Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson

Several letters addressed to Lewis Allen Alderson from his brother-in-law Charles Lewis. Alderson was studying at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He later moved to Atchison, Kansas, in 1858 and was a prominent Baptist minister. He died in Atchison in 1881. Notes from his sister, Polly Alderson Lewis, are included in the letters.

Date: August 19, 1830 - May 22, 1832

Callnumber: Lewis Allen Alderson Coll. #255, Folder 25

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Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson

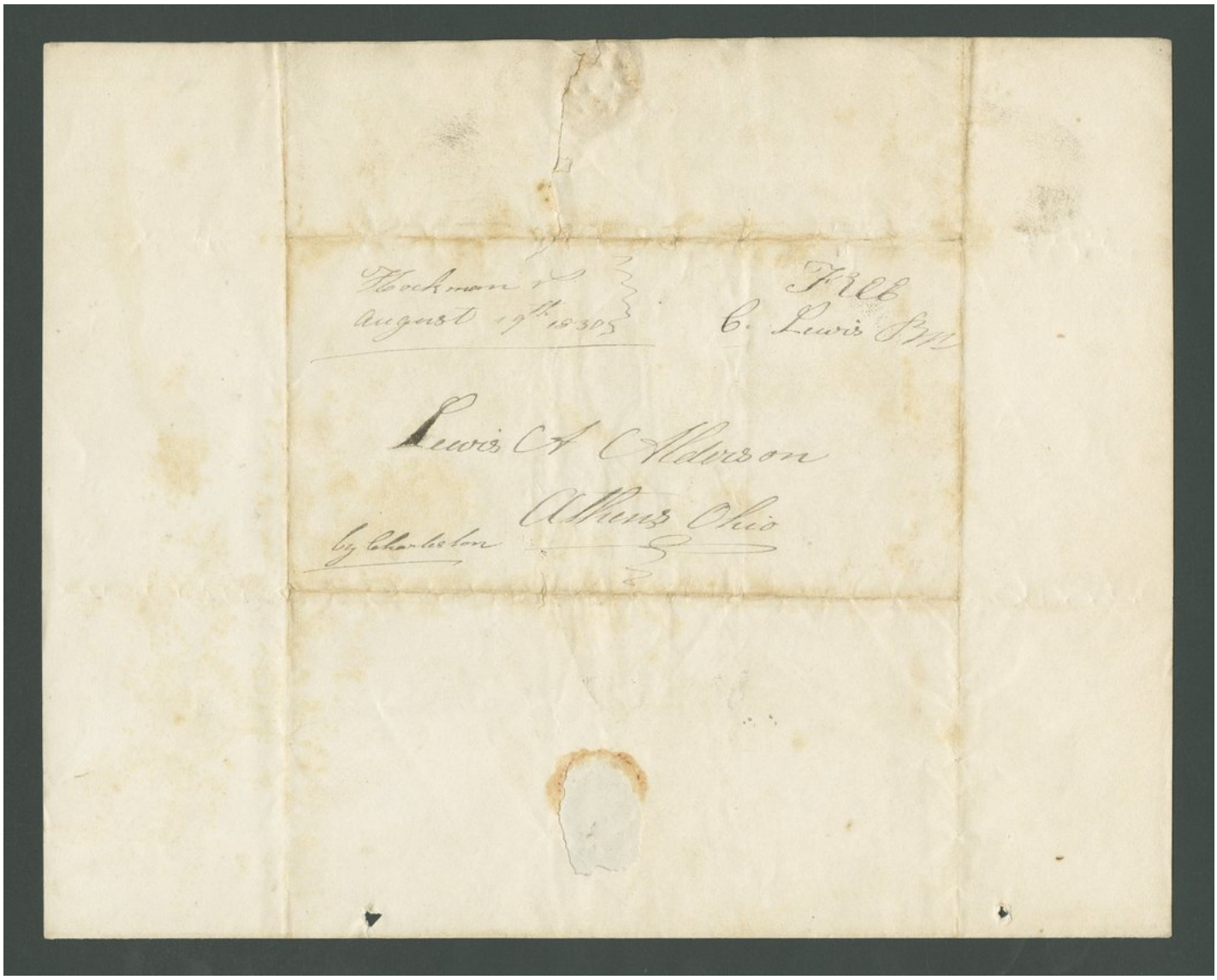
Greenbrier County August 19th 1830

Sir I take the liberty of writing you a few lines to inform you that we are in tollerable health Polly is taking medicine at this time from Lacey but is going about as Usual - I intend going to the west this fall I do not know for certain when I shall start it will be owing to what time my company will be ready perhaps about the middle of September or sooner I expect to be gone before you return people are generally well in Greenbrier you will please to write to me by the first mail Nothing more at present but remains yours &c

Charles Lewis

Lewis A Alderson

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson



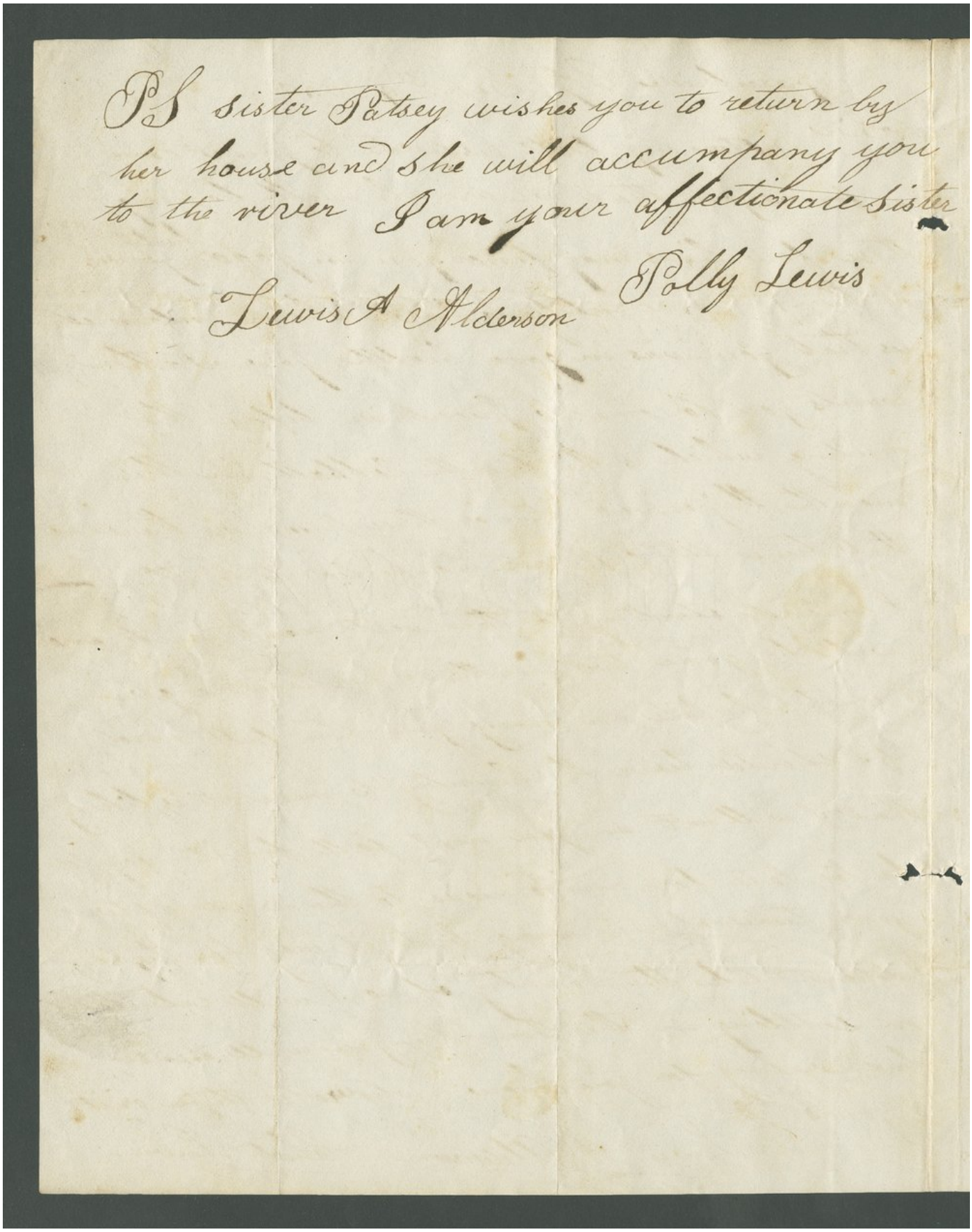
Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson

