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James Monroe Palmer

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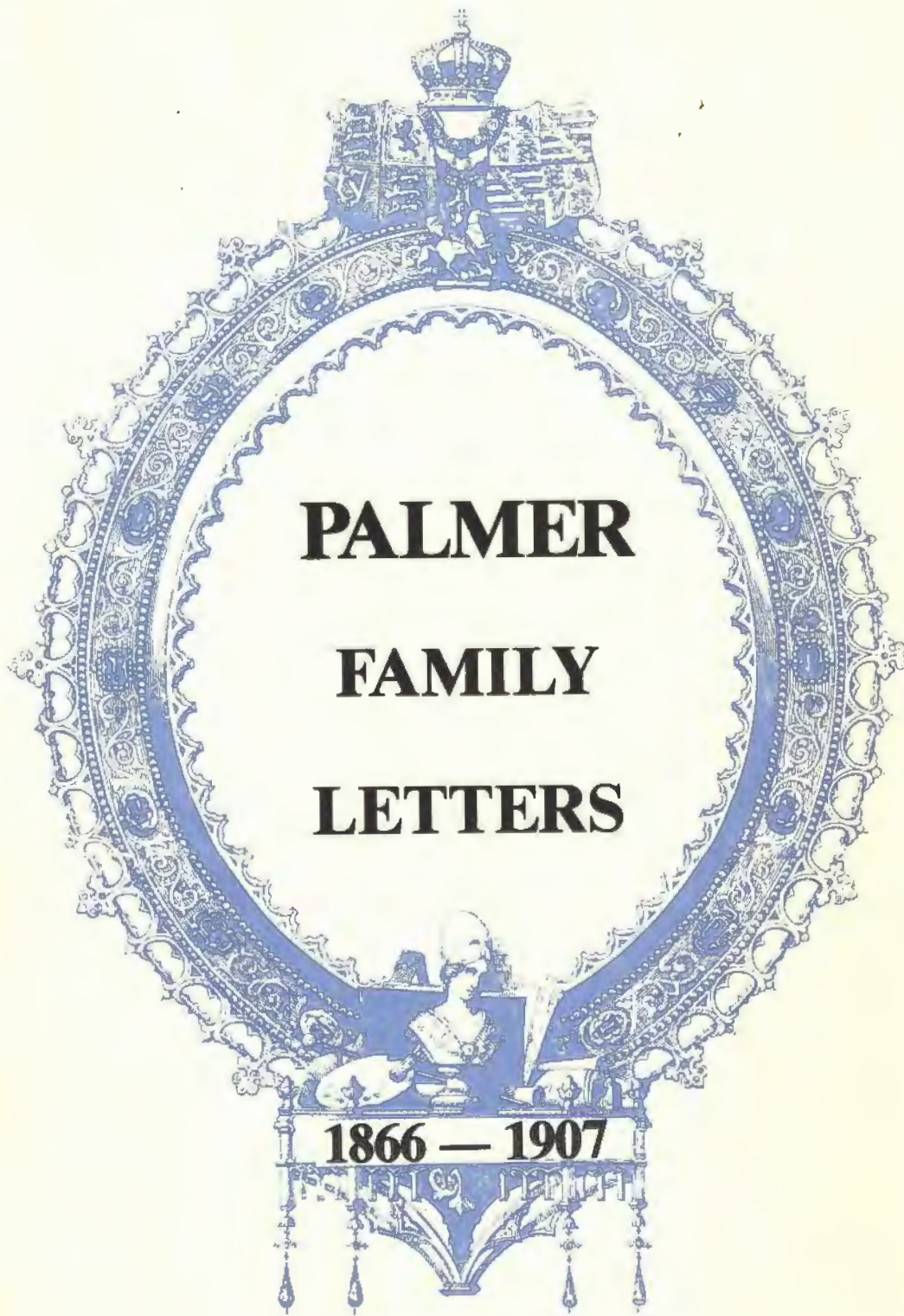


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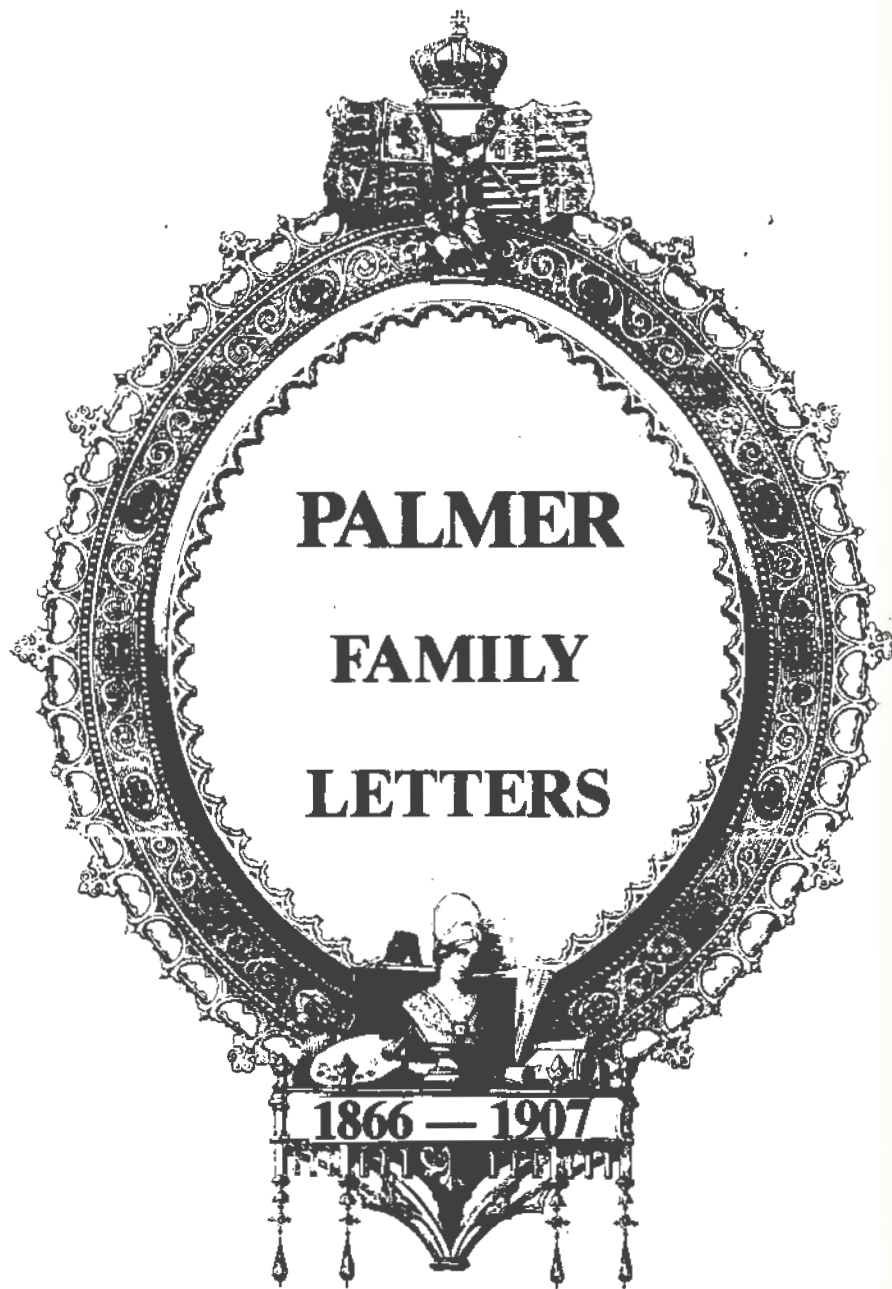


PALMER

FAMILY

LETTERS

1866 — 1907



Palmer Press
4410 Soper Avenue
Nashville, TN 37204

June, 1989



Dr. James Monroe Palmer
January 3, 1816 — July 24, 1906



Sarah Ann Map Jackson Palmer
January 31, 1829 — July 22, 1887

Dr. James Monroe Palmer, born January 3, 1816, in Abbeville, South Carolina, later moved to Oconee in the western part of Washington County in middle Georgia. He outlived all four of his wives and seven or eight of his thirteen children. He died July 24, 1906, and was buried at Bay Springs church cemetery near Oconee.

These letters were written to Martha Virginia Palmer Barksdale who moved to Texas in 1866. They were written by her father, Dr. Palmer; her step-mother, Sarah Ann Map Jackson Palmer; and her sister, Mary Jane Palmer Fisher. (Additional letters were written by D. R. Childers, an uncle of Martha Virginia.)

Martha Virginia moved back to Georgia and the letters were in the possession of her daughter, Sallie Mae Barksdale Veal. "Cousin Sallie Mae", a first cousin of Robert Alexander Palmer, loaned the letters in 1971 to Sarah Palmer Stewart who made photocopies. Later the letters were typed and are now being published not only for Palmer family descendants but for all who will enjoy learning more of life in Georgia and Texas just after the War Between the States.

FAMILY RECORD - DR. JAMES MONROE PALMER, OCONEE, GEORGIA.

James M. Palmer and Rebecca Ann Gray were married August 31, 1832. Born January 3, 1816 - Died July 24, 1906
Born December 5, 1818 - Died June 1, 1841

James M. Palmer and Amanda S.A. Childers were married January 18, 1842. Born June 27, 1821 - Died August 9, 1847

James M. Palmer and Sarah Ann Map Jackson married October 31, 1847. Born January 31, 1829 - Died July 22, 1887

James M. Palmer and Mrs. Sarah Ann (Butcher) Mills - Born - - Died October 29, 1899
married June 13, 1889

CHILDREN OF JAMES M. PALMER

John Dale Palmer - Born August 29, 1839 - Died March 24, 1863 -23 yr

William Henry Harrison Palmer - Born April 19, 1841 - Died June 13, 1841

Martha Virginia Palmer - Born September 12, 1845 - Died October 4, 1827
Married William D. Barksdale Sept. 12, 1861.

Mary Jane Palmer - Born January 21, 1847 - Died November 10, 1871
Married Harris M. Fisher November 7, 1867.

Elizabeth Emma Palmer - Born March 3, 1849 - Died July 2, 1850.

James Henry Palmer - Born December 21, 1850 - Died April 1910
Married Mrs. Louisa (Irwin) Brantley, 12-3-1874

William Fisher Palmer - Born September 24, 1852, Died May 9, 1935
Married Carrie Baughn -
(Buried about one mile from Duncan, Okla.)

Ann Eliza Palmer - Born June 28, 1854 - Died August 30, 1944,
Married John G. Harrison November 4, 1875.

Nancy Jackson Palmer - Born June 28, 1857 - Died
Married William A. Snelling December 28, 1881

Robert Champen Palmer - Born August 30, 1859 - Died October 9, 1859.

Edward Lewis Palmer - Born October 6, 1860 - Died October 25, 1886.

Sarah Amelia Palmer - Born October 14, 1862 - Died April 18, 1933.
Married Thomas B. Shinholser

Beulah Palmer - Born -
Married George P. Parker December 6, 1883.

A Remarkable Citizen.

Ninety-six years ago Dr. Dale Palmer and wife moved from Virginia to Abbeville, S. C., where they lived 36 years, and died, leaving 7 children, 2 sons and 5 daughters. All of them married off into other states and lost sight of each other.

Down in the lower part of this county, near the Oconee river, about 1 1/2 miles from Oconee Station, is the hospitable home of Dr. J. M. Palmer, one of the sons of Dr. Dale Palmer. The writer has known Dr. J. M. Palmer for 40 years, and knows him to be one of the purest men of this county. There is no doubt but he has done more for the churches and Sunday Schools than almost any other man of his age, especially at old Baysprings, near where he has lived.

He came to this county 60 years ago and has lived where he now resides for 45 years. He raised a family of 10 children, 3 of his first wife, 7 of the second, and is now living with his third wife, a sister of Mrs. Wiley Harris of Sandersville. His children are all grown and married. He was a soldier in the late war, and was in the war of 1836, for which he now receives a pension. On account of his age, has almost retired from the practice of medicine, and for over 20 years gave his best attention to his beautiful fruit farm, bee culture, stock raising, &c. I don't think he has raised on an average of one bale to each one horse farm since the war, and I doubt if any home in this great cotton country has ever been better supplied with the necessities of life than Dr. J. M. Palmer's.

VISITOR.

Palmer.—Dr. James M. Palmer's was an eventful and consistent life. He was born in South Carolina, January 3, 1816, and died in Washington county, Georgia, near Oconee, July 24, 1906, in his ninety-first year.

He was a soldier in three wars. He fought the Seminoles in Florida, 1836; served in the Confederacy, 1864-65, and in the army of the living God sixty-five years.

Sixty-five years in the service of God and his fellowman! And during the last decade of his life his friends were the children of his contemporaries—the men of his own age had all gone to their reward.

He told his children that he was living in the past, that he had ample time to look back over his life and conduct, and that "the only thing I have to regret in my past life, is that I did not become an active Christian sooner." What a heritage! And this heritage belongs not only to his children, but also to his neighbors' children, to the Church and to the world around about him.

About the same time, within a week or two, an illustrious example of money-getting passed to his reward in New York, leaving to his heirs about \$80,000,000.00, and the heirs had attorneys employed to look after their interests before the funeral rites were said—afraid that they would be cheated out of their inheritance.

Thank God that Dr. Palmer left his heirs a greater heritage than millions—"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches"—and no man can take it from us.

Now let us take possession of this heritage. His neighbors testify that "his home life and his business life were in keeping with his conduct at Bay Springs Church, where his membership was for fifty-three years," that "it was a benediction to hear this man talk."

Somehow his children hardly expect words of condolence in this hour, but rather to hear their friends say, "We rejoice with you in his life and char-

acter, and influence in the community." "A good man has gone to his reward."

He said, "I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day."

His prayers and training in his family was that we may be an unbroken family in the home beyond. Our mother preceded you some years; you have gone to join her and your Lord. We expect to meet you, in your prayers, "an unbroken family in the home beyond."

W. A. Snelling.

MARY J. FISHER, wife of Harris M. Fisher, daughter of Dr. J. M. Palmer and Sarah A. Childers of Elbert county, died at Bay Springs, Washington county, Ga., Nov. 10, 1871.

She was dedicated to God in baptism in infancy. She was a child of mild and quiet disposition, obedient and affectionate—never received correction for a fault. United with the church at 17 years of age. Lived a consistent and pious life, illustrating the Christian virtues in all her deportment. Piety and simplicity characterized her acts. Her last illness, which was protracted to sixty-five days, she endured without murmur or complaint, often shouting the praises of God even to exhaustion. She died in her 25th year, leaving a husband and two small children to mourn her loss. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."

HER FATHER.

Marriage.

