



Columbia Mo  
April 26<sup>th</sup> 78-

Chancellor J N Dawson

Dear Sir;—

My son Lewis B Wilkes who is in his 21<sup>st</sup> year about 5 ft 11 in high, of light complexion and blue eyes, good constitution and a member of the Church, will graduate on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June prox, in the University of the State of Mo., under Pres Samuel S Laws, having taken the entire course—Scientific Literary and classical, with some knowledge of the Hebrew German and French languages.

He is desirous of pursuing a course of scientific reading, in the department of Natural History and of studying the rocks fossils &c. This will give you an idea of his design. He has read all of your works, and all others in the line of his purpose which we could obtain. He is extremely anxious to be and live with you for a time, to enjoy the advantages of your library, and of your learning. He thinks he could be of some service to you in the field, in copying manuscripts, in drawing and making charts, manipulating experiments &c in all of which he has had some experience.

In whatever way he could be of service to you I believe I can pledge he will faithfully do his best—

Now my dear Sir could he, if he should be

to your entire satisfaction well recommended  
by nearly all the eminent scientific men  
in our State be received into your own fam-  
ily and be constantly under your own super-  
vision? and on what terms would you receive  
him?

I can and will, if you entertain my son's appli-  
cation give you letters <sup>from</sup> Pres Dr Laws, Dr G C Swallow,  
Broadhead State Geologist, Governor Phelps,  
U S Senators from Mo &c &c.

Should you give me a  
definite reply to this at your earliest conveni-  
ence you will much oblige yours

very Truly—

L B Wilkes

Columbia,

Boone Co,

Mo.—

B McKee  
Meyers

*[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

*[A blank page with a faint grid pattern, possibly for a ledger or account book.]*