Greenbrier Cty Sept 9 1830

Sir After my best respects to you I can inform you that we are all well hoping these few lines may find you in good health Yours of the 29th came safely to hand which informed us that you was in good health your Father wants you to come to Greenbrier before the meting which is the fourth Sabbath in this month they expect two or three preachers there at that time Wm C Mason is expected to be there I intend starting to the west next week and will be gone two months or perhaps longer I donot calculate on seeing you this fall and if I should leave this County to move it is likely that I will not see you next fall for it would be too late for me to move to the west after your time of returning but it may be that I shant like the country if so I will calculate on settling in this County you will excuse bad writing for you know who wrote them or it Yours &c

Lewis A Alderson Chas Lewis

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson

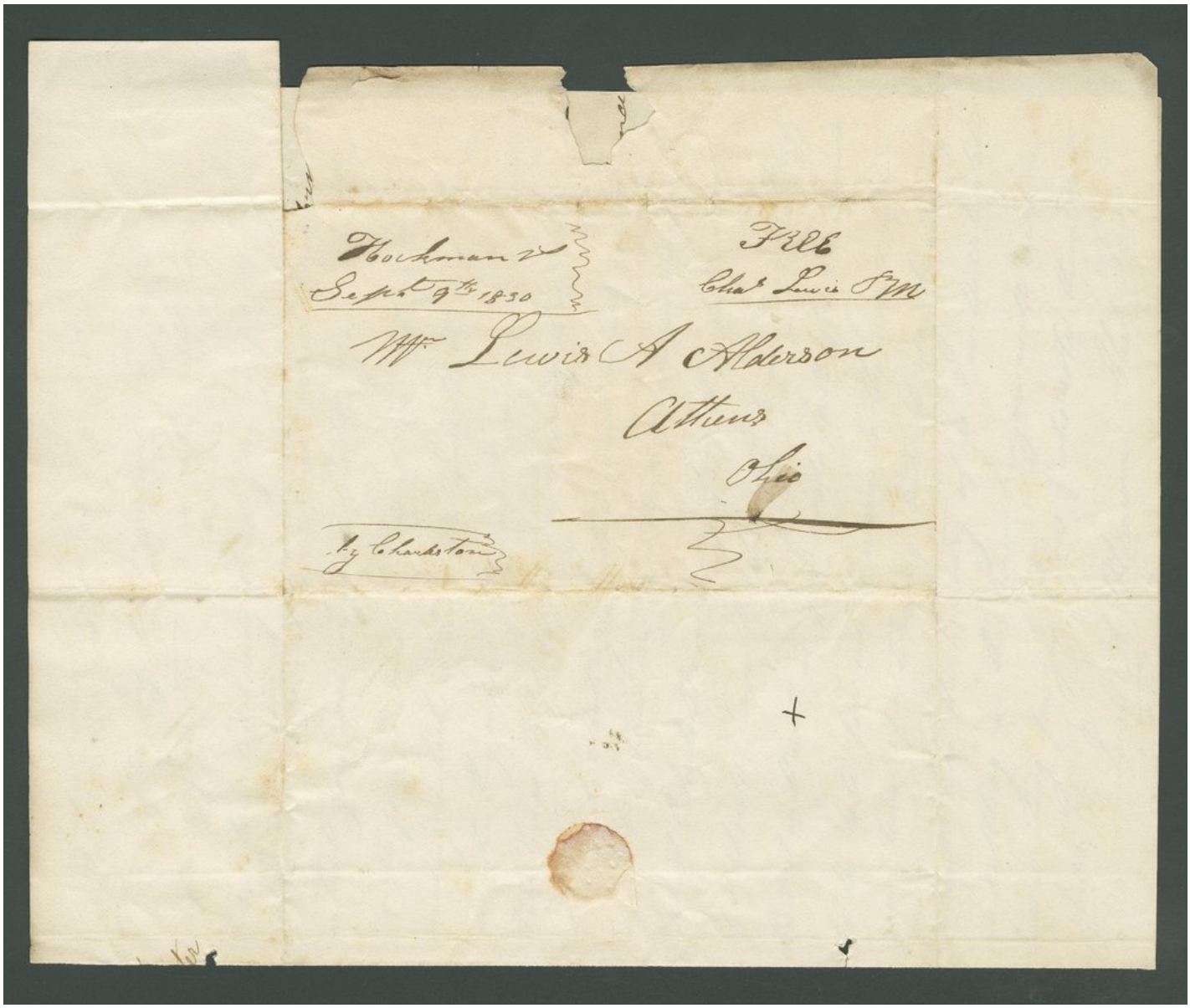


PS sister Patsey wishes you to return by her house and she will accumpany you to the river I am your affectionate sister

Polly Lewis

Lewis A Alderson

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson



Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson

Greenbrier County Va January 13th 1831

Sir After my best respects to you I can inform you that we are all well hoping these may find you well I Rec'd yours of the 17th of Dec'r which did not inform us whether you was well or not but I suppose that you was your Fathers family are all well or was a day or two ago he is hauling stocks off my farm to his mill at this time and intends hauling for several days it is a verry fine time for the business we have had for a week or two past Verry cold weather snowing allmost every day, you want to know how I like the Western country & what I intend doing I will tell you, as I went out I crossed at the point I lay at point pleasant the same knight that you lay at Wm Hendersons I saw you crossing the river but did not know it was you untill next morning in Gallipolis from thence on through Chilacothe and through Centreville Va and on through the Illinois state, and from thence to Missouri and two hundred miles up the Missouri river there is a greate deal of good land in the western country, but I like the Missouri state the best on the land better than any of the other states on at least I like the situation of it better I think it is a healthy part of the world the country is lies rowling and water good but not so plenty as in this country I Consider it a much better country than this

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson

for a poor man like myself a man with a small sum of Money can get a good farm well situated with timber water and soil, the people told me there that they could Rais from 80 to 100 bushels of Corn to the Acre wheat from 30 to 40 bushels per acre the Country abounds with grass and salt water, I have endeavored to give you a small idea of that part of the Country to which I intend moving next fall, I have not sold my land yet but intend doing it as soon as possible, I am making preperations as fast as I can for the journey, Your Brother George says he is going to look at Missouri next spring or fall and if he likes he says he will move there, I think a good many of your Relations and mine both will be in that Country within the course of four or five years, Nomore at present but Remains Yours. &c. Charles Lewis

PS Beware to write to us by every opportunity and the next time ~~you~~ write whether you are sick or well