On the 16th ult., at the hospitable and attractive home of the bride's father, Mr. Harris M. Fisher, near Oconee, Miss Jennie Fisher was married to Mr. H. Frank Brantley, and although the affair was a very quiet one, only a few relatives being present, yet it was a beautiful wedding. Rev. Mr. Bickley performed the ceremony in a simple and impressive manner. Mrs. Brantley is a noble young lady, the daughter of one of the cleverest men in our county, and Mr. Brantley is a promising young man. Though on the day they plighted their troth dark clouds hung o'er and obscured the sun's brightness, the sincere wish of many friends is that the clouds to float o'er their future life will be fleeting ones.

MRS. SALLIE B. VEAL COLLECTION

Palmer, Barksdale, Fisher and Childers Family Letters

In Possession of: Mrs. Sallie B. Veal
2229 Marann Drive, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30329

- 1a. Letter dated approximately 1-10-67 - Daughter from J.M.P. Mentions Mr. T. Parker moving back to Jefferson, Wes Parker will live at the Mim's Place, Thomas Mimbs having fine house in Bibb (County?), Bill Snell's brother bought A. E. Lawson's place for \$10,000, Wm. Robinson joined Conference and is stationed in Macon, Mentions their children, Sallie and Beulah (baby) and Ann Eliza, 25 families from South Carolina going to Texas, Mini-Sermon.
1. Letter dated 1/23/1867, Oconee, GA. from J.M. Palmer to Dear Daughter. Mentions trying to get a school started at Antioch to be taught by Hugh Lawson. School at Bay Springs, hiring negroes.
2. Letter dated 2/18/1867, Oconee, Washington Co., GA, to Dear Daughter from J.M.P. Mentions forthcoming marriage of Miss Annie and John Medlock, Joshua Wood teaching at Bay Springs, Antioch plans to build school house, Oconee Community news, crop and weather news, comments about hiring negroes.
3. Letter dated 3/10/1867, Oconee, Washington Co., Ga. to my Dear Daughter (Martha) from your Mother, Sarah A.M. Palmer, relating daily experiences.
4. Letter dated 3/17/1867, Oconee, Washington Co., GA to my Dear Daughter from J. M. Palmer. Describes school being built at Antioch. Mentions divorce of Charlie Miller and wife. Also divorce of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison. Mr. Harrison was from Brayos (?) county, Texas, crop news, weather news, details about Antioch school, comments about condition in Texas and advice.
5. Letter dated 4/24/1867, Oconee, Washington Co., GA, to my Dear Daughter from J. M. Palmer. Mentions Georgia having two governors, Jenkins and Pope, comments about Texas and Georgia, weather news, crop news, details about cellar and piazza, comments about negro schools, shortage of food in Georgia and South Carolina, Church at Antioch.
5. Letter dated 5/21/1867, Oconee, Washington Co., GA. to My Dear Daughter from your Father, J.M. Palmer. Mentions Theophilus (?) Rogers and his brother D.M. moving to Cass County, GA. after having bought a set of mills up there, more details about cellar and piazza, hiring negroes fro farm, famine in South Carolina, practice not good, crop news, attend 1st District meet at Methodist Church in Sandersville, Reverend Anthony's wife's death and funeral, military governments in south, negroes voting and views on changes, Mini-Sermon.

7. Letter dated 6/27/67, Oconee, Washington Co., GA, to My Dear Daughter from (?) Sunday Schools at Bay Springs and Antioch, attitude toward educating negroes and letting them vote, crop news, weather news.
8. Letter dated 7/25/67, Oconee, Washington Co., GA, to My Dear Daughter from J. M. Palmer, recipe for medicine for curing fever and recipe for cleaning compound, comments about sickness and weather news.
9. Letter dated 8/12/67, Oconee, Washington Co., GA, to My Dear Daughter from J. M. Palmer. Mentions wedding of Mr. Miller and Mrs. Emily Cason, August 1, funeral of Cornelia Fisher at Bay Springs preached by William Robinson who was stationed in Macon.
10. Letter dated 9/3/67, Oconee, Washington Co., GA, to Dear Daughter from your father, J. M. Palmer. Comments about people coming back to Georgia from Texas, opportunities in Oconee Community, crop news, corn prices.
11. Letter dated 9/20/1867, Oconee, Washington Co., GA., to Dear Daughter from J. M. Palmer. Discusses their sickness in Texas and gives instructions for treatment, glad couple are returning to Georgia.
12. Letter dated 10/7/1867, Oconee, Washington Co., GA, to My Dear Daughter from J. M. Palmer. Discusses cuples sickness in Texas, Oconee and Sandersville, weather news, Rev. Anthony's marriage to wife's neice, yellow fever in Texas, crop news, weather news.
13. Letter dated 10/15/1867, Oconee, Washington Co., GA. to My Dear Nephew from J. M. Palmer. Mentions giving Sis away to Harris Fisher (no marriage yet) comments on sickness and disappointments in Texas, crop news, harvest results, corn price \$1.50, weather news, yellow fever in New Orleans and Texas.
14. Letter dated 11/3/1867, Oconee, Washington Co., GA to My Dear Daughter from J. M. Palmer. Mentions Sis's wedding will be on the 7th. (Palmer-Fisher) Marriage of Winfield Robinson and Miss Shinholster in Wilkinson last Thursday, death of Dr. Hollifield and hsi son in Sandersville a few weeks before, John Fisher's widow (Mary) will marry 11/5 Rev. Mr. Ray from Walker County, GA. yellow fever death of Ortho, yellow fever in New Orleans and Galveston, weather news, looking forward to couple returning to Georgia by Christmas.
15. Letter dated 11/9/1867, Oconee, GA. to Dear Daughter from J. M. Palmer, tells of wedding os Sis, her attendants being Miss Jane Fluker and Miss Sallie Boyd and Robert Moyer and Augustus Tarbutton.
16. Changed to 1A
17. Newspaper clipping regarding Dr. and Mrs. Dale Palmer and Dr. J. M. Palmer Newspaper clipping concerning life of Dr. James M. Palmer. Also, newspaper clipping announcing death of MaryJ. Fisher, daughter of Dr. J. M. Palmer, Marriage of Miss Jennie Fisher and Mr. H. Frank Brantley. Changed to follow this index.

18. Letter dated 12/25/1866, Oconee, Ga. to My Dear Sister from Mary J.P. Mentions wedding of Josh Wood and Emma Grabelle on last Sunday.
19. Letter dated 1/3/1867, Oconee, Ga. to My Dear Sister from "Sis".
20. Letter dated 2/10/1867, Bay Springs, GA. to Mrs. M. V. Barksdale, My Dearest Sister from Your devoted sister, Mary. Mentions wedding of Mollie Joiner and Mr. Mapin on the 2nd Sunday in last month (Jan and John Posey married Thursday evening Miss Glover (nièce of Jessee Glover) Mentions forthcoming wedding of Annie Joiner and John Medlock. Mentions Tom and Bill Parker being seen by Wm. (apparently in Texas).
21. Letter dated 3/4/1867, Oconee, GA. to Dear Brother from Mary (Sister) mentions marriage of Annie Joiner on February 21 to John Medlock. Mentions termination of her engagement with Bill Mitchell.
22. Letter dated 3/18/1867, Bay Springs, GA. to My Dearest Sister from Mary (Sister) despairing over her broken engagement.
23. Letter dated 4/19/1867, Bay Springs, GA. to My Dearest Sister from Mary J.P. Relates hearing from Thomas Parker who is planning a trip to Georgia from Texas. Speaks of Beulah, Sallie and Eddie (Sisters and brother.)
24. Letter dated 5/17/1867, Bay Springs, GA. to My Dearest Sister, Mrs. Mattie V. Barksdale, from Mary. Mentions visitors Carrie Parker, Mat Renfro, and Miss Ella Brookins. Mentions recent marriage of Sallie Jackson and John Robins.
25. Letter dated 7/31/1867, Bay Springs, GA. to my Dearest Sister, from ? Mentions attending a literary address in Louisville given by Rev. Dr. Right of Augusta, also wedding the next day of Mr. Miller and Mrs. Emily Casin.
26. Letter dated 9/3/1867, Spring Creek, Texas, to My Dearest Sister (Mollie J. Palmer) from Martha and envelope. Talks of sickness , and returning to Georgia.
27. Letter dated 9/22/1867, Bay Springs, GA. to My Dearest Sister from Mary.
28. Letter dated 10/27/1867, Bay Springs, GA. to My Dear Sister from Sis. Tells of her promising to marry Harris Fisher on November 7, Mentions Jennie Fluker and Miss Sallie Boyd being her waiters, and Gus Tarbutton and BoB Moye the gentlemen. Advises that Mr. Fisher and Bob Moye do merchandising together. Relates the forthcoming marriage of William Robinson and Miss Savannah Stillwell, and Mat Harrison will wed Enoch Moody (Dan Moody's son).

29. Letter dated 11/13/1867, Bay Springs, GA. to my Dearest Sister from Mary telling of her marriage on the 7th of November to Mr. H. M. Fisher. Names her attendants, Jennie Fluker, Mr. Tarbutton, Miss Sallie Boyd and Bob Moye.
-
30. Letter dated 6/1/1863, Camp near Lansing (?) Tenn. to Mrs. M. N. Barksdale, Dear niece, from D.R.C. "Uncle David". Tells of being stationed in the woods to support Van Dorn's command, wife Susan and little children, (Martha Caroline 4 yrs. old last September, and Bidy Lucy). (Not typed - unreadable)
31. Letter dated 9/27/63, In front of Chattanooga, Tenn. to Mrs. M. N. Barksdale, Washington County, GA. Dear Niece, from ? Describes battle at Chickamauga, and tells of capture of Loomas' Battery, the battle on Sunday and the enemy brought up their best men, the men of Shiloh, Murfreesboro and Perryville, "The Flower of the Federal Army". (Letter not in collection 11-6-71 WPS)
32. Letter dated 4/7/97, Falkner, Miss. to Mrs. M. V. Barksdale, "Jennieville" Ga. Dear Niece, from D. R. Childers. Mentions delivery of her letter through friend, W. H. Smith of Ripley, GA. , that he was 70 years old last November, the date of his father's death in Drew County, Arkansas on December 25, 1858.
33. Letter dated 1/27/98, Falkner, Miss. to Mrs. M. V. Barksdale, Tennille(?) GA., Dear Niece. Tells of Mormons being among them and how ridiculous he considers their teachings, of his wife health and number of grandchildren he has.
34. Letter dated 5/24/1898, Falkner, Miss. to Mrs. M. V. Barksdale, Tennille(?), GA., Dear Niece, from D. R. Childers. Tells about reading of Atlanta Constitution and how troops were gathering there (Georgia) to defend the country from the Spanish and teach them a lesson for blowing up the "Maine", and the misery inflicted upon the Cubans. Mentions Drucilla Barksdale, Abbeville, S.C.
35. Letter dated 1/30/99, Falkner, Miss. to Mrs. M. V. Barksdale, Tennille (?) GA., Dear Niece, from ? Speaks of his 45th wedding anniversary on 1/12/99.
36. Letter from Falkner, Miss., Tippan County, No date, possibly 1904 to Mrs. Martha V. Barksdale, Oconee P. O., GA., Dear Niece, from D. R. Childers. Reminisces about boyhood spend in Elbert County (GA?). Mentions he had five brothers and 1 sister (Mrs. Barksdale's mother) gives his age as 77.
37. Letter dated 4/21/1907, Falkner, Miss. to Mrs. Martha V. Barksdale, Savannah, Ga. from D. R. Childers, age 81 years. Tells that he is now living with widowed daughter, Mrs. Martha C. Powell and six children, grandson Allen Powell.
38. Letter dated 4/29/1912 Falkner, Miss. to Mrs. M. V. Barksdale, Macon, GA. Dear Niece from D. R. Childers. Mentions death of his wife some nine years previous and that he has two daughters, Martha (widow of Thos. Powell who died some 8 years prior), and Lucy who is now deceased. (Not typed, Not readable)

apprx. Jan 10, 1867 ?

#1A

It is a great blessing to be able to correspond. It afforded us pleasure to hear from you as you travelled on to Texas. We received your letters from Mobile, N Orleans, Houston & Hockley. Also yesterday we received Williams from Hockley saying that he had got into business. I hope he will succeed well. I was glad to hear from George Gray and the other boys. Things are moving here much after the same old style. Your Ma decided to go to her Mothers to the sale. She and I and Sallie & Beulah started up there on the 7th inst. we went up there and was there at the sale. Jamie did not come, but the other children were there. Eliza staid there all the time we were there. Josiah also brought his family there. We expected to be gone about 10 days but were detained up there and were gone just two weeks. Got back last Friday. The children staid at home and all did well. Your Ma decided to wean Beulah before we started to Mrs. Jacksons. She is not fully weaned and she and Sallie gave us a considerable amount of trouble. Mrs. Jackson sold out and expects to spend a good portion of her time with her children. She expects to come to see us in the Spring. I did not take a greater liking to that country than I ever had. I saw no place that I wished to own. I do not expect to move to that country. My present intention is to farm here and to raise all the cotton I can next year. I expect to have about three hands and keep Jimie & Billy at home and cultivate all my land. Mr. T. Parker has moved back to Jefferson. Wes Parker will live at the Mims place. Thomas Mims fine house in Bibb was burned down a few weeks ago. A brother of Bill Snell has bought A E Lawsons place for 10,000\$. Mrs. Graham died last night. I was with her about 24 hours. She was not delivered. Cat and Abram was married yesterday. He will pass Hockley: coming from Mrs. Jacksons I met a train of cars containing 25 families from Pickens Dist S.C. going to Grimes County Texas. William Robison joined the conference and is stationed in Macon. Bro. Antony is our preacher for next year. I am sorry you and William did not get letters from the church. Have you any churches in reach? Do you wish letters sent you? If you cannot go to church don't give up religion Use all necessary means for the procurement of temporal and

spiritual blessings and trust in God for his blessing upon the use of the means and he will never leave thee nor forsake thee. I was truly gratified to receive your photographs. They are good likenesses. We have not yet been able to have ours taken. Will do so as soon as we can. Beulah had a light attack of cholera morbus a few days ago but is now better. Ann Eliza was taken yesterday with the same, is better today, though in bed. The rest are well.

My prayer for you and yours every day is that Heaven may direct you in the right way and prosper you both temporal and spiritual as is best for you. Cleave to the Lord with full purpose of heart. Let your face as a flint towards heaven and let nothing turn you aside. Our great business in this world is to serve God and prepare for Heaven. If we do this faithfully nothing can befall us to injure us, but all things will work together for our good. We may not be exempt from suffering but we should remember that even the Captain of our salvation was made perfect through suffering. If it was necessary for him, much so more for us. If we do not comprehend and fully understand all the dispensations of Providence towards us in this life, yet we should have an unshaken confidence in God, that whatever he does is right. And though we may not now understand yet we shall know hereafter. If we commit all our ways to him, he will direct us in all our goings. I want all my children to live right that we may all live together in Heaven. Pray for us. Peace be with you.

