

This is a letter from Paul A. Haralson to his wife in Social Circle Georgia.

Yancyville Decem 7th 1838

My Dear Leannah

I expect you will arrive Safely in Georgia on the day after tomorrow (if no accident has happened to you.) and that you may be apprised of the news of your own beloved home, and of the many Strange occurances which have happened since your departure. I have for the first time seated myself at the little Walnut table, before a good fire, at half past Six O'clock PM. With a View of having a good long Social talk With you, and in a plain Way of telling you the news.

You know, you often chide me with neglecting to tell you of what happens at the Village & in the neighbourhood, But I now promise, that as for as my memory Serves me, I will go through with all; In the first place, I may be permitted to Say that for the 3 or 4 first days after you left here, I was not much inclined to listen to the gossip of the neighbourhood, for I was more glooming and Melancholy and lonesome and uneasy than I have been "this many a long day" and until that "Spell" wears away. I was unable to fancy VanHook at Myself as Bachelors the one at the Head & the other at the foot of the table & myself dishing out Coffee in true old woman like Style, And Just about the time after reaction had taken place, and begin to think of the Coming Christmas and of my Dogs ___ news come to me from the Court House (for I was at home) that there was a Man & Woman at the Ct House Who wanted to be Married, & Vanhook would not let them have their license - I ___ ___ ___ awkward, Course looking man, Who came with a fine intelegant good looking Woman, to get Married. I thought there was Something wrong about the trip, and Soon concluded that She had Stolen & Ranaway with him, I gave them licence, & they ___ into Harvey's counting Room & were Married by Squire Harvey. With all the grace and Dignity of a Catholic Priest- The man told this tale that he had Started to Move to the West. & found the lady on the way, and She wanting Company and a Companion, they had made up the match on the road & had Concluded to be "twain in one flesh"- The next day however the Secret Came Out- It Happened that Mr Mullen your cloak maker Knew the Lady & Saw her on her way up at old John Johnston's to Whom the Lady told all the particulars,- the facts as I understand are these The Lady some 3 or 4 years ago came on from the north to teach School near B____, and being young & pretty & intelegant She Soon attracted the notice of an old Batchelor about 80 years old, named Buck Green Who was Very Rich. The old man proposed Marriage & told her that in the Course of time he could not live many days, & if She would marry him, & take care of him he would make a Marriage Contract & Secure to her his whole estate When he died. The Lady thinking it a good chance Soon to become a fine Rich Widow, Married him. Bur after the Marriage She found, that old Buck instead of Making over his property to her after his death, had made a Contract & give to his relations, leaving her pennyles- This so esasperated the poor Girl, that She Stole the _____, and came up here & Married him & they are now both off to Georgia or SomeWhere else.

In the next place, Some time lately (as the tale goes) and When I do not Know, It is Said that Squire John C. _____, Met with Miss Mary Hunby a Sister of Jack Hooper's Wife at the old Petty's,

He found her to be of good Size, Weighing about 175, of about 30 years of age ____ Sorrow Cannot long hold Sway over the heart and he offered to Share his heart and hand with her - She listened with downcast looks and K____blushed- But with an air of resignation and they are to be Married on Wednesday night next - There is great fixing at H____, old Aunt Petty Hooper is now Down Scouring up the Skillets & putting the Big pot in the little one - H____ Starts in the Morning Down to Halifax for the ____ With ____ G____ & Elijah Graves ____ as Masters of Ceremony.

_ Here ends the legends of Marriage tales and love S____, and if by the ____ Manner in Which I have related these things I have brought you to a Laugh, and revived your Spirits, I have effected my object On the day after you left here I hired Tho Harrelsons John to wait on Fanny & Make fires __ until Christmas at \$2.50, and ____ for __ have gotten along pretty well, Fanny threatens him Sometimes as yet there's no out-break, - You may remember that you left a Dozen Eggs in the Basket When you Started, and whether as a temptation or through negligence on the part of Fanny, you perhaps can tell. But so it happened that the Sight of those eggs and the approach of Christmas and the recollection of the last Kind presents of my good old Mother-in-Law (the old ____) had Such a beguiling effect upon my temperance feelings that on Thursday morning last the Big White Wash bowl was Scoured up, and I was honored with the presence of Hodnett, John Kerr ____ before Breakfast, and further this D____ Sayeth not.

On this Morning Alex Henderson, I H Graves & D Rainey took Breakfast with me, But not until we had each of us, mixed a Certain quantity of Fanny's Cream with a Due proportion of the old mash and taken it as Medicine the better to prepare our appetites for the boiled patr____ that Fanny had nicely Served up, and these are the end of my particular peculiarities. Since you left - I Say ____ end, for it needs must be So- as the last remembrance of my Dear old Mother in-law is gone . The Eggs are out, & Fanny complaining of the loss on her Cream.

John Graves & Julia Ann have Moved to the old Homestead, and commenced business of Tavern Keeping, and I occasionally go up and See them. I think Julia Ann looks as if She was at a loss, But John H. is a Chip of the old Block, and perfectly at Home. -I brought home my portrait. Since you left ____ VanHook has Hung it up in the Drawing Room over the fire place - Rainey Laughs at the idea of its being hung , and Says that he hopes that the original (of Which that is a likeness.) may never be Hung in like manner by the upper part. In reply, I remarked that his' hangs nearer the gallows than Mine. -

I have an abundance of word from Fanny to you. If I was limited to this Sheet of paper I could not put down the half. She is now sick that is, grunting and Complaining, & I have promised that on tomorrow I will get her a Box of pills ____

She gives us plenty of good Milk & Butter & promises that She will give a good account of the Butter when you return - She takes great pains with her cows, fowls & the Deer. - Billy Poteet has Kept his word this ____ and promises to Keep Cool. He fares well from Fannys Churn, Keeps me in wood, and in fact is very obliging.

I have been to See Cousin Sally Johnston, before I wrote for two reasons, first because I know that you regard her Very highly. and would wish to hear from her & family and Secondly, because I thought She would be glad to Send Some Word. & tell me Something to put in my Letter. But I find Cousin Sally, Without much to Say. She desires to be remembered to You & her friends

in Georgia, & this you Know takes a wide Scope, her family all well and she not much in the talking mood. She did not meet me with that good old fashion laugh, and how- do ye Do - that I am commonly to get from her. The truth is that She had Just got home from her fathers. He I expect found things out of fix. But she will be ____ upon you with a letter before long. You may rely on it. - She tells me that Mr. Bird had just Dined with her. On his way down Somewhere, toward Petersburg, travelling in a two Horse Barouch. Rather Suspicious that he after a wife. But he won't acknowledge anything -

She tells me that Mr Cartin is to be married tomorrow night to the Sick Miss Galloway Whom Dr. Roan has been Physicing for the last two years or more. I thinks its' likely, She will have a Doctor now that will ease her of all her pains. - Whilst I am writing, I hear more of the Harvey Wedding - Its Said that Polly ____ is over helping old Aunt Petty to put things to rights, & if all I hear, be true, they have a tough time of it. The House Maid Hannah was taken to her Bed (in the natural way) a Day or two ago, and there is no body left But old Billy Banks and Elijah's old Cate; & how long old Cate is to Stay depends upon Elijah's Whims.

