


 Col. P. P. Fitzhugh
May 21st 1858

Dear Col.

I received your letter during the meeting of the people's convention which closed its labours on last Saturday & should have answered it immediately, but postponed in hopes of getting something of interest to write about to you. Although this convention met for the express purpose of reviving the old ^{third} Chief System but during the convention we received a letter from Fanny Walker by the hand Thompson McKimney which we construed as an overture for a compromise; after some parlying and consultation with our constituents we agreed to the fourth Chief System; and framed our constitution accordingly.

And it is to be submitted to the people on the first Wednesday of next July. and have invited the advocates of Skully Hill constitution to submit theirs at the same time, so that the

people make their choice of the two; as
a compromise measure it is unexception-
-able; it is fair & just all round.

In regard to the young Geo. W. Harkins
I had issued a draft ~~in favor~~
~~of him~~ for the liquidation of his
liabilities at the institution. You
will therefore please concern yourself
yourself about it. I wrote to you
in regard to Sophia F. Woods and
also about Jane Austin they are
both placed in Sewickleyville
Pennsylvania. You will please
see that they are well provided
for.

The board of Trustees
have agreed to raise the allowance
to the students in the States the
girls to four hundred ^{dollars} and the
boys to three hundred & fifty dol-
lars. I ought to have said
I advanced three hundred dollars
to Miss Woods for ^{her tuition & board for} the year 1858
and none for Miss Austin as I had
no ready money that ought to be attended
to forthwith perhaps.

I was very sorry and am sorry yet that the Council at Depot did not elect you again as Superintendent of Public Schools, I told Col. P. Tolson and other members it was necessary that you should still hold the office ^{so} that you could attend to the wants of the students in the States. Capt. Nail the now General Superintendents and other have come round to my opinion that there ^{ought to} be some person to go round and visit those Institution in which our children are placed and report annually to the General Council the condition and prospect of each students. Unless some such plan is pursued our money will not be so profitably spend as it should be.

There is one other boy which was taken on to the east & placed in school near Princeton N. D. by Mr Reid, I agreed to allow ~~two~~ ^{hundred} fifty dollars ^{annually}. Subsequently he made a proposition to me to educate this boy & two others, provided I would place in his hands five

hundred dollars. He is going
about the first of July and would
be glad to take them on with him.

I would be glad to accept of this
offer if I could do it with safety.

They are represented as excellent boys.

They are Alfred Wade's nephews.

Will you write to me in regard to
this last matter.

Nancy & the children send their
love to you.

I am yours as ever

Joe Duke

Dear Uncle,

When will you ever come
home, somehow or other it does not look like
old times, you are greatly missed among our
people they look lonely without you in their gatherings
but no wonder, our people have been living in a sad state
since you left us; drinking and killing up each other
in a shocking manner it is indeed a sad time with
us, but I do hope it will not continue so much longer.
I heard that Rhoda has got home but I have not had
the pleasure of seeing her yet; We get letters from Mary
she continues to dwell and improves very fast, she
wants a gold ring will you please get one for her and
give it to her for me and I will pay you when you come
home dont fail to see her before you come. your friend till death
Nancy E. Duke