

# Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from John Kennaday to His Family

**Date:** January 5, 1844

**Location:** I-SpahrB-1969-3

### Contact:

Archives & Special Collections  
Waidner-Spahr Library  
Dickinson College  
P.O. Box 1773  
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)

Dickinson College January 5<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Jim

I have nothing to do to night, and as such a thing dont happen very often, and also as I suppose you have been expecting an answer from me ever since your letter was put in the post-office, <sup>I happen to write to you,</sup> I was glad to see your name on opening the letter, and read what you had to say with a great deal of pleasure. I perfectly agree with you in the opinion that it is better to live in Market St. than in the other, especially when I consider the important fact that you will not have so many boys to play with. I have not much to tell you, for there has not been anything special going on here lately. We had a Temperance meeting in the chapel last Saturday evening, at which there were a good many ladies. It was a beautiful night. The moon was shining brightly, and the ground being covered with snow, it made it almost as light as day. Just as the meeting was over, and while the ladies and gentlemen were walking down the campus towards the gate, two bugles sounded from one of the college windows, and to see the dark forms moving slowly in the clear moonlight, while the music was playing, looked almost as pretty, I expect, as anything you saw at the exhibition. Do you have ~~to blacken~~ ~~hats~~ and shoes Saturday nights? If you do, just imagine that I am at the same work about the the same time. Do you have any more of those good buck-wheat cakes? If you do just imagine that I dont. But I generally have my share of mince-pies, for the fellow that sits next to me at the table never eats his. He calls for it though, and when he gets

it hands it over to me, so you see I get two pieces. I tell you this as a piece of valuable information, which I have no doubt is very interesting to you. I believe I have nothing more to say at present, except to thank you very much for taking the pains to write to me.

Yours Affectionately

J. R. Kennaday

Dear Helen

I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you, hoping that you are well. I see there's a big blot at the top of your letter, which I suppose Jane made in the beginning, and I can almost imagine that I see her licking it up, and this makes me think how you were all sitting at the time when Jane was writing, so you see how much good a blot does sometimes. Your letter was a very amusing one, I laughed like every thing when I read the account of the party, about the sausages and a good many other things which you had for supper. I expect you enjoyed your three sausages about as well as anybody else for I know you can eat them pretty fast. And then about the doors being painted and the boys and girls making such a fuss as to get their clothes full of paint. I am sorry to learn that Jane has been afflicted with the jumping tooth-ache, but tell her that perhaps her tooth will jump out some day, and then her troubles will be over. There was a joke too at the expense of John Kennard's nose at which I had to smile, but it's getting late, and as I want to say a word or two to father, I shall have to stop, hoping that you will excuse me

for not writing more, and that you will be able soon to  
send me a letter in your own writing, Give little Cary a  
kiss for me,

Yours Affectionately  
J. R. Kennaday

P.S. Tell Maria to remember that she owes me a letter, &c. &c.  
Dear Father,

Wesley and myself are well with the exception of  
slight colds. I saw Mr. Seymour yesterday, and he requested  
me to inform you, when I wrote, that since sending home  
my monthly report, he had paid for my board, and this  
with other things has taken all my funds.

Our studies are not so hard as they were, and I find  
it is quite easy for me to attend to them and to have plenty  
of time for exercise also.

Yours &c.

J. R. Kennaday

Wesley wishes me to send his respects to all



*J. D.*

*Mr. James H. Kennaday  
Care of Rev. J. Kennaday  
Wilmington  
Delaware*



Dickinson College January 5<sup>th</sup> 1844

Dear Jim,

I have nothing to do to night, and as such a thing don't happen very often, and also as I suppose you have been expecting an answer from me ever since your letter was put in the post-office, I happen to write to you. I was glad to see your name on opening the letter, and read what you had to say with a great deal of pleasure. I perfectly agree with you in the opinion that it is better to live in Market St. than in the other, especially when I consider the important fact that you will not have so many boys to play with. I have not much to tell you, for there has not been anything special going on here lately. We had a Temperance meeting in the chapel last Saturday evening, at which there were a good many ladies. It was a beautiful night. The moon was shining highly, and the ground being covered with snow, it made I almost as bright as day. Just as the meeting was over, and while the ladies and gentlemen were walking down the campus towards the gate, two bugles sounded from one of the college windows, and to see the dark forms moving slowly in the clear moonlight, while the music was playing, looked almost as pretty, I expect, as anything you saw at the exhibition. Do you have to blacken [illegible] and shoes Saturday nights? If you do, just imagine that I am at the same work about the the same time. Do you have more of those good buck-wheat cakes? If you do just imagine that I don't. But I generally have my share of mince-pies, for the fellow that sits next to me at the table never eats his. He calls for it though, and when he gets

it hands it over to me, so you see I get two pieces. I tell you this as a piece of valuable information, which I have no doubt is very interesting to you. I believe I have nothing more to say at present, except to thank you very much for taking the pains to write to me.

Yours affectionately,

J.R. Kennaday

Dear Helen,

I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you, hoping that you are well. I see there's a big blot at the top of your letter, which I suppose Jane made in the beginning, and I can almost [illegible] that I see her licking it off, and this makes me think how you were all sitting at the time when Jane was writing, as you see how much good a blot does sometimes. Your letter was a very amusing one. I laughed like everything when I read the account of the party, about the sausages and a good many other things which you had for supper. I expect you enjoyed your three sausages about as well as anybody else for I know you can eat them pretty fast. And then about the doors being painted and the boys and girls making such a fuss as to get their clothes full of paint. I am sorry to learn that Jane has been afflicted with the jumping tooth-ache, but tell her that perhaps her tooth will jump out some day, and then her troubles will be over. There was a joke too at the expense of John Kennard's nose at which I had to smile, but it's getting late, and as I want to say a word or two to father, I shall have to stop, hoping that you will excuse me

for not writing more, and that you will be able soon to send me a letter in your own writing. Give little Gary a kiss for me.

Yours affectionately,

J.R. Kennedy

P.S. Tell Maria to remember that she owes me a letter J.R. K.

Dear Father,

Wesley and myself are well with the exception of slight colds. I saw Mr. Seymore yesterday, and he requested me to inform you, when I wrote, that since sending home my monthly report, he had paid for my board, and this with other things has taken all of my funds.

Our studies are not so hard as they were and I [illegible] it is quite easy for me to attend to them and to have plenty of time for exercise also.

Yours +c

J.R. Kennedy

Wesley wishes me to send his respects to all.