Washington, July 22, 1848

My dear wife,

I have a letter of yours, very soon last night. In that letter I wrote the precise, how you come to you, but alas, not found it, or some in the morning, when I have business a narrow for $100 where I want it. It is now probable that in that way (these) your business to New York, so that there was no such people, except you will not be there. Before leaving, send you a short, my pleasure about letters, that might come to me, for you? Have of whether you got the copy if you please not have already, since do, when this reaches you. Give my kindest regards to your uncle, and all the family. Thinking of them reminds me that I saw your acquaintance, Newton of Arkansas, at the Philadelphia Convention. We had but a single sentence, and that was so brief, one or so great a task mentioned of strange face, that I can quite now I should not recognize him, if I was to meet him again. There was a sort of thirty, thousand. There, as the night in this our season, to count the three votes of Arkansas. Two or three days ago.
One of them was attended by his brother and the other by a niece of Coates, in town. You went home with her, and if I were to guess, I could say, he went away a somewhat different man—most likely it was the company or in some way the particular. The yellow brooch cases of quite another I believe he was unconscious that every boy around knew who it was that came Coates here.
I have had no letter from him since I wrote you before, except short brown letters, which have no force for you.

By the way, you were not taken to see without a girl, because the man you had him, kept you lost another 2s. 6d. You can take the whole right down Coates—rather expects to see you one evening but let it pass, stay so long as you please somehow when you please. This one here the dear nephew—

Affectionately,

A. Smith
Washington, July 20, 1848.

My dear wife,

Your letter of last Sunday came last night. On that day (Sunday) I wrote the principal part of a letter to you but did not finish it, or send it till Tuesday, when I have provided a shilling for $100 which I wrote in it. It is now probable that on that day (Tuesday) you started to Shellyville, so that when the money reaches Lexington, you will not be there. Before leaving, did you make any provision about letters that might come to Lexington for you? Now rewhether you got the letter, if you shall not have already done so, when this reaches you — give my kindest regards to your uncle John, and all the family — thinking of them reminds me that I saw your acquaintance, Newton, of Arkansas, at the Philadelphian Convention. We had but a single interview, and that was so brief and in so great a tumult of strange faces, that I am quite sure I should not recognize him if I were to meet him again. The was a sort of thirty, three years, having the right in his own person, to cast the three votes of Arkansas. Two or three days ago
sent you uncle John, and a few of our other friends, a copy of the speech I mentioned in my last letter, but I only sent some to you, thinking you would be in the room here before it occurred to you. I send you one now. Last Wednesday, Phil. Hoover also, delivered one for a little bank of $6,580, and Walter Harper also, another for $8,500, for good, which they say you bought. I hesitate to pay them, because my recollection is that you told me when you went away, there was nothing left unpaid. Please mention in your next letter whether they are right.

Mr. Richardson is still here, and what is more, the baby—Richardson says, and he ought to know. I believe Mary Hewett has left here and gone to Boston. I met her on the street about fifteen or twenty days ago, and she told me she was going down. I have been nothing of this since.

The music in the Capitol grounds, on Saturday, &c, rather the interest in it, is dwindling down to nothing. Yesterday evening the attendance was quite thin. One two girls, whom you remember seeing first at least, at the exhibition of the Ethiopian breast, and whose peculiarity was the wearing of black fur bonnet, since never been seen in close company with other ladies, were at the music yesterday—
One of them was attention by their brother, and the other had a member of Coopers in town. He went home with her, and if I were to guess, I would say, he went away a somewhat unsettled man—most likely in his pockets and in some other particular. The fellow seemed conscious of guilt, although I believe he was unconscious that every body around knew who it was that had caught him.

I have had no letter from home, since I wrote you before, except short business letters, which have no interest for you.

By the way, you are not intern to go without a girl, because the one you have left, I get another as soon as you can to take charge of the clear Coopera— felt to expect to see you all soon; but let it pass; stay as long as you please, and come when you please. This true love the clear tares.

Affectionately,

A. Lincoln.
Washington, July 2, 1844.

My dear wife,

Your letter of last Sunday came last night. On that day (Sunday) I wrote the principal part of a letter to you, but did not finish it, or send it till Tuesday, when I have procured a stamp for $100 which I sent in it—It is now probable that on that very Tuesday you started to Shelburne, so that when these letters reach Lexington, you will not be there. Before leaving did you make any provision about letters that might come to Lexington for you? I need to know whether you got the check, if you shall not have already done so, when this reaches you—Give my kindest regards to your uncle John, and all the family. Thinking of them removes one that I saw your acquaintances Newton of Arkansas, at the Phila. plane Convention. We had but a single dinner, and that was so brief, and in so great a bustle multitudes of strange faces, that I can quite see I should not recognize him, if I saw to meet him again. This was a sort of thirty, three men, having the right in his own person, to cast the three votes of Arkansas. Two a three days ago.
but you uncle John, and a few of our other friends, each a copy of the speech I mentioned in my last letter, but I could not send any to you, thinking you would be in the room here before it reached you. I send you one now.—Last Wednesday, P.M., Rose Lee, drew me for a little bill of $65.38 cents, and Walter Harper has another for $8.50 cents, for goods, which they say you bought. I hesitate to pay them, because my recollection is that you told me when you went away, there was nothing left unpaid. Mention in your next letter whether they are right.

Mrs. Richardson is still here, and what is now her station? Richardson says, and he ought to know, I believe. Mary Hewett has left here some few to New York. I met her on the street about fifteen or twenty weeks ago, and she told me she was going down. I have seen nothing of her since.

The music in the Capitol grand, on Saturday, was rather the interest in it, it standing alone to nothing. Yesterday evening the attendance was next to nothing. One or two girls, whom you remember seeing first at banquets, at the exhibition of the Ethnologic Society, and those peculiarity, were the wearing of black fur bonnets, since never been seen in close company with other ladies, were at the music yesterday—
One of them was, attendance by their brother, and the other had a member of Cooper's in town. He went home with her; and if I were to guess, I would say, he went away a somewhat altered man—most likely in his pockets and in some other particulars. The fellow looked conscious of guilt, at any rate. I believe he was unconscious that every loyal woman knew who it was that bore caught him.

I have had no letter from home, since I wrote you before, except short business letters, which have no interest for you.

By the way, you are not intended to see with a girl, because the one you have been left with another as soon as you can to take charge of the clear codgers. I trust expect to see you all some, but let it rain; stay as long as you please, and come when you please. This must have the clear spaces—

Affectionately,

[Signature]
As a young politician Abraham Lincoln was frequently separated from his wife and family. With the exception of three of them, all of the early letters from husband to wife during the Illinois years have been destroyed. The letter on exhibit dates from Lincoln's only term in Congress. His family accompanied him to Washington but soon returned to visit the Todds in Kentucky. Lincoln wrote this typical family letter to Mary in Shelbyville. In it he discusses family financial business and then relates the news and gossip of Washington. His husbandly concern about the family is expressed as he advises Mary to get someone to "take charge of the dear codgers" and asks her to "kiss and love the dear rascals."

From the William E. Barton Collection of Lincolniana