

Accession no. M1981-1010  
Bruce Collection  
Box 5, Folder 132

[letter of Pauline Bruce Duke to her mother]

"Richland"-- July 8th 1864 [July 8, 1864].

My dear Mother;--

Your precious, and eagerly looked for letter of June 30th; was not recd [received] until last Tuesday evening-- so you may know how delighted I was to get it, and how highly I prized each word & line it contained-- Yes Ma, I know what a task it is for you to write-- your time being constantly taken up with household affairs-- therefore I prize & appreciate a letter from you all the more-- Oh! how often I think of you all at home-- And wonder how you stand this hot weather-- for it has been intensely hot here in the country-- so what must it be without any yard or pleasant shade trees to sit under & enjoy particularly for such "phat" [sic] individuals as you & Pa-- I really feel for you both this melting weather. don't you wish you were not fat?-- I declare it is entirely too hot to be genteel! I know you miss our dear old home these long Summer evenings I cannot reconcile or ~~realize~~ the fact yet, that it is no longer our home-- how many changes a few short months have brought to us all-- no ma I had not heard before that cousin John Holiday was taken prisoner at "Cynthiana"-- poor cousin Sallie! she is indeed to be pittied [pitied].

Well Pa, what do you think of the position of Kentucky now, nearly every farmer up here has lost every ~~single~~ negro man-- not a hand left for the harvest-- but Mother has only lost one-- don't know though how soon they may all go-- for her neighbor's have all left within the last week and "Burbridge" says that all the negro men in the State are to be Soldiers Kentucky is to be filled with negro troops!-- there is no telling what we are to see & suffer yet. We all regretted so much, that you could not come up to enjoy the raspberries [raspberries] with us. Mr Duke joins me in much love to you all & says he don't believe you all want to see him at all-- or that you care any thing about him-- ~~for~~ as you never say one word in any of your letters about his coming down-- but speak so often about wanting to see me & the baby-- says he will send us both down to see

you sometime-- b̄ and that he will come after us-- when we are ready to come back. I know you would almost eat the baby up-- if you could see her now-- she has improved so much-- is just as pretty as she can be-- and so fat & plump!-- Mr Duke thinks there never was her equal! he is so proud of her-- particularly her beauty-- the first thing when he comes in from the farm, or when he comes home from town-- is where's the baby? and how has she been to day [today] -- &c. &c-- indeed I think he is getting right foolish about her-- I tell him he acts like he was the only "daddy" in the world-- and "May" the only baby-- he actually

[the letter ends here]