There is one remakable incident Connected with this foray, that I must here Stop and tell you of- On yesterday Morning, Polly ____ Summoned her borders to Breakfast, about one hour before Day, (the time of night Most Gloomy in the whole History of Man, for I've always heard, that the darkest time of night was just before day). She found them all taking the comfort which that hour of _____ can only give, and perhaps dreaming of Some Sweet Girl with theirs hearts given up To Tenderness in the anticipation of the time when they are to be happy. But if otherwise when they are to be comforted - This Summons was a Summons must be obliged, Harvey's to be Married.- Hannah is on the Shelf, and old Cate is Slow, Billy Banks dont Know what to do. - So you See it was time for to be up & Doing, & accordingly Polly ____ Nancy was ____ as the fly Said when she lit on the Mustard ____ . Now this waking up to breakfast, before Day to fix for Harvey's wedding is gravely conjectured by Some to be the Harbonger & forerunner of Strange events & Shrewedly Suspected by the gossiping old women of the meighbourhood to be a Sigh of bad Luck

I tell this tale on the authority of Cousin Sally Johnston, and if in any of your letters to her, you Should think of it. do gies your opinion of the Matter - I have been to see Julia Ann before I wrote, and She Too has little and not Much To Say - She tells me that her aunt Polly has been Very Sick for the last few days with her old Dis_____ complaint. but is not on the Mend - The rest of the family well. She Says also your Aunt Nancy's Sam is Dead. And now if I am not Mistaken I think I have gotten through with This, my first ____ stle, excepting only one Solitary hunting S_____ of my own, in Which I baged 17 partridges, and dined with my friend Hodnett; I found My Cousin in a Much better humour Than formally, & I think, a little more in her Senses.

I cant tell Whether this letter is worth reading or not; for I am Sure that I do not Know what Sort of a letter would Suit you. If I Know the Humour you was in. I think I Could Suit you exactly., but _____ the bad Weather you have traveled through, and the Trouble you have Seen, & the Disappointment you have experienced in not finding Georgia the thing that it is Cracked up to be. had thrown a Gloom over your feelings, and caused you to Dream of Snakes, & the like - So I have written this letter to arrouse you up, and at least to Make you to think of old times, & the joys of " _____ ", and have _____ laugh. Even if I cannot hear ____ -.

Dont Distress yourself about Me, for the wayward course which it has been my Destiny, to travel,

has prepared one to stand my hand in whatsoever Situation I may be placed and Moreover If I should be an object of concern with you- Remember, that you have but one with you in Georgia, for I am Sure you Started with four Several halves of my own Dear self, and if four halves, Wont make me, complete then I must be more than an ordinary man. - I _____ no letter from you yet, I expected one from Salisbury - I expected one from Augusta & then one from Somewhere else, But alas its the same old Red Sulphur Spring tale, no better yet, I intend to wait a fortnight to See if the letters Come to me once & twice a week, as I was promised, and if they don't I Shall ____ off my Dogs & quit the Chase, for I am very _____ trouble any body with my letters until I am Sure. I am thought warthy to be written to, once in a while at least.

I wish I could See Mary Graves' Journal Copied off in a letter, and I am Sure that if She could ever See this Scratch of mine, that I would be gratified

Farewell

Paul A Haralson

on back of the last page it reads:

Ma sys remember her to you an say she is a poor

Letter from Leannah Graves Haralson, wife of Paul A. Haralson

This letter indicates that Leannah left Yanceyville, N.C. about Nov. 30, 1838 to stay with her parents in Ga. because of her bad health. Her husband Paul wrote a letter on Apr. 7, 1839 in which he assumed that she she would arrive in Ga. on Dec. 9, 1839. This suggests that it took her about 9 days to make the trip.

April 11th Social Circle 1839

Dearest husband

Knowing that you feel anxious to hear from me and our dear little ones, I write you _____ before I start home to inform _____ are all well and expect to leave Georgia _____ the 22nd;next monday week. Sister Nancy's funeral will be preached on sunday the 14th. I should be ready myself to start the next-day; but cousin Martha will not be ready before the 22nd of this month. She will take with her three children. Pa says he dont expect any body will take us in to stay all night - we will have so many children allong; when I call to mind that it has been four months and twelve days since I left you, my dear husband, I feel that I have not manifested that love for you that I ought. I have stayed away from you longer than I ever intend to do again; as long as I live, nothing but my feeble health ever would have induced me to have remained here as long as I have. I think myself gaining in strength and flesh, though little of either; enough however for encouragement. I have gained two pounds and a half in two weeks, you may tell Dr. Rone - though ___ cant think that I look any better then I did when I left home. Give my love to cousin John Kerr Graves. If he will come to Georgia I will ensure him a Wife. I thought that I would write to aunt Yancey and aunt Polly, but for the life of me I cannot conjure up any thing that is worth writing; I doubt not my beloved aunts in Caswell would rather see my person than my letters, I hope they will soon have that pleasure it will indeed be a day of pleasure and rejoycing with _____ Caswell county and meet my husband _____. Give my love to aunt Delila and cousin Sally Johnston, Dr Roan's family & cousin John Kerr _____ to brother John and Wife. My hand cramps me so that I must quit.

Your ever affectionate
Leannah

Dear parents

As this is the last time I expect to write to you from Walton County I begged space in mothers letter to write a few lines to you. There is no news at all that would interest you. Mother has been to Covington, it is not much larger than Yanceyville and it seems to me like it was in a little hole. It is not half as pretty as _____. It is pouring down rain in torments as brother says. Grandpa has plented corn he calculates on making a thousand barrels. There was an examination in the circle last fryday _____. Tuesday evening mother took a ride on

Letter from Leannah Graves Haralson to husband Paul A. Haralson.

Note: I think Camillus is their son. At the end Leannah mentions their baby probably Leannah Jane.

Social Circle Sept 14th, 1842

My Dear Husband

Yours of the 27th of Augt came to hand last Friday, I should have answered it immediately, but, the Association commenced the next at which tome you know I could not write, it lasted for four days, The preachers from a distance were very common, brother Wilks and Hendrick The only good Ministers, several were expected but failed to come owing to sickness in their families it is very sickly in some places though not very fatal, chills and feavers prevail on the river and almost every whare, that I hear from, owing I expect to the heavy rains and almost constant wet weather that has been this summer, the weather was fine for the association, it commenced raining night before last and and stil continues, brother Wilks was sent for monday morning to preach the funeral of that good and Godly man Dr Rince of Monroe, he died Sunday evening about eight, his death is lamented by every one who knew him his disease was the Cholerimorbose, he was ready and expected to start to the north in a day or two his wife and children were going with him,

Cousin John W has moved from Longwood to Mount pleasant, he is suffering very much from his legs they are worse then they ever have been he cant lie down has to recline for he cant sit up, I should not be surprised to hear of his death at any time His legs look as though they would mortify. Mr Park and wife started to the north Saturday Mr Write the rail road man has been to the North and got him a wife and brought her to Mount pleasant I had the pleasure of seeing her last sunday. Camilus walked from Covington to Longwood with John Hinton Graves last Wednesday evening after supper, next day Hinton came home with him, Thomas came home but, he did not walk he was not so anxious to see his mama as my boy was there was no school from Wensday until Tuesday the teachers all attended a camp meeting Monday evening Camillus returned I wanted him to stay until next day but, he was so anxious to go that I sent him, Tom, was joking of him about Judge Longstreets he was examing the class and Camillus answered the question wrong that was put to him the Judge never noticed it went on and asked another question to the next in the class and he observed to him that the question before that, was answered wrong the Judge said that he never noticed it that Haralson always answered his questions right, Anna came down from Monroe last Friday and returned last Tuesday sge was anxious to get back I expect she is learning very well from what I can learn and see she has has wrote home once on business her composition is very good indeed for a little girl but her spelling is very bad she

inherits that from me. Brother Henry's little Ella has been quite sick with chills and fevers she is mending, Affisa's two youngest children are sick with chills and fevers not dangerous, that I believe is all the sickness in our family. Anna is very well and looks as well as I ever saw her. I am truly glad to hear that Aunt Polly is better I don't know whether my health is much better or not but I know that I am gaining a little strength more than I have had for years. Pa wants you to write in your next letter something about ????? his house, and he wants to hear from John also. Give my love to cousin Sally Johnston I blush to call her name but-dont say a word, remember me affectionately to Mr and Mrs Hodnett also to uncle Johny Guinn and wife do???? me a good chance of ??? tobacco remember me to all of my friends my dear husband I wish that I was with you or could be with you at some of your good meetings religion seems to be very cold here if I live I shall write next week Our baby sends her love to her dear father Come as soon as you can Your Leannah

Letter written by Paul A. Haralson to wife Leannah Graves Haralson.

