Autauga July 13th 1862

ALA. DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY MSS

My Dear Brother

You dident ask me to write to you when you went away, but I will write any how, because I know you want to hear from home and I dont think that any body else has written, or going to write soon. The day you left you know father, came over to see you off, well after you left father came up to Aunt Amanda's, and left Joe and Charlie and he went on down town, just before dinner it commenced raining, and it rained a good while, I was in the parlor by myself, Aunt Amanda cow in Lollie, and sister were up stairs sleep Joe and Bunk and all of those were in the front portico, when the loudest clap of thunder that I ever heard

came and the lightning struck the house it split up some splinters off of the floor in the front door, and some of the splinters hit Bunk in the face and scratched it all up it stunned Johnnie ~~and~~, and Bunk looked foolish at first, and aunt Amanda and cousins Mollie and Lollie came rushing down stairs and aunt Amanda went about making such a big fuss that Bunk thought he was dead, I know nearly, after a while he came too, and commenced crying, of course, father came up just as the lightning struck and before Bunk got in the house, I dont believe they ever would have done any thing if he had been struck by lightning as thought, if father had took hold of him and called for water, but no body would hand him the water till cousin Lollie came down (without her dress on too) and heard father asking for water

and she ran out and got some, and helped to bathe his face, and all that time father was trying to make them know that Bunk wasent hurt much but they kept on till a good while then stopped, then all of them commenced looking to see what the lightning had done, it knocked the mantlepiece nearly down in the setting room, and broke all of their glass tumbler and bowls and thing that were in the closet in the dining room, and melted round places in all the pieces of her silver tea set, it ~~didn't~~ dident make a hole through but melted it down to pure silver and scorched up pretty bad, well some of them got to smelling fire and commenced looking for it, and found it under the dining room, there was some old clothes under there and they caught, cousin Mollie ran out in the rain, and was going to try and help put it out, but

Father and some of the negroes had put it out by pouring water on it, but time cousin Lollie and aunt A found out that the house was on fire they went getting their things ready, cousin Lollie got all her money in her pocket and sister's watch and every thing she could lay her hands on, she would pick up something then throw some of sister's cloths over her head and tell sister to make haste, she kept on that way till the fire was out; all of us had a good laugh at her and aunt A after it was all over. Father and all of us started home that evening, except sister she was too sick to go; and the carriage broke down when we got to the ferry, and it couldent be fixed so Hiny Larrie, and me all went back to aunt A's and Hiny went home that evening and Harry fixed the carriage, and the next morning Larrie and me went home, when we came away sister was a great deal better I believe she was getting up. all of you must write to me. I must write to brother James today

we haven't heard from them since you left, all of us are well here at home. Father has just received your letter

Laura Hall