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## Excerpt of letter from Mary Ann Garrett Stine to Cousin, John Breidenhart, June 27, 1838

Mary Ann Garrett Stine

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Excerpt of letter from Mary Ann Garrett Stine to cousin, John Breidenhart, June 27, 1838.

“Now I must tell you about Linden Wood. It is as pretty a place as there is in St. Charles County. It is surrounded by the Lin trees. There is a large shady yard in front of the house, where we recreate ourselves when school is out, for awhile. Then the bell rings for us to go to the school room, there to spend an hour in sewing, after that we take a walk, which I do dislike when I do not feel like it which is very often I can assure you. I thought when I first came here I could not reconcile myself to stay but now I spend my time very pleasantly. Study does not go so hard with me as it did at the first two or three weeks I came here. We have to walk into church of a Sunday, which is a good half mile into St. Charles, there we stay all day, but we have our dinner brought to us. I am learning to play on the piano, it is my favorite music, it seems to me that I never could get tired of it in this world. Tuesday evening while I am now writing, I have the duty of a Monitress to perform. Do you want to know what that duty is? It is to keep the school room in order, to ring the study bell at proper times, to keep silence during the study hour and to mark those who do not study faithfully. The first study bell rings at a quarter past five in the morning, (you may know what time we get up) and the second morning study bell rings at a quarter before eight. This is not half of what we have to do. The Monitress who does her duty the best is to receive a premium at the examination, which I will try to get if possible.”