Yanceyville 28th Oct 1842

My Dear Leannah,

I rc'd your letter from Wilson Hills. Since which time I have heard nothing of you - I however hope all is right else you would written. It is true I have Suffered a good deal of anxiety of mind , from Several Causes. I feared for your health, I was uneasy about the _____ but they would not work well, & I had some misgivings about Fanny; but as I have not heard any thing I have flattered myself that you are Safely arrived and Welcomed at the House of _____ of Fathers and Mothers- The Day you left, I Commenced moving, & I have gotten Safely home, I believe with all my things. My Situation is unpleasant in my lonesome condition "as could be expected". I have not yet effected the Sale of my lot & I fear it will be with difficulty that I can do So: I cant get more than 500.\$ offered for it. I cant Sell any thing. The times are getting more gloomy every day, & I dont Know what is to be the result - My own Debts I am Striving to pay & all Shall be Settled in a week or two. & I Shall leave the rest to time - On this _____ week (Friday) Preaching commenced in the Baptist Church & has been continued until yesterday. Dr. Roan & John Kerr Jr have both made a Profesion of Religion. _____ have had a glorious time .
Everybody is

-Yanceyville the Devil's Den- The Hot bed of Vice - & the very _____ of Sin, has been Visited by the Holy Spirit of God - It has not been a noisy excitement. But it has been a Serious Solemn - a Silent, an awful & a godly time. Never, since I saw that great Golden letter G Suspended in Masonic Lodge in Danville, have I had Such feelings as I have had for the last week. Oh Leannah we have lives at too great a Distance from God. He sent a Judgement in the death of our Child- and he has again warned us in the Death of old John Kerr Whom he has Sent here here to be burried amongst us _____- The Silent Grave of that Godly Man, Made the pealing Thunder of truth Sound in the Soul of every body here for the last week.- It told them that they are Sowing to the flesh, not only for time, but for Eternity. That they were tamplng on the _____ of the Everlasting Covenant. That they were grieving the Spirit of Grace, Dishonoring God & making religion bleed at every pore. Perhaps it is best for you to have been Where you were - But I thought of you, & I thought of my Children those pledges of love which God has given to us. And I prayed that God Would help me to hope that When they come to die, they would not lay down in Hell forever & ever - You Know, Leannah, that I love my children - My first-born is near & Dear to my heart - but she is thoughtless, gay, & worldly Minded. She is old enough to Know that She has to die. That She has a Father that is better to her, than I can be, and that there is a Mediator Who (if She Will go to him) Can reconcile that Father to her.- May I ask you, for me, to go to her in the fulness of a Mothers love, and talk to her _____

_____ that my God will have Mercy on my child - I do not like too much noise & excitement. I believe that it is fearful & Dangerous - & I am the more convinced of it from What I have Seen & felt for the last few days- I believe that God is a God of order of peace & of love - Caution her on this Subject for me. Point her to Dr. Roan & to John Kerr, Who remembers the

Kindness, the blessings & the goodness of God toward them every Moment of their lives, & Who were not ashamed to thank him for them- Who remembered theis Heavenly Father's dying love, & Who like affectionate children, were not ashamed to humble themselves before him, & to ask his forgiveness & Who would never Satisfied until their Father did forgive them & own them as his Children- And Who, When their Father did forgive them, They felt thankful, & loving and happy without making too much fuss about it on renering themselves ridiculous, as is Too often the case- Dignity, Self respect & respect for for the Christian religion forbids that hter Should be Too much parade, & Shouting on occasions of This Kind - Tho W Graves Daughter of a young man named Hensley (Who married Polly Park's daughter) were baptised on Sunday. Melissa Graves, Hannah Graves & Rebecca Graves were were baptised on Wednesday- Several others are expected to be baptised next Meeting, amongst them John Kerr (& Some think Dr. Roan). I cant tell you what Dr. Roan will do, Some think he will join the Presbyterian but I dont think he will join any Church until his wife makes a _____ - We have got a new School Mistres. Miss Woolworth from the north & a small School. - I Sent Mary Anns chest of drawr to Sally Johnston & told her to Send it to Georgia the first Chance - also Julia Ann's Saddle. I have lost Tho D Johnston's note. There was about \$300. Due on it & I cant find it; If you Know Where it is I want you to Write to me & tell me. Johnston ___ with what he has paid me Will pay it off perhaps a _____ more & I cant Settle until I get it -

I am Very unhappy here as to my _____ & if you can _____ do so by a letter as Soon as you get the _____. If you write any thing that you dont want any body to See put it on a Seperate piece of paper & enclose it as any body will want to See your letter - perhaps you had better not write as I may never get it - - It unecessary My Dear to Say that I love - you Know that. I in my present condition that Cord of affection is Strengthened Stronger & Stronger & Stronger

Farewell Paul A Haralson

Letter from Paul A. Haralson to his wife Leannah

Yanceyville, N.C.
December 26, 1842

Mrs. Leannah H. Haralson,
Social Circle, Walton Co. Ga.

My dearest Leannah:

I wrote you last week and intended to have written you before this, but I thought I would wait until I could see how things stood here and ascertain if possible whether it would be in my power to leave here in a short time. And if I could not leave, to see if I could get into any business. I think I told you of my interview with old James Mebane of his threat to sue me. In fact he had taken out the suit but he stopped it after he learned that I did not intend to leave.

Since I wrote you last, I have paid off every debt that I owe (of my own debts) except one for Tho D. Johnston for \$52.00 which was for? While I was gone to Missouri, and that I intend to pay off in a few days. But being bonded as security for John H. graves guardianship, I cannot leave until that is settled, for if I do, Mebane will sue me forthwith for the whole amount and ruin me forever, and moreover if I were now to leave, old man Mebane would say, (as he has already said), that I ran away, which charge shall never be thrown up to my children when I am dead and gone.

I had all along intended to have aided and assisted your father in his misfortune, and if I could now go to him I would still do it, but your brother John has put it out of my power. I don't say this unkindly and reproachfully, no my dear, I do not, but I say it in sorrow and in pain.

This is a transcript of a letter to Paul A. Haralson from his brother Wm. H. Haralson. On the address side of the letter someone has written the date 1843 in pencil. The letter was addressed to Major Paul A. Haralson in Social Circle Georgia. It was post-marked in Brownsville, Tn. The top fold of the letter is missing so about a third of the contents are lost.

Tommy Booker 2/12/92

* * *

... you under different feelings from what I have ever done before. Communicating to you and your family the Sad intelligence of our Fathers Misfortune which will carry him to his Grave ere long - It is the opinion of his Physicians, (and I have no doubt that it is so) that he cannot Survive the accident which has befallen him very long - but appears to be the better of it Sometimes - He went out to feed the Hogs as usual for him to do - he Stopped where the Negroes were Cutting down a Tree to make Some Boards and got off his Horse & threw the Bridle over his Arm Standing near the Tree - the Negro Man told him to go little further off as his Nag Might Scare. He did So. Soon the Tree Commenced Cracking, and the Horse began to run backwards with him. His arm became entangled in the Bridle, and his Horse dragged him for Some distance which jerked his arm from the Socket of the Shoulder Blade, drawing it above his head - Causing the Nub of the arm to fall below with Such power as to Cause an eruption of Some Blood vessels under the arm - which bled profusely through his System diffuseing itself through his Side, Back and Breast - and setting in the Flesh Turning it perfectly Black and Causing great pain - Medical aid was soon procured, and his Shoulder replaced but Not without