C. L.

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson

January 26th

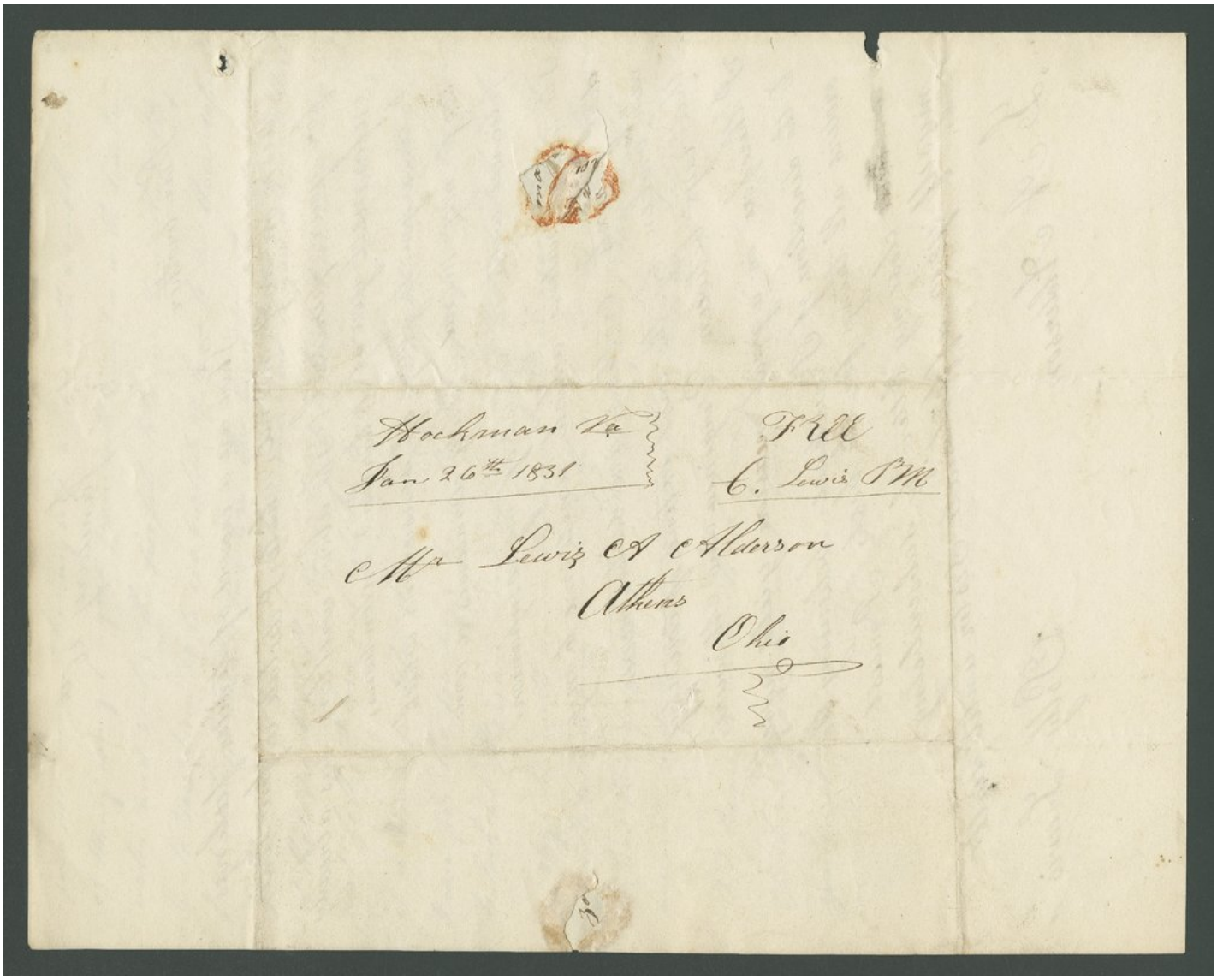
Dear brother

There are a crowd of tender feelings rush on my mind, while I dictate a few lines for your perusal, The above written has already informed you of Charles's intentions, I leave you to judge of the sensations which crofs my mind. Duty demands a compliance with the request of my companion, The ties of nature which unite me to my dear parents, brothers, and sisters never can be broken, by the vast extent of country that lays between Virginia and Misouri, I therefore in a great measure yield myself to the direction of Providence, believeing He orders all things for the best, I must close my letter by subscribeing myself your affectionate Sister until death

