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## T.L. Treadwell and E.E. Treadwell to A.C. Blair, 20 February 1855

Timmons Louis Treadwell

Elizabeth E. Treadwell

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Inaghola April 18<sup>th</sup> 1855

My dear Cousin;

This evening I received your letter, the first for a long long time that I have had from my absent and loved Cousin, and can I express my feelings? when I looked at the post-mark, and saw "Memphis" stamped on the corner - tho' my language is too feeble, and I will leave you to imagine as doubtless you have experienced, the same on similar occasions - perhaps you may think me in a hurry to answer it - but you know so well Cousin L. - what my feelings for you are, that instantly you will know it is from a warm pure gush of love - on reading your letters, that causes them to receive such prompt attention - and if you were to write twenty sheets right full when I got through reading them I would think they were too short - and wish for twenty more - I freely forgive your silence, and feel assured that it is on the account of business, that causes such long intervals between your letters - and we are truly glad - yes more than glad to learn, that your prospects, presents such a flattering light - if there is a being on earth, Cousin Louder, that I sincerely wish success and happiness, and all the choice blessings of life it is you it does my heart & soul good to hear of your doing well - and I would be as sorry to hear of your misfortune or down-fall - as I would an own brother - for I do think, (tho' I don't know that I ought to say it here) you have a noble and generous & manly heart - I don't say this to make you vain, for I don't believe anything I could say would make you vain - nor I don't put it here to flatter - you know me too well for that - all I say comes from a



simple and honest heart;— We are all well at this time. Tho' Fernick  
is just recovering from a severe attack of pneumonia; There was  
several days we had no idea he would get up— but with the careful  
attention from us— and a skillful physician, he is now able to sit  
up a little— The general health of the ~~recipients~~ <sup>at the</sup> is very good— no  
sickness at all— The Doctor— says it is "alarmingly healthy"— We are  
getting on finely— Pa Smith (Dad's overseer) is doing things up nicely  
Tho' he found the farm in a dreadful condition— he has pushed, and  
has everything in fine order— his corn up <sup>fast</sup> prettily and cotton planted  
and things go on perfectly smooth— Ma has a fine garden, plenty  
of young peas, but we havin't had a mess yet, but will before long,  
large bed of cabbage plants set out— radishes large enough to eat  
we are begining to have fine luck at raising chickens, we have  
some nearly large enough to eat, I tell you Cousin Loundes, they  
have been a scarce article since we have been here, for all we have  
had we ~~had~~ had to buy— but ~~never mind~~ we will begin to live  
after while— by the time you come to see us we will have plenty  
of everything— if we are blessed— would you believe Cousin Loundes  
I had got to be a real domestic girl— so much so I don't  
believe Ma will be willing to give me up when I get ready to  
go— but however, may-be she won't have to fret herself much  
about that matter— They all say I look as much like an "old  
maid" as ever— Tho' they are obliged to give it up— that Alabama  
agrees with me, and I ~~have~~ greatly improved in appearance—  
you would be surprised to see your "long nose" Cousin— I weigh more  
now than I have for years— my weight is 122 pounds— don't you  
think that is doing pretty well for me?— Oh! Cousin Loundes if I  
was just sick— how soon we would be together, to talk over those  
by-gone, ~~days~~— whenever I get to writing to you, my mind will



always resort to those olden times, and makes me feel so sad,  
Oh! I would give thousands to live those days over, again, and yet  
in imagination I live them over, nearly every day of my life; ah!  
how often do I sit & think of every foot of that old house, the  
cedar trees, the ~~up~~ the lane, the spring by the way - where we  
used so often to call and get a drink of its cool sparkling  
water - and when my mind is visiting the dear old homestead it  
invariably returns to one little sacred spot, held doubly dear  
on account of its being the last resting place, of one of the dearest  
beings to me on earth - when I get there, I pause, & think of that  
lost one! of his features, in life and in death were just the same, then  
my heart is filled with sorrow, and I find relief in the gush of  
warm tears that flow - but why do I write thus to you? whose mind  
is overburdened with business, and his own troubles and occupations of  
life - because I feel I have your sympathy, no matter what may be  
my trouble - but enough of this tonight - This evening I received  
a long letter from Bethie - stating in it the death of Dr Smith,  
and also - that she and Dr Bill Richardson were to be married  
the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May next - I would like very much to be at the  
wedding - but its not to be thought of - as I reckon it will be a  
many long day before I see Carolina again - We havent heard from  
Sis Laura in some time, we begin to feel a little uneasy - They  
expect to visit us next fall - and there will be old rejoicing when  
she gets here - I dont reckon Mr Semberton will buy land here  
but we are in hopes he will - This is a pleasant country to live  
in, we have every advantage here, I have formed some agreeable  
acquaintances here, and some strong friendships - I would like so  
much if your sisters could visit us, I know they would enjoy  
themselves - they are the most cheerful people here I ever saw



you search in an old person here. I don't mean in age - you see  
numbers of white-headed men and women - yet in disposition they  
are mere boys and girls - Well dear Cousin I must close for to-night  
as every soul I reckon on the plantation is asleep - but one - and I am  
sitting up here alone, and don't hear a sound save the melancholy  
notes of a lone Whip-poor-will - I expect you are this moment sitting  
in your office, pondering over some case - well I hope you may gain  
the suit - I will write Ma's message to-morrow - I enclose you two  
small buds - gathered from our yard - keep them - so good - night  
I remain affectionately your Cousin  
Jane

D.S.

Good morning, all well. with the exception of my throat  
it being very sore, but not so sore but I could  
swallow my breakfast - Ma sends "best love" and said "she wanted  
you to make all you could, and come to see us soon - & she was as  
glad to hear of your doing well as she could have been to hear  
of one of her own boys, and she thinks of you as often as she  
does of sis Laro". Master Lowndes sends his respects "says he has  
learned his letters and can spell in his abo" and Ma added for  
him - she intended he should make a distinguished Lawyer -  
he is really a beautiful boy and has the keenest eye I ever saw  
and is a great deal better than he use to be - but there is room  
still for improvement - Dit says "when she gets time she  
will answer your letter, she has so much work to do" - but you  
needn't believe that - Sis Mary sends love & says and said be sure  
to write to her - Will is waiting to start to school - and is hurrying  
me for the letter to carry - I could write five times as much  
more but havint time - I do hate to stop - Every one black and  
white send love and howdy - Write soon. And believe I am  
ever your friend and Cousin "Jink"