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In an Informative and Lengthy Letter, Julia Corresponded with Her Brother, Darius Gilmore, in Fairview, Illinois

Julia Gilmore

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23 October 1871

Amelia, Virginia

In an informative and lengthy letter, Julia corresponded with her brother, Darius Gilmore, in Fairview, Illinois. She hardly has time to write because Will and Christine Gilmore's baby cries so much. Christine gave six music lessons today. She reported on the Holland fire, writing that Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte "has lost very heavy." Will Gilmore, Dirk Van Raalte, and Ben Van Raalte have also lost heavily. Dirk said that he was a ruined man because he lost so much timber.

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John is beginning to shoot my
1/2 of my money going home already the boys
for it will do so long by make a day or two get to
stay a year but I guess if I do they will get
back of me Good night and pleasant
Remember me to the girls and send me love
I am (writing) for that letter from the boys
I wish John would think enough of me to write
to me I guess he has forgotten he has a brother
you just shut him in mind of it please
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Dear Brother
I will try and write you a few
lines if possible but I suppose just about
the time I commence the baby will cry and
as I am nurse today I shall have to pump
and run Chris has given six lessons today
and the baby has not slept hardly but yes
there it is I shall do well if I can rock
and write but he is going to cry and that
is an end to my letter tonight. Well it is
Wednesday morn and I am watching by
Van until he goes to sleep so I will write
a few lines and then I must help the Girl
clean house Chris asked me to wash windows
for her Oh there is so much to do I don't get
a stitch of sewing done not even my mending but
I am here and I must help along for there is
eight of us in family beside the two children

get ready for supper Give love to all from your
sister

the Girl cannot do all the work Derrick is
here and tomorrow we look for Tom Huzen
and bride Derrick is going home next week he
says he does not like Amelia so he would stay
but I guess from Wills and Chris talk that
isent the only reason I suppose you have
heard ere this that Holland has the most
part been destroyed by fire it is awful
Dr Van R has lost very heavy Wills has lost
considerable and Dirk says he himself is
a ruined man Ben has lost all his fences every
one he had on his place he dont sit down and
cry about it though I guess from his letter
he has lost all his timber I believe they say
he has cut an acre left Today is court day
and they always have a gay time here then you
would wonder where all the people come
from you would say certainly not from
Amelia there comes the ten o'clock train and
here I sit but I cannot help it Van would go to
slap He has had such very sore eyes and oh how
troublesome he ~~has~~ is gets all the time To let
~~she is married~~ what a silly Girl to marry that
fellow What has become of her Mother
and Mrs Pringle? Are they going to live to-
gether? I think they will have a happy live
of it if they do You wrote me that Jim Taylor
was married whom did he marry? I sit in
our bedroom writing and I can see all that is
going on Amelia seems to be full of negroes and
they are having a gay time I tell you they have
been having speeches all the afternoon Men Women
and children We have our room cleaned and
now I shall have to fix up for supper I expect
or else I will catch a good sound scolding Last
night Clark and Dirk stood under our bed
room window and pelted us with stones all
the time we were getting ready for supper they
are just coming again and we will have to
make preparations for another shower of them
Chris is not feeling very well again today she
gave six music lessons yesterday and I guess
it was too much for her I take care of the chil-
dren while she teaches I think if I ever have
any of my own I shall know how to take care
of them Wills is just as full of business as ever

Oct 23, 1971

- had news of Holand
Fire

Dr V R Cart personally
- cases also for DBK & Pm

Oct 23-71



Darius Gilmore Jr
Fairview,
Ill.