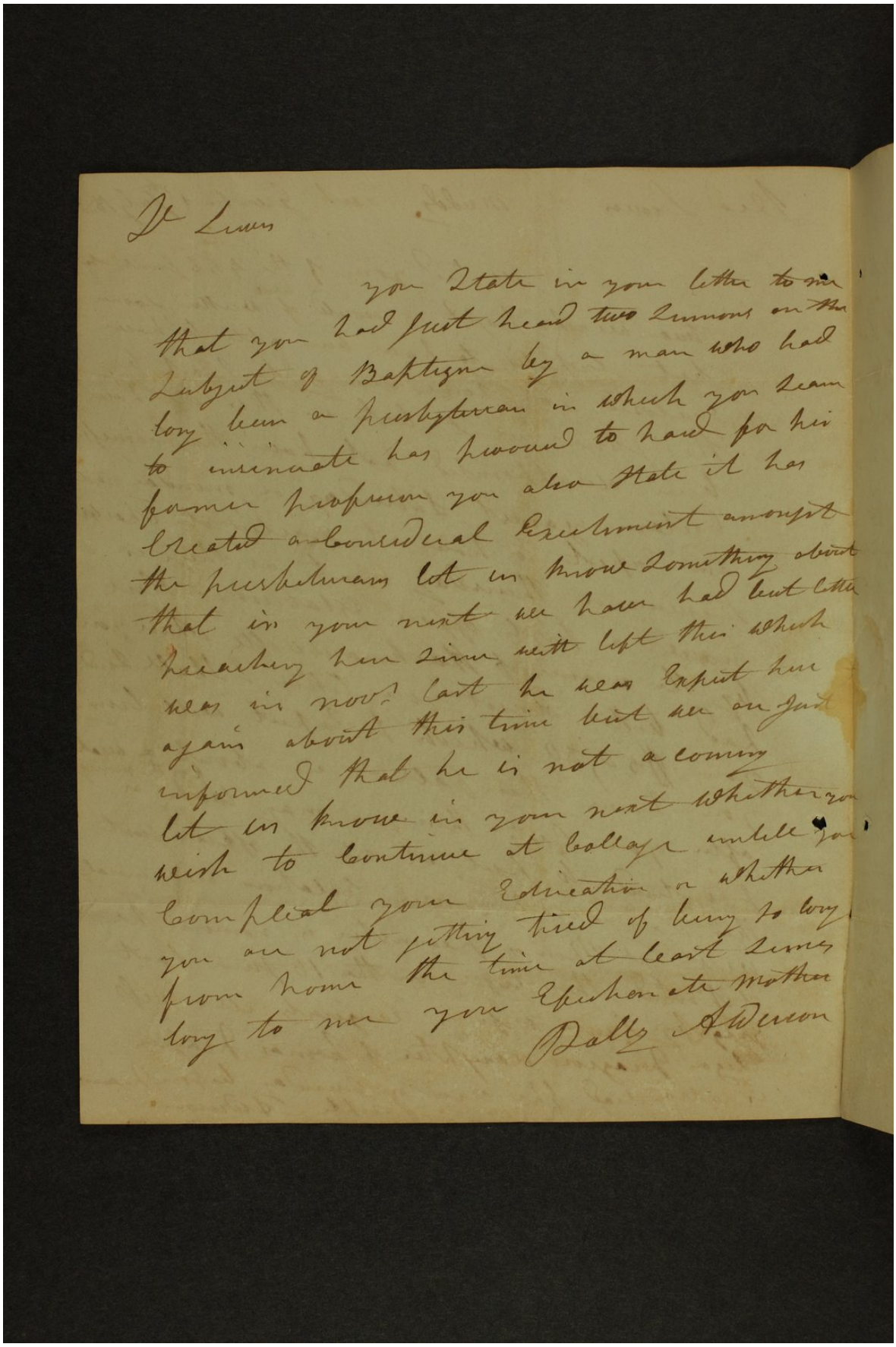


Dear Lewis Muddy Creek Gruenbn 1st July 1830

we rec'd yours of the 4th & 6 June about two weeks past & would have written sooner but Expected to have been able to have inclosed you some money at least by the June Court but in this we have been disappointed but have the promise certain against Saturday or monday next and Expect to have it mailed at Charles Lewis on Thursday next as there is now a post office Established there by the name of Hackmansville when you had letter direct your letter & shall send you $50,00 which I Expect will bring you home this fall — in about a week after you rec'd this you may look for the money I intend to put it in the office just this day week — our relation are generally well Mr Thomas Jeamster is no more he departed this life on the 16 June last Gregsby Lewis wife is dangerously ill — Mrs Eliza Jeagers daughter of Thomas Jeagers is also dead She died on Sunday last Jeamster