..... Supporting life in his distressed Situation, Nor did My Wife lay down one fourth of her Time from waiting on our Mother who was Confined to her Bed at the time of the accident of our Father - and who lay in Bed and was compelled to witness Such a Horrid Scene in her Situation. You May imagine perhaps her feelings in Some degree, but for few to picture them out, it is a matter of imposebility. Seeing her Bosom Companion Suffering as it were More than Death- and every Breath Calling upon god to have Mercy on him, and Mitigate his pains, and Sufferings here on Earth. But thanks be to God they are both Some better at this time. My Mother Can Sit up and attend Some little to her domestic Concerns, but far from recovering from her disease and distress. Her Lungs are much effected & causes her to Keep her Bed near half her time - our Father can Sit up a few minutes at a time, but, little will yet Cause his exit from the life. We have to handle him like a child, and are compelled to Nurse him as Such - The Blood which diffused itself through his System, has formed itself in Sacks, which ___ have opened, and let out a large quantity of it. This gives some relief, but weakens him very Much. We Keep him Stimulated for the purpose of Supporting S_____ animation (?) to Create an appetite So as to

.....Her feelings are much affected, and it appears to me if he can recover that it is one Case in Ten Thousand - but yet there is Hope as long as there is life. So we will build upon what we have if god

will help us & Save him if possible. My wife (from fatigue) is Nearly ____ down She has to wait on them with Myself, and attend to the domestic Concerns of the whole House. Her Situation is a delicate one & has been for Some time past - but I hope that She will be able to Weather it out. Our little Son is in good Health Can run about and talk to us, and amuses his Grand Parents very much with Antic (?) Notions. Little Susan Still is an affectionate Child, learns fast, is in good Health - all the rest are in good Health. Say to Sister Leanah that it is the Prayer of Her Mother in Law & Father in Law that God would Spare them to meet her on this earth - But I fear that She never will have their pleasure on earth. Yet there is a promise of eternal life, and we have a Hope for a Meeting in Heaven where Suffering nor pain is not Known, but where pleasure Never dies. And I pray to God that this Hope may be Granted unto us. And I Say to you Be ye also Ready for we Know not When the Son of Man Cometh. The Family all Sends their love to Sister, yourself and Family, And may God Bless you all is the prayer of Your affectionate Brother.

Wm. H. Haralson

COPY OF LETTER FROM PAUL HARALSON TO HIS WIFE

Comment [COMMENT1]: This copy of letter from Paul Haralson to Leannah is made in the face of much labor. Due to bad condition of my eyes. But it seems justified by the content.

Yanceyville Feby 5th 1843

My Dear Leannah: I received your letter on yesterday - which was commenced more than a month ago, finished on the 19th. and postmarked on the 24th. I had been anxiously looking for it for weeks, and it came to me as a refreshing breeze in the burning heat of an oppressive Summer - I am truly glad that an arrangement has been made to relieve Col. Graves and if the children will carry out their promises & meet their engagements so as to give him no trouble, no person will rejoice in it more than I. - & here let me make one suggestion to you & that is, never let it be said that you were the 1st to comply with the contract.. Let us meet our engagements immediately, & if the others fail in theirs, let it be their falt and not ours. For I hold this contract to be the most sacred of all others. It is stronger than Law. It comes under the 5th Commandment which says. "Honor thy Father and thy Mother" _ I had, this day, rather see all the property you got. & all that I have, sold and sacrificed than for you to fail to pay your part of your fathers debts. But I know you need no advice from me on this subject.

I am gratified and entirely pleased with what you have done, & I could not refrain from weeping tears of thankfulness when I read in your letter that you never had any hard feelings and hard thoughts, but give up in all things & ws contented & satisfied with whatever was done.

I thank God that I have such a companion, and that my children has such a mother. I would not have had you to have said or done any thing to hurt the feelings of your good old Father and Mother in this business, for all the property they had. You being on the ground can see & know best what to do. - Do just as you please, and whatever you think is right, and you will please me; You know that I have full confidence in you & will be pleased and satisfied with whatever you do. - I don't remember that I ever have found fault with anything you have done.- & I think we have lived too long together, & loved each other too dearly, for me now to begin to find fault.

You wish to know something about the death of Caroline Mebane. She had her child (born dead), was very weak and feeble & about a week afterwards, died. It is thought that the child was dead several days before its birth. She was exercised a good deal on the subject of religion before her death, but I never have understood whether she made a profession. - I understand she died very easy and appeared to be satisfied.

Two weeks ago John Kerr, Wm. Vallentine Daphny & Capt. Graves were baptized in the pool at the silk factory. The pool has been fitted up as a baptistery & is now a most convenient and excellent place. - I worked on it several days with all the hands I could get & fixed it nicely. -

The night after Kerr was baptized he was called upon to pray in the Baptist Church & he arose at his seat and made one of the most eloquent & powerful exhortations that I ever heard or ever expect again to hear. - There was not a person, Black or White, old or young, but were in tears. & yet there ws a silent, solemn stillness as if it had been in the house of death. - He then kneeled down and

raising his hands up above his head he prayed. - Yes he prayed, - and prayed from the heart & in the fullness of the heart.

I have heard thousands of prayers, but I never heard such a one before. - It consumed nearly an hour and it did not seem to be more than 5 minutes. - Preacher James, who baptized him, was there, & preached, & he seemed almost beside himself. - He hardly knew how to behave. - Evelina is perfectly happy. - He has once since (at the prayer meeting) made a talk but I did not hear him. - It is thought that he will make a preacher. But I don't think he will, as he has peculiar notions on the subject of being called to the ministry.

Dr. Roan & wife joined the Presbyterians, & he made a public prayer at the last prayer meeting in the Baptist Church. - John Kerr often talks about Col. Graves & wishes he could see him. He likes your father & if the old man in his leisure moments would write to him it would be a great feast to his Soul. - James has taken charge of the church in place of old Brother Pleasant & preaches twice a month. It was too far for Pleasant to come & he gave it up. Speck is the Methodist preacher again. - He has been to see me several times & stayed all night with me. He is a fine fellow. Harding preaches in the Presbyterian Church every first Sunday.

Mrs. Virgil Rainey joined the Presbyterians last Sunday. Mr. Thos. Blackwell & his family left here yesterday for home. & he told me he would go on by Col. Graves'.

I tried to get him to take Julia Ann's saddle & Camillus' saddle. But he was too heavy loaded & he finally concluded not to go that way & did not take them. -

John K. & John A. Graves & sometimes Wm. P. comes up to see me & stays with me. - John K. and John A. are all the company I have.
933

Dr. Graves has moved out of town and gone to where Black Tom Slade used to live. Rented the place & I understand intend to farm, as he cannot get much practice. Dr. Joiner has moved up & is living in Dr. Graves' house, just at me. But I don't visit them much. Isaiah Rainey died on the 15th. of Jany of scarlett fever, Communicated to him by Dr. Pittard who bled him & in tying up the arm & stopping the blood it is thought got the matter in the blood. It is thought got the matter in the blood from his fingers. - Dr. Pittard had just before been the throat of a child with the scarlett fever. - Rainey's arm mortified before he died.

James L. Graves has sold his land to Tho. D. Johnston & has moved to town in Fergusons house. - Fanny has just told me that Caroline Mebane just before she died made a profession of religion & died very happy. -

You spoke in your letter of coming home. You cannot want to see me worse than I want to see you. - But I do hope you will remain satisfied where you are until I can come & I do not now know when that will be. I never want to see you here again as I am determined as soon as I can to get away forever.

When your brother G. W. comes in the Spring let John come with him, for I never will part

him from his family unless he wishes it. Tell him his family are all well & got his letter. - What is the matter with my children? They know that there is nothing in life (except their mother) that I love more dearly, & yet they never write to me. - Perhaps the time will come when they will have no Father & then they will feel differently from what they now feel, - I now make one request of my daughter & possibly it may be the last & dying request of her Father - Daughter, my Dear Daughter, take care of your little sisters; & train them up in a way that you will be proud of them when they are grown: Write as good a letter as you can write once every week, to some person; & learn them to do so too. - Read your Bible every day, & make that your rule & guide for your faith a & practice.