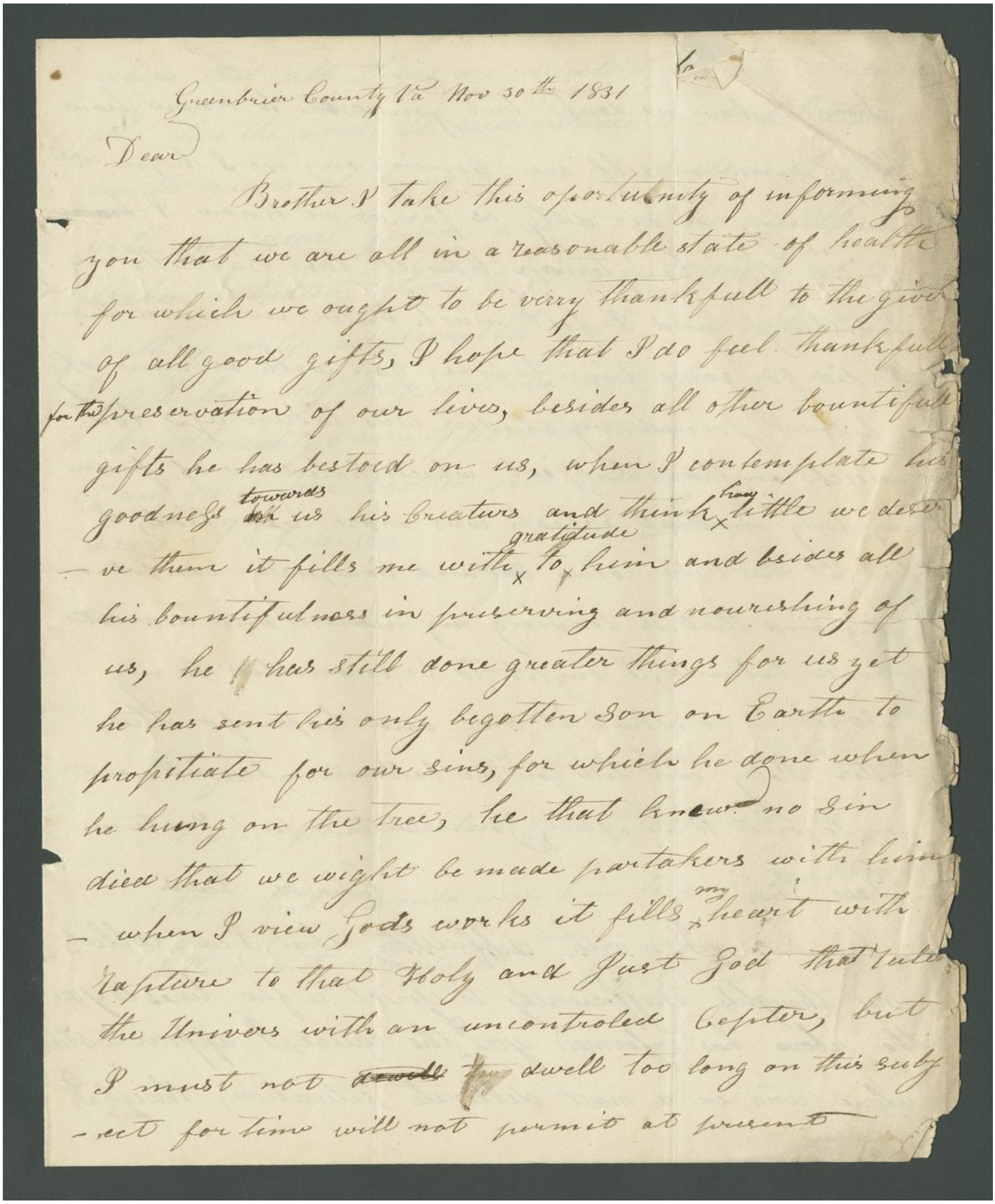
L A Alderson

Polly Lewis

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson



Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson

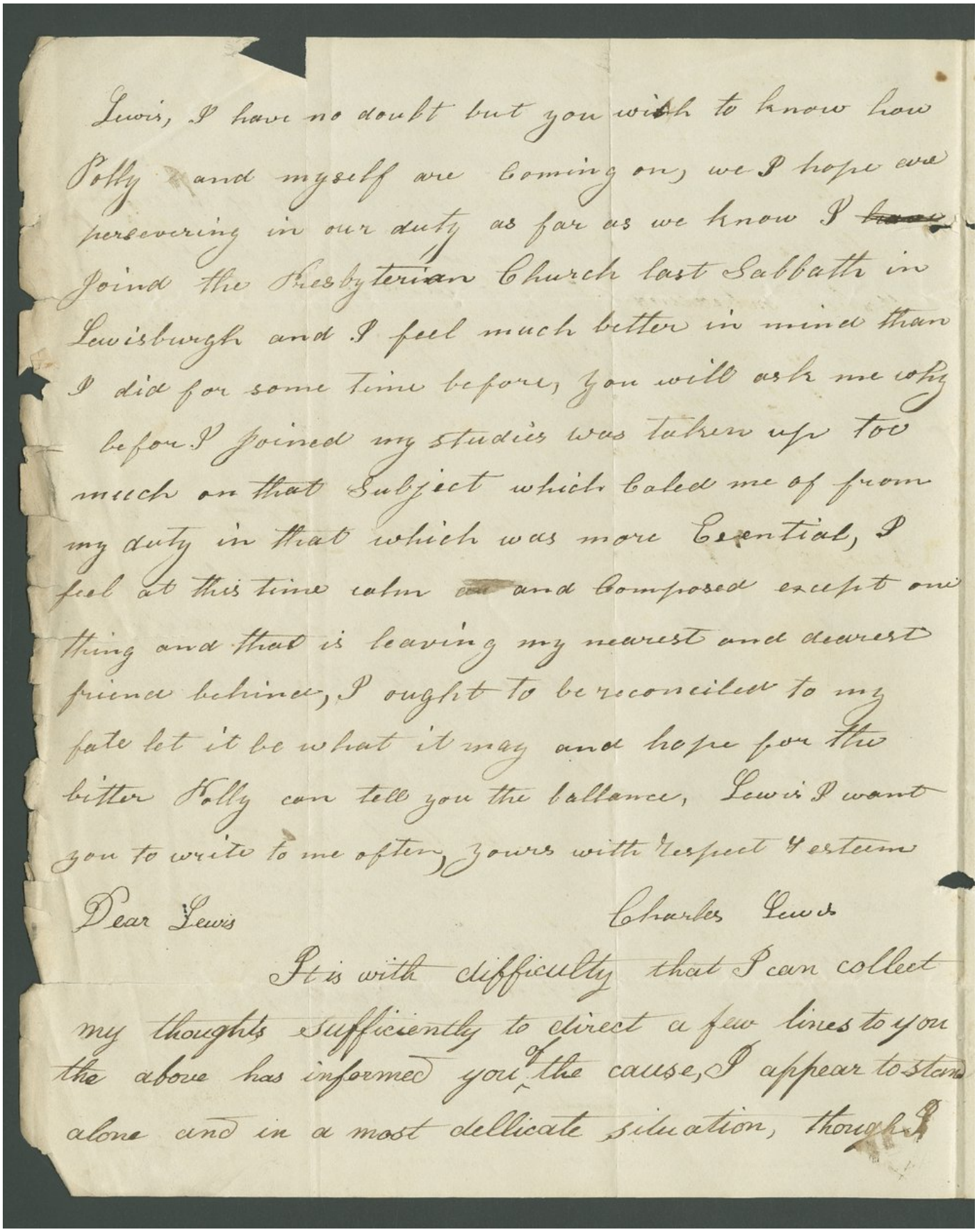


Guambier County Va Nov 30th 1831

Dear

Brother I take this opportunity of informing you that we are all in a reasonable state of health for which we ought to be very thankfull to the giver of all good gifts, I hope that I do feel thankfull for the preservation of our lives, besides all other bountifull gifts he has bestoed on us, when I contemplate his goodness towards us his creatures and think how little we deserve them it fills me with gratitude to him and besides all his bountifulness in preserving and nourishing of us, he has still done greater things for us yet he has sent his only begotten Son on Earth to propitiate for our sins, for which he done when he hung on the tree, he that knew no sin died that we might be made partakers with him when I view Gods works it fills my heart with rapture to that Holy and Just God that rules the Univers with an uncontroled Cepter, but I must not dwell too long on this subject for time will not permit at present

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson



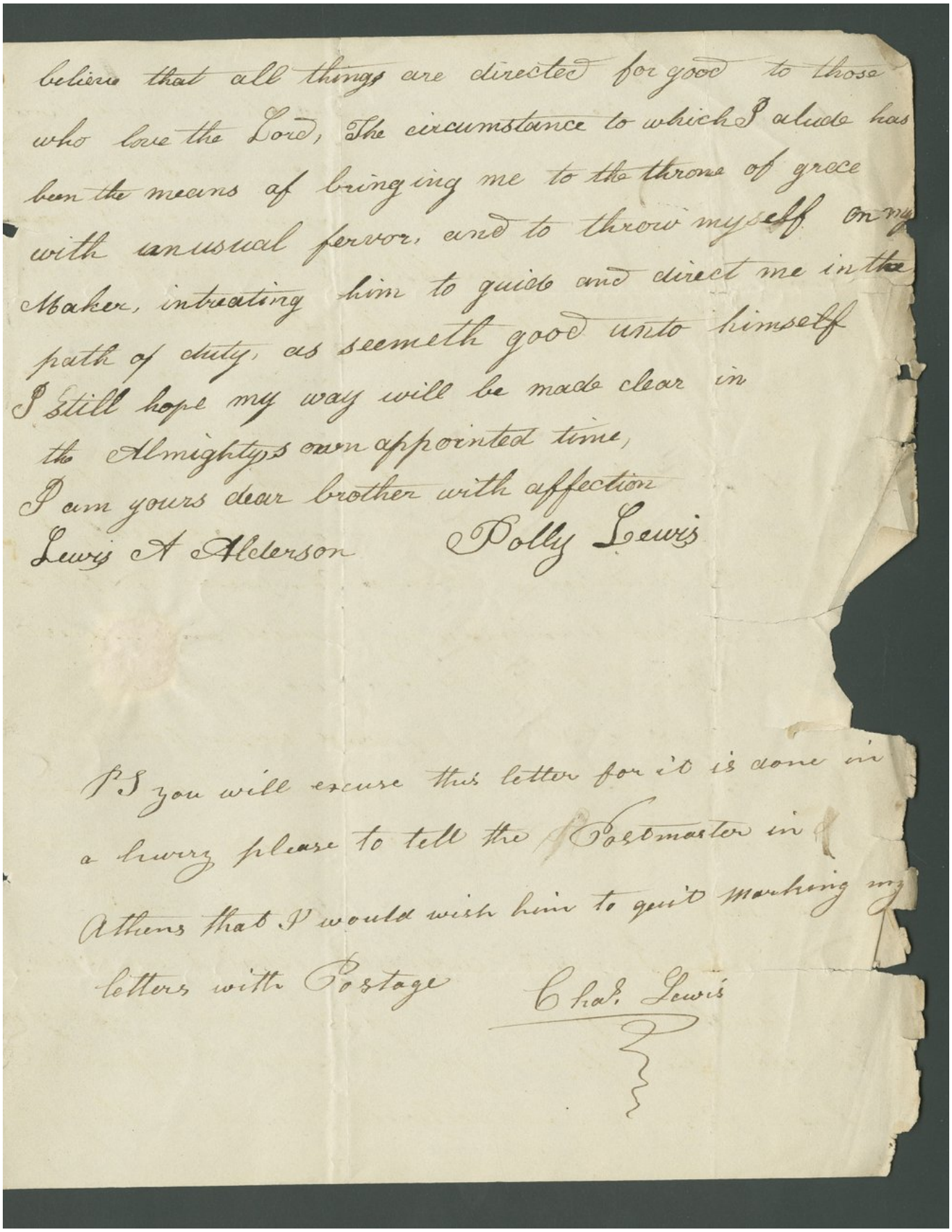
Lewis, I have no doubt but you wish to know how Polly and myself are coming on, we I hope are persevering in our duty as far as we know I have Joind the Presbyterian Church last Sabbath in Lewisburgh and I feel much better in mined than I did for some time before, you will ask me why before I joined my studies was taken up too much on that Subject which caled me of from my duty in that which was more Essential, I feel at this time calm and composed except one thing and that is leaving my nearest and dearest friend behind, I ought to be reconciled to my fate let it be what it may and hope for the bitter Polly can tell you the ballance, Lewis I want you to write to me often, Yours with respect & esteem