Joseph Alderson

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson

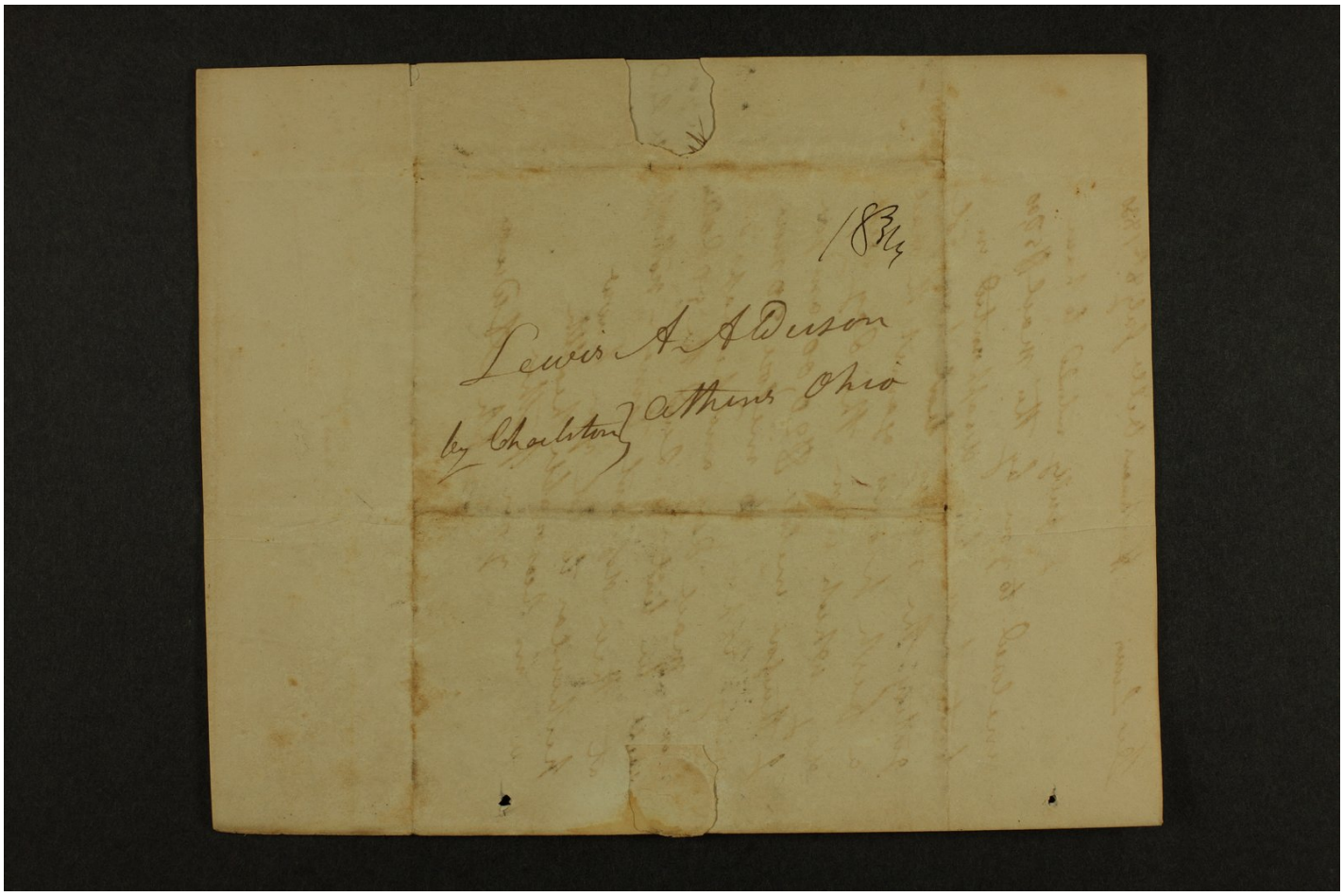


Dr Lewis

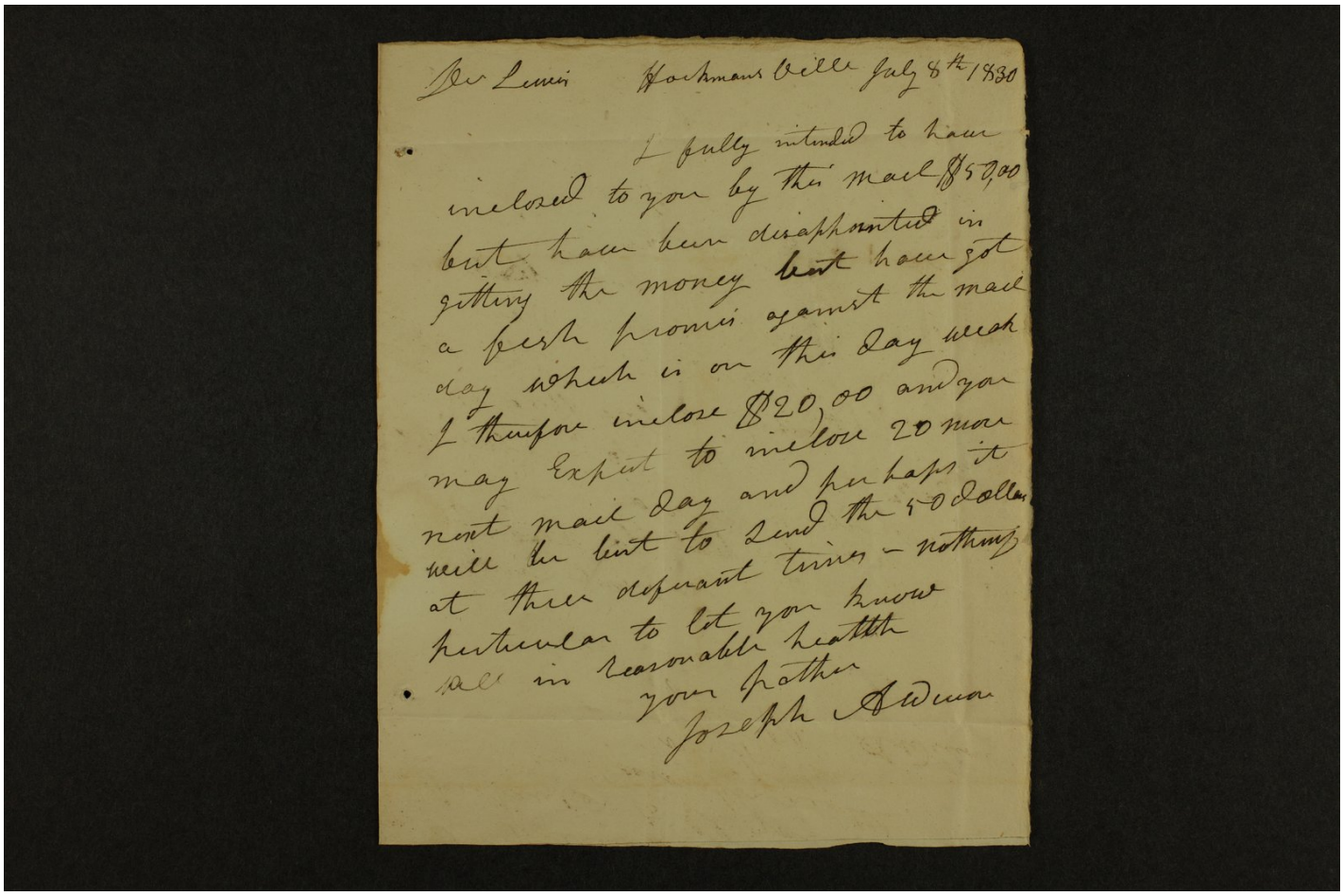
you State in your letter to me that you had just heard two Sermons on the Subject of Baptism by a man who had long been a Presbyterian in which you seem to insinuate has proved to have for his former profession you also State it has created a considerable excitement amongst the Presbyterians let us know something about that in your next we have had but little preaching here since with left this which near is now. Can't he near Capt here again about this time but we are just informed that he is not a coming let us know in your next whether you wish to continue at College until you Compleat your Education or whether you are not getting tired of being so long from home the time at least seems long to me you Brothers ate mother

Dally Alderson

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



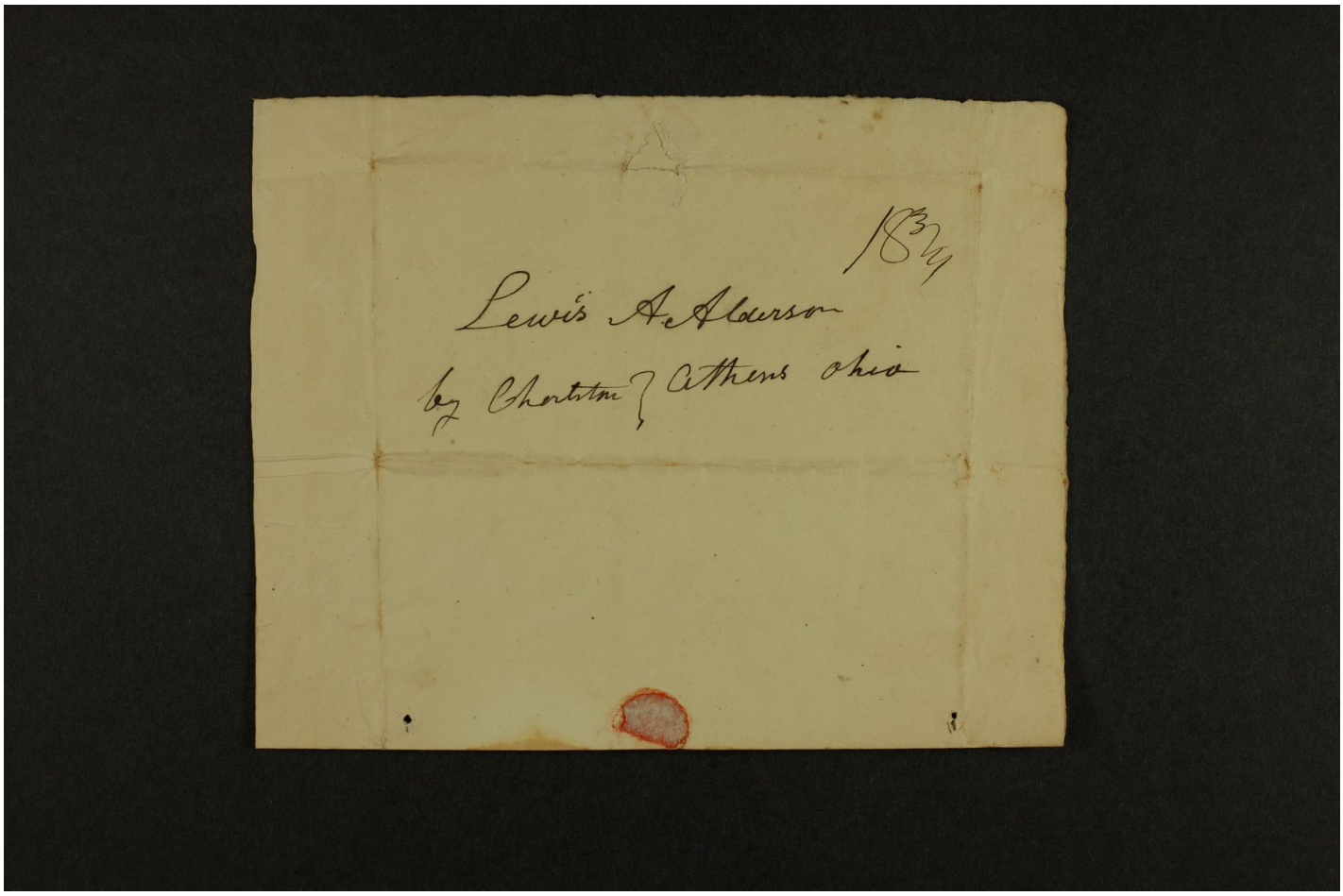
Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