JM Palmer

Oconee Washington County, Ga. Jan. 23, 1867

My Dear Daughter

We received yours and Williams letters of the 13th, yesterday. It always affords me pleasure to receive a letter from you. I greatly desire your welfare, your temporal and spiritual and am glad to hear from you ~~if~~ I only hear that you are well. We are all well at present. A few weeks ago your Ma strained her right arm doing some heavy sewing and suffered very much with it. She lost the use of it for some time and was laid up in bed for several days. It was about as severe as Rheumatism. But it is now nearly well. The weather has been almost constantly cold since December. The last two days of December we had a large sleet, but we have had very little rain this winter. Small grain has not grown much nor has not been killed. A great many negroes have left this part of the country and every part of the country I hear from. Some go to Florida some to Mi, and some to Tennessee and I suppose some to Texas. Some large planters are left without negroes.

I have at last got in the notion to raise cotton. I have hired Reuben & his wife and Frank who lived at Billy / ^{Robison} & his wife and have put in Jimie and William and expect to plant twenty acres in cotton and forty in corn. I give the negroes one third of the crop. I sent Net off about two weeks ago. I was tired of feeding her and her children for her work. She is cooking at Moses Joiners. We do our own cooking. We divide out the labor amongst ourselves and get along finely. All seem to be better satisfied than when we had negroes. Your Ma says she don't mind cooking, she is so well provided with every convenience. You ought to see the little girls cooking. Your Ma and Sis went to Dr. McBride's today; and Annie and Nannie cooked dinner. They cooked as good a dinner as any one need want. Sallie brings in stove wood and all lend a helping hand.

I am not feeding a negro and never want to feed another. The boys feed the stock and the negroes cut at the wood pile. They feed themselves and do the most of the work and we can well afford to do the rest.

Joshua Wood will teach a little school at Bay Springs. I shall not send to him. We are talking of making a school for Hugh Lawson at Antioch. If we get a school I shall send the girls all the year and the boys the last.

Billy Robinson has no negroes to cultivate his land. He got a cook today. He and his wife are about to part, he want give her the property she had when they married. Mr. Northington has no negroes but a cook. A brother Bill Snell has bought Lawson's place at the station and moved to it a few days ago. Moses Joiner has some freed's from your old place. Wesley Parker is living at the place. Old man Daily and Mariah Barge are married.

I would like very much to see that tract of land / ^{William} speaks of at George Grays. As you learn more and more about that country let me know of it in your letters. We still hear some good reports of Texas, and some bad ones. I would like to see the country. Otho has written to Mr. Miller. He says it is good land and plenty of provisions there but he is not satisfied and had rather be here at his old place. Where does he and Susan live? I would like to know what it costs to carry one person to Texas. This country will improve from rest, and from manuring.

Tell William to write to me when you write each time and give me all the information he can about that country. There are no laborers to be had as all there are here now are engaged for the year.

All join in love to you both.

Your Father

JM Palmer

Oconee, Ga., Feb. 18, 1867

My Dear Daughter,

Through the tender mercy of God I am still alive and in usual health. My dear family are also in usual health. We have had no serious case of sickness. The neighborhood is also in good health generally. Mr. Snell who lives at Lawson's place at the depot has had several cases of sickness. The neighborhood generally moves on in the usual course. Moses Joiner has moved your old house up in the woods towards Mrs. Achords, also towards Antioch. He has not finished it yet, but expects to live in it. Miss Annie and John Medlock will marry next Thursday night. Mr. Harris preached yesterday. Still preaching his series of sermons. We will commence in a few days to build a school house at Antioch. Hugh Lawson will teach for us. It will be quite convenient for us to send to school. Joshua Wood is teaching a little school of ten scholars at Bay Spring. We had preaching last Friday at Bay Spring by Bro. Anthony. I procured your church letters which I enclose to you. We have but one preacher on the circuit and will have part of our preaching on the week day this year. We will have preaching on the first Sunday in March. We have had almost continued cold weather from Christmas until last week. It became warm and has continued so until now. It is pleasant spring weather now. The plums and peaches will soon be in bloom. We have had no heavy rain this winter. There has been no freshet in the river. Our cows have been in the swamp all winter. We got enough hogs from the swamp with what we had to make us meat enough. I think we have enough corn to last us until we make a crop. There will be a great deal of corn bought in this neighborhood. The people are buying largely of guano. I do not expect to get any. I am still setting out and grafting apple trees. I expect to clear up the hill side down to the old spring and start a vineyard. Small grain is looking tolerably well. It has not been winter-killed. Negroes are much scarcer here than I ever saw before. Some people have none, some a few--and a few people have as many as they want. Some have white hirelings, but not foreigners.

I have negro labor just like I want it, enough to do the hard labor and we so the rest. I am not feeding a negro. We get along finely doing our own cooking. All take a part in it and that I suppose is the reason why we all eat more than we ever did. We live as well as plentiful as we ever did. We have a plenty of colards in the garden, and have not sowed seed yet but will in a few days'. I have not found any hireling to send to Texas, to William. Tell William to give me some information of that country as he becomes better acquainted with it. The character of the soil, the natural growth upon it. The productions when cultivated. The agreeableness of the country to live in. Its reputation for health. Its conveniences and its inconveniences, what kind of water, what kind of society. ETC. I received a letter from Otho a few days ago and will endeavour soon to answer it.

Feb. 20. Since writing the above I went to the station and received yours of the 8th inst. Glad to hear from you again. You say you will be ten miles from Hockley. I suppose it will still be your post office. Will you be convenient to church? Have you any piney woods? How far to San Felipe? I have no idea whether I shall ever go to Texas or not. I am busy now doing up jobs about home. Will try to sow the garden tomorrow. Your Mas as busy as ever. Says she will write some time.

JMP

Oconee, Washington County, GA 1867 March th10

My Dear Daughter

I hope you will not think it has been for the want of love & respect for you & William that I have been silent so long. I think of you every day, how glad I would be to see you at your new home. I hope you are both satisfied & making gold fast as it was your great desire. I feel more like we are settled for life than I ever did, I have not any desire to move. Sister is anxious for us to move up the country, the land is too broken to suit me. I received a letter from Ma the other day, for the first time I have heard from them since I was there. Eliza has another son. She stayed with me at Ma's all the time I was there, I wanted to go to her house & Josiah's but she was not able to travel. She was grumpy all the time I was with her, uneasy for fear she would be confined from home, she left Ma's the morning I did. The children often tell me they are glad I went. We got 22 bushels of wheat from Ma had it ground while there & sacked it, is nice flour. We have lived high since we got it. I spend the most of my time baking. I often wish you could be with me, Sallie speaks of you every day. When Sis slaps her, she wants me to write to you, says you don't allow it. It seems hard that we have to be so widely separated. I hope it will not always be so. Do you think you are any better satisfied than you would be in Washington County provided you had a good piece of land. I will believe whatever you and William writes about Texas. I want you to give me a history of that country. Your Pa may go out to see you & look at the country. Your Pa was mistaken about my arm being strained-it is the Rheumatism. I have it in my arms & shoulders. My arm is paining me now so much that I can scarcely write. I know you would like to hear something new and interesting. I am a poor chance to write the news. Mrs. James Bell has a fine daughter. Your Pa said she cried like a boy 8 months old, it was born the 8th of this month. Sallie wants to go down to have her picture taken to send to you. Your Pa says it will take all the greenbacks he has to pay for building the schoolhouse, his part will be about 50\$. We will go to town as soon as he can spare the money & have our pictures taken & send to you. I thank you for your photographs you sent us, they look so natural, I think the best I

I ever saw. Well Martha we are still trying to weave. We have in 30 yds for dresses for the children. I expect Ma to visit us this month. She says she wants to get her buisneys better arranged. before she can come. She is to give her children 6 hundred \$ in this last division, there is four hundred & fifty coming to us, her buisneys has been badly managed. There is great deal of money owing to the esstate she will never get. I thought I would have a quilting this spring. but Ma has disappointed me about comi
I am now undecided about it, we all have trouble & disappointments in this life. Ma gave me some presents. Whe divided her quilts & counterpanes, sent Nannie a nice coverlet. Ma though Beulah favoured you so much, she grows fast gets prettier & sweeter every day. She is a lovely child.

Martha I know you could tell me a great deal if I could see you. I want you to write me a long letter. I am getting along with my domestic affairs very well. I keep up with my sewing & I find the sewing machine a great help. Peach & apple trees are in full bloom, our garden seed have come up. I have some hens sitting, the hen you lef sitting hatched & chickens I have raised 4 to be large enough to fry. I have made enoug of soap to last us this year. I often think of you when I have something nice to eat. at the same time I know in reason you have everything you want I know that is your disposition to live well is your health any better. remember my love to Sue & her sweet little ones. The children all join me in love to you & William. Write soon. Farewell my dear child if we never meet on earth I pray that we all may be one united family in heaven.

Your Mother

Sarah A.M. Palmer

Oconee, Washington County, Ga. March 17/67

My Dear Daughter,

I have thought I would try to write to you once a month., Im don't know how long I shall hold out, or whether I shall be able to write interesting; but I suppose it is with you as it is with me, I like to read your letters and hear from you. Since I wrote you last we have had some very cold rainy weather about the last ten days has been rainy with cold north east winds. This morning it is clear with a cold west wind. A little ice. Some people have planted corn. Some corn is up. I have not planted any yet. Shall commence tomorrow. The last ten days of Feb. and first few days of March were warm enough for April and fruit trees bloomed and the prospect now is gloomy for a fruit crop. Our apple trees are in full bloom and have had about ten days of cold rain upon them and now a prospect of killing frost. Peach trees are done blooming. They are full of young fruit but it is probable they will be killed. I have grafted 100 apple trees in my orchard lately. Have 75 grape cuttings in a box near the water bucket, to get them to take root preparatory to setting out in vineyard next winter. I have been to church today, to Antioch. Mr. Harris preached a continuation of his series. A small congregation. We are building the school house at that place, a framed house 30 x 20 feet, with 10 glass windows. Will get it done in 10 days. Will have a stove to warm it. It stands about 40 or 50 steps from the church in the direction of Mrs. Laningham's house, amongst the black jacks. Mr. Lawson is teaching in the church. He has about 33 scholars. Annie Nannie and Edward go. Eddie don't like to go. March 20, I write by piecemeals. I have been perhaps more busy this spring than usual. Every morning about daybreak I make a fire in the stove and draw water. during the day I have various jobs to do and do some practice, and am about all the time doing something. Our folks are planting corn today. Weather is cold and cloudy. We had frost and ice two days ago. I fear that fruit is killed though I cannot see that it is. In our court last week Charlie Miller and his wife got a divorce. He is to pay her \$500. Mr. Harrison and his wife also got a divorce. They quit even.

He is in Brayos County, Texas. Sallie and Mary were here yesterday. Jim Bell's wife had a child about 10 days ago.

I have just been to the station and recieved yours of the 6th inst. . Was glad to hear from you. You speak of the long moss on the trees. I fear you will have sickness. Long moss is good indication of sickness in this country. I am sorry you do not have milk to drink. I think that people in that country who have been there long enough to have cattle ought to have milk and butter and cheese. It is bad not to have good society and churches etc. But I have been so situated and have had some rough living. I hope you will yet get comfortably situated.

Try to live right wherever you are and trust in the Lord and do good and thou shall dwell in the land and verily thou shalt be fed. If we live right we can claim the promises of the Bible and realize comfort from them as our fathers have before us.

I received a letter from your Aunt Lucinda in Mississippi a few days ago. She says she had ~~two~~ sons in the army. They got back home unhurt for which she feels very thankful. She had three sons-in-law in the army, one died in service leaving a widow and 3 children which has been on their hands mostly since that time. She says they have raised eight children by their own labor, have only two at home with them. She says she is trying to live a christian, four of her children are in the church. We are all well.

J. M. Palmer

Oconee, Washington County, GA., April 24/67

My Dear Daughter,

I have just been to the station and received yours of the 14th ultimo. Also Williams to Sis and to myself. I am truly glad to hear from you both. Glad to hear that your health is restored. I have often thought of the long moss growing in your yard and feared that you would have sickness there. I am glad William wrote to me giving his views of Texas etc. I hope he will receive good compensation for his hard labor. By close application to business he will secure a good reputation and also good wages. I have no doubt of there being much good land in Texas. I still receive many conflicting accounts of that country. Jo Daniel is in Austin County. He says many good farms are lying idle for want of hands. He says the land is better there than here but every other consideration induces him to give Georgia the preference. It is still uncertain whether I shall ever go to that country. We had an early start for spring but we have had a continuation of cold rains and frosts, etc., and it has turned out to be a late spring. We have frequent rains, though light and cool weather following. We have had but few warm days. Wheat crops are promising. Our fruit trees have dropped the fruit until there is only a moderate crop on the trees. Our apple trees look more flourishing than ever before. I have the orchard planted in cotton. It is now up. I put a hundred grafts in the orchard which are now growing and in a few years the orchard will be covered with trees. I have been quite busy for the past two weeks. I hired three negroes and had a cellar dug under the house. I had it dug six feet deep and hewn sills laid across the tops and a plank floor on them and all covered with dirt. Steps go down into it outside of the house with a little house covering them. A tight fitting door at the foot of the steps as you enter the cellar. It is twelve feet wide and seventeen feet long. I had it covered in that way to make it warm in winter and cool in summer. I have plastered the wall with lime mortar and intend white washing it. It will be a comfortable place. I

I have an ice pit in the bottom with a tight fitting door, and think I can keep ice for a length of time in it. I shall try it when the weather gets hot. I have also built a piazza to the back side of the house extending from the washroom to the end of the house. It is some wider than the washroom. Our garden is not as early as it some times is. Cabbage plants are to set out. Spring turnips furnishing greens, beans and squash looking verywell. Irish potatoes will soon do to use. We have a little corn half leg high. Our swamp field is yet to plant. We will commence planting the new ground in cotton tomorrow. Most people are done planting and are plowing corn.

There are negro schools in 46 counties in Ga. with 10,000 pupils, 146 schools. Gov. Jenkins has been to Washington City and put in a bill in the supreme court to test the constitutionality of the military bill. We now have two governors, Jenkins and Pope. They met in Atlanta the other day and had a long interview. They are getting along harmonious.

It is estimated that there is not more provisions in Ga. than would feed the people 30 days, if it was divided out. The Gov. of South Carolina estimates there are 100,000 people in that state who have not tasted meat in 30 days. It is said there are some people in the state living on corn shucks. Some cases of starvation have ocured. We have abundant cause to be thankful that throughout the war and ever since we have never suffered for food. April 28th: A beautiful Sabbath morning. Mr. Harris preached ~~last~~ Sunday at Antioch. A good congregation. Annie, Nonnie and Edward go to school to Mr. Lawson and are making good progress. Annie likes him better than Mr. Robinson. We all continue to enjoy good health. We all think of you and speak of you every day. It would be a great satisfaction to be near enough to visit. But time is hurrying us along to Eternity, let us try to meet in the home of the good.

