

Name: Jacob Miller
Date: August 10, 1859
Location: Sharpsburg
Document Origin: Family archives
Type: Letter
Subject: African American
Keywords: Slave sales;

“Sharpsburg August 10th 1859

Dear Christian and Amelia

Yours of the 3rd is at hand in relation to Jacobs course against me which was about as harsh, rough, ungentlemanly, un Christian like and without regard to relation or friendship as it possible could be. I do not believe that a man (in tolerable good standing) could be found in Washington County or in any other County who would prosecute a case so rigeet against a friend and relation as Jacob and I stood towards each other. ---- he showed his cloven foot last Spring soon after he came in. ...but I thought I was dealing with relatives and friends as for Jacob I alwas considered him one of my warmest friends and he always profefsed to be such so I confefsed a Judgment to him with a stay of execution for one year fully satisfied in my mind that I would be ready to meete the call. But things in general took a change, the next crop of wheat failed which wound up money matters verry close which threw everybody out of market in buying land so I failed in selling and raising the money...

...he then ordered the Sheriff to sell anything he could lay his hands upon that would fetch the money that I had some negroes he should take them and the Sheriff is bound to obay his instructions so the Sheriff came down and took Aaron, John, Nau [Nan?], Jane and her child now I would almost as soon he would have taken my life as to have taken them three boys from me and I believe they would have wrisked their lives for me so great was their attachment for me that when the Sheriff came down I told them of what was to be done they submitted at once and said then you will be clear of Hauser but when the Sheriff came to Harriet she became enraged and said Jacob made a big leak [leap] and she hoped the next leap he would make would land him into hell and I can assure you that Jacob has verry fiew friends hear anymore...”