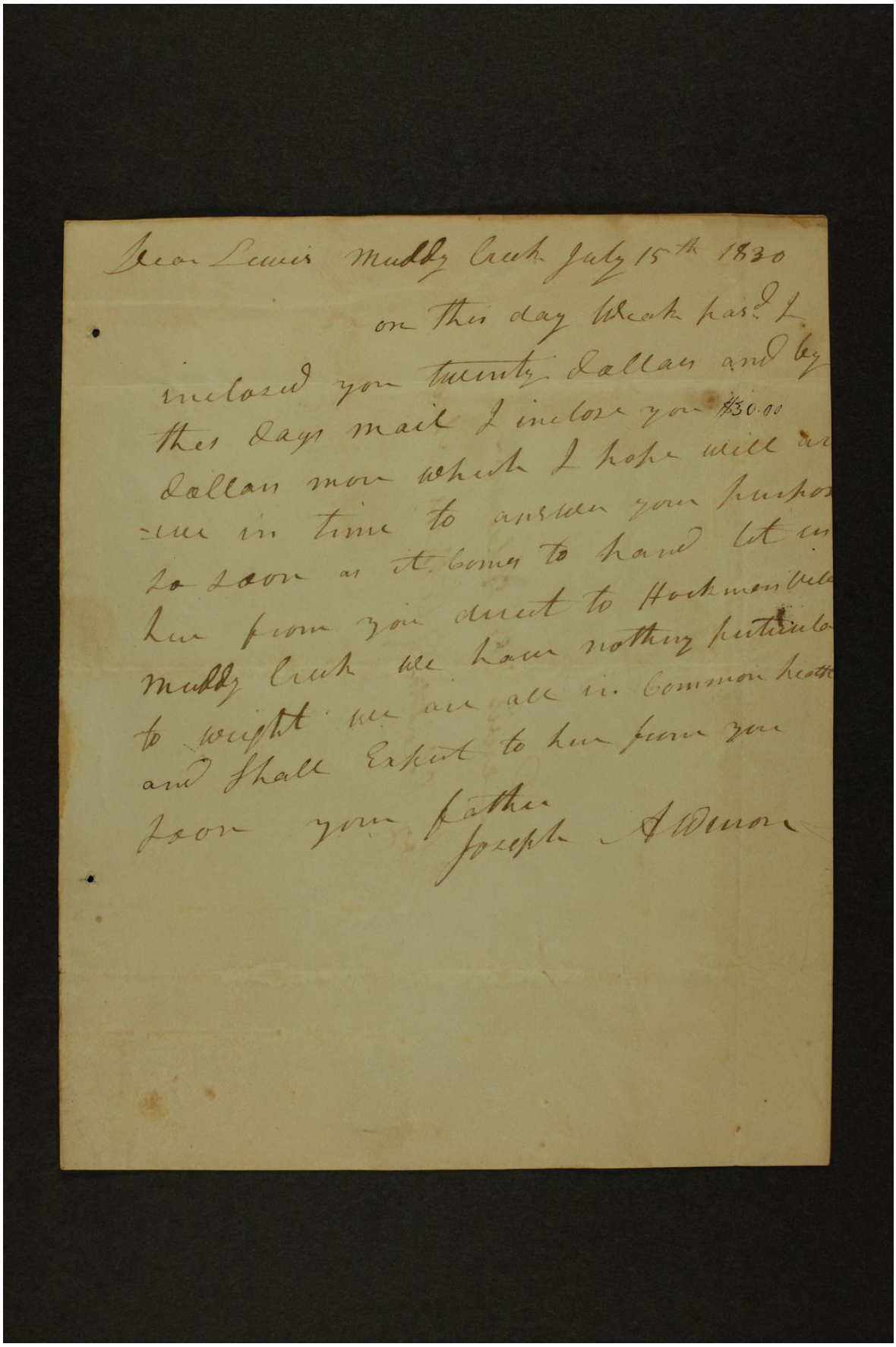
Dr Lewis Hockmans Mills July 8th 1830

I fully intended to have
inclosed to you by this mail $50,00
but have been disappointed in
getting the money but have got
a fresh promis against the mail
day which is on this day week
I therefore inclose $20,00 and you
may expect to inclose 20 more
next mail day and perhaps it
will be out to send the 50 dollars
at three separate times – nothing
particular to let you know
all in reasonable health
your father
Joseph Alderson