May God's blessing meet on you and yours.

J. M. Palmer

Oconee, Washington County, GA. May 31, 1867

My Dear Daughter,

I have been quite busy since I wrote to you. I have done a good deal of work upon my cellar and the piazza. I plastered the cellar wall with lime mortar and then white washed it. Then partitioned it for a shop room, apple room, potato room and dairy room and white washed all the walls. An aisle runs the whole length, with the ice pit at the back end with a door shutting down level with the floor. The cellar is a comfortable place in warm weather. Milk drinks well from it during warm weather. It gives us another bedroom which we much needed. We will use the shop room for a bedroom. The piazza on the back side of the house is a comfortable place in the forenoon, but we do not have much time to enjoy comfortable places. Since we have no negro about the house we all have to stir more than we did, but all are better satisfied. I have finished the cellar and piazza but there are other little jobs of work beside the regular routine of daily labor to keep me busy. All are busy, three children go to school and two to the field, and all the rest of us has a good deal to do. I have less trouble with the farm than I used to have. The negroes take an interest in the farm and consult me in reference to the arrangement for work and Jimie and William are constantly with them, and I do not go to the field often. Our crop is as promising as any in the neighborhood. Our wheat is only tolerable, as good as the land will authorize. Wheat crops are said to be good throughout the U.S. There is great need for wheat for there is a great scarcity of provisions. It is deplorable to read of the condition of the people in South Carolina. It is almost or quite a famine there at this time. The war and the famine have brought down the haughtiness of that people. If provisions were to stop coming in Ga. for thirty days the people would be on the perish. Some people in this state who commenced farming have dismissed their hirelings and turned out their stock being unable to feed them. Your Ma and I went to Sandersville a few days ago. We bought some necessaries. She is now busy sewing, making garments. I do

not know how we would have got along with our large family if we had not got help. Practice is not worth any thing. We did not have any thing to bring in money. We are trying to raise cotton this year. We have 18 or 20 acres. Our garden is not as good as we have had at this time of the year. We have irish potatoes every day and a tolerable supply of other vegetables. Our horse apples have shed off a large portion of the fruit, but the late trees are still full of fruit. I think we will have a pretty good supply to put up for winter use. In the cellar we can keep them without sand and they will not wither.

May 25. I have been at Sandersville for three days past attending a District meeting of the Methodists. It is a new feature in Methodist Church government. We had a meeting of the Preachers and official members and representatives from the churches of ten or twelve counties. We had a good meeting and good preaching every day. I enjoyed it very much. Bro. Anthony's wife died a happy and triumphant death, last week. Bishop Pierce will preach her funeral tomorrow. I staid at Tom Browns and there learned that Theophilus Rogers and his brother D.M. had moved to Cass County, Ga. They have bought a set of mills up there and I suppose are very well satisfied.

I received a letter from Brother a few weeks ago. He said he had received a letter from Judson, whom he had long thought to be dead. Judson was very bitter against the South. Brother says he cultivates a large garden himself beside doing considerable work in the field, and frequently walks four miles to the village in preference to riding. He said he would soon write to William. The military government in the South is now in full blast. Gov. Jenkin's efforts to test the constitutionality of the law failed and the law will take its course. It will not often interfere with people who stay at home and attend to their own business and so we can live under it. The negroes will vote but I am in hopes they will not do any worse with it than

the whites have. The whites have greatly abused that privilege and the negroes cant do much worse. Providence still rules the destinies of the country and he will direct all things right, however unpleasant some things may be to us. His dispensations are right and for the best good even though it be in chastisements and therefore we should be reconciled to them.

Mr. Miller tells me he received a letter from Otho lately in which he says to Mr. Miller to get a place for him for he will certainly come back here by the first of January next. Mr. Miller says his letter is dated at Austin.

May 28. I have defered sending this to the office from day to day thinking that I would receive a letter from you. It has not yet come to hand. I hope it will. I am always truly glad to receive a letter from you. It would be a great source of pleasure to me if we could be situated near enough to visit each other. Our stay together in this world is short at best and it seems that parents and children ought to continue near enough to visit. I love my children and would be greatly pleased to have them near me. Sorry that I am not able to give them more assistance.

Your Ma says she thinks of you often and would like to write but that she has no time to write. You know how she is--careful and troubled about many things. She is constantly busy. It is probable Mrs. Jackson will visit us this year. She speaks of doing so. James Jackson expects to visit his mother in June. After he returns she speaks of coming to our house.

Let us try to keep alive the spirit of religion in our hearts. Whether we are blessed with religious privileges or not let us try to be christians from principle. Serve God whether we feel happy or not. To fear God and keep his commandments is our whole duty. Let us try to fulfil the great purpose of God in our creation. Glorify him that we may enjoy him forever. Practical in religion is the sort that will stand the test. It is well to hear preaching if you can but hearing is only a part of our duty. Practicing what we hear is more important. And if we have no other Preacher we have the Bible to

teach us what is right. We should make it the man of our counsel, and it will become a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We should endeavor to keep an eye single to the Glory of God and we will then realize that in the keeping of his commandments there is great reward.

All the family join me in love to you and William.

Your father,

J. M. Palmer

May 30. This leaves us all well today.

Oconee Washington County, GA. June 27, 1867

My Dear Daughter,

I received yours of the 9th Inst in about 9 days after it was written. I also received a letter in a few days after I started my last. It is a great pleasure to me to receive letters from you. I esteem it a great privilege to be able to communicate, notwithstanding the great distance that intervenes. I am glad to learn that you are forming acquaintances that you like. Hope that you will be enabled to enjoy the pleasure of good society. It enables one to pass the time more pleasant and is a great benefit to us as we pass along through life. Without society the mind preys upon itself and becomes dispirited. Cultivate the society of the good and respectable. You will find friends that will compensate to a considerable extent for the loss of relatives.

We are still in the enjoyment of usual health. What a great blessing for a family of ten persons to enjoy health for as long a time as we have without a serious case of sickness. We have had favorable seasons for the cultivation of the crops. There has not been a hard rain this year-just gentle showers about often enough. Corn is not as large as I have seen at this time of year but is looking well and is silking. We have had but little hot weather this summer. Mostly pleasant. Wheat crops were generally good in this country, in some places extraordinary good. My own was quite poor, only 36 bushels. I expect to make my next crop on 5 acres. I intend to make it rich and it will make enough for us.

The oat crop is said to be good in the country generally. If the seasons continue favorable there will be good crops made. If Providence favors us we can stand the yankees. I have no fear of confiscation and as to negroes voting I dont think they will do any worse that the whites have. Providence rules and I am satisfied. My plan is to treat the negroe respectful and try to elevate him in education and keep his confidence. I am superintending a sunday school for negroes at Bay Spring, aso a white sunday shcool there and one at Antioch. My feelings

have changed very much in reference to the education of the negro. It is our interest as well as theirs for ~~them~~ to be educated and if we do it we keep their confidence.

We are now enjoying the fruit. How glad would I be to divide with you. We had a good plum crop, June apples are now on hand, perhaps the finest we have ever had. Horse apples are near enough to ripe to make pies. The trees not very full but the fruit is very large. The romanite trees are as full as they can hold up. I have decided to buy 100 apple and 100 peach trees and 50 scuppernong grape vines next winter and go more fully into raising fruit. I expect to move the garden and fill out all the orchard field to the barn with fruit trees. The grape vines I expect to put from negro houses down to the old spring. I have about half of that place cleared now am cow penning on it. I got 100 # ice and put in the cellar. It did not keep as long as I thought it would. It kept two weeks. It is a good place to keep milk, apples etc. I will try to have our photographs taken this fall. The children's hair are all short and mine too will be long enough to next.

Oconee, Washington County, Georgia
July 25, 1867

My Dear Daughter,

Since I wrote to you we have been visited with sickness. Jimie, William and Edward have all had ~~light~~ attacks of fever. They were quite sick for some days but are now up though not stout. We are having now the hottest weather we have had this summer. It is producing some sickness in the country. The rains have slacked off and we are now suffering for rain. Some parts of the country have an abundance of rain and some a scarcity. Today I carried Sis to the station to go to Mr. Parker's in Jefferson county. She has gone down there to stay a few days. I there got your letter directed to Sis dated 15th inst. You say you had not heard from here in a month. I sent you a letter about ~~the~~ last of June which you ought to have got before that time. I also learned from it that you and William have both been sick. I am sorry to hear it. I feared that you would have sickness. In Bilious fever you should first puke and then purge, then try to produce perspiration with teas and sometimes with cold water externally and as soon as the fever can be got off or even pretty low, use quinine about 15 grs-in 3 or 4 hours. If the fever gives way then use Febrifuge which is equal parts of Tincture of Lobelia & No 6, with a small portion of camphor and peppermint added. The use of liquor is sometimes beneficial as a preventive and also a restorative. If the people there find it beneficial it might be well to use some. If you could stay well and have sick people to attend on you could learn how to give medicine successfully, but if you become sick and have no one to prescribe for you, it is bad. It is always unpleasant and sometimes very difficult for a person in such a case to know what to do.

How glad I would be if you were near enough for me to visit you in your sickness. I do hope that your sickness will not continue until winter. It is sometimes difficult to recover health until cold weather. I have gone through some severe schools of sickness in my family but I always learned something. Every person is interested in the subject of medicine and should endeavor to learn all they can.

Our crop of fruit has not been as good as we have had but we have a plenty. We are using it every day. We would be glad to divide with you.

I enclose to you a recipe for making a washing compound. It is claimed for it that it will save half the soap and two thirds of the labor in washing. A man came along selling the recipe. I got one but have not yet tried it. We will try it in a few days. You will see that there are four recipes. The washing compound, laundry soap, British Enamel & blueing. The materials for the compound does not cost much.

There is nothing new or interesting in the neighborhood every thing moving on in the old style.

Let us hear from you as often as you can. If you are not well enough to write much, write a little. I am anxious to hear from you.

Your Father,

JMPalmer

Oconee, Washington County, GA
August 12/67

My Dear Daughter

During the sickly season I am writing to you oftener than heretofore. No doubt you would like to hear from us and we are anxious to hear from you. Since I wrote to you about two weeks ago our children continue poorly. None have been very sick yet they do not get well. Jimie started to school but did go but a few days until he was taken sick again. He is now up but is puny. William also started but was taken sick and ^{is} now at home, though up he is still puny. Edward is recovering his health but has not started to school. Nannie stays at home perhaps a day in every week from headache. We have a sort of comfortably sick family. Sallie says to tell sister Martha "she can read" "and she has not forgotten her yet". Beulah say "she loves sister Martha". The next day after we received Sis, letter the package you sent came. Things all right. The children are well pleased with their presents. Sallie says tell sister Martha "her dress is pretty and she wore it to Mr. Millers wedding and has got it yet". Annie and Nannie are well pleased with their presents. Mr. Miller married Mrs. Emily Cason August 1st. Your Ma and I and William and Sallie went to the dinner at his house. He married at Uncle Harry Woods at 9 o'clock and came on to his house to dinner. There was a pretty large company and they enjoyed themselves in a very quiet and orderly manner. Yesterday William Robison preached Cornelia L. Fisher's funeral at Bay Spring. There was a large congregation and he preached a good sermon. He is stationed in Macon this year and is well liked there. He has improved very much.

We tried the washing compound a few days ago. We took a usual size washing of clothes such as it takes a negro woman all day to wash and would have taken your Ma. and Sis all day on the old plan. They finished between 1 and 2 o'clock. Your Ma says the dirt came out easier than she ever saw it do before. She speaks of doing our washing but she is not able to do it. All light goods not very dirty will get clean without rubbing just as the receipt says but homespun clothes pretty dirty requires elbow grease but is much easier washed. It requires about

half the soap that is used on the old plan. The materials to make the compound do not cost very much. When I wrote to you we were needing rain. Since then we have had good rains. The accounts from all parts of the country represents abundant crops. There being only here and there a dry neighborhood. Our neighborhood has been perhaps the driest part of the county and we will generally make good crops. I saw a letter from Milam county a few days ago. He says there is a great deal of sickness there. All new comers are sick. Whole families sick. No exceptions. Many have died. Some neighborhoods in this country are sickly now. This neighborhood is generally healthy. We have plenty of fruit for family use but not much for drying. I never eat fruit without thinking of you. I have received yours of the 26 July. In which I learn you have had chills again. It is probable you will have them more or less until cold weather. It would be well if you could find a healthy locality. No part of earth is exempt from disease but some places are less subject than others. Let us in health prepare for sickness and death and judgement. O may Heaven's blessings rest upon you my dear child.

JMPalmer

Oconee Washington County, GA. Sept. 3, 1867

My Dear Daughter,

Through the tender mercy of a kind Providence I am yet alive and able to write to you. I have suffered a considerable amount of pain since I wrote to you last. Last week I got hurt in my back lifting a sack of flour which produced fever and made me quite sick attended with excruciating pain. I was confined to bed about three days. Since then I have been up and am improving quite fast. Our children have not yet recovered their health. They are up most part of the time but every few days they have a fever and they keep puny. The boys have gone to school but very little in this term in consequence of it.

Annie and Nannie have not been sick and they go regularly. The month of August has been quite wet in this country. Cotton has been damaged in consequence. The corn crop is made and all accounts say it is large. Corn will probably sell from 75 cts to 1 \$ per bushel. There is considerable sickness in many neighborhoods, some in this neighborhood though not a great deal. I received yours of August 5th in due time. Glad to hear your health was improving hope it will continue do so. So I suppose Otho is decided to come back to Georgia. If he is not satisfied there it would be advisable no doubt for him to come back. He can make a living here just as well as he ever did. There is more signs of prosperity here now than when he left. If he comes back he will be better satisfied than if he had never gone there.

You do not say whether you and William have a thought of coming back or not. I do not know what to say to you in reference to it for I do not know what your feelings are on the subject. If you could do as well here, as there, I had much rather you were here. I know you could make a living here. Farming land can be had in this country by renting or cropping. The Mims place is making a pretty good crop this year and is less sickly than I ever knew it before. William could probably get in there and crop with Dr. Parsons. The railroad is still another opening. If you want to come back and William can't find an opening for better employment he can have as much of my land as he can cultivate. It would be a great satisfaction to me

for you to live in this country, but do not wish to advise against your interest. For myself I feel satisfied to remain where I am the balance of my life. I expect to engage in fruit raising to the extent of my ability. Sarah is well satisfied and does not wish to move.

Aron speaks of coming back home next year to live. Net is anxious to come back. We may take them back. Your Ma cannot cook and do the housework too. Sept. 4. We are all up today, hope we will soon all get in good health. Sallie says she has not forgot you yet. Beulah is standing in a chair saying her little speech. Playful as ever.