Treat your sisters kindly & affectionately, for your father's sake, & learn them to love you. & may God Almighty bless you and prosper you - & may all your good intentions be crowned with success.

I have but one son & its impossible for me to do any other way than to love him. He knows that. & he knows what I want him to do, & if he will not do it , it will be his fault and not mine. He can be a man, if he will, as he is decended (on both sides) from as good stock and as pure blood , as the Country can boast. It will be expected of him that he will be a man of distinction in society. & I pray God that he will never disappoint the expectations of his friends and acquaintances in this regard.-

I have bought me some clothing, a new coat, 3 shirts & pantaloons. Am living as economically as I can. Have Fanny & Harry with me. Put out to a Mr. Runnills.- Read my Bible, & live almost like a hermit, in Nick Felt old house (next to the Parsonage).

If you can be satisfied & write to me often - once a week at least -, your letters shall be answered- for be you be assured that no man in this world ever loved a wife more affectionately than

Paul A. Haralson.

The sheet of paper was folded in several ways, down to a size of about by inches, and sealed with red wax. No envelope of course. on the front was : Mrs. Leannah H. Haralson

Social Circle
Walton County
Georgia.

In place of our modern-type postage stamp, was written " 18 3/4".
There is a hand-stamped cancellation { Yanceyville N. C. Feb. 6}
(Postage stamps were not adopted until about 1847).

copied by TF Booker. April 1990

Letter from Leannah Graves Haralson to Paul A. Haralson

Social Circle March 10, 1843

My Dear Husband

I have been looking and looking for a letter from you so long and can't get one, that I have come to the conclusion that your enjoyments are so great, that _____ to share the thoughts _____ your afflicted wife. last night between nine and ten o'clock I commenced spitting blood it continued until near midnight consequently I feel sick and feeble this morning. but I want to write to my dear husband if I can hold out, and if I cannot daughter will finish my letter. the winter has been extremely cold and disagreeable here the Sun has not made its appearance here in one week to day. last Tuesday it snowed all day until three in the evening and then it hailed and sleeted. it rained hard all night last night. Camillus came from Covington this morning or rather waded home through the water with _____ and the carryall eleven miles he came it in less than two hours. he carried Tom over yesterday.

_____ brother Solomon had three negroes sold for debt the other day _____, the hands belonging to _____ Henry and Co, are getting on rappidly with the _____ and Henry will make five thousand dollars allowing one thousand for expenses. brother John has nearly finished _____ have finished _____ bad _____ er _____ does Miller's doctrine take in the old North State some men of the first standing in society. Mr. Wilkes says he will not dispute it for his right hand. I am well acquainted with a Miss Kellog who is in Monroe teaching _____; at the time she says that she _____ Mr Miller's family _____ know him yo be a gentleman of intilgence and good standing in society. he is also a baptist Minister, I don't know, how Miller can know that the world is to come to an end this year; whether it be so or not, it should prove a warning for christians to examine themselves and see if they are prepared to enter into the presence of a just God, and it should also be an awful warning to the sinner to think of going into the presance of a God without one ray of hope. I do believe that some event is to transpire this year, yes some great event, what, I cannot say. some of the greatest authers that have writen on the Bible, many years since, dictated that there would be a change on this Earth in eighteen forty three, John Westly says it _____ and a mighty change would take place _____ this world _____ the earth. parson _____ has quit his school in Macon and set down in his own house to teach six or seven little children and _____ with patience for the coming of the Great day. pa wants to know _____ to find out more than other people he does not believe in Millerism.

papa and mama are verry well. Julia _____ and family are well Louise is well her little Emma is recovering from _____ relations generally well. our children are in good health, Tilmon is better getting well. _____ Fanny has been sick _____ has a boy tell Fanny: remember her to my friends, the children send their love to you tell Fanny howday for me and children.

your devoted wife

Leannah Haralson

My Dear Husband

(the rest is not very readable)

This letter was written by Paul Anderson Haralson to his wife Leannah Herndon Haralson who lived in Walton County Georgia. Paul was Clerk of the Court in Yanceyville, N.C until 1841. Transcribed by Tommy Booker December, 1991.

* * *

Yanceyville March 5th 1843

My Dear Leannah : I received a letter a few days ago (Mail before last) from Mary Graves. and on This day week I received yours: for The last Several days I have been So unwell with a Cold and coughing that I could not write. and even now my cold is far from being well; being housed all day from The bad weather and feeling that I could not devote myself to a better purpose than endeavoring to contribute to your comfort and peace of mind. I have Seated Myself with a View of making this letter as interesting to you as I can. and in The first place I will State that on yesterday at 3 oclock, old Mrs Gunn (Wife of old uncle Hasting) was burried in the family burying ground near The house. She died the night previously having been declining, and been in bad health for the last Two or three years & finally on Friday night Last departed This life, with a Confident assurance, that beyond the grave, She would find a peace, joy, Comfort and rest, which is not to be found in this world. James Reid was at the Court House when She died, & went over yesterday and preached her funeral before her burial. There is nothing to me So touching, as the desolate & lonesome condition of a Man, produced by the death of a Kind and affectionate Wife Whom he has loved all his life as part of himself - Such is now, the Case of that good - But Very unhappy old Man whose Companion he is never more to See again in this world & who is only waiting the Will of God to be laid by the Side of his beloved one. - My neighbor S___on has gone to New York & we have Mrs Yancey much of her time in Yanceyville. I have never been to See them & unless Specially invited, never expect; There is much Visiting and intercourse with & between my neighbors & The M_____ and I hope that it may long continue & be blessed with many good results; John K Graves in Speaking of his Cousin S___son and Wife Seems to hope for a happy union and (from certain indications) a large family - Jerry Graves' family is pretty much as usual. Jerry sp_____ more than formally but I do not Know Wherefore. Elizabeth has bluffed Price, & in trying to Catch James Williamson, has Caught (it is said) Mr Lindsay the School Master, Who spends much of his time with the girls & at Jerry's - The Dr., finding that the Town would not in all Things be ruled by him, has left & gone to the Country To put that to rights. I am afraid the Dr. will be broke & that Shortly, & all his wife's property, Sold to pay his Debts, which circumstance in the opinion of the Dr. in regard to John H Graves & wife, was "harrid beyond discription".

Lea never was any account & Paxton has quit going to See Hannah, & unless Jerry has Some Sneaking notion about that School mistress (Miss Woolman) there is nothing else about the family worth relating. - Mrs Starke Gardner is at the point of Death with the influenza & Sore throat & has been Set up with every night for a week expecting to die. Your uncle Miles' family I hardly ever go to See; He himself became offended with GWG for having been Sued on the Methodist Church bond, got from Whitice -Your Aunt Delilah, You Know, will talk on bursts & She Very Seldom ever Says any flattering things of GWG or your father &

So I Stay away - Before your father divided his property, I got your letter giving me all the information on that Subject, & in great Confidence, I mentioned the circumstances to Abner Miles as a friend, & relation, never expecting him to mention it. But you can guess my Surprise on the next morning When I understood, that half the Town Knew of it. That Mrs Mebane had come to Town to enquire of Mrs Miles about it; That old James Mebane had Spoke of it publickly in Johnstons counting room, & Doubted very much if ever Col. Graves' Debts were paid, if that was the way they were to be paid. I afterwards learned that Abner Miles run to his wife with it directly from me, & She Sent for two of her neighbors that night, besides She gave a negro an old Jacket if he would go up that night & tell Mrs Mebane of it.

Since then I have never mentioned any thing which had been done in Georgia, & if I Stay here 5 years, I never will.- Your Aunt Delilah Sends for me Whenever a letter comes. But I always tell her your letters contain Secrets & the Secrets between Man & Wife are Sacred & cannot be told not even to her., who is a Very near relation - I Stay away from there - Dr. Yancey & Polly are Said to be engaged. But that is all I Know or Care about it.- Johnston expects to get in his fine house in about 4 or 5 weeks, all are well yet, _____ has built a fine addition to his house: Price is closing up his business _____ & is going to quit. - Dr. Roan had been very sick but is now about. Mrs Roan often talks of you & wishes to See you, Speaks of you as one of the best friends She ever had. - Sidney Yancey has a Daughter, about six weeks old, named Ann Elizabeth.

