

Letter from Henry A. Mark

to Mrs Celia Lawton (?widow)

7-31-1878

anxiously awaiting word

from her father re

marriage proposal

Celia L. daughter of

R. T. Lawton of Sylvania, GA

Pennsylvania July 31st 1878.

Miss: Lelia: Lawton.

My Own Darling Sweet Little - 1.

I cannot possibly allow an opportunity of saying or rather sending a few words to you to pass unheeded. well firstly and the most interesting to me is news from over the river while I was there I felt almost as if I was on needles so very anxious to hear from your Father trusting to hear the best and best of all news. That that would give you to me to be ^{to} mine to love to cherish to shield and defend. I think that I came here in less time and with less fatigue than I ever did before feeling fully confident that I would be amply rewarded on my arrival for any exertion in endeavoring to hasten the time of my arrival but can you imagine my disappointment in finding nothing for me in the Post Office I think that I was real sick for awhile in fact I can scarcely tell you how I did feel. but we must school our selves to bear with as much fortitude as possible all non fulfillment of our expectations that we must write for this life is

full of them. however I Sincerely Trust I will
hear from Mine ^{the} coming Saturday and.
"Oh Father of Mercy," grant that it may not be unfavor-
-able to my most ardent most heart felt wishes may
it be Yes. but if it is not May it not be no. if
He can't consistently agree then I hope He will not
refuse but will rather say to wait for future devel-
-opments to decide. My Darling a positive refusal
would cause me the most excruciating Mental anguish
it does not seem to me that I could pass through
the ordeal and retain my Sanity. "My Soul but
I Love Thee" with my whole Soul heart mind and
body with a lasting true and pure Love and care-
-not for an instant harbor the thought of losing or
-rather of not getting you. I will forget that there is
the remotest shadow of a doubt about it I will, I do
believe that He will give you to me that you will
yet be Mine that we will live for and with each-
-other Many Many Happy years I will ever Love you
and will do all that it is Possible for me to do to
render you Perfectly Happy and feel perfectly Confident
that I will reap the fullest reward for my labor
that of Contentment, and you know "Contentment is Bliss"
I wish for no more exquisite more Perfect bliss in this life

than I will enjoy by spending my life with you
I must say that I think that your Father
will be very selfish indeed if he should insist
on keeping you all the time I am sure that
I love you as well as he does and think that
it would be not only fair but a simple act
of justice to let me have you as long as he has
and if I keep you that long I know that I can
still retain possession for the remainder of your stay
in this world

My Darling I will very much against my wishes
be compelled to deny my self the exquisite pleasure
of whiling away the next Sabbath in "dear communion
and converse sweet" with thy much loved self
I will not be able to come down next Saturday
as I did hope that I would unless I hear from
over the river than I will try to come that is if
you will write to me by Saturdays Mail for you
^{know} it will be a double pleasure to get letters from you
and Kim at the same time you say that you dont
want me to have anything in black and white against you
now if you love me and have confidence in me then you will
not refuse me the pleasure of hearing from you next Saturday
god by Darling send me my Heaven Ever Blessings is the Prayer of
Ever your Obedient and devoted Lover till Death
P.S. Darling dont fail to write during the week if you will not be able to write all the week

Oh had we some bright little home of our own
In some pleasant place far off and alone
There with souls ever ardent and pure as the clime
We would love as they loved in first golden time
The glow of the sunshine the balm of the air
Would steal to our hearts and make all summer there.

Yes, if we had a home of our own,
In some quiet place far off and alone;
How nice it would be to quarrel and fight;
Pull hair, and scratch faces, from morning till night.
The glow of the sunshine would never be felt,
The balm of the air in vain would be sent,
So busy we'll be in snatching and snarling;
How do you like this picture my darling.

Sylvania July 31, 1878

~~My dear~~

Mrs. Selia Lawton

my own darling, sweet little —

I cannot possibly allow an opportunity of saying or rather sending you a few words to you to pass unheeded. well getting and the most interesting to me is news from our the kiner while I was there I felt almost as if was on needles so very anxious to hear from your father trusting to hear the best of all news that's that he would give you to me to be mine to have to cherish to shield and defend. I think I came here in the best time and in less time and less fatigue ~~I would be joyful rewarded~~ ~~amply~~ rewarded than I ever did before feeling fully confident that I could be amply rewarded in the amount for my overextension endeavouring to hasten the time of my arrival but can you imagine my disappointment in finding nothing in the post office I think that I was real sick for awhile in fact I can scarcely tell you how I did feel but we must school ourselves to bear with as much fortitude as possible all non-fulfillment of our affections that we meet with for this life is full of them even I sincerely trust I will hear from him this coming Saturday and Oh Father of Mercy grant that it may not unfavorable to my most ardent most heartfelt wishes may it be Yes.

if he can't consciently then I hope he will not refuse but will say to wait for future developments to decide. My darling a positive refusal would cause me the most ~~severe~~ excruciating mental ~~anguish~~ anguish it does not seem to me that I pass through the ordeal and retain my sanity. My soul but I love thee with my whole soul heart and body with a lasting true and pure love and cannot for one instant harbor the thought of losing or rather not getting you. I will forget that ~~there think that~~ I is the remotest shadow of doubt about it I will I do believe that he will give you to me that you will not be more than we will live for and with each other many many happy years I will ever love you and will do all that is possible for me to do that would render you perfectly happy and full perfectly confident that I will reap the full reward for my labor of commitment and you know "contentment is bliss" I wish for no more now perfect bliss in this life than I will enjoy by spending this life with you I must say that your father will be very selfish indeed if he should insist on keeping you all the time I am sure that I love you as well as he does and think that it would be not only fair but a simple act of justice to let me have you as long as he has and if I keep you that long I know that I can retain possession for the remainder of your stay in this world.

my darling I will say much against my wishes
 be compelled to deny myself the exquisite pleasure
 of whiling away the next Sabbath in "dear common
 and commoner love" with this much loved self. I
 will not be able to come down next Saturday and
 I did hope that I would unless I hear from you
 the river then I will try to come that is if you will
 write to me by Saturday mail for you it will be
 a double pleasure to get letters from you and from
 at the same time. You say that you don't want me to
 have anything in black and white against you and even
 if you love me and have confidence in me then you
 will not refuse me the pleasure of hearing from you
 next Saturday Goodbye Darling Sweet One May Heaven
 ever bless you as the prayer of mine Ever more your true
 and devoted Love till death

P.S. Darling please do not fail to write, I will not
 come until after the mail

H. A. Martin

Oh had we some bright little home of our own in some
 pleasant place far off and alone there with souls ever united
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