May God's good Providence direct you right in all the affairs of life, and guide you unto his heavenly kingdom.

Your Father,

J.M. Palmer

Oconee, Washington County, GA Sept. 20, 1867

My Dear Daughter,

We had been for some time not receiving any letters from you and I was uneasy for you fearing you were too sick to write. But two days ago we received your letter to Sis of Sept 6, and today we received we received three, one to Sis and two to myself, the last one of Sept 9 in which your describe your own condition. I hasten to reply. I am truly sorry to hear of yours and Williams afflictions. Would that it were in my power to render you assistance. In reference to your own case I will say that I do not know that I can send you medicine that will benefit you but I will give you such directions as I think will benefit you. If bile collects in your stomach so as to make you sick, at such a time you should take an emetic. If the bowels are castive use some atibidious pills but use them cautiously. If you are much feeble and weakly use them seldom. You need sour drinks. If you cannot get good sound fruits to use get lemons and use lemon water. If you can get vegetables use them with vinegar. You should avoid grease. I would think the use of buttermilk would be suitable. Also rice or hominy. Try to keep the skin in a healthy condition by occasional washings all over with water of agreeable temperatures using a good deal of friction. Use the best judement you can in the use of means. If I could see you of course I could give more accurate directions, but the use of such means is proper, just varied to suit the circumstances of the case. The use of vegetables and acids in a judicious manner is suited to your case. Lemon water and sage tea form a good drink in fever. I wish you had a supply of our nice apples. If they would keep I would send you some. But they would all spoil this hot weather. I am glad you have decided to come back to Georgia. May Heaven grant to spare your lives and restore your health that you may be able to come. I would say that in the absence of fever an occasional drink of cold composition teas would probably benefit. I suppose you have composition and Lobelia. If I knew you had none I would send you some at once.

I suppose an opening can be found for William to get into business. The children all rejoice at the thought of you and William coming back. We had

a great deal of rain through August and a few days in Sept, but are now having fair weather, rather warm.

Some neighborhoods in this country are very sickly. Our neighborhood is fairing well, but very little sickness. I heard from Mr. Tho's Parkers family a few days ago they were quite sick. Thought Jimie would die.

I read a great deal of the yellow fever in Texas. It is in many interior towns as well as the seaport towns.

I hope yours and Williams health will improve by the time the yellow fever subsides that you will be ready to start for Ga. We are all in tolerable health at present.

I hasten to get this letter off today. I have nothing more that would interest you.

Your Father,

J.M. Palmer.

P.S. I hope you will write frequently and let me know how you are. If you are sick and cant write much, a half dozen lines will inform me how you are. I will try to write again soon when I have more time.

Oconee, Washington County, GA Oct. 7, 1867

My Dear Daughter,

I recieved yours of the 21st Sept some days ago. Truly sorry to hear that you and William are still afflicted. It is very difficult to get restored to health until cold weather comes. When I wrote to you giving you directions what means to use it did not occur to me that you were out of composition and Lobelia but I have thought recently that perhaps you might need some and I will send some today. I will also send some golden seal ginger mixed which is a suitable bitter to take in the absence of fever. You can stir in a half tea spoon full in cold water and drink three times a day or make into pills and take. It has seemed to help our children, their health is better. When they take sick we give an emetic then sweating teas untill they get clear of fever then give bitters. I read accounts of yellow fever in Texas ever week. I hope you will escape it. If it gets to Hockley you had better leave there.

The first indication we have had of fall weather was yesterday. It became cool and is cool today, not lacking much of being cool enough for frost.

We have had a sickly summer and fall in this country in many neighborhoods. Our own neighborhood has escaped well. We have some sickness in this neighborhood but it is light attacks, though slow to get well. In Sandersville they have had a great deal of sickness and many deaths. During the last few weeks we have not had much rain, but quite warm weather. Cotton crops are much cut off by the warm wet weather of July & August. Corn crops are good through all this country.

There has been extensive revivals of religion in many places in this country, but is still dull at Bay Spring and Antioch. Mr. Harris is still preaching at Antioch and Bro. Antony is yet on this circuit. He has lately married. He married his wife's neice who lived with them a year or two.

Oct 8. This morning is about cold enough for frost but is occasioned by a cold north-east wind and there is some dew.

I hope sickness will soon subside. I started to send you some apples by Express but could not learn at the station that the Express runs in Texas.

I finished gathering them a few days ago. We have about 15 bushels. They are rotting some but I am sorting them and will keep them as long as they will keep sound. I hope we will have a good many when you come. I know you and William can make a living in this country and I hope you will be able to come when the weather gets cold enough and yellow fever subsides.

This leaves us all in pretty good health. The children all able to go to school. I think the health of the people will improve.

May Heaven bless you both and direct you in the good and right way both temporally and spiritually.

Your Father,

JM Palmer

I have just received Williams letter of the 27th Sept. Will reply soon.

Oconee, Washington County, GA., Oct. 15, 1867

My Dear Nephew,

I received yours of the 27th ultimo in due time. I'm truly sorry to learn of the amount of sickness you and Martha have realized this year. It has been a dreadful year in Texas no doubt. Many who went there last winter in hopes of improving their condition now lie beneath the sod. Many others are suffering with affliction, and regret having gone to that country. I am glad your lives have been spared untill now and hope that they will still be spared and your health restored that you may return to this country and that we may live near enough to see each other while we live.

I think it is prudent under the circumstances to come back. There is no certainty of enjoying health in that country in the future. A living can be made here and a prospect of reasonable good health.

I am thankful I did not go to Texas. I feel more and more reconciled to my hilly land. There has been a great deal of sickness in this country this year, on level lands, but the hills has been almost exempt. The crops are good in this neighborhood. We have gathered about 500 bushels of corn, enough to do us. I give the negroes 1/3. Our cotton not very good will probably make 3 or 4 bales. Your old place I understand has made 200 bushels corn and about 3 bales of cotton. The crops generally through this country are good. I mean corn. But the price has not fallen in market. It is still \$1.50. Cotton has been injured greatly by the rains. It is now a low price which is quite discouraging to those raising it. We are now having a delightful spell of weather, Have had for 2 weeks. Very pleasant. A little frost has been seen but not enough to kill any thing.

Oct 19. I have been hindered from finishing this letter. Say to Martha I received hers of the 1st Inst. a few days ago. I am glad to learn that her health and yours is improving. If that medicine she is taking improves her she ought to continue taking it. Say to her I have given Sis away to a wee-bit of a man by the

name of Harris Fisher. He has not taken her away yet and I don't know when he will but I hear occasionally something said about butter and eggs, which makes me think the day is approaching.

Our family has been tolerably well for some time untill yesterday, Nannie was taken sick and has continued fever untill now. I am fearful she will have a spell for some time. I see from the papers the yellow fever is abating in New Orleans. I hope it will soon abate in Texas.

I have not seen an opening yet where you could get into business but I shall continue to notice and have no doubt but a place can be found. I hope your health will continue to improve and that you will be able to get back here by Christmas. I wish you had means to start back as soon as the yellow fever subsides. I have not got it. I shall be pretty short this winter having done a small practice this year. Mr. Harrison got back here a few days ago from Texas. He came by Little Rock, Arkansas. He came back penniless and cured of Texas. 21st. I saw Mr. Harrison yesterday. He says Texas is sickly all over. Good land, bad water, no comforts. He expect to live in this county the balance of life. Dr. Parsons says he will give you employment on the Mims place. I dont know on what terms. Nannie is still quite sick. I think she will have a pretty long spell. The rest are well. Hoping you and Martha will soon recover health and get back here. I remain yours

J. M. Palmer

Oconee, Washington County, GA, Nov 3, 1867

My Dear Daughter,

We received yours of the 18th ultimo directed to Sis, two days ago. We are truly sorry to hear of the yellow fever reaching your place and the death of Otho. I sympathize with Susan in her loss. And know not but she too may have gone the way of all the earth but hope not. My anxiety for you is great. Would that I could hear from you every day. I hope and trust that you will be preserved from that dreadful scourge. I suppose the disease is abating. It is abating in New Orleans and Galveston very much. We have had a few light frosts here but not enough to kill any vegetation. I hope the disease will soon leave. It is an awful scourge. 1100 people have died in Galveston & 1200 in New Orleans. It generally leaves upon the first appearance of frost. Nannie was quite sick when I wrote to William but she soon began to improve and is now about well. She was quite sick for 5 or 6 days with continued fever. But we are all now in usual health.

The children speak of you every day and are anxiously looking for the time for you to return. I hope you will be able to come back by Christmas. We should endeavor to feel resigned to the dispensation of Providence towards us whatever that may be. And try to be prepared for any event that comes upon us. I trust that your lives may be spared and your health restored and that you may be able to return safely.

Your Ma is as busy as can be preparing for Sis wedding. It will take place next Thursday night. 7th inst. We will have probably about 20 persons here. Harris appears to be getting along very well in pecuniary affairs and will make a good husband. No one could object to to him only on account of his deformity, and that should be a secondary consideration.

Winfield Robinson married Miss Shinholster in Wilkinson last Thursday. William was also to be married the same day to Miss Stillwell. I have not heard from his marriage. Old Dr. Hollifield and one of his sons died in Sandersville a few weeks ago. Fishers widow will marry next Tuesday 5th to Rev. Mr. Ray from Walker County, Ga. He has been assistant preacher on this circuit for a few months. This leaves all well Nov. 4

Your Father

Nov 9. 1867. Oconee, GA.

My Dear Daughter

I received yours of the 28th ultimo two days ago. My anxiety was great to hear from you. I was afraid you might take yellow fever. It is bad enough to be sick with other disease, but no other disease is so liable to prove immediately fatal. I sympathize with Susan in her bereavement. She is left in a desolate condition. I suppose the yellow fever is abating in that country by this time. We had the first killing frost the 6th inst. It is now warm and pleasant.

Sis was married the 7th inst. Your Ma gave her about such a wedding as she gave you. They were married by Rev. Mr. Ray who married to Mary Fisher two days before. We had about 30 persons present and had a pleasant time of it. I could have enjoyed it much better if you had been here. She had for attendants Miss Jane Fluker and Miss Sallie Boyd a young lady living at Dr. McBrides and Robert Moye and Augustus Tarbutton. I suppose she will give you all the particulars. Your Ma could give you some of the particulars of the labor required to prepare for such occasions. She toiled like a machine that never tires. She had Mrs. Peacock and 2 or 3 negro women to assist. Mrs. Fisher gave an affair yesterday. Our children went. Your Ma and I did not go. Sis was to come to her home at the store this morning. Old woman Mary who used to live with Sue was here when I received and read your letter giving an account of Susan bereavements. She wept freely and said she loved Susan and Eddie. She told me to write to Susan how much she sympathized with her and to tell her to come back.

Nov 10. This is a pleasant Sabbath morning. Our house looks more lonely in the absence of Sis. The wreath of flowers over the fire place is fading- emblematical of the fading of youth and beauty and of all human enjoyments. The leaves are falling from the trees in the yard and reminds us of the destiny of all things earthly, time is flying and we are on the current and will soon meet the place appointed for all living. Solemn reflections. O may we all be fully prepared.

The younger children are prattling around and engaging in the enjoyments of childhood and youth, reminding us of our own youthful days and exciting in our minds anxiety for their future welfare and prosperity.

The holy day of rest, prefigures the rest that remains for the people of God. When the toils and cares and perplexities and afflictions and sufferings of life shall end and when they "shall come from the East and from the West and from the North and from the South, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God". Where the wicked shall cease to trouble and the weary shall enjoy eternal repose. O blessed glorious rest! O may we all attain to it. Courage my soul, on God rely in every trial here. Twill bear thee to thy heaven above, but shall not enter there.

Nov 11. Nannie has been improving for two weeks and I thought was nearly well, but for the last day or two she has become poorly but is not confined to bed. The rest are well. I hope to hear from you often.

May Heaven bless you all.

J.M. Palmer

Oconee, Ga. Dec. 25th, 1866

My Dear Sister

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I now endeavor to write you a few lines to let you hear from me. I received your very kind affectionate letter, written while you were in Houston. I assure you it was perused with great care. I was truly thankful to hear you got to Texas safe. O my dear sister I was glad to hear you escaped so well being sick in crossing the gulf. was very sorry indeed though to hear William was so very sick. And I am thankful that I am still blest with such a dear sister, though I am denied of the precious privilege of being with you and enjoying your dear company, yet indeed it is more than gratifying to my feelings to hear from you and earnestly pray that we may meet again. My prayers assend daily to an All Wise God, in your behalf. Many, many lonely and sad hours have I spend since I last looked upon your dear face. I often think of you and think of the many many miles that seperates us. It seems hard for me to give you up my dear sister. We got the photographs you sent us. I think they are very good ones. I have inserted one of each in my album. In your letter you asked me if Mr. Mitchell had come, he came yesterday was a week ago. before he got in this neighborhood he understood you & Wm. had gone to Texas and Pa & Ma were gone up to Mrs. Jacksons then, and he did not come here with his wagon but went on down to Uncle Billie Robisons to camp and after supper came up to see me, appeared to be very glad to see me, he did not stay all night here that night but went back to his wagon, next day went to the sale at Flukers. I was down there too. I tell you there ~~some~~ uneasy boys there that day sure. I just had my own fun, they talked and abused Mr. Mitchell badly, it did more harm than good. I told them they were only injuring themselves. Mr. M. stayed in the neighborhood untill Thursday, called to see me three times he is gone now to southwest Georgia. Will be back here in about a week. He was very sorry indeed he did not get here before you & Wm. left. Said he expected to have a gay time with Wm. but he was sadly disappointed.

Well next time I will write you a long letter for I have a great many things to write about but I am in a hurry now. I have been house keeping since you left. Pa & Ma were gone up the country two weeks, I had my hands full while they were gone. Ma carried Sallie and Beulah. Sallie did not enoy her visit as she expected. was crying to come home nearly all the time. Beulah says " - - gone to Tex. She is a sweet child.

My dear sister this Christmas day, it will be a dull Christmas with me I expect. I am going down to Jennie Flukers this evening. I will be from home all this week I guess. There is to be a musical consert given in Sandersville next thursday night. I expect to attend. Josh Wood & Emma Graybille were married last Sunday morning. I must close my letter as it is getting late.

My dear sister I will write you a long letter in a few days. Remember my love to William. tell him Mr. M. will write to him I guess when he comes back here. May God bless you my dear sister and permit us to meet again.

Your most affectionate sister

Mary J. P.

Oconee, Ga. Jan. the 3rd 1867

My Dear Sister,

I am once more permitted to write you a few lines to let you know how I am, and how I am getting along. I am enjoying most excellent health now, and do truly hope you are enjoying the same great blessing. The health of Pa's family is very good now. Some of the children though were poorly last week but are all well now.