John M Hill died Some two or three weeks ago in Chatham. I never understood what his Sickness was- he had become a temperate Man & if he had lived would have done well, though I understand he had Spent his Estate before he dies - Frederick A Hill is drinking again, & I fear will throw himself away.

We had a Splendid Temperance illumination on the 22d _____ & many pretty Speeches - Hodnett Joined -

Old James Mebane has bought Tho Badgetts interest in the _____ Lands, for \$35- & I understand is going to Sue for them. He proposed to me the other day to buy them & I Said if I would pay whatever what he paid for them & then pay his Debt against Badgett that I might have the Lands - I expect that your Father are to See trouble about this business-, Gibson has left and gone to Danville, & P_____ lives in his house.- Lindsay has a fine School 42 Scholars; & Divides his time about equally between his School & Miss Elizabeth Graves.

John Kerr & family are all well & desire to be remembered to you. - One more word & I am done: I want you to make the children write a Composition once every week- Once every week,- yes- once every week- & make them do their best every time- remember that intelligence in this world has a greater influence than Wealth- Intelligence & learning will command respect when nothing else will- It is that which constitutes the armaments of the female Sex, & intertwines them most tenderly in the affections of man. - My Dear beloved Wife - you have nothing else to attend to, & Don't let this thing be neglected -

Teach my children; Time is money- Dont Let a day be unprofitably Spent; If you Love their Father, teach his children!. Parents too much, neglect their children, & trust too much to others to Teach them; They ought to watch them Themselves, & Keep them instructed more under their own eyes - Make Ann read Some good piece until She understands it, & then make her Shut the book, & write it off as well as She can recollect it, from her memory twice or thrice every week- Kiss my children for me and Think of him who loves you as dearly as life itself.

Farewell
Paul A Haralson

* * *

This is a transcript of a letter from Herndon Haralson in Brownsville, Tennessee to his son Paul A. Haralson in Yanceyville, N.C. At that time Herndon and his wife were living with their son William Henry Haralson.

Transcribed October 26, 2001 from original letter by Tommy Booker. All rights reserved.

* * *

Brownsville April 15th 1843

My Dear Son

I was presented a few days ago your letter of the 20th March last directed to your Brother William. I learn by that letter your principle object was, from me to obtain the information I possessed respecting your Grand Father (Archibald Murphy) Revolutionary services in that War as an officer, under the belief that his Heirs are entitled at this time to a Pension, either under an Act of Congress or that Congress has the power to pass that law, provided he died before the law was passed (in this I allude to the act passed in the 1832 for the payment of a Pension to the Revolutionary officers and Soldiers who had served six months commencing on the 4th March 1831. I also received a letter dated the 1st Feby from your Brother Jonathan on the same Subject, and gave him the same information which I now give you. Vizt about the last of July or the first of Augt 1780 and while I was acting as his deputy in the Clerks office of Caswell County North Caro. Genl Cornwallace in South Carolina began to consider that the State as a Conquered province and he issued his Proclamation accordingly about this time (the 1st of Augt 1780) Troops of the Militia were collected in North Caro and Marched immediately to South Caro to undeceive and Check his Lordship. accordingly a Regiment of Volunteer Militia, was formed in Caswell County and Archibald Murphy (your Grand Father) was commissioned first Major of the Regiment. (I am not positive at this time but believe that Col. William Moore was Col. Commandant) he (Maj Murphy) Marched to South Caro, joined Genl Greene's Army until Lord Cornwallace took possession of Charlotte in September 1780. - I do not now recollect the Battles in which Major Murphy fought in the South, except the one in which Lord Cornwallace attempted to fource a passage over the Catawba River; at which time and place Genl. Davidson was killed. this was about the 1st Feby 1781. - About this time the Americans took the road to Salisbury and Lord Cornwallace in pursuit. about the 15th Feby Genl Greene and his Army retreated _____ office in Caswell where I then was but I had removed the records of the office to where they were Safely preserved. at this _____ Murphy was in Command in the Army. Col. Wm Moore offered me a Captains Commission if I would beat up for volunteers. I acc_____ Commission and in a few days had a Compleat Company with _____ ipt _____ and

joined Genl Greene but being sent off immediately under Genl Pickens to attack Doct Piles the Tory Col. Near Hillsboro. from this time I never saw Col. Murphy until after the battle of Guilford Court House in which we both were in. on the 15th of March 1781. - The above facts comes within my recollection and ___ and can send you Authenticated certificates. - On receipt of this you consult some Legal Council, and if there is a probability of success write immediately and I will send you the certificates. - before I conclude however permit me to suggest that I know of no law granting Pensions to _____ officers and Soldiers of the Militia in the Revolutionary War except the Act passed in the year 1832. and that is a Pension only for those living, so that if a Pension is Granted in this case it must be by a Special law of Congress which can & ought to be done in next Congress. I have observed hundreds of cases when Special Laws are passed for Pensions, not half as strong as this and where the the Special Acts do not provide for. - William will write you in a few days.

Very affectionately
Your Father
H Haralson

* * *

Letter from William H. Haralson, brother of Paul A. Haralson. William lived in Brownsville, Tennessee. Paul lived in Yanceyville, Caswell County, N.C.

Brownsville 29th April 1843

Brother Paul

Your favour of the 20th March Came Safe to hand, and has been partly answered by my Father Some days Since, giving you the information relative to my Grand Fathers Services as a revolutionary Officer.

If anything Can be done in the matter I would be Very Much pleased and I hope the Statement of my Father may prove Satisfactory in this Case. - Brother Jonathan wrote to my Father Sometimes Since upon the Same business, and my Father answered his letter forthwith, Making Same Statement to him that he has Made you, or a Similar one.

I am Sorry you did not receive my letter, but hope you may get it-- I was truly Sorry to hear of your Misfortunes in having to pay So Much Money for your Friend, but hope at Some future day that you May you May be renumerated for your kindness to those who has So Much embarrassed you.

I am placed in a Similar Situation and it has taken every Thing I am worth to pay even part-- I am now Much in debt and all for the Kindness Shown to other Men & not my own debts-- I am totally Broke up by my Partners at Ashport- who made use of the means of the House in my absence, and left the responsibility of the Whole House upon me-- but More of this when I see you--

My Father Still Holds his Property- I made it over to him again before I Broke up, So that he Should but be Striped of it by me. He is not much in debt. I hope that I can get him out so that he may live at ease. I had paid for him up to the 1st Jany last 2,600\$ and upward, which left him but little to pay- and I hope by the 1st September to have him intirely released from debt-- My Father is failing Very Fast- and So is My Mother. Mother's Health is quite bad, and has been for Some 8 or 12 Months past-- She is able to attend to her domestic affairs occasionally- Isabella (my Wife) assists her, and waits on her. My Father Still retains Strength enough to ride about through the Neighbourhood and attend to his little affairs. I have taken Charge of his Farm for him- which takes great deal of care off his mind. I am Compelled to live with, or Near them as long as they live- therefore am engaged in Farming this Year & hope to make a Very good Crop if it is a good Season.

Your request Shall be attended to as it regards your Bed and furniture. Jim and Harriet are both growing Very fast & in good Health. Your Bill of Sale was recorded in a few days after made and I have it in posession. We have not heard from Sister Steele or family for Several Months - last accounts - alls Well & doing will. Sister Hughes and family were all well Some few days Since. Sister Jane Gorman is living in Town- has Charge of the Hotel - (Brownsville Hotel) doing I Suppose tolerably well. Brother Herndon was Elected Sometime Since Circuit Clerk for the Court at little Rock. No news from any other of our Brothers.

