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## Excerpts of a Letter from Mary Ann Garret Stine to Her Cousin, circa 1838

Mary Ann Garrett Stine

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Excerpts of a Letter from Mary Ann Garret Stine to Her Cousin, circa 1838

“We are not at home now, as we are going to school at Linden Wood, St. Charles, Missouri, about twenty four miles from home. We started once to go to Danville, in Missouri, that is eighty miles from home, but Mother could not bear the idea of sending us so far away. Here she can come up in one day to see us and go back the next. This school is under the direction of Mrs. Sibley, a very amiable and accomplished lady. She does not teach herself, but has teachers employed to teach, who are also capable of teaching anything. I think that we shall improve under their kind instructions. This school is in high reputation all over the country. There is one young lady from Greensbourough, Alabama. That is a great distance to come to school. There are a great many young ladies from all parts of the state...

... Linden Wood is truly a delightful place and I am inclined to think that any young lady who wishes to become an intelligent being can by application, become one here. Every advantage is enjoyed, removed from the trustle [sic] of a city. We quietly spend our time in school exercises. The day is portioned in such a manner as gives time for everything, and everything must be done in the proper time. Everything is in its proper place, the school goes on as regular as clock work. Now I shall tell you some of the regulations of our school, as follows: In the first place we have to be in the school room at a quarter past five, (you may know what time we get up), study till six, have a recess of five minutes then we study till a quarter before seven, then have prayer and breakfast. The young ladies take weeks about in being Monitress, which is a very pleasant duty to me, to keep the school room in order, and to ring the study bell and school bell at proper times and to see that the young ladies study faithfully, and to mark those who do not study, which is not a very pleasant thing to do. I am learning to play on the piano, which is my favorite music, Mrs. Sibley teaches it. If I only could play half as well as she does I would be perfectly happy in this world, which I hope I shall some day or other.”