Ma sewed so hard last week, she strained her right arm so badly she can hardly move it has been very painful to her. Well Martha how did you spend Christmas.

Did you have a merry one or not. Well I enjoyed myself very well indeed. I was gone all the week. I went up about Sandersville. I and Jennie Fluker went to Mrs. Sessions Wednesday evening. Went from there, that night to Mr. Mathis' to a

Cotillion Party, next day went up to Mrs. Tarbuttons, four miles from town stayed there until Friday morning and we went to town, come on to Mr Bullards, to a ball that night. There was a great many people there. I enjoyed myself very well until Jennie Barber told me that W. A. had got back. Then I was anxious to get home, but did not get home until Saturday evening and he had done gone home.

Jennie came home with me, stayed till yesterday evening. I am feeling very lonely indeed now. I reckon I have wished a thousand times today that I could get a letter from you. I had my ambrotype taken when I was up to Sandersville. I had it taken for W. A. it is a good picture I think. Pa is going to carry us all up to town before long and have our photographs taken. You don't know how proud I am of yours and Williams. I look at them often and think of my dear sister who is far away in Texas.

Well Martha I am very busy indeed now sewing. I am making a dress for Ma now. She can't sew any at all now, if I was not here I don't know what she would do. She has a great deal of sewing to do. beside we will have to do all the cooking. We are not going to keep Net this year, she is not gone yet will leave in a few days.

I guess we will have our hands-ful. Pa thought it best to let Net and her children go.

Martha Mr Jackson (of Wilkinson) had his dwelling house burned down last Saturday night. I have not heard any of the particulars yet. I came very near to being over there at that time, but fortunately I was not. Tom Mim's fine house was burned down the 12th of last month-- , have not heard yet whether they lost everything or not.

Martha I wish you would ascertain whether Miss Annie Mossiger has ever married or not.

Well Martha, Adrean Hardison has disgraced her self in my estimation. I promised my-self I would write to you how she did, and I will. the morning you left Miss Adrean went by the time it was light, I reckon over to where you lived, and was claiming everything she could lay her hands on, I think she set her self off for housekeeping. You remember that mattras of yours with a striped tick. did you sell it to her, or not? she told Fanny she bought it from you. so she carried the mattras home with her. I told Ma I recon Miss Adrean would have been glad if you had gone sooner. She is still fishing for Joe Bell. I believe but I think it doubtful about her geting him.

Martha a few weeks ago, I got out my new dress to make, (the present from you) and there was only enough for the skirt, (owing to it being so narrow) I was very much troubled about it for some time. Sent back to Newman's for some like it, failed in geting any like, so I finely decided to carry it back, and exchange it for another piece, and did so. I selected another peice the same price of the other, and got 14½ yds. I got white edge velvet to trim it in, have not finished making it yet. I will have it on when I have my photographs takin. I think it will be a very pretty dress when I finish it.

Well Martha I do not expect to visit much this year, want to weave me some counterpains before long, perhaps I might take a notion to leave, and I would like to carry something with me, but I can't say whether I will go to Texas or

not. Martha "little Tom" is gone and left me, his Pa's family is gone back to Jefferson. Thomas and William are going to Texas some time in this month. I suppose. Well Martha Sallie likes to cook as well as ever. I know you would laugh if you could see her some time working around in the kitchen as busy as some old cook. Beulah is as mischevious as she can be, the children speak of you often, and say they want see you. O my derr sister what would I give for one more look at your dear face and as I sit by my fire side, while I am writing, it calls to memory, many, many happy days which we have spent together, and it makes me feel sad to think of the many miles that seperated us. but I still indulge the hope of enjoying your company again.

There will be preaching at Bay Spring next Sabbath. I do not expect to go my-self. Mr. Anthony is our preacher for this year.

Martha how much did it take to carry you & william to Texas? I thought I would like to know.

I must close lest weary you, with my uninteresting remarks. You must write to me soon for you don't know how glad I am to get a letter from you. William you must not forget me for I think of you often. Write to me how you are pleased with Texas. I must close. Good bye my dear sister & brother. May heavens richest blessings rest upon you. I remain as ever your devoted sister. Write soon soon.

Mary P

Bay Spring Ga. Feb 10, 1867

Mrs. M V. Barksdale

My Dearest Sister,

After a long day of deep thought, I this evening seat my self with pensiveness of feelings to endeavor to write you a few lines, in reply to your very kind and affectionate letter which I received a day or two ago. I assure you it's perusal afforded me a great deal of pleasure. Indeed it is gratifying to my feelings to have the pleasure of hearing from you. Tough seperated by hundreds of miles I feel thankful that I am yet blest with such a dear sister. I also received your letter written in Dec.

I hope this will soon reach you find you well cheerful and happy. We are yet blessed with good health. Ma is still deficient in her right arm. Pa thinks perhaps it is rheumatism. The health of the neighborhood is generally very good.

The weather is exceedingly cold now. last night I think was the coldest night we have had this winter.

Well Martha we have had some marriages recently in this part of the country. Mollie Joiner & Mr. Mapin were married the second Sunday in last month. Mollie had a grand affair. I suppose though I was not there. She invited all around me but did not ask me. I do not know her reasons for doing so. John Posey was married last thursday night was a week ago to a Miss Glover (a niece of Jesse Glover) John brought his lady up the next evening after they married and had a great many at Mr. Poseys to take supper with them. I did not go, though Jimmie & Billie were there, they said they had a very nice supper. Annie Joiner & John Medlock are to be married soon I suppose. I never did hear tell of so many marriages. You said in your last I was writing a little suspicious. You wished an explanation, and the secret of the whole matter. Well I can't say exactly when it will be but not very soon I reckon we talked it all over, and decided to postpone it a while longer as I was not ready, and he did not wish to

marry yet, not until he makes something to live on. he said he lost all he ever did make by the war, but engaging in a business now that he could make money fast. I am looking for him every day now. Well Martha you said Wm. had seen Tom & Bill Parker. & Bill said he had a good time with me. well I don't know what his meaning was, unless it was teasing me, about W.A. I was well amused at several down there that day. I really thought some of them would go crazy.

Martha, Billie Robinson & his wife have parted, she is living at old Mr. Henry Woods. Old Billie has sold all of her property and got the money in his pocket. I think it is shameful the way he treated his wife. I think it will make it against his sons. I know there is nothing that would induce me to marry one of them.

You wished to know whether Ma got your chickens or not, she got all of them. Fannie was over here some time ago. She told me the next time I wrote to you to give you her love to you. She had spent many lonely hours since you left. She is living this year with a negro woman, over on Sand Hill.

Well Martha we are getting along finely, doing our own work, much better than I thought we would. Net & her children are living at Moses Joiners. it went very hard with Net to have to leave us, and I could not help shedding tears myself when she left. Sallie is as full of her little jokes as ever. She says tell Sister Martha I love her. She is nearly all the time talking about you. the children are growing fast. I must close my uninteresting letter lest I weary you. My love to William. this leaves me enjoying the best of health. hope you are well. Good bye my dear sister. Write soon, soon. O may we meet again.

I remain as every your devoted sister.

Mary.

May the blessings of God ever rest upon you my dear sister and may we meet again in this world, if not, may meet in .

I will write to you again soon, What has become of Susan I thought she would have written to me before now.

Jan. the 5th

Ma is quite poorly this morning. She is not able to be up. She suffers a great deal with her arm.

We have had very disagreeable weather here for the last week as cold weather as I most every saw. had a big sleet here which lasted three or four days. I have my hands full now. we just finished killing hogs yesterday. will be glad when I can get to work sure enough. I must close. as I am in a hurry.

your sister,

"Sis"

I will send you a scrap of my new dress.

Oconee, Geo. March 4th 1867

My Dear brother,

It is with pleasure ~~that~~ I seat myself to write you a few lines to let you hear from us. I received your very kind and obliging letter a fewdays ago, Feb. 17th which I assure you, gave me much pleasure to peruse. I hope this will soon reach you find you well, well. We are all enjoying good health now, how thankful should feel for this great and inestimable blessing.

You said in your letter that you and my dear sister had to your selves, O could I have the pleasure of seeing you and this morning! for I have a great deal to tell you. I imagine I see you and her seated by your peaceful fireside, and could I realize my imaginations! but alas not for me.

I am glad to hear you are so well pleased with Texas. You will do well, and have good health out there.

We started Annie, Nannie & Eddie to school this morning. Mr. Lawson, who is going to teach at Antioch. Josh Wood teaching a small school at Bay Springs. bro. Anthony preached for us yesterday at Bay Spring. preached an excellent sermon. A pretty large audiance present. We have beautiful spring weather now, vegetation is putting out fast. The prospect is that we are going to have an early spring.

I attended Annie Joiner's marriage the 21st of last month. a very nice little wedding but I do not think she was so well to marry John Metlock if all that I have heard is true. Well William I have something to tell Martha. When Bill Mitchell visited me in Dec. last we postponed our engagement (as you are aware of I suppose) but thought best to postpone our marrying a while longer, last week he passed through the neighborhood and did not call upon me, he called on Mr. Northingtons a few moments, said he was going to Sandersville and sell out and go home, did not as much as ask about me. I must confess I was a little suspicious of him all the while, which made me more cautious but he made every fair promise he could have made when I saw him. I have now concluded his intentions were to decieve me. Can it be

possible that he was so base, so mean as to deceive a poor innocent girl. if so never, no never can I ever forgive him and may he in due season reap his just reward. It has caused me no little trouble I assure you. I know I can marry at any time I please, I have had many opportunities to marry. not more than two weeks ago, I had at my own disposal a very worthy young man. I rejected him I told him I would not flirt with him that I would be candid; and tell him that I was engaged. But the thought of being deceived by that heartless man is more than I can bear. Vengeance rings within my heart.

requested me to say to you, to accept of her love and good wishes. Said she had been looking anxiously for a letter from you. Said she wanted you to write to her. Said that she often thought of you. I must close my letter for this time. Let me hear from you soon. Good bye my dear sister and brother.

The family joins me in love to you.

I am as ever your devoted, and affectionate sister

Mary

Bay Spring Ga. March 18th 1867

My Dearest Sister

It is with a sad heart, I seat my-self this beautiful-, lovely morning, to endeavor to answer your very kind and affectionate letter which I received two days ago. I assure you dear sister, the perusal of your letter was, indeed the greatest pleasure I have had lately. O, my dear sister you do not know my feelings this morning. O if I could only see you and talk with you it would be the greatest pleasure of my life. My dear sister, I often despond of ever realizing much happiness. ~~the~~ future looks dark and gloomy, my hopes have been blighted. I feel as if I was cast off forever. Why was I deceived? I have asked my self that question I recon a thousand times, was I so vain, such a coquette, as to deserve being treated in that way? Surely not. I heard yesterday that Bill M. was married. then I heard it contradicted. A tobacconist who was from the same county that Mr. ^{Mitchell} was told John Joiner that Bill was married to a young lady in N.C. the first of January. this tobacconist asked John if he knew me, John told him he did. O he said he would like so well to see me. Said he had heard a great deal of me. thought I was the nicest young lady in Ga. but I think he has proved that he never cared any thing for me. It is a mystery to me why he wanted to trifle with my affections. What do you & william think about it? did you think he would ever be charged, of the crime of deceiving your dear sister? May God forgive him for deceiving me. but I can never never forgive! I think I would give every thing in the world, were it my possession if I could only forget the past. but alas it is fresh in my memory and never never to be obliterated. When Bill came along here some two weeks ago, Wink Robinson saw him and said to him he supposed he had married recently--and wanted to know whether it was true or not, Mitchell said it was not so he was not married. So I do not know whether he was telling a falsehood or not. All I want is for William to see him one more time.

I went to church yesterday and last night at Antioch, tried to be cheerful and pleasant, but a smiling face often hides an aching heart. I was sorry to hear you had not been enjoying such good health--hope though your health will soon be restored again. We are all well now. Sallie was very sick two three days last week but she is up now,

and as pert as ever.

Beulah I think is as mischievous a child as I ever saw. You said you thought perhaps you would take a school out there. I think it is a very good idea, hope it will pay you well. Pa recived Cousin Ortho's letter some time ago, has not answered it yet I think. What has Sue named her babe?

I am affraid we will not have much fruit this year we had frost last night. Annie & Nannie like Mr. Lawson very well as a teacher. Eddie soon got tired of going to school. did not go but three or four days . Pa will send him again whenever the weather gets more pleasant.

My dear sister it seems to me like I cant think of much to write about this morning. O could I see that dear face and hear the sweet music of thy voice, which always sent such a thrill of joy to my heart, but Ah! me, poor girl I am left here alone to weep for those loved ones who are far away. May we all live so that if we meet no more in this world that we meet in a better than this. Sister pray that I may live a more devoted christian, I must close lest I weary you. Write soon soon. for I am always so glad to get a letter from you. Remember my love to William. farewell but not forever, may we meet again.

Your affectionate sister,

Mary

Bay Springs Ga April the 19th 1867

My Dearest Sister:

This beautiful lovely evening, I find my-self trying to write you a short letter in reply to the one I received from you, day before yesterday evening. O my dear sister you do not know how much pleasure it afforded me to hear from you, it was indeed a satisfaction to me, to peruse its pages and to know that it was written by my dear sister. Indeed I am thankful that you are still blessed with a reasonable portion of health. I do truly hope your health will continue to improve. Sorry to hear Wm. was not well. My health is only tolerably good. I went down to Mrs. Fishers last Friday, stayed until Sunday evening. Came home and was taken sick that night. I was confined to my room three or four days this week, but I am able to be up now. The rest of the family are well.

I have just received a letter from Carrie Parker. She is coming up on the train tomorrow evening, wants me to meet her at the depot. I received a letter from Mat Renfroe some time ago, she says she is going to pay me a visit soon. Ma is looking for her mother down here in five or six weeks. Pa has had a cellar dug under our house, have just finished it. it is a nice cool place in summer and warm in winter. We are going to keep our winter apples, potatoes etc. down there. You said for me to prepare to go to Texas with Pa next fall. Gladly would I go, were it in my power, for I think sometimes I would give anything in the world if I could only see you and talk with you.

I am not \times much trouble as I was when I wrote to you before. If I had only given way to my feelings I never would have wanted to have gone anywhere again but I knew that would never do. I suppose that trifling rascal is coming back to Ga. next winter if he does I guess it will be the last time. One of my friends says if he ever sees him again he will make him account for the way he has treated me. That man may be an unhappy man yet, just on account of this.

I console myself with the thought that I am just as good as he is.

Sister I have not got myself any new summer dresses yet. Want to get me some though before long.

That ruffle you was so kind to send me is very pretty indeed. You said I must not think hard of you for sending me such a simple little present. I assure you dear sister it was valued highly, to know that it came from your dear hand caused me to prize it so highly. I will send you some trimming, I have just crocheted please accept of it. You can trim you a band and sleeves with it.