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson

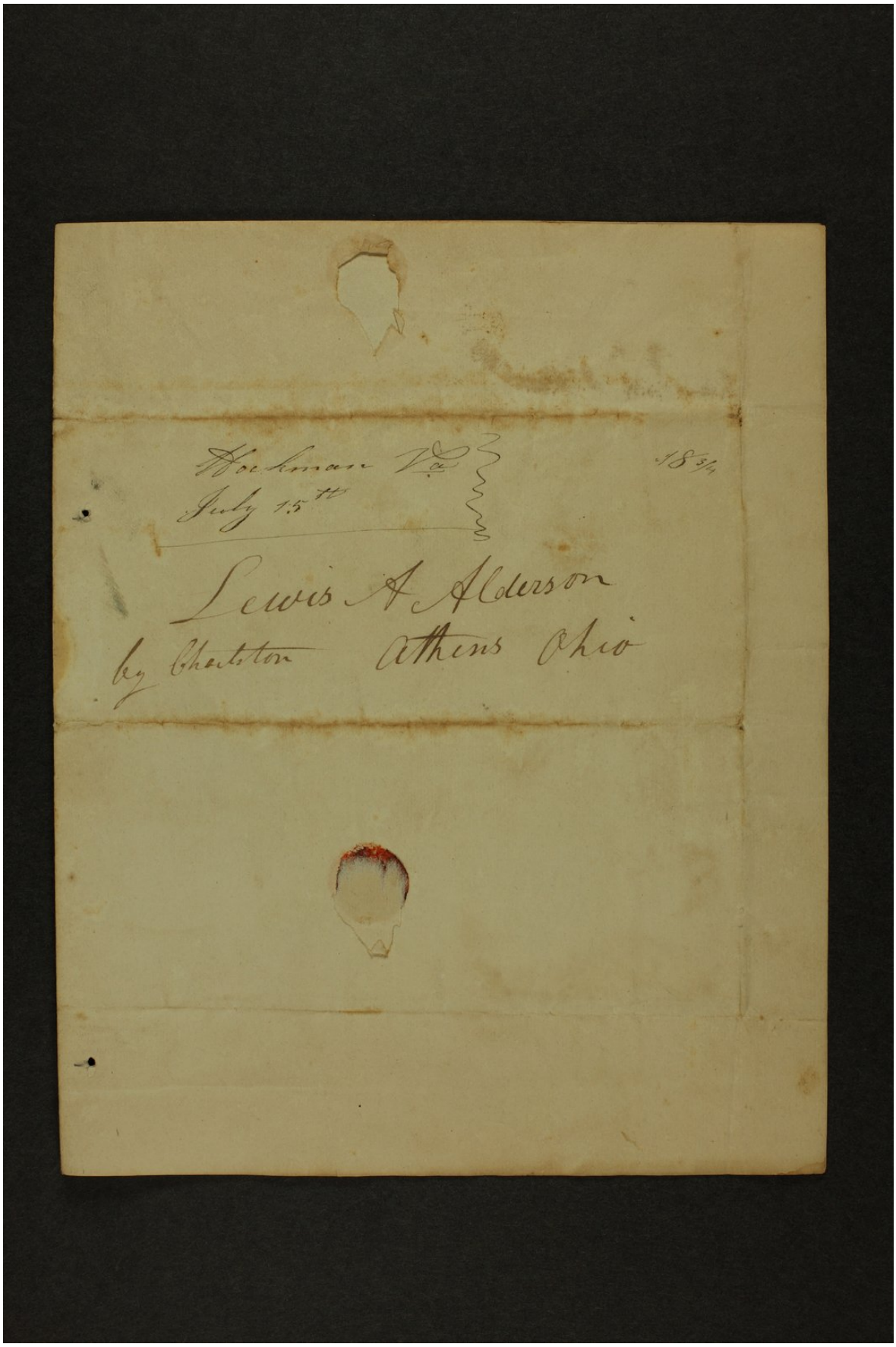


Dear Lewis Muddy Creek July 15th 1830

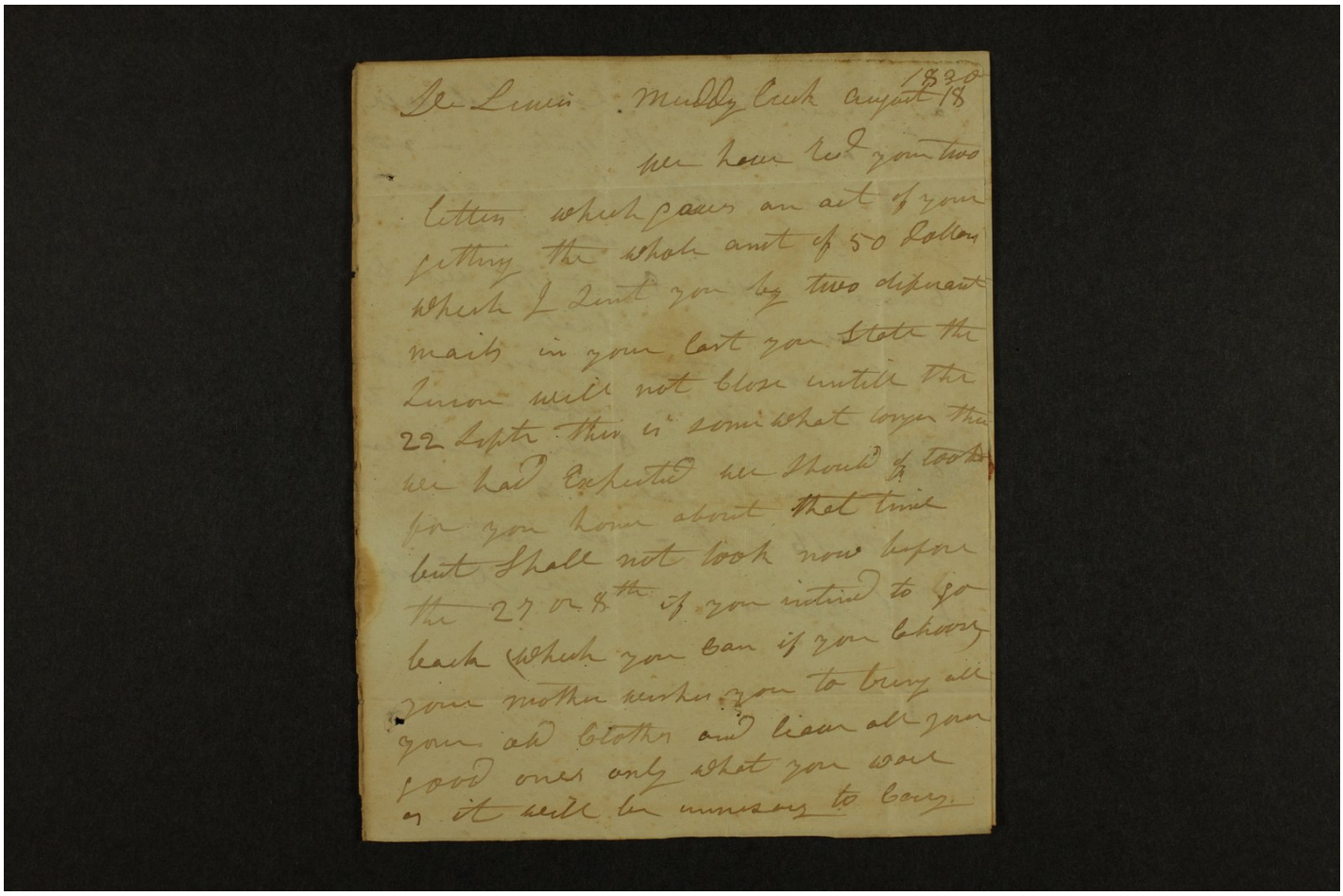
on this day week last I inclosed you twenty dollars and by this days mail I inclose you $30.00 dollars more which I hope will arrive in time to answer your purpose so soon as it comes to hand let us hear from you direct to Hockmonville Muddy Creek we have nothing particular to write we are all in common health and shall expect to hear from you soon your father

