

My Willie

With all my wanted diffidence may I dare address you a few lines maybe it would be presumption or rudeness on my part to do so. I ask your indulgence and forgiveness, My Willie I have ever loved you in truth and sincerity, you have been for months, the almost constant occupant of my thoughts, the dearest object of my heart, and to live any longer without some hope in loving thee, is too hard, my warmest, deepest most sincere and lasting affection have been and are fixed on you, will you consider my earnest appeal, my feelings are so well expressed by a few lines.

"I can never love but one, no never! and when a heart like mine is given, it fondly loves and loves forever, unchanging as the truth of heaven undined will glow my true devotion now rendered to its dearest name, unfaded blooms each sweet emotion, through life through life the same, the same."

I am so unworthy of your lasting affection, that it is with fear and trembling I dare ask you to love me, can you, or will you try, will you love me because I first loved you, please give me your heart now, your hand would go with it, at some good time, I need not write more, for vows express my sincere devotion for you, may my love for you be reciprocated, a heart as warm, as fond as mine, should never know distress, why so distant and shy, why so afraid of one, who would never treat thee ill, nor do thee wrong. Often have I longed to visit you, at your home, but thought this, and (if permitted by you) believe me, sincerely, and very truly, a devoted lover.

W. M. Swoope, M.D.

P. S. Will you be charitable enough to allow no one, to see, or read this, except your Mother.

(A LOVE LETTER TO WILLIE HARLAN)