Sallie was here some time ago. She told me to give you her love and tell you she had not forgotten you. Whenever I go from home, I hear a great many misgivings after you, want to know if you are pleased with Texas. I received a letter from Thomas Parker some three weeks ago. He says he is coming back to Gia next winter on a visit. He is well pleased with Texas I suppose. We will have preaching at Antioch next Sabbath

O could I see you this evening but Alas I was denied of that blessed privilege. What would I give in exchange for one sweet smile from you. But I must close my uninteresting letter lest I weary you. Beulah and Sallie are growing fast. Sallie says she is going to school next week. She is a smart child. She is so apt to learn. Can spell vey well, Eddie goes to school every day now, learns very well I think. I must close. Remember my love to William, tell him he must write me as soon as he can.

Ever your sincere, and devoted sister,

Mary J. P.

Bay Springs, Geo. May 17th 1867

Mrs. Mattie V. Barksdale,

My dearest sister:

This beautiful lovely morning I will again endeavor to respond to your very kind and consoling letter of 6th inst. which was received yesterday--the receipt of which I hasten to acknowledge & I assure you dear sister its perusal affords me much pleasure indeed. Oh! to know they were written by you-, one who can never be forgotten by your sincere and devoted sister. how often I think of you, my dearest one. I once had the pleasure of visiting you but Alas! it is not so now. I think some times perhaps I did not know what a pleasure it was till you were gone. Oft do I look up the road and think I ought to see you coming. But I will change the subject.

Annie & Nannie have been, this morning after some plums, they are just beginning to ripen. Will have a great many. The peaches and apples are falling off some on account of the cool weather we have had. Our garden looks tolerably well, we have had several messes of irish potatoes.

Well Martha there are two fishing parties today. one down at Wesley Wood's Mill, and the other down at the river. Hugh Lawson has just left here going on down to the river, was very anxious for me to go to the fishing, but I Annie & Nannie and little children are alone today. Pa & Ma have gone to ~~Sandersville~~. They have gone up trading. I have got me three new dresses this spring, will send you a scrap. The pink one I braided on the machine. I have been very lonesome for the last week. I have had so much company. Carrie Parker came up and stayed two weeks with me, and the day after she left, Mat Renfro, & Miss Ella Brookins came down and stayed nearly a week. They said they had never had a nicer, pleasan in their lives. Matt & Ella told me to give your their kindest regards. Mat said she often thought of you. Said she wanted your phtograph. Ella is such a nice girl. I like her very much. She is going to Texas she says in September. She is engaged to a Methodist preacher in Galveston, Texas. Ella said she would like for me to go to Texas when she goes. When Mat & Ella was here we all

went at Oconee Bridge, and very foolishly we all walked out on the bridge to the river, and I was walking in the lattice, and made a miss step and fell, though fortunately I did not fall in the river but came very near it. my hat fell off in the river and was lost, they all said I made a very narrow escape. I never was worse frightened in my life. Pa says I shall never go to that bridge again and I think my self it is sufficient warning for me to keep off of all such places.

I met Miss Sallie Jackson (or Robins) a monih ago at Antioch, she was looking very well, had married on Thursday before I saw her, to Mr. John Robins, whose wife was killed by that negroe. Miss Sallie said after their house was burned down she did have an article left. she said they saved a few things that was down stairs, but didn't save a thing up stairs, she and Mrs. Harrison was sleeping up stairs and they woke up and the house was on fire and they just did make their escape. Twas indeed a great loss.

When you see you can say to her I received her letter and will answer it as soon as I can. My health is good. hope all are well, doing well. Write to me . I must close lest I weary you. Remember my love to Wm. Tell him I will write to him soon. Sallie is as smart as ever. Beulah grows fast.

Oh! may the richest blessings of Heaven rest upon you my dear sister and permit us to meet again.

Bay Springs Geo. July 31st 1867

My dearest Sister, After spending several days in Jefferson County, I arrived safe at home yesterday evening did not find all well. Eddie is quite poorly, and so is Billie, it seems we are going to have a great deal of sickness this year. I did not receive your letter, till after my arrival home. Oh! how it grieved my heart to hear you had been so sick. but feel thankful ~~that~~ a kind Providence has blessed you in sparing your life. I hope I am thankful to my Maker for his many manifestations of kindness to us. I do hope your health will soon be restored again. There is generally a great deal of sickness through this country. My dear sister I must write to you about my visit.

I went down last Thursday morning, got off at Davisboro, Mr. Bob Parker met me at the depot-, carried me out to Mr. Parkers, two miles the other side of Louisville. that night I attended an exhibition in Louisville, and on friday they had a splendid _____, and a literary address at 40'clock P.M. by the Rev. Dr. Right of Augusta. friday night I was at another exhibition there was a great many persons there. I enjoyed myself very much till Sunday, I commenced taking a very bad cold (which was caused from getting so warm friday night in the court house, and then going out in the cool air. A very nice young man brought me to to the station yesterday. his name is Mr. Gobert. I met up with some of our Palmer kin folks while I was gone. they all claimed kin with me. I formed the acquaintance of a great many young persons. Mr. Parker has a splendid crop, has 200 acres in cotton, and 200 in corn.

There is to be a marriage in the neighborhood soon. Mr. Miller and Mrs. Emily Casin are to be married in the morning. We are all invited to dine with him tomorrow. Mr Miller had an idea of coming to see me awhile, but I did not entertain that idea so well.

I have had several opportunities of marrying this year, but I have not accepted of any proposal yet. I don't want people think I am too choice. I dont think I am flattering myself, when I say I have a good many admirers.

Mr. Lawson has a very full school now, Nannie got a prize last term for good

spelling. Annie will soon be grown in size, she grows so fast.

This is a very rainy day, we have had such a long dry spell I think we will have a plenty of rain now. We received those presents you sent us. I assure you they were valued highly. the piece of gold you sent me will be kept sacred by your dear sister. I will have a pin put to it as soon as I can. Sallie is very proud of her little dress. Pa broke open your letter and read it while I was gone and somehow or other he did not see the one you wrote Sallie, and after he had written to you he found Sallie's letter, and read it to her, Ma said she had never seen anyone so much over come with joy. Sallie asked Ma if she was large enough for you to write her a letter. Said she wished she could write, and tell you she loved you, she came in here a few moments ago, and told me to tell she had not forgotten you, said she wanted to see you so bad. Beulah grows very fast. she is a pretty child. My dear darling sister write to me as often as you can, for you are constantly in my mind, O could I embrace you in my arms and look upon your dear face again, I would be perfectly happy, but I must close.

May the blessings of heaven, ever rest upon you my dear sister and permit us to meet again. Remember my love to William . I do hope you & Wm. will have better health. I will write to you again as soon as I have any thing worth writing for I know you are always glad to hear from us. I still hope to see you soon.

#26
Spring Creek, Texas
September 3rd 1867

My Dearest Sister,

Since I wrote to you last I have witnessed a serious time in my little family. When I wrote to Pa last William was quite sick, and he grew worse very fast until I had to send for a doctor, he came and pronounced him in a dangerous condition. Said he had a severe attack of billious fever and congestion of the bowels. he is slowly improving but is in a criticle condition yet I never saw any one reduced so fast before from sickness. My health is bad it is all I can do to be up enough to attend to William. Texas is certainly the sickliest place in the world. There is not a family but what most of them are all sick. You know nothing about sickness there those old red hills in Georgia is the best place I ever saw. people can make a living there and have good health too, and live much better than any one here. Most things are of cheaper there than here. generally speaking. People here say they dont know how the people in the old states live, the fall rains have set in here now. there will soon be enough of mud & water here. Well Sis I will acknowlege I was a little surprised when I recieved your letter stating to me that, Harris Fisher one of our old playmates had taken such a fancy to you as to you marying him you are your best judge. Harris so far as I know is as worthy of you as any one, As to his deformity that would have nothing to do with your future happiness provided he would live upright treat you kindly and make a kind husband, that is where happiness consits in a married life it is not beauty nor riches that constitute the happiness we see here, Well Sis if you take a notion to get married just if you please wait until I get there. and be a witness to the cerimony.

If nothing hapens to us I hope we will be back there by the same time we left last year. I dont think this portion of the world agrees with me. Oh what a happy meeting it will be to me to meet you all again and get where I can feel

well one more day. but I will close lest I weary you. Write to me often
for I am always glad to get a letter from you. William joins me in love to
you & all the family. may heaven bless you my Darling Sister, your ever
affectionat Sister.

— Martha B.

— folks are sick yet.

Bay Spring, Ga. Sept. 22, 1867.

My Dearest Sister,

I will endeavor this lovely Sabbath morning to respond to your very kind and affectionate letters dated 25th Aug. and 3rd of Sept. which I received a few days ago. Indeed your long silence had caused me much uneasiness. Oh! my darling sister how it grieves me to hear of your suffering so much, from the hand of affliction. Oh! if I could only bear your affliction I would do it cheerfully. My prayer ascends to heaven daily for the preservation of your life. O will the Lord hear, and answer prayer!

My health is very good now. I have not had a spell of fever this year. I hope I am thankful to my maker for his many manifestations of goodness to us. There has been a great deal of sickness this year in Sandersville and other parts of this country I hear of a great deal of sickness and have heard of several deaths. The old lady Hodges died very suddenly a few weeks ago.

There is no preaching anywhere about here today. I attended the meetings at the Ohooppie church last Saturday and Sunday, and did not get home till monday evening late. Jennie Flucker stayed with me all last week. She is the same old Jennie yet. O if I could only see you this morning I could tell you of a great many things that would be too tedious to write. God grant that we may be permitted to meet again in this life, but life is so uncertain and death is sure, then my dear sister let us be prepared for that solumn hour which awaits us all. My ~~fixed~~ purpose is live a christian life, it has always been my wish to live as I would wish to die. O my dear sister if it should be our sad fate never to meet we may meet in a better and _____ world than this.

But I must close these sad thoughts less I weary you. I am very lonesome today, but expecting H M. to call on me this evening. I thank you for your good advice given to me in your last letter in refference to getting married. I hope you will be here to witness the ceremony, it is reported most every where I believe that I am to be married soon. but I dont think it will be as soon as some expect it.

But

O may the blessings of heaven rest upon you my darling sister and cause us to meet again. Excuse this short letter for I have nothing of interest to write. I will write again soon, Let us hear from you soon.

Farewell my dear sister.

Mary,

Bay Spring Ga. Oct 27th 1867

My Dearest Sister,

I have for some time been thinking I would receive a letter from you, but instead I have been disappointed, -thinking perhaps you would not be opposed to hearing from me, I seat my self this rainy Sabbath night, with pensiveness of feelings to write you. I hope, a long letter. I hope I will be able to interest you, but O how much more gratifying it would be to me if I could only see you tonight and converse with you. I often think of you. When I kneel in prayer, in secret, or around the family alter, you are remembered. Since I wrote to you last I have promised to marry Harris Fisher. I did not make any promises hastily. I know I have considered the matter well, for indeed it is a matter that requires consideration. I know Harris is not as fine looking as some young men, but good qualities goes farther with me than good looks. I do not know of a young man any where, that has as much to start with as Harris has. he is still merchandising. he went to New York some time ago, bought 7000 \$ dollars worth of goods, he and Bob Moye are merchandising together. Harris has a good disposition, good morals, and will, I think do everything in his power to make me happy.

Well my dear sister I must confess I was a little excited two weeks ago tonight when Harris asked Pa for me, it was right amusing and serious too.

My dear sister I expect to be married next thursday night week, the 7th of Nov. I do not expect to have but about 15 or 20 persons present. Pa & Ma says they would like to give me a wedding, but their circumstances, nor the Times will not authorize it.

I went to Sandersville yesterday trading, I bought me two dresses one plain white swiss, and a ———. Jennie Fluker & Miss Sallie Boyd are to be my waiters, and Gus Tarbutton & Bob Moye are the gentleman.

Oh! my dear sister how I wish you could be here then, to witness the occasion, but alas! not so, I hope though we will be permitted to enjoy many pleasant hours together yet,

Wink Robison is to be married next tuesday night to a young lady in Wilkinson, William Robison also will be married about that time to Miss Savannah Stillwell.

Mat Harrison (poor girl), I suppose is to be married soon to Enoch Moody, Old Dan Moody's son. Mat I don't think will better herself much. Well Mr. Harrison has got back. I understand he is satisfied with Texas. Lizzie Calhoun spent two or three days with me a few weeks ago. She spoke of you often said she often thought of our school days. She is now very sick. Nannie has been very sick, but she is improving now, She was very sick for several days, Pa rather considered her in a critical condition for some time but with attention and perserverence, Pa broke the fever on her and she is now improving.

There is a great deal of sickness now in Sandersville. I guess we will have cold weather when it fairs off it has been raining all day nearly, and is raining now.

O how lonely I am now. I am seated here in my room by my table writing to you. All the rest of the family have retired, and are now enjoying a quiet repose. Tonight while I am writing to you, I wonder where you are, and if you are well. I of imagine I can see you.

How is Sue and her children? When you see her again, tell her I often think of her. She hasn't answered my last letter yet. Well I have been very busy for some time preparing to get married. Jennie Fluker helped me to sew last week. I dont expect to be as well prepared as I would like to be. Harris sent to Savannah last week for furniture for his house. I suppose he is fixing up considerably.

But I must close as it is getting so late. Write to me soon for I am so anxious to hear from you. O may heaven bless you my dear sister and cause us to meet again. Good Night. Your devoted sister. M.J. Palmer.

Bay Springs Ga Nov. 18th 1867

My Dearest Sister:

Through the tender mercy of a kind providence I am again permitted to write you, which I do with pleasure, -with joy, - bringing up in my mind many fond remembrances of the past; many interesting incidents that occurred in our early child-hood, when we were happy together; but Atlas! that time is gone forever. Oh! my darling sister how often I think of you, but Ah! we are separated now. Ah! bitter bitter was the fate that caused us to separate.

Since I last wrote to you my sister I have changed my name. I am no longer Miss Palmer. Last thursday night the 7th of Nov. Mr. H.M. Fisher and my-self were joined together in the holiest state of matrimony. My dear sister I think I have been fortunate in getting so kind a husband as I have, I know he is one of the kindest of husbands. My attendants were Jennie Fluker & Mr. Tarbutton, Miss Sallie Boyd & Bob Moye. I had a very nice supper in fact every thing looked nice.

On friday Mrs. Wray gave us an infare. I suppose there was about 25 or thirty persons at the infare. Saturday morning we came home to our little cottage near Bay Spring. We went up to Pa's yesterday evening and stayed all night. they all say they miss me so much at home. It caused me to feel sad to leave my dear Pa's house but I knew that could not be my house always. I have left father mother sisters & brothers for the sake of one I love, one that is willing to share my fate.