Joseph Alderson

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



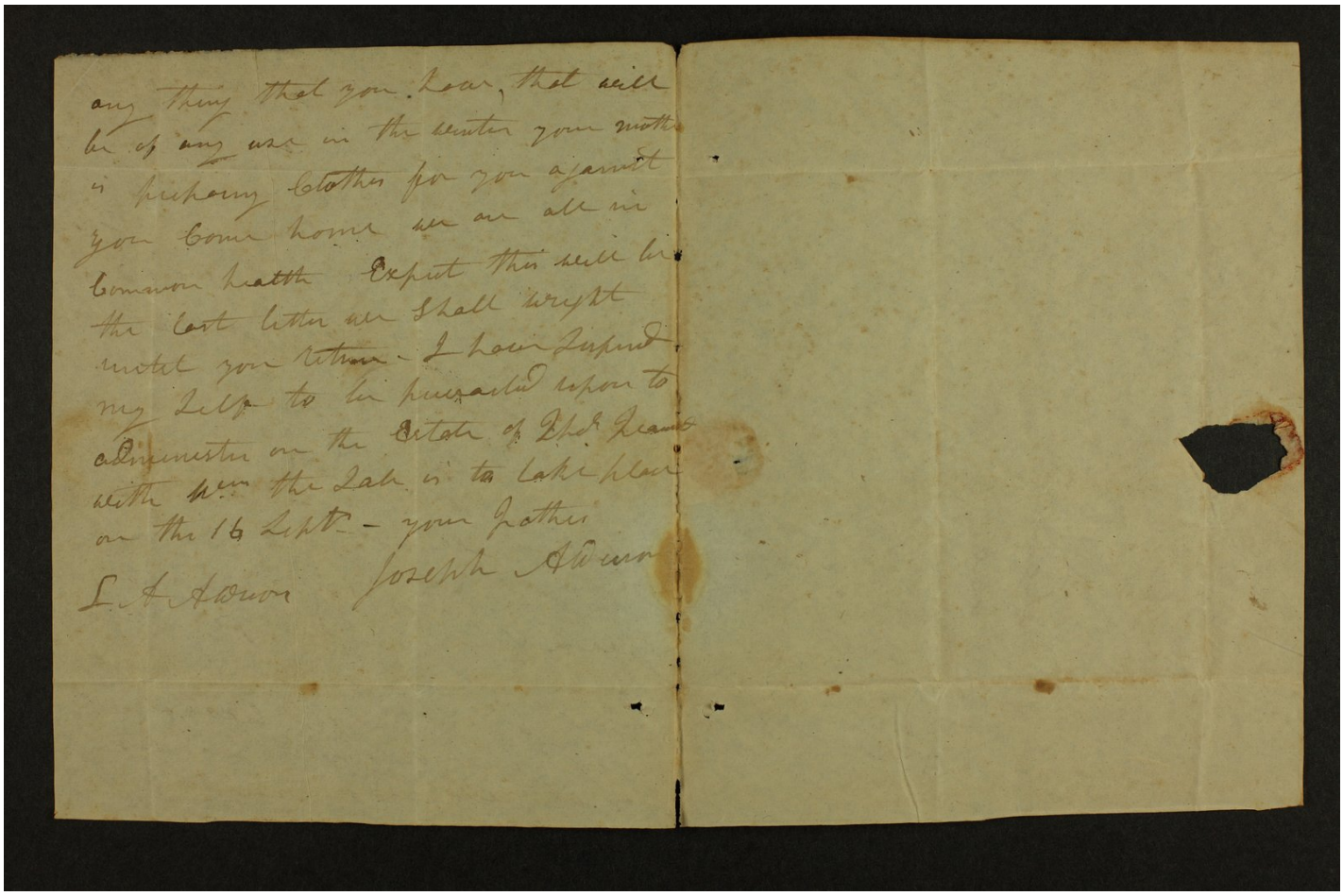
Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



Dr Lewis Muddy Creek August 18 1820

We have Rec'd your two letters which pass an act of your getting the whole amt of 50 Dollars which I sent you by two diferant mails in your last you State the Union will not close until the 22 Septr this is somewhat longer than we had Expected we should of took for you home about that time but shall not look now before the 27 or 8th if you intend to go back (which you can if you choose) your mother wishes you to buy all your old Clothes and leave all your good ones only what you want as it will be unnessary to carry

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson

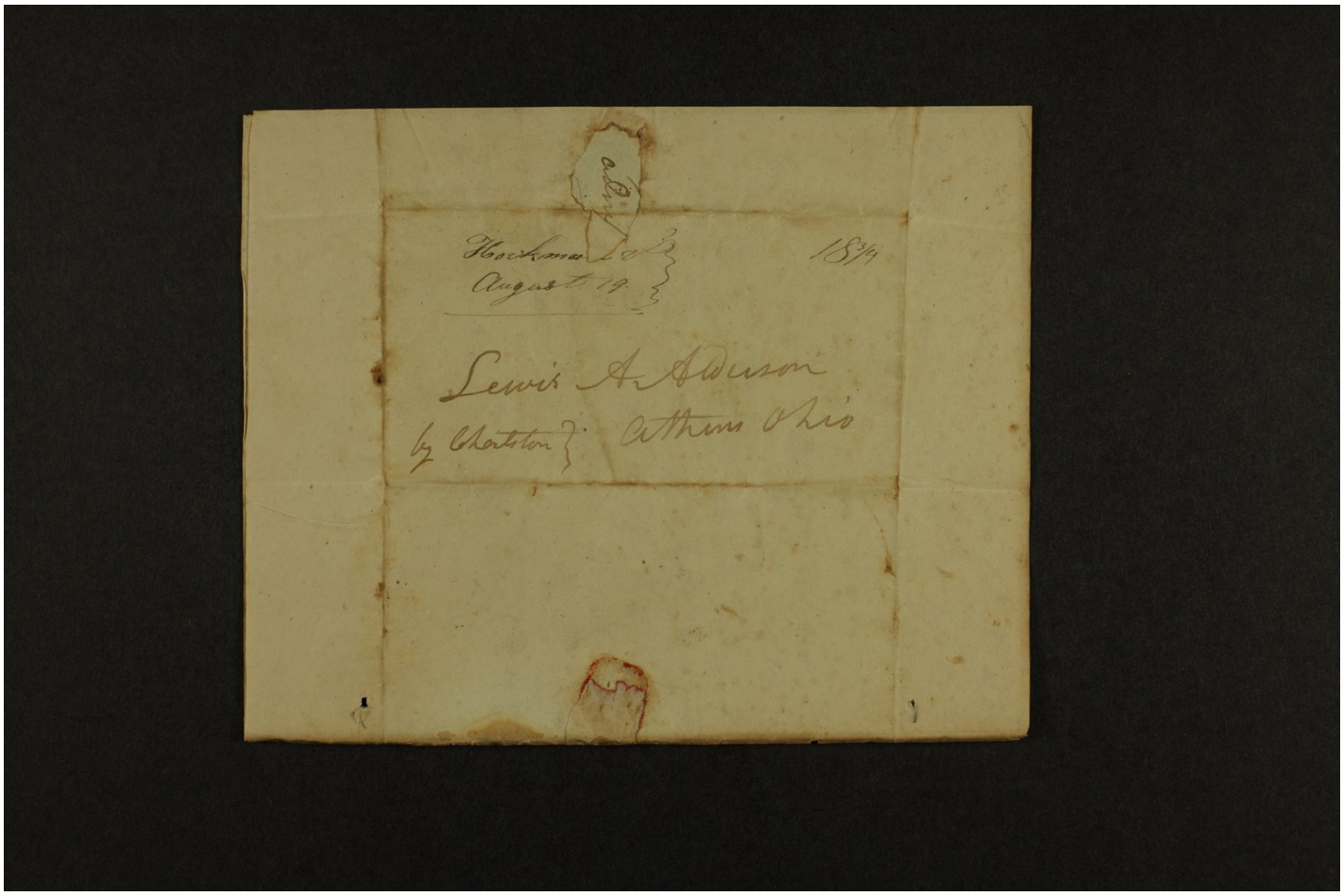


any thing that you hear, that will be of any use in the winter your mother is preparing clothes for you against you come home we are all in common health Except this will be the last letter we shall wright until you return - I have Lapsed my Life to be prevailed upon to a Dragoon on the Staff of Brig Gen with whom the Sale is to take place on the 16 Sept - your father