Dear Lewis

Charles Lewis

It is with difficulty that I can collect my thoughts sufficiently to direct a few lines to you the above has informed you of the cause, I appear to stand alone and in a most dellicate situation, though I

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson



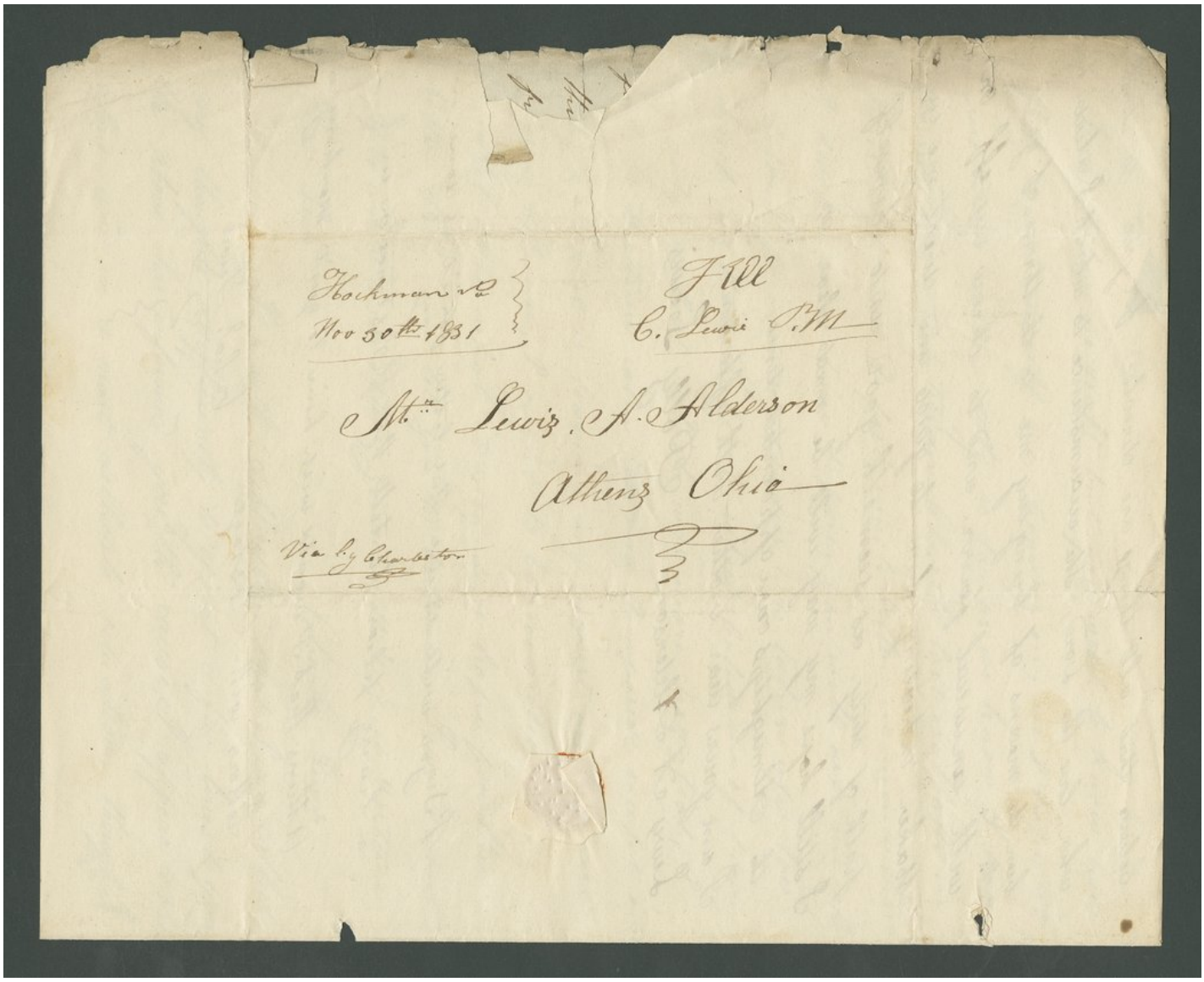
believe that all things are directed for good to those who love the Lord, The circumstance to which I allude has been the means of bringing me to the throne of grace with unusual fervor, and to throw myself on my Maker, intreating him to guide and direct me in the path of duty, as seemeth good unto himself I still hope my way will be made clear in the Almightys own appointed time, I am yours dear brother with affection

Lewis A Alderson — Polly Lewis

P.S you will excuse this letter for it is done in a hurry please to tell the Postmaster in Athens that I would wish him to quit marking my letters with Postage

Chas. Lewis

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson



Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson

Greenbrier County Va January 8th 1832

Dear

Brother, I Recvd yours of the 17th Dec, which brought good news that is the revivals in Athens, it is truly gratifying to hear of our fellow mortals a turning from their wicked ways and seeking redemption through A Crucifyed Saviour, who is able to atone for all of our guilt, it also is pleasing when I reflect on the goodness and mercy of God, to see how he caries on his great work in diferent parts, which causes me to stop and consider that his ways are not mans ways, and his goodness and mercy are past finding out— Lewis I hope that I do mingle my prayers with yours, in behalf of perishing sinners in Athens as well as other places— my sincere prayer is that they may all be enabled by the help of God to turn from there evil ways before it be Eternally to late, I hope that I have complied with your Request before and since I Recvd your letter, I feel anxious for the welfare of my friends and Relations, and I know not enny better way for me to extend my friendship than to implore a gracious God to have mercy on them and to pardon their sins, the prayers of the Rightous prevaileth much, but it appears that my prayers are the least amongst all I feel myself so unworthy sometimes, that I am ready to conclud that I never have tasted the goodness of God I know there is no good in man, but Lewis, I would not give up my hope or fall back as I was one year ago not for worlds— I think the Revivle in Mr McElroys Church is abating for which I am truly sorry, the baptist Church at the river are about as flatering as it was when you was here, it is still increasing more or lefs every monthly meeting, I fear there is no verry great stir about

