

[Letter from Williams Barnard Furman to daughter Rosalie Allen Furman, age abt 8, in 1882
Transcribed by Gary S. Collins in May 2003]]

Envelope: Postmark: (front) Henderson, Ky. 14 Apr (reverse) Covington Apr 15 Received

Miss Rosalie Furman
Con Dr J D Collins
No 912 Madison St
Covington, Ky

Henderson April 12th 1882

Miss Rosalie Furman
Darling Little Daughter,

I am today in receipt of a letter from Sister, and also one from Dossie; I learn from Sister that my precious, is expecting a letter from Papa, so I will try tonight, and write you one. You must not think, because I write you so seldom, that I ever forget my little Daughter, day and night my thoughts dwell on You, and sweet Sister, and I think how much happier I would be, if we could be together. Dear lost Mama and I intended before this time, that we should all be together again for good, but God has willed it otherwise, and I am so prostrated, and shattered, in every way, by our great misfortune, that I have not been able to think or decide about what would be best. I hope it will not be long now, before we will see each other again. I so much wish, I could take you both, and Dossie and spend the Summer in Colorado, but I am working hard in my practice, and if my health enables me, I must stick closely to work this Summer.

Henderson is improving a good deal now, a great many new houses are being built, and work has commenced on the Bridge. Your little friends here keep right well, and will become so glad to see you and Sister when you come. Keaumie(?) and Grandpa are both sick today. You ought to see my little namesake Willie (Keaumie's Baby). He is a fine little red headed fellow. Etta is now a great big girl. Mattie Lewis's children are well, the Baby is a very pretty little girl. I am back at my office now at night, and find the "view"(?), as I call it, very lonely. I am studying now harder, than I have ever done, it is all that enables me to forget, for a time, my troubles. Aunt Laura is well. I must tell you about Deggins; She ran away the other night, and was gone from about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, until the next morning. They found her asleep on the door step. She would not tell where she went.

I am very sorry to hear that "Grandma" Laucey (*Gouciy?*) is so sick. I fear Pneumonia will go very far with one of her age and strength.

Mrs. Paul Blackwell says when you all come, you must spend some time with her, and Mrs. Quinn (nee Cousin Allie) says I must send you all out to see her. She has only nine children to take care of. Aunt Kate, as I learned from Dr. Tory (*Gory?*) a few days ago, is quite weak. He thinks one of her lungs is about gone. If so, she will hardly live through the year.

Now little One, I am about the end of this sheet, and so must close. Write me when you can. I expect to write Dossie in a few days, and send money for your Summer things. Give my love to Dossie, PaD and Sadie and Grandma, (who I hope is better). Kiss Sister a dozen times for me. Be good Little Girls as I know you always try to be. Goodnight William.

Much love and a bushel of kisses I am Your own dear Papa.

[Notes:

“Grandpa” is probably Rosalie’s grandpa and Williams’s father, Samuel Kirkwhite Furman.

Aunt Laura is probably William’s step-mother Laura Fisher, S.K. Furman’s third wife.

Dossie is definitely Rosalie A. Collins, Rosalie Furman’s aunt who helped bring her up after the death of Williams about two years later, in 1884.

PaD is John Dillard Collins.

Sadie is probably John Dillard Collins’s second wife Sadie McMillan (m: 1879).