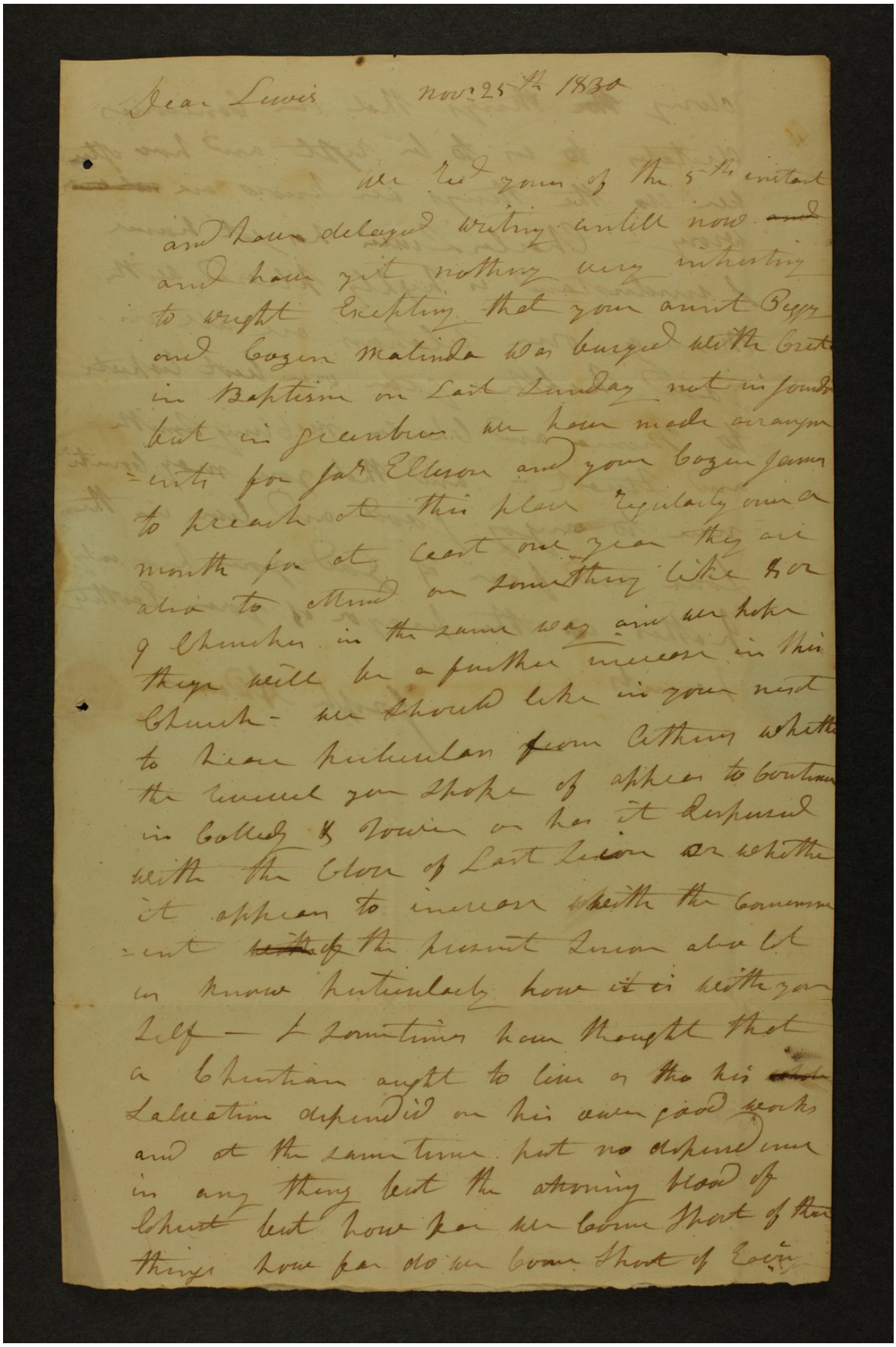
L A Alderson

Joseph Alderson

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



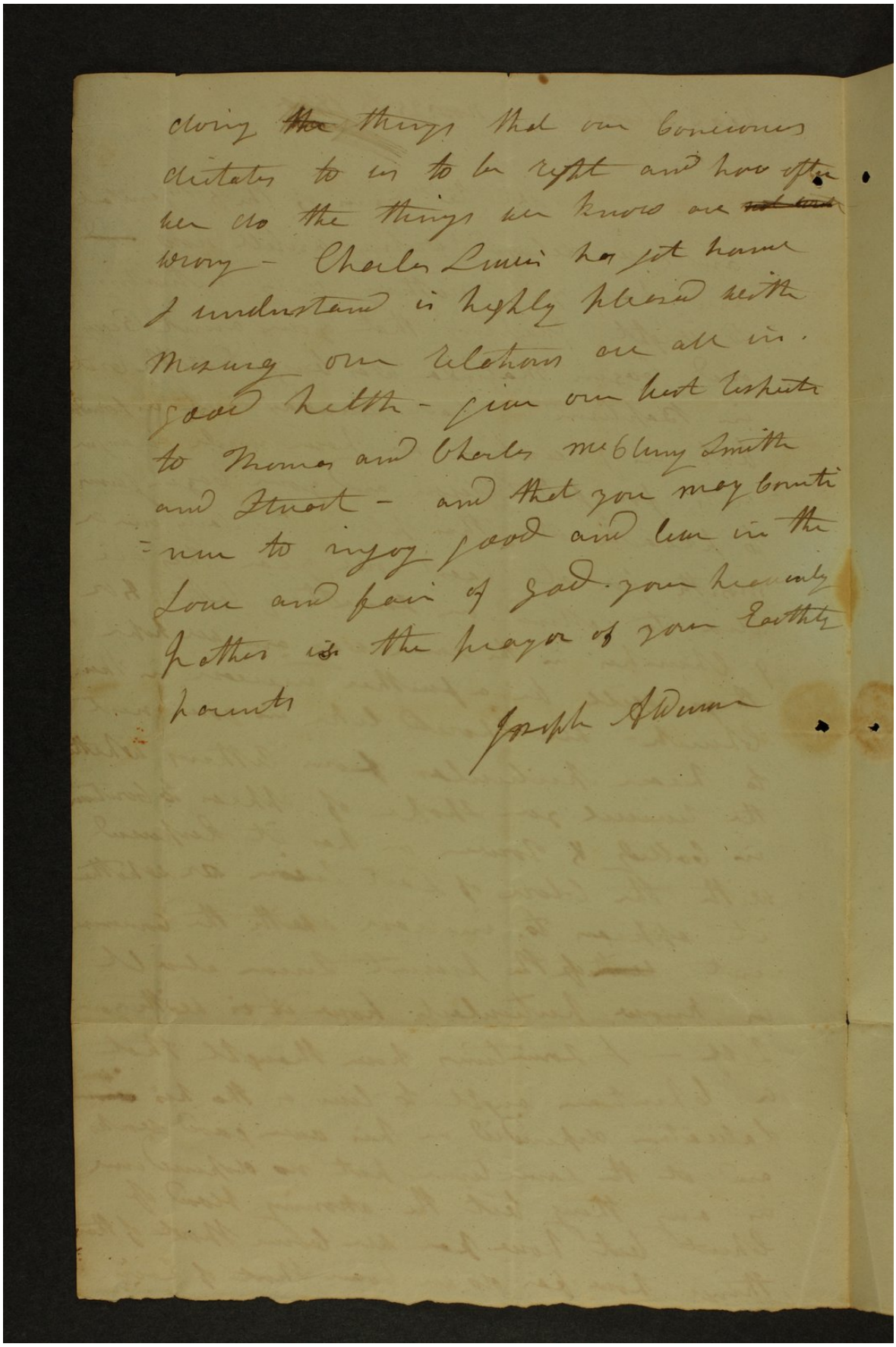
Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