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson

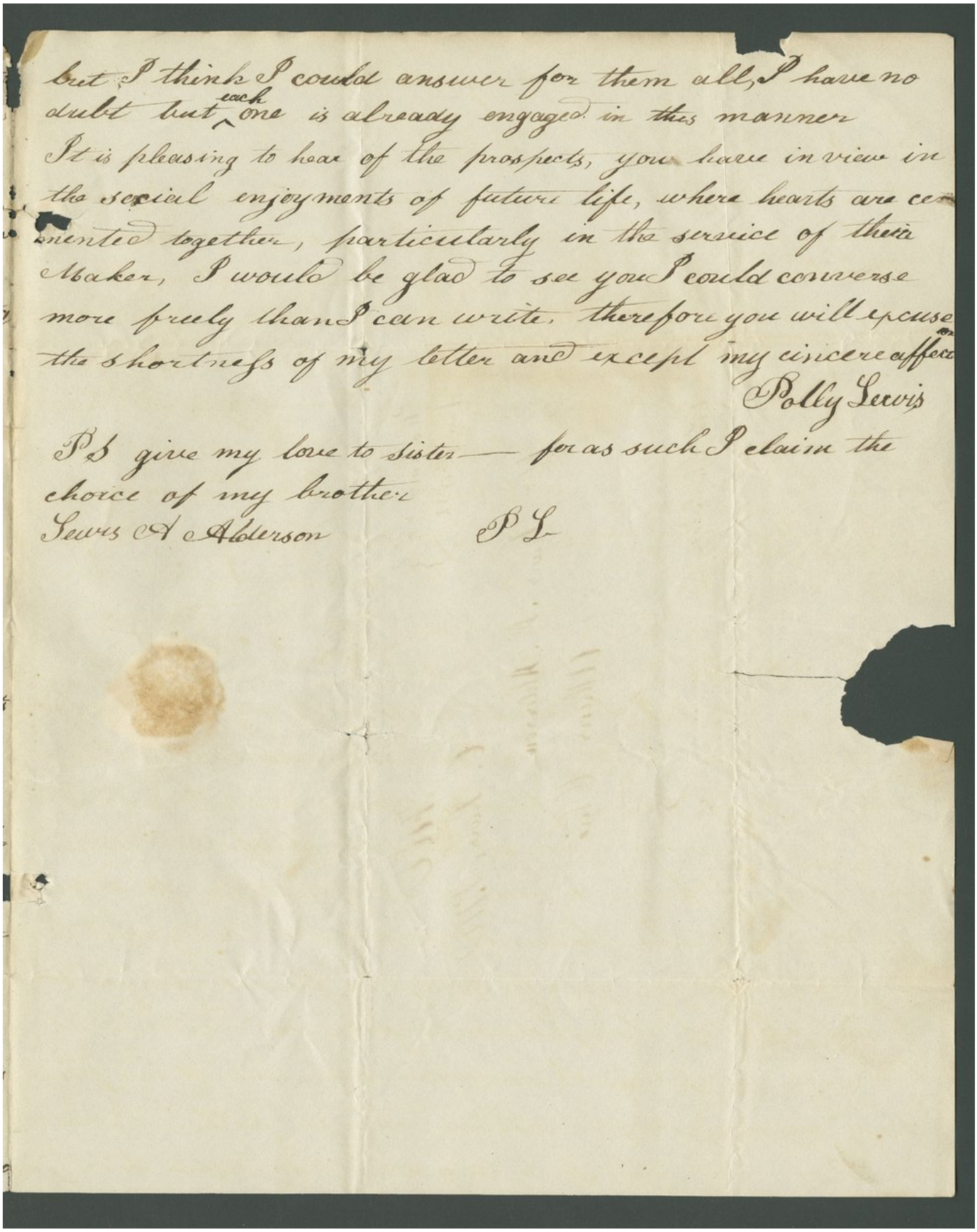
Religion at this time— I want you to write to me particular about the revival in athens, I feel anxious to hear and more particular when I think there is a band of people uniting as it were one to Serve the Lord— We are all reasonable well and all of our relations are generally well, Brother George was Married on the 29th of Dec to Miss Susan Hockman and is well over it he has not got to house keeping yet and I expect he will not until spring Lewis beswre to write to me often I feel anxious to here forom you and the people about Athens— you will pleas to tell the Post master at Athens to quit Chargen my letters with Postage for he must know that I have no right to pay Postage on my own letters Yours with Etcem

Charles Lewis

Dear Brother

I feel willing to unite my feeble efforts with yours in performing this duty, andcertainly it is our duty to pray for our fellow creatures, and will we not feel our desires enlarged in behalf of our dear relatives who we fear are living at a distance from God Yes my dear brother the ties of nature are strong and binding, and were we not to engage in fervent prayer for the salvation of their Souls I should fear we were none of Christ's disciples, I have not seen any of our friends since we received your letter except father he read it I did not hear him say any thing upon the subject

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson



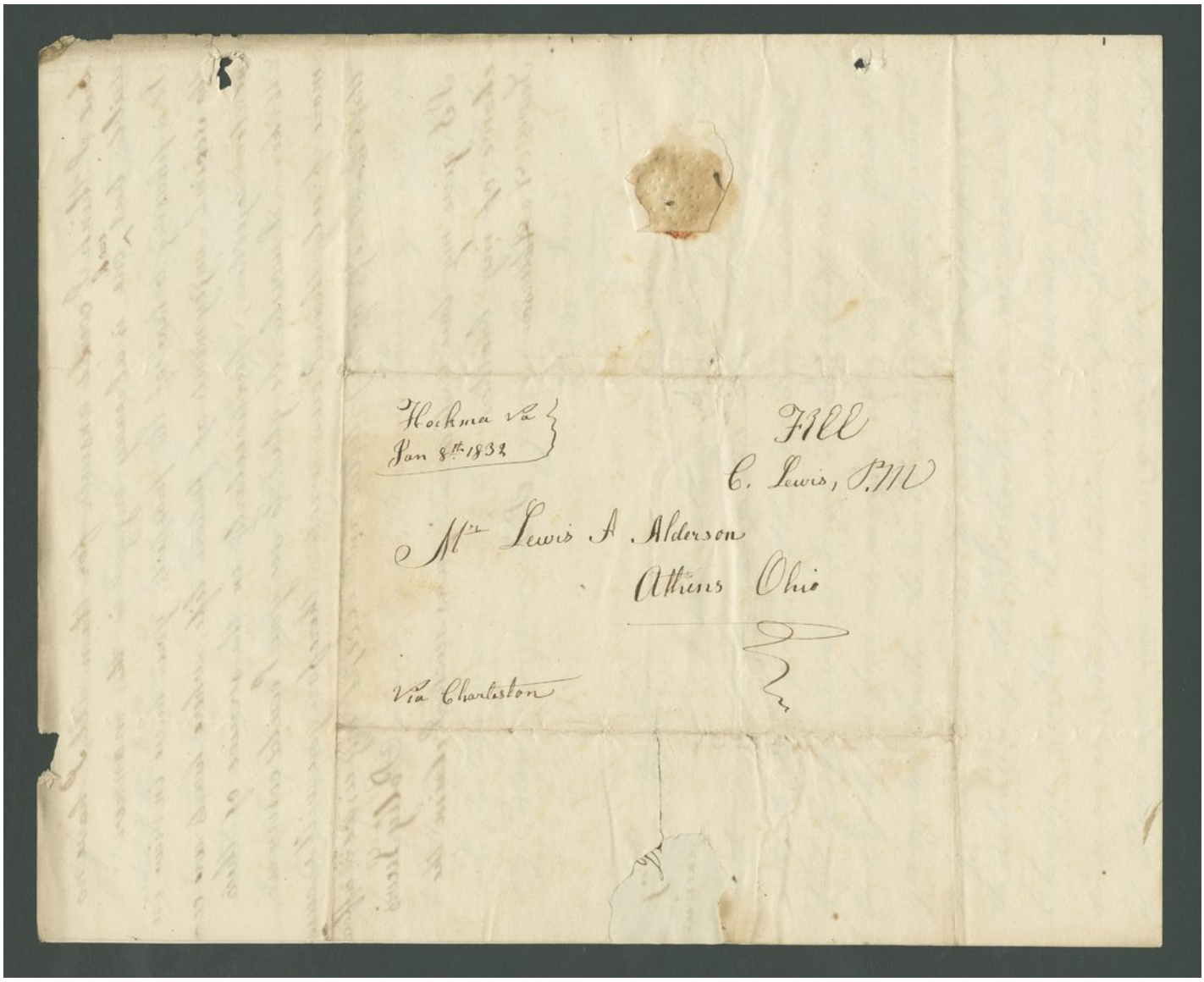
but I think I could answer for them all, I have no doubt but each one is already engaged in this manner It is pleasing to hear of the prospects, you have in view in the social enjoyments of future life, where hearts are cemented together, particularly in the service of their Maker, I would be glad to see you I could converse more freely than I can write, therefore you will excuse the shortness of my letter and except my sincere affec

