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Julia Gilmore Wrote a Lengthy Letter to Her Brother, Darius

Julia Gilmore

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30 August 1871

Amelia, Virginia

On this date, Julia Gilmore wrote a lengthy letter to her brother, Darius, in Fairview, Illinois. She mentions several people including Ben Van Raalte whom she marries later. She reported that Will and Christine Van Raalte Gilmore are packing up the "books and things" left behind by Dr. [Albertus C.] Van Raalte. She is sharing a room with Mary Van Raalte.

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Dear Brother:
 I am glad to hear that John
 is still alive I never hear from him and I
 did not know but that he was dead or had
 left for Puget Sound I have been a little home
 sick this week but it is because I have not
 felt well I guess, the weather is too warm for
 me here Chris says I will feel better and
 I hope I will after a while she says it is be-
 cause I have worked so hard and now I don't
 have such hard work to do I am enjoying my-
 self very much but of course it would be
 natural to get homesick once in a while
 when I think of the "dear ones at home"
 I have just finished my crocheting and brought
 it up stairs and I thought while I was
 alone I would write a few lines Mary and
 I swim together and we have quite a good
 time
 I hope to see you all soon
 Love
 Amelia

Aug 30th 51

What is John doing now is his home
 Dear Brother:

I am glad to hear that John
 is still alive I never hear from him and I
 did not know but that he was dead or had
 left for Puget Sound I have been a little home
 sick this week but it is because I have not
 felt well I guess, the weather is too warm for
 me here Chris says I will feel better and
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 cause I have worked so hard and now I don't
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 when I think of the "dear ones at home"
 I have just finished my crocheting and brought
 it up stairs and I thought while I was
 alone I would write a few lines Mary and
 I swim together and we have quite a good
 time
 I hope to see you all soon
 Love
 Amelia

Who says the organ in the Church now that there is
nearly for a letter from her but it does not come yet
if you see some thing I'll let her that I am looking out
shall have to quit now and make to Mrs. Jones
knows anything about his things will I give
when you tell him that Darius please send

6
us the Canton paper once in a while The one you
sent around the cello how done one ever so much
good I have read it through three or four times
I guess and find some pleasure in reading it
now I hear Clark cutting up with Van He
thinks a great deal of him and takes a great
deal of care of him and Van cries after him
every time he goes out. Do not let Mother work
so hard or she will just be down sick again I
think it is too bad that she does not get help
How is she now perhaps she feels better since
she has gotten clear of one she won't have to worry
now any more for she cannot see how I run
around now They are having a great time here
running up and down stairs They are packing
up Doctor Van Raalte's books and things that
he left to send with Dominic Hergenheer one
thinks of this and another of that and Clark
and Van are just as busy as any of them I
don't have any thing to do with that for I do

as well as I might I expect Foss has told
 him what I said about ^{him} and it was not slow either
 I can tell you I did not think of such a thing as
 his ever getting in the family but it is done
 and I don't care the next time you Lawrence
 tell him I am ready to come home as soon
 as he comes after me Tell Ma I have not
 seen any thing of that letter she had in her
 mind I guess it has not come out yet I wrote
 to Anna Hull but have not received an ans-
 wer yet Who teaches my class? Do they behave
 themselves? I want to write to Mary Jane this
 week if I can How is Alice he says she had a
 cancer is that so I am so sorry to hear it for I
 think Mary J will meet with a great loss the
 loss of a Mother Well the dinner bell rang
 and I must go or miss my dinner Well I
 have just had my dinner and now I will
 tell you what I had Bread butter ham
 potatoes cabbage cucumbers peach pickles
 Baked apples and Custard Meringue You

③ You don't look get - to write to me soon for @ the
you @ writing piece every letter and check @ that put
more like mother's than than @ have done since @ young
Come over and you can have some too

I have an awful appetite I could eat all the
time and Chris says I am more fleshy she
thinks if I am not it is not because I do
not have an appetite, Has Doc & Lay been
left - Fair View yet? What has become of Mr
and Mrs West and will you don't say anything
about them and John Ann and Bell
Bowen does Bell miss Guey any? I think
of her very often I can tell you Is John
going to move to town? When you write tell
me who all you have in the choir would you
you must remember that I want to know
every thing that transpires in F and vicinity
Take a post's cap sheet and fill it full
and tell John to help you I think he is
awful mean that he does not write to
his little sis for ce The first letter I wrote
was to you all but I know Pa and Ma
hardly ever write so I don't blame ~~them~~
and you have been a real good boy so far
but I'm mad at John so there now I know
he will be so worried that he cannot sleep

Aug 30, 1871.

Jules & Mary Van Raulte
share a room

- ref. to Ben V R -

- packing V R's books
& he left