Dear Lewis nov 25th 1830

We rec'd yours of the 5th instant and have delayed writing until now and have yet nothing very interesting to write. Excepting that your aunt Peggy and Cozen Malinda was buryed with the Christ in Baptism on Last Sunday not in form but in precept we have made arrangements for Jas Ellison and your Cozen James to preach at this place regularly once a month for at least one year they are also to attend on something like the 3 Sundays in the same way and we hope there will be a further increase in this Church. we should like in your next to hear particular from Athens whether the council you spoke of appear to continue in College & Town or has it dispersed with the Close of Last Session or whether it appear to increase with the commencement of the present Session also let us know particularly how it is with yourself — I sometimes have thought that a Christian ought to live as tho his Salvation depended on his own good works and at the same time put no dependence in any thing but the atoning blood of Christ but how far we come short of these things how far do we come short of Every

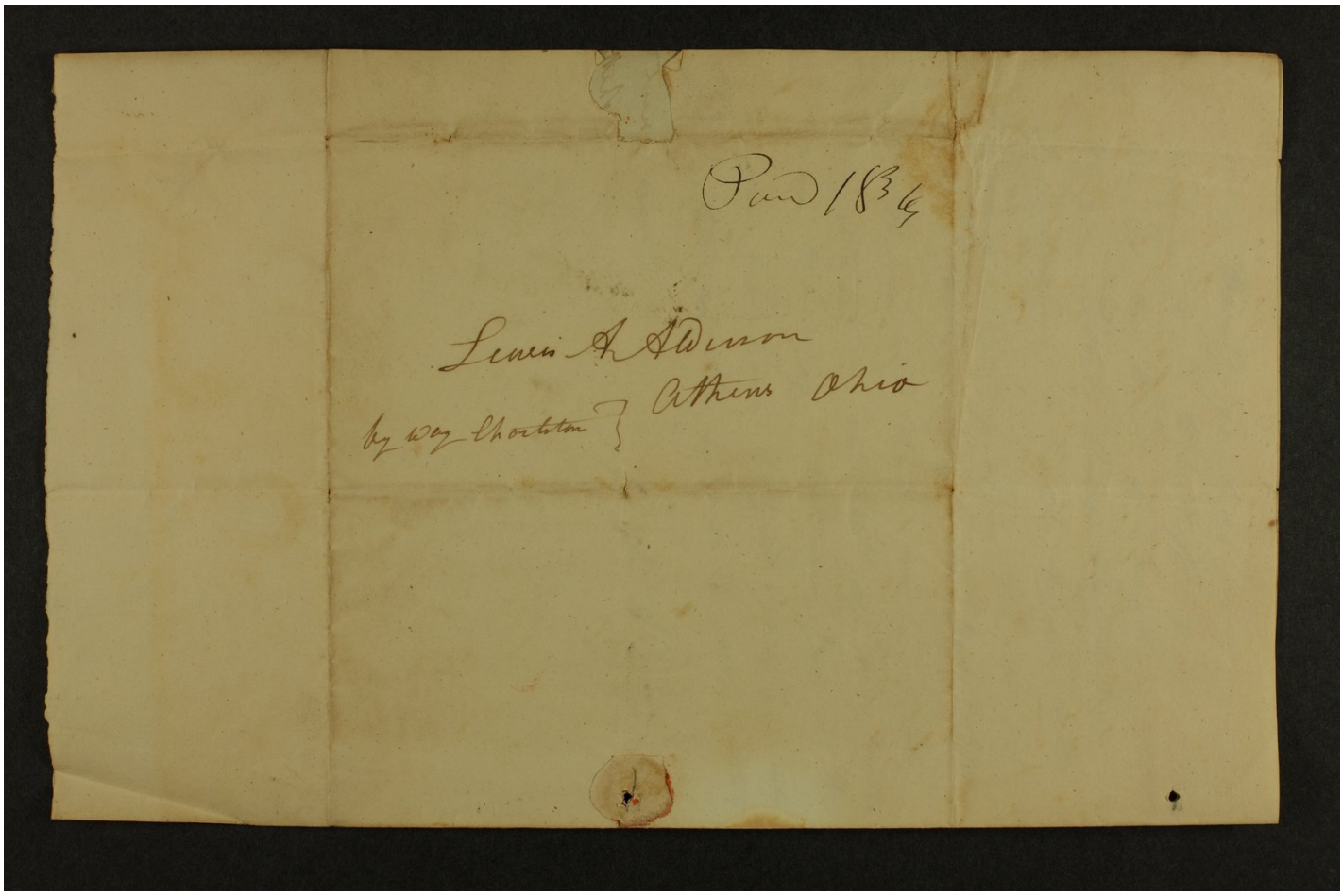
Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