Polly Lewis

PS give my love to Sister — for as such I claim the choice of my brother

Lewis A Alderson P L

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson



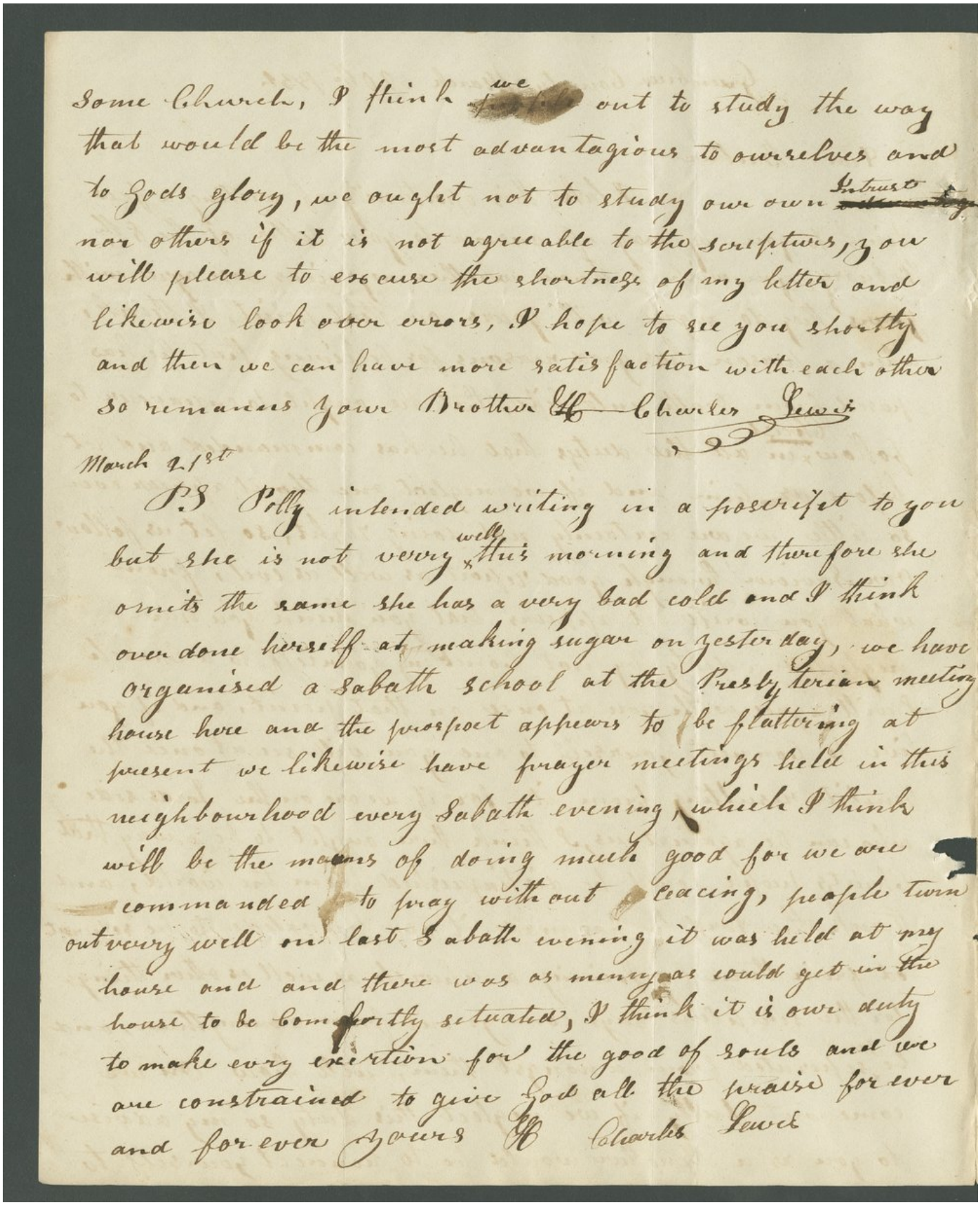
Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson

Greenbrier County March 20th 1831.

Dear Brother

I take this opportunity of writing a few lines to you, by way of answer to your letter of the 8th Febuary, you wish to know whether my views dose agree with yours they do agree with yours on that point, I think, when a person has good reasons for beleiving that he has pared from Death unto life, that he ought to endeavour to follow Christ all the duties that he has commanded and set before him and if we neglect one tho it appear ever so little we are certainly not doing right, so let us follow Our Saviour through good report as well as evil, from what you write it appears that you think you have neglected a duty by not Conecting yourself to a Church I will agree with you at once on that point, and if you live to Connect yourself to one you will see at once the benifits resulting from it for if we are on the Lords side who can be against us, I think there ought to be a way that Christs people could be distinguished from the world, and thank the Lord he has made it our prevalede to be reperat-ed from them by Joining a Church as well as other things for the scriptures says come ye out from amongthem, and be ye seperated from amongst them, well how can we come out fully if we neglect this duty so my advise to you as a Brother would be to Connect yourself to

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson

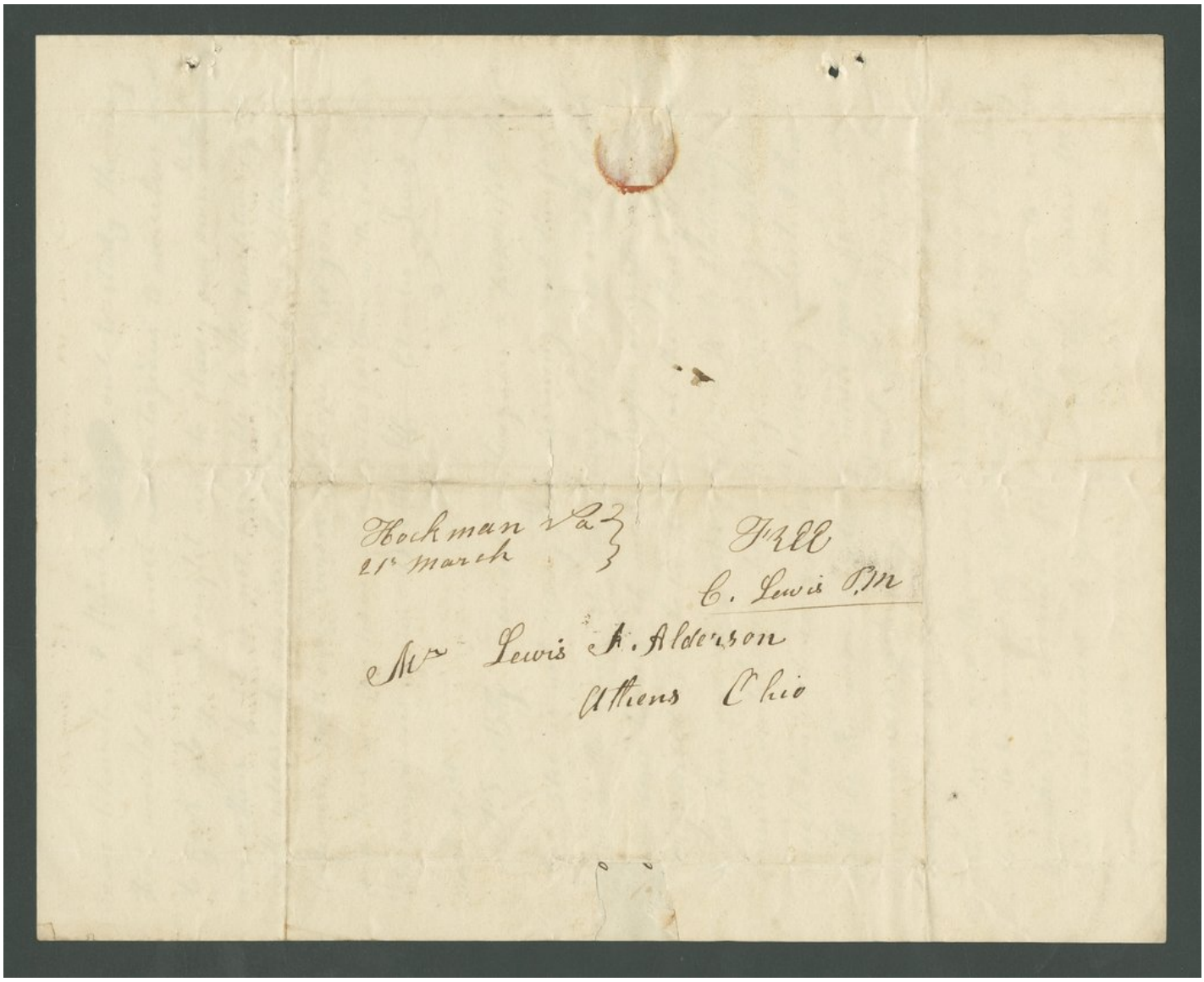


Some Church, I think we ought to study the way that would be the most advantagious to ourselves and to Gods glory, we ought not to study our own interest nor others if it is not agreeable to the scriptures, you will please to excuse the shortness of my letter and likewise look over errors, I hope to see you shortly and then we can have more satisfaction with each other so remains your Brother in Christ Charles Lewis