Isabella's Health is Tolerably good at this time- but She has been in very delicate health for Some Months past. Our _____ Boy is fine Health, and can run all over the yard & call his Pa & Ma. GrandPa & GrandMa fear he will be spoiled by them. He is a _____ with them. My Health is better than I _____ had it for upward of Three years past and I hope that Warming Will Entirely restore me again to good Health. My Father and Mother wishes you to give their love to Uncle Doctor and Aunt Betsy McCadden and Family - and to you and your Family and all relations in your Section of Country. Isabella wishes to be remembered to Sister Leanah and Family in the most affectionate Manner & Says She hopes to see you all _____ long on your way to the fare West. I must Close. Will write in answer to your next which I hope will not be long after the reception of this. Give my love to all and _____ me.

Affectionately your Brother
Wm. H. Haralson

May 2nd. My Mother is in Bed this morning as is common. She never enjoys good Health. I will advise you if anything occurs of importance. Cousin John _____ in a _____ for your Country & I must refer you to him for all the information of the Family.

Transcript of a letter from Paul A. Haralson in Yanceyville, N.C to his wife Leannah Haralson in Social Circle, Ga.

Yanceyville, 19th September 1843

My Dear Leannah,

On last Friday ____ wrote to Mary Graves which letter I expect you have seen, and which contains all the news that would be of interest to you up to that time. - I have been disappointed in not receiving more letters from you but perhaps you are engaged or better employed in other matters than in writing to me, & if so I am sure that I ought not to complain. -. As I have nothing of great interest to write I will give you the news of the Town & neighborhood. - Clark has sold out to Chiles & is going this fall to Memphis - There is nothing _____ his Sister is living with him. & Archy Carter (my cousin) is keeping store for him. It is said and generally believed that Dr. Yancey & Mary Miles are to be married on the 27th of this month. Wm. Miles has been sick with the cholic but is now nearly well. - The female School is prospering under the care and management of the two Miss. St John. They have a good school - The Pianno has been sold at public sale for \$120 and bought in for The School. - Miss Woolman has gone to H_____ County to keep School, having been pushed off to make room for the Presbyterians - Ths. D. Johnston has got into his new house, and has a good many boarders. - Maj. William A. Lea died about 10 days ago of Pneumonia. _____ at school have been boarding with Johnston. Johnstons family all well & Sally desires to be remembered to you most affectionately. - Johnston has a full store and is doing a large business. John E. Brown boarding house & _____ Dr. Comer daughter & Sam E. Moore daughters _____ James L. Graves is keeping a Dead Fall in this old Tavern & has a fine ____ about him- Slade's family has been very sick this Summer and fall but they are now better.

Dr. Roans family are all well. He has another medical student by the name of _____. Mrs. Roan often inquires about you. H _____ Mebane & his family are at your uncle Billy's, all _____ John K. don't go to Willis' as often as he used to go. I don't know the _____ John Kerr family are all well & up as yet. But I can't tell how long it will be ____ from present appearances. I think that in the course of a few weeks, Mrs Kerr _____ are going to make Yanceyville their future home. _ Rainey and family are getting along as well as usual. Rainey keeps sober & holds on to his Temperance pledge & is doing better than he ever did. - Adams and his wife have a fine son (named Hanibal) - Russ has been ruined by Walker, and so has poor Hardy Felts. - Dilworth and wife have joined the Episcopalians. - Hickory Graves is said to be broke. Has sent off his ____ to the South for sale. & I fear it will take all he has to pay his Debts. Pinchback has rented Mrs. Donohos old place. John Johnston rented the mill & Henderson House & Womack rents the plantation on ____ Creek.- Johnston is not pleased with the will of Mrs. Donoho and talks a good deal about it.- There has been a great addition to the Church at Yanceyville. It is now a large church and steps are being taken to have an arm of the church established in Milton. - In the Religious _____ of

the community there is and has been great changes since you left.. - I should not be surprised if in a few years if there are five churches in Yanceyville. (Campbellites and Episcopalians) - The Presbyterians now have a great meeting going on at Pickards and much excitement. - It is said that Emily Donoho is shortly to be married to a Capt Stanley from Louisiana.- I want you to say to your father that he must write to John K. Graves _____ the Clerk of the Cuperior Court & order him to issue the Execution against Capt Graves for if something is not done, the money (I fear) will not be made. I have talked & urged it as much as I can & the Execution is not yet issued. Tell him to write to the attorney (John Kerr, Esq.) also _____ direct the county court clerk about that _____ matter against _____ and money is very scarce. I cant collect any for your father. Ask him what I must do & if I must _____ tell him to let me know immediately. Be sure you attend to this and let me know by the next mail.- I don't expect to leave here until about the first of Nov.- You know what's best to do about housekeeping. And do that which _____ you _____ think _____ best.- I don't know what to do for I have to start anew to keep house. And I have no money to begin with and no prospect of any. Know that I shall have to sell some of my negroes _____ believe it would be best to _____.- I understand that Negroes are rising in the South (in Alabama)- Tell my children to economize- Let me get out of debt and then we can live happy, if not so easy. I have suffered much since I have been here on account of my situation. But I have been comforted with it by a Reliance upon God's mercies. _____ I try live near him as I can which I intend to do the balance of my days. Mr. And Mrs. Hodnett are very kind to me. For which I am very thankful. & I do pray that God will reward them for it. They desire to be remembered to you in affection & to the family. Say to your Father that Mr Hodnett has not forgot his Old Brother in Christ. - I want you to write to your Uncle Elijah. Write him an affectionate letter for he is one of the best men I ever knew & he is good and kind to me he likes you and always did & a letter to him, from you would be kindly rec'd. Write him a long affectionate letter for he desires such a one & you _____ not do _____ if you do nothing. _____ and never refused you anything _____ know of.- _____ old Allen Gunn _____ old house _____ Your Aunt Polly's health is better, & it is thought that she will get well.- Present me most Affectionately to you good old Father and Mother- Kiss my children for me. & Remember that there is one person that loves you, & that person is

Paul A. Haralson

This is a letter from Paul Haralson in Yanceyville, N.C. to his wife Leannah in Social Circle, Ga.

Yanceyville 8th Jany, 1843

My Dear Leannah,

On the day before yesterday I received your letter of the 22nd but post marked 27th. And on this morning I _____ the letter of G.W.G (written at your request) of the 31st and you may well imagine the gratification it afforded me in hearing from you and my children, but the unhappy situation and condition of Col. Graves was a source of painful anxiety. I am truly glad & glad from my heart that you have not hesitated to do your part towards his relief. And here let me entreat you by every sacred tie that exists between you and Myself to do all you can towards the relief the comfort & happiness of your Father & Mother. Let it not be Said that he has a child that does more for him than you; He has been truly an afflicted man & he needs all the comfort that you can give. "Honor thy Father & thy Mother that thy days may be long upon the land. Which the Lord thy God giveth thee." - We, ourselves are parents; and if we should withhold our duty, and stand at a distance when it is in our power to help, consulting our own interest instead of our duty. I should be afraid that the Father of us all would Visit our inequities upon our own heads & not only upon us, but upon our children perhaps to the fourth generation - I want you therefore to do all you can. You know that all we are worth nearly _____ there and you can think what is best to be done, and do it. - If in the decision you should draw any Negroes that would not suit you, sell them & raise money. - I think I can raise about \$400 here in a few weeks perhaps days & that is all that I can raise which you can get by giving me 10 days notice, & the balance you must try to raise out there by selling property which you will be the best Judge of. - If the Land is divided and you take part of that, perhaps you could sell that to an advantage & if nothing else will do, perhaps you could sell your carriage & horses & we can buy again when we are more able; or any other way which I leave to your discretion * Judgment. - I think it would not suit us so well to take a part of the land as my wish is to go to Missouri. But I will not object to anything which you may do. You must remember that we are now on the lowest Spoke in the Wheel of fortune. It is now Struggle or die - We have heretofore been blessed. We have lived easy & comfortably. We have & loved together, and had our "good things" but "evil things" have come upon us & we are now "tormented" - And yet, thank Heaven, there is not a great Gulf fixed between us, and better times. And if we will not Stand here, "all the day long idle, we may yet _____ our "_____". - My greatest care is for my children; I can take care of you & I can make you happy & your situation a comfortable one - But that which I have always longed for & which I have prayed for (_____ the education of my children, disturbs me more than any thing else - I know that it is not that which they learn at School that is Knowledge that is true education;- But that is the Key by which the Store House of Knowledge is to be unlocked - It is the Means by which to acquire true Knowledge, and This Thing I desired my children to have More particularly My Daughters, for it would enable them (if they would use it to a good