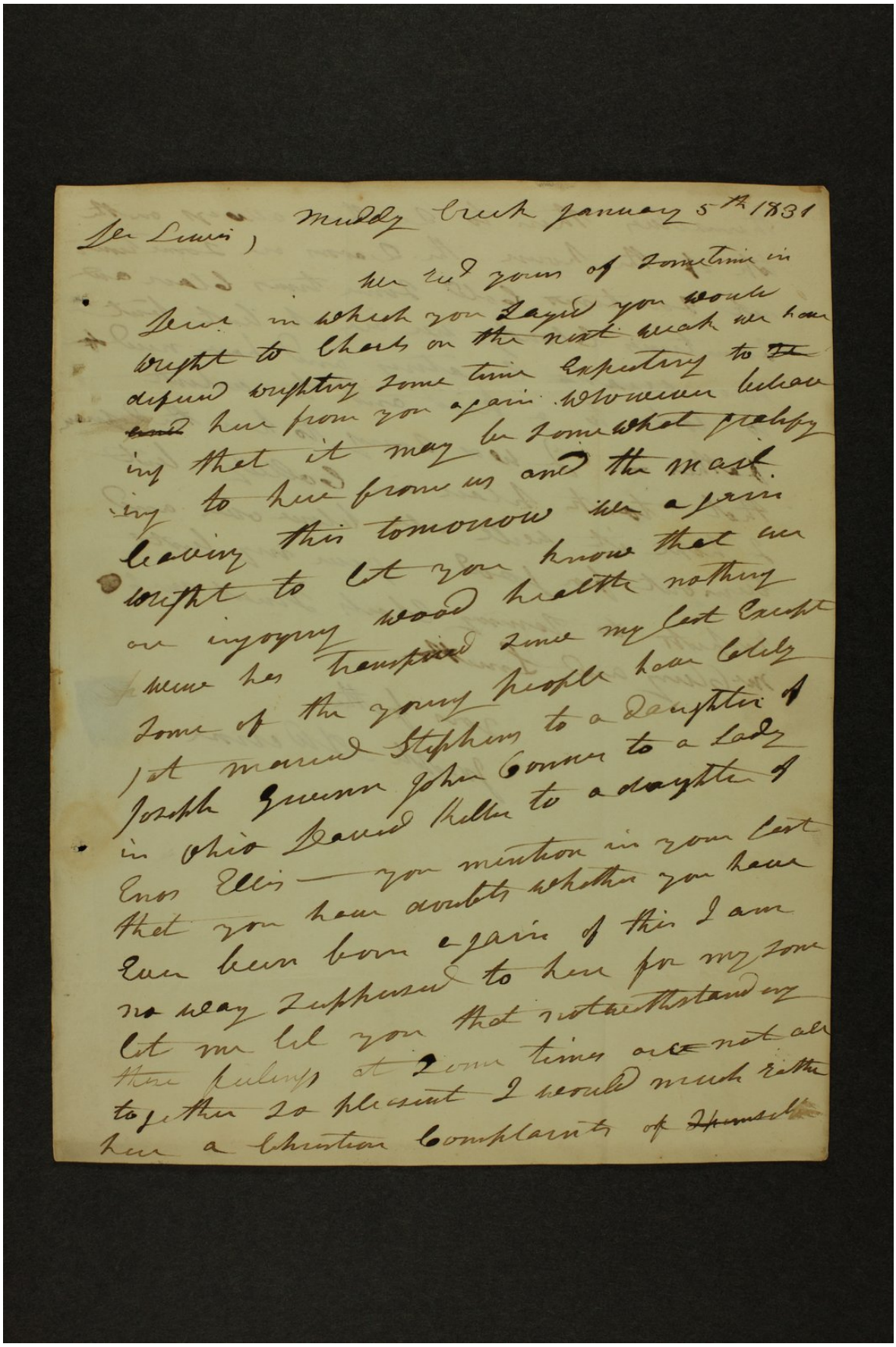
doing the things that our Conscious dictates to us to be right and how often we do the things we know are ~~not~~ wrong - Charles Lewis has got home I understand is highly pleased with seeing our relations are all in good health - give our best respects to Thomas and Charles McClung Smith and Stuart - and that you may continue to enjoy good and live in the Love and fear of God. your heavenly Father is the prayer of your Earthly parents

Joseph Alderson

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson

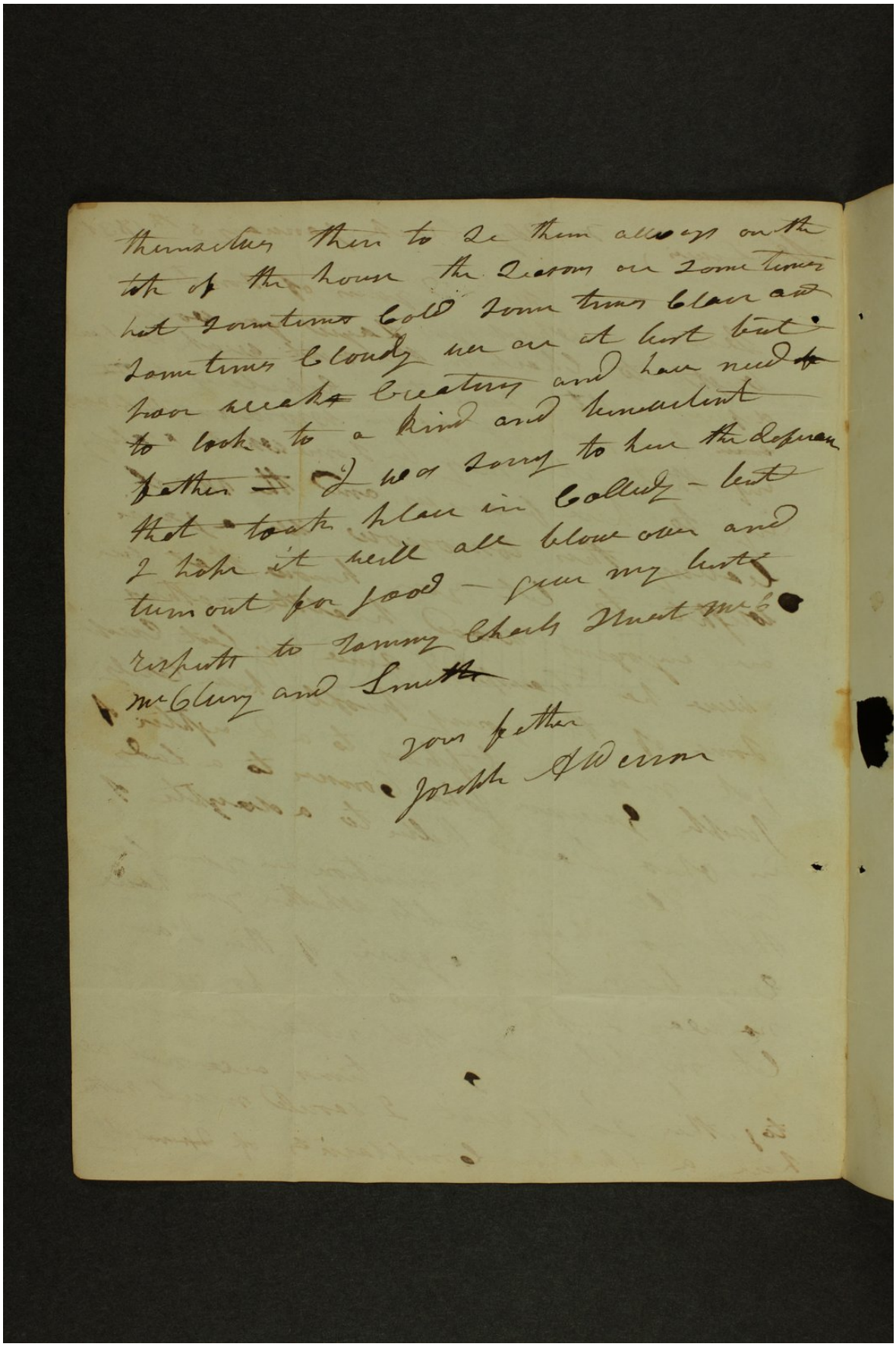


Muddy Creek January 5th 1831

Dr Lewis)

We rec'd yours of sometime in June in which you Said you would write to Chris on the next week we have depend writing some time expecting to hear from you again. However believing that it may be somewhat probably to hear from us and the mail leaving this tomorrow we a gain thought to let you know that we are injoying good health nothing Some of the young people have lately Joseph Greenn John Conner to a Lady in Ohio David Keller to a daughter of Enos Ellis — you mention in your last that you have doubts whether you have ever been born again of this I am no way Surprised to hear for my Self let me tell you that notwithstanding there pulings at some times are not all together So pleasant I would much rather have a Christian Complaints of Humble

Joseph Alderson to Lewis Allen Alderson



themselves there to be them always on the
top of the house the Devils are sometimes
hot sometimes cold sometimes clear and
sometimes cloudy we are at last but
poor weak creatures and have need
to look to a kind and benevolent
Father I was sorry to hear the Lofman
that took place in Colledy - but
I hope it will all blow over and
turn out for good - give my best
respects to Tommy Charles Meet Mc
McClung and Smith

Your Father
Joseph Alderson