Oh! may we live to comfort and console each other in all of our troubles, live to cultivate and cherish the warmest affection that exists.

I wish you could be here to see whether I am a good house keeper or not, Old Aunt Mary Brinson cooks for me. how glad I would be if you were here with me.

Harris is over at the store most all the time attending to his business. I don't want him to neglect his business just because I am here.

Ma has her hands full now having to cook and do all of her work, Annie gone to school, and Nannie is sick again. Ma said she (Nannie) was very sick yesterday, but was some better this morning.

Oh! how I sympathize with Sue in losing her dear little children and husband. how lonely, desolate and distressed must be her feelings. Indeed it is almost more than she can bear I guess.

Harris is very busy now in the store, he is doing good business. Tadi is good. He says he will certainly write to you before many days. We often speak of you and wish you were here with us. Oh! may a kind providence smile and cause us to meet again. I hope you are well. I do hope your health will be fully restored again soon. My health is good.

I must close as I have nothing more of interest to write. Remember my love to Wm. & Sue.

Write to me my dear sister as soon as you can for I am so anxious to hear from you. O may heaven bless you my dear sister.

Your own dear sister, Mary

Falkner, Miss. 4/7/97

Mrs. M. V. Barksdale
"Jennieville", Ga

Dear Niece-

Yours of the 30th March was handed me through my friend W.H. Smith of Ripley yesterday. I was glad indeed to hear from you. The last letter i rec^d from you was when in line of battle, on Saturday's ——— conflict Chickamauga - I am glad to hear from you - Hope your patriotic husband passed through the fiery ordeal - came out of the conflict unscathed - Those were "troubulous times" -

The whirlwind and the STORM have passed over me - yet in His providence I am still healthful, stout for a man of my age, -70 last November.

I have frequently thought of you and of your sister - of your father and wondered if you, any of you were living - I suppose your father is dead - dont know your step mother living? - is Mary Jane? - if so where at -

My father died in Drew County, Arkansas, 25 Dec. 1858 - I think he willed you and your sister, all his negroes. Had no money heard of - no land - some people in Ark - claimed kindred to him - took possession of the negroes - wrongfully - and held them till the commencement of the war - so you see their work did none of his kindred any good -

I trust you will write soon - Remember me kindly to your husband, if living. My best wishes .

D.R. Childers

My wife in poor health has been afflicted for years.

1/27/98 -
Falkner, Miss-

Mrs. M. V. Barksdale-
Tennille, Ga

Dear Niece-

I have been looking for sometime for a letter from you but have not had the pleasure of hearing from you in months-

I trust this will soon reach you. find you and your family well - doing well - also, your aged father, if living. Well- though in the twilight of life-may a sense and appreciation of that "Goodness and mercy which has followed him all the days of his life" comfort and console him - enjoy "that peace which the world can neither give, nor take away"-

I remember, gratefully his many kindnesses to me in my early, wayward boyhood, the friendly, good advice he gave, which caused me in after years to refrain from wicked company-

I much regret that circumstances beyond my control, the ruined condition of my wife's health, made it impossible for me to see you, your husband, your father and other relatives in Georgia- last fall- I did desire indeed to go and see once more the land of my nativity-to see cherished friends.

We are having a quiet time now in Miss- The people getting "used to doing without money"- The low prices paid for cotton-for all farm products, makes money scarce in this country.

We have the Mormons. (6 of them- among us. preaching as they say "the Everlasting Gospel,-that such an imposition-such an absurdity as Joe Smiths Vagaries: could be believed by intelligent, christian men amazes, astonishes me - I would prefer Mahomot - with his Koran- etc. Well such things in His providence, must come- will come to try the faith of the true Believer - I am glad in having the opportunity to hear another and different Gospel - preached by Methodist- Presbyterians & Baptists -

We had a pleasant guest Christmas, my grand children - 9 in number came to see us- many pleasant and fond relations came up in my mind - Was thankful to

Good Lord for His many Mercies - for His protecting care- for blessing me in my old age with health and comfort- How thankful should I be!!

My wife health not improved. She joins me in wishing you , your family and all the relatives Good Health-with all other blessings. Present me kindly to your father - Hope to hear from him soon.

Truly,

D.R. Childers

#34
Falkner, Miss.
May 24/98

Mrs. M. V. Barksdale
Tennille, Ga

Dear Niece-

Yours dated some months ago was rec^d thankfully and read with interest and pleasure-I feel much gratified in receiving your portrait- am glad to see that you have nice, promising pretty children,--Bessie, and the other young lady with your sons are good looking--healthful young people. Your likeness is not as I expected it to be-thought you favored your mother- not so, your favor Brother John, who died in the army in 1862 or 63 - I felt sadly distressed at looking at these phtographs-which recalled the memory of departed relatives long since departed-whose memory I fondly cherish-

I am lost in wonder and amazement, that God, in his mercy and providence has so long spared my life-has certainly taken special care of me, in peace and in war-has blessed me in my old age with peace and health,-has blessed me with peace-"My Peace" which the world can neither give nor take away.

I take the Atlanta Constitution, from which I learn that thousands of soldiers are, has recently been gathered the army-soldiers ready to die if necessary, in defense of our common country-to punish the weakness - the treachery of the Spaniards in blowing up the Maine - to punish them for the cruelty-oppression, and stravation they have inflicted upon the cubans-

Sad, sad indeed is this war- a calamity to our people- a war if prolonged will cost millions of dollers, and thousands of lives of the best men in America- the days of retribtion has come upon Spain-her 400 years of tyranny, of extortion, I hope will soon cease- that they will relinquish all her interest in the western hemisphere and Cuban independence established so Law in Order an principles, never to be shaken-she is emphatically, the "Gem" island of the sea-

I went to the army in 62 I think I know something of the hardship and privation incident to army life-

Georgia, I see, is filling up her quota of men for the army- Tell your brothers (sons) to keep out of the army if possible - It is not like going to a "pic-nic"-

I would be pleased to hear from your father-to receive another letter from him- to know how he stands his age-hope he is well- May God, in his Goodness, and His Mercy comfort and console him now in the mellow twilight of life- May his 83 years of age caress him lightly.

I am anxious to hear War news,-no telling what a few more days may develop- both on the land and on the sea - at Havana, or _____ the crisis has come or will come. Soon - Would not it be a calamity for the Spanish to bombard New York Chicago or Washington? War is a terrible ____ Hope our army both Land and Naval forces will be at the right places at the time, equal to any emergency I know their valor, tried out 100 battlefields will not fail.

Have you any sons in the army?

I am pleased to see that you have rains plentifully, in Georgia- that crop prospects- wheat oats(& c) are promising.

Should the war be prolonged, we shall need bread, meat- &c - raised at home- Would do well to quit cotton, which probably will sell very low next season.

I am not certain but I think I saw your husband many years ago- Was he, or rather is he a brother of Miss Drucilla Barksdale formerly of Abbeville, S Ca.

Like many of the soldiers I reckon he is not willing to fight his battle over again-

I do hope that I shall have the pleasure of attending the Re-Union to come off at Atlanta, in July-It would awaken many sad, pleasing, mournful recollections of the past-the memory of the thousands ~~that~~ died for principles in and around Atlanta-in Virginia-all over the South-~~Ma~~ they come up in the first Resurrection to life and immortality!!

Would be glad to hear from-to receive a letter from your daughters- from your sons-to whom present me kindly- Remember me kindly to you father- to your husband-Hope he will write to me- I sympathize with him in what he suffered at Fort Wagner-Sullivan's Island - during the war.

I would like to hear from your sister Mary's children.

I am at home on my little farm - Working some little - land rented out! Had
plentiful rain recently-

My health good-My wife not improving-

We have 9 grandchildren- 3 - of them boys- The oldest girl "Amanda"
in memory of your mother.

Best wishes &C

D.R. Childers

Big Snow

Falkner, Miss-
Jan 29th/99
30

#35

Mrs. M. V. Barksdale-
Tennille, Geo

Dear Niece-

Your very kind letter, of the 23rd inst. was rec^d yesterday- and was read with much pleasure and interest.

I was glad, indeed to hear from you-from your family-especially glad to hear from your honored father-Glad to hear that he continues in his age to enjoy reasonably good health-certainly his mental faculties so well.

May the Good Lord, in His Great Mercy grant and continue to him "His comfort and commissions of his Holy Spirit" to gladden his heart while lingering in the twilight of life- in nearing the city-the home prepared for those that keep- (Kept) His commandments- May the hands of age bear lightly on him!!-

You asked if "in 50 or 51, I did not visit your fathers family- said your father then living in Coweta County, - He lived near Corinth, in Heard County- I have remembered you-your sister Mary and the family-remembered the care which your pa watched you and your little sister Mary- then small Girls- I hoped, Believed, that when death had deprived you of the love and training of your natural mother, my sister) - Your stepmother, with your father's aid and council would raise you up to womanhood and teach you to walk in His fear-that your days may be long on earth-What changes in my life have taken place since I saw you-your sister, Mary-your "pa" and the family!! - I have been in War in battle- in danger by land and by water- Amid them all that kind, favoring Providence has sheltered and covered my head from the storm- and now in my old age. blessing me with health-with that "Grace. which he alone can give"-with the Peace that the world can not give= Be thankful my soul!!

My wife has Rheumatism, neuralgia - and other diseases. Health not improving- We celebrated the 45th year of our marriage the 12th January last,

I have but one child, my daughter Martha, now living- We have 10 grandchildren living-They are promising children-the oldest is 21 years old-the next 19-down to 1

year- I accept is as a favor at 72 years of age- I should be permitted to see my posterity. They have my prayers for future usefulness.

Hardtimes here-no money-How I wish I could have been at Atlanta at the great reunion - at the Peace Jubilee to hear the Patriotic sentiments attended both by southern and northern man. Present me kindly to all the family. Remember me kindly to your husband - your children &c. Will write your pa soon.

My wife joins me in love to you - to all.

3/14 -15
Falkner, Miss
Tappan County

Mrs. Martha V. Barksdale
Occonee, Ga

Dear Niece-

Your letter of the 9th January last was rec^d in due time - I thank you much for the kind sentiments you - They recall many incidents of my early boyhood-particular Elbert County- Ga.-when it was my pleasure-my joy to visit my ^{only} sister-your mother- and receive my instructions in morals-in religion- from your honored father-Those days are gone, the memory of which will go with me to my grave--what changes have taken place!! all my people dead-gone and I left alone of the 5 boys and 1 girl (your mother)-The Good Lord in his mercy has seen fit to spare me till I am nearly 77 years old-has shielded and protected me in battle on the land-in time of pestilence-How Thankful should I be.

I would have written to you long ago-but I had a very long serious attack of "Lagrippe: and G^a Pleurisy from which I came very nearly dying. Im not yet well - but regaining my strength slowly.

My wifes health not improving-. She has Catarrh--Rheumatism- Erceypelas &c-We have tried the treatment of nearly all the doctors in this Co-in New York, Baltimore, and Atlanta-, No Good,- The loss of "Seeing" is indeed a calamity to her. She has been sorely afflicted for many years- walks, but difficult.

I am pleased to hear that your father is still living--What pleasure it would afford me to see him-to talk with him as I did (57) years ago- I shall cherish his memory- My prayer is that the hand of affimity many not press him that he may long linger in the twilight of a well spent life-that has long days-May he be blest-that God will continue his blessings to him that he will eventually reach that happy place prepared for His People Where No Sorrows-No Clouds arise But all is One Eternal Day of Joy- of _____ of Peace- Where the weary rest-eternally-

In looking at the pictures of your children, I am impressed with the _____

_____you should feel proud of them-Sally May- Blooming, intelligent. You

and your husband deserve credit for the care-for the way in whcih you have sought to bring them up - to honor and obey their parents-their reward is certain, sure. By their efforts the discharge of duty-They with God may - "can leave their footsteps on sands of time" = can cast bread on the waters to be gathered up in the days to come.

Good crops, last year in this Co. Corn plentiful-cheap 40 to 50¢ meat scare - and high = no hogs-mules from 75 to \$125, and \$150 - People in good shape for crops -

Rain-Rain!! nothing doin on our farms - Poor prospect for fruit - Snow-sleet killed every peach-apple &c.

We had the misfortune to lose the 16 month child of my granddaughter - (Amanda Moore) - recently-it was a bright-promising child-died of measles-hives &c - Poor Amanda-She is grieved -distressed each day at her loss- May the Lord comfort her in her trouble! My other grandchildren are well - living 1/2 mile distant

Sunday, 15th March I wrote you the first of the week intending to send to the office- Rain. High water prevented my going.

My thoughts are solem and sad. Remember the Sabbath day-Keep it holy- Observe my

This day of rest from toil-from all kinds of labor.

Hoped to go to church today. No preaching. We have all kinds- Methodists, Baptists, Campbellites and occasionlay Mormon preachers here-What strange beliefs people can have!! Mormons believe in praying for the dead - that remission of sins can come only through baptism by immersion.

No plowing done yet - Rain. People eating up all they have - We have a big confederate reunion in August - 10 miles distant from me - Hope for a grand time- Our president seems attached to the blackman.

Love to all - Write soon-

D. R. Childers

Sunday April 21st 1907
Falkner, Miss-

Mrs. Martha V. Barksdale
Savannah, Georgia-

Dear Niece,-

Yours of recent date was rec^d recently-and read with pleasure-indeed,
I was glad to hear from you-that you and the family were well-Hope you will
do well-

We have nothing of importance going on here except the "Farmers
Union" which seems to be spreading all over the south.-good thing for farmers. I reckon.
They under the managemnt of capitalist, are seeing a hard times- They are the
backbone of this government, in Peace and in war- My mind is sad in memory of
your father and mother whose kindness to me in the days of my early childhood and
even manhood I shall fondly cherish- many long weary years have passed since I
saw them- years of war, of strife and turmoil-of dangers, and hardships I endured
thru the mercy of Him, His protecting Providence on the Land and on the Seas- I am
permitted now in my 81st year ^{write} you which I do without "specks". Religion at a
low ebb - in this country - nearly nothing doing on farms- very little planted
too much rain-

I suppose you are satisfied in living in Savannah-the oldest city in GA
Historic Place - Patriotic People!!--

Sally May, your daughter) yet living in Washington County- Is your other
daughter living or is she dead?-

I am living with my widowed daughter Mrs. Martha C. Powell-whose husband
died about 2 years ago-She has 6 children; 4 of them grown girls-living on the
place-She is doing well-has a good home- good land. paid for-.

I am troubled much with my feet frost bitten in prison,corns on them from
marching- can scarcely walk- My grandson, Allan Powell, lives ciose to me-He is
a good man-doing well. I seldom leave home spend my time on the farm
in reading - Present me kindly to your husband, and to all the family - Would
be glad to hear from you - My love - Best wishes &c

D.R.Childers.

Pardon me for not writing sooner. Will do better next time.-No fruit in this county.