March 21st

P.S Polly intended writing in a postscript to you but she is not very well this morning and therefore she omits the same she has a very bad cold and I think over done herself at making sugar on yesterday, we have organised a Sabath school at the Presbyterian meting house here and the prospect appears to be flattering at present we likewise have prayer meetings held in this neighbourhood every Sabath evening, which I think will be the means of doing much good for we are commanded to pray without ceacing, people turn out very well on last Sabath evening it was held at my house and and there was as many as could get in the house to be comfortably situated, I think it is our duty to make every exertion for the good of souls and we are constrained to give God all the praise forever and forever Yours in Christ Charles Lewis

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson



Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson

Greenbrier County Va 22nd may 1832

Dear Brother

I take this oportunity of fulfilling my promis Polly has Joined the Baptist Church She did it last week which come verry unexpected to me I never knew that she had enny notion of Joining that Church untill the evening before, and Lewis, I think you are not unacquainted with the feelings that I encountered at that moment, it appeared that the verry heart strings were rent asunder to think that all my earthly Joys were fled in a moment of time, for I verily believe that a husband & wife where they are truly united are the nearest object on earth, well enny thing that has the appearance of desolving this mutial love— makes the verry soul shuder. Lewis you perhaps may say that I am rong, its likely that I am— but is it wrong to grieve for the loss of a Companion in death I think not well we are equally as liable to be rong in one as the other for they both strike at the feelings in the same way. I know Lewis, that I ought to reconciled to myself and perhaps in time I may I hope I will, I have got in to a kind of composure but I think I will feel my loss untell death shall seperate us— but all things are posible with god and nothing with man I believe those afflictions are for my good if I could take

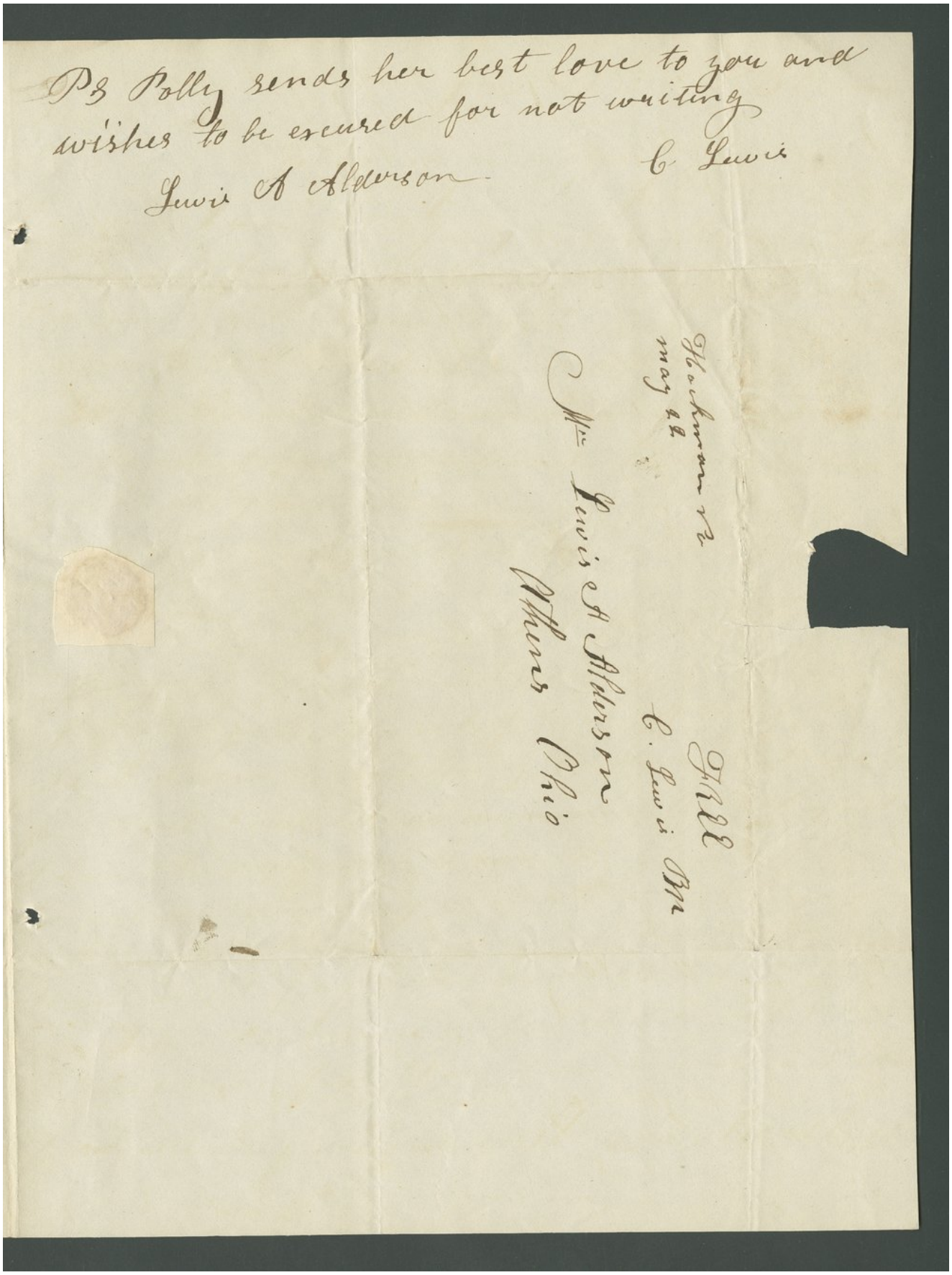
Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson

them in the right way the Lord grant that they may be for my benefit I think that I am willing for him to put afflictions on me for I know that he is a Just God and wont put more on his people than they can bear— and O Lord wilt thou Sanctify them to my heart is my prayer— Lewis I know my heart is corupt and prone to evil as the sparks are to fly upwards— and O that those evils could be subdued— I am affraid that my high prefaces will lead me estray— but I feel like that I wished to put my whole trust in God the strength of my Salvation— you mustnot think that I sencure Polly too much for what she has done for I do not— you knew my sentiments on that subject when you was in here, I believe all things work together for good to them that put their in God— her mind appears to be more settled in one respect that is she thinks she has done no more than her duty by conecting herself to a Church Lewis you will excuse the shortness of this letter I have not written my mind fully it is likely there is too much

P.S we are all well your Fathers family are well

Lewis I want you to pray over our situation that all things may turn out for our good and that we may be united in heart an mind to serve God yours sincire friend Charles Lewis

Charles Lewis to Lewis Allen Alderson



P.S. Polly sends her best love to you and wishes to be excused for not writing

C. Lewis

Lewis A Alderson

Hackman Va
May 22

Mr. Lewis A Alderson
Athens Ohio

April
C. Lewis Jr.