purpose) to become Ladies, to go fourth into the World with a calm, collected firmness with a heart resolved on Virtue & Disposition to find the good which lies hidden amongst the trash of this life. This much I have done for Mary Graves, and if She will now for a Moment think about it, She will See that all She has learned at School is only the beginning instead of having finished her education. Her first care should be to receive Knowledge her Second, to retain it & her third & last is to bring it fourth when it is needed.- The _____ so far from being Labourious is the most delightful that can be imagined - & I pray God; that She may do it. - In View of this Matter She should lay aside all novels, tales, Romances, & trash of that kind, and fix her mind upon Books worthy of her trifles like Straw upon the Surface flow. He who would Search for pearls, must dive below. She should make the Bible the rule and guide for her faith and practice, and read the Bet authors on History. English History, American History, French History & Ancient History and Byography. The lives of the best and greatest men that have lived in ancient and Modern times, & when She reads she should think, Should Study, and reason upon what She Reads. In fact She should keep her tablet & make her notes upon all She reads, and at the end of every day, before She goes to Sleep, She should bring up before her as "Ruth did before Naomi and beat out that which She hath gleaned" and gather it into the g_____ for future use; - But what must I say about Ann & Leannah; Mary Graves is able & capable of teaching them as well, perhaps better than half the Schools in the country & it will not distract from her Merit or Standing in Society to do it. On the contrary, with every Gentlemen & Lady whose good opinion is worth having it will elevate her in this respect and esteem & endear her to the community in which She may live;- I have got to pay some person to do it & I now feel, that I had rather pay her than any body else. The most perfect Lady that I have ever seen (Mrs. Evelina _ Kerr) was once the School Mistress of a half dozen children in a Smoky hut then poor & penniless. But now the wife of the most gifted man & eminent Lawyer in North Carolina; her amiable Modesty, her benevolent heart, her Christian piety, and her intelligence & her learning, won for her a Character, which will last when She is dead and gone. I hope Mary Graves will take her Sisters under her care, & will love them & teach them & make them what their Parents & She would desire them to be when they come to years of Maturity. - She knows that I have confidence in her & that I love her, & I do hope that She will not disappoint me. ---

Dr. Roan & wife joined the Presbyterian Church today & took the Sacrament. - Nothing now since my last of interest - Old James Mebane had the tract Land sold for Badgetts Debt & Bought it @ \$35 -. Fanny Patillo & Wm Currie (Dr. Shelby's Brother) were married last week - _____ Tho Burton;'s wife died Suddenly last week of appoplisy. She fell at the Door Sill & was dead before any of the family knew it. - I cannot leave here without the Suspicion of avoiding responsibility, which I am unwilling to do until this Guardianship business is in some degree Settled. Allen Gunn has gone Mississippi & will return in the Spring, when I will know better what to do - Be contented, and do the best you can. The time will yet come when we will be in a better condition than we now are - - Kiss my children for me & comfort yourself with this assurance that no man loves a wife better than

Paul A. Haralson

This is a letter from Abner Miles in Yanceyville, N.C. to Paul A. Haralson in Social Circle, Ga.

Yanceyville N.Carolina
June 20, 1844

Dear Sir

Your friendly letter of the 11th has been duly received and believe me when I say I was quite glad to hear from you, your family & friends in Georgia. I would have answered it by return mail if I could have seen Mr Mebane & Gunn in time to have _____ but not seeing Mr Gunn for several das after the _____ of letter has caused a few das delay.- I now will _____ to answer _____ since you left. Capt Graves _____ about this time and in part an account of the _____ debt _____ him. I say a few days since he wished you would _____ and help him out of that difficulty, the Walker _____ will turn out but indeed, not one cent paid by the Trustee _____ and he says the Trust will not pay more than 40 to the _____ and doubts whether it will do that. Willis instructed Robinson to _____ Alabama, to pay off your part of the Walker debt, _____ which was sent to him, I had been drawn by that _____ being in the _____ of a man (Henderson) to borrow _____ or hand my property sold, and having done so and paid _____ for which we was jointly bound I appealed to the _____ on the _____ that delayed the matter until Robertson paid _____ the net proceed of John which I applied to said _____ which I think is between thirty & forty dollars more that you _____ for Walker that balance you shall have on application _____ Walker's business will be wound up. I cannot tell _____ to sell. The sale money becomes due next Monday. Genl Graves still hangs on and with better prospects that for several _____. If his creditors will indulge him a year or _____ I think he will pull out. You know his brothers are buying Negroes for him. He says since last fall he has aid near _____ dollars of his indebtedness, he has paid I believe nearly _____ Hodnett debt. P. Hodnett & family are well and doing well _____ town today. Bob Anderson left here a few weeks ago _____ to Raleigh and obtained license to practice law. _____ his fathers at this time I understand, what he _____ I cannot say, John K. & lady was well a few days _____ they have _____ very _____ the village since their marriage. They stay mostly at _____ in Halifax Va. Pink & John are both quite _____. Pink attends to business for his father and John A reads law.

You speak of our having long been friends with the exception of one time when there was some appearance of unkindness. So far I forgotten any and all unkind feelings which may have arisen through momentary sentiment towards you _____. I declare I do not know to what particular time or _____ you allude. I know at various time in an excited _____ feelings of _____ words by which they were indicated, and if you have not always

_____ friend since our first acquaintance. I have been deceived and _____ in my heart that was bitter or unkind towards Paul A. Haralson I would raise my _____ hands and heart to _____ being whose nature is love and ask him to take it far away _____ they are not there.

Regarding your brother's letter and the Mississippi land Mr Mebane _____ Mr Gunn instructs me to say to you they are unwilling _____ the offer as yet. They wish you to write to your brother and _____ him to attend to the collection of the money due there _____ let you know when it can be collected. Mr Mebane says if he _____ get that it would nearly release John H's securities _____ by waiting a little longer before the land was sold it would _____ pay all John's liabilities.

I do not know what more to say that would interest you. I expect _____ & lady will start for Georgia in a few days. Myself _____ are well with the people generally in the village. Crops of _____ very promising wheat crops tolerable, the scarcity of plants _____ the tobacco crops,

Political _____ is gradually rising. Polk & Texas seems to carry _____ before _____ here.

Give my best respects to Leannah the old Col. & lady and believe me to be your sincere friend.

Abner Miles

This letter was written to
Major Paul A Haralson
Social Circle, Georgia

Dear Sir

On yesterday and the day before I suffered greatly with afflictions of the hand. Indeed I find my Constitution giving way and am frequently _____ to look a little ahead to the Grave my last resting place and to the account of my _____ at the bar of my God.

On yesterday when reveiwing my past life, the only good acts that I could recollect were those where I had, dis_____ assisted my fellow Man. And I come to the conclusion that I was Continued here. Not that I deserved to be spared for anything I had done / that I might be of some kind of _____ to Love one more _____ than myself. - Instead therefore of its being a cross to render the aid you ask, it affords me a _____ the result of a _____, that I am but doint a duty.

I _____ five days Since and arranged Camillus board and you may rest assured that so long, as it is in my power, you may with Confidence look for his board (if no more) and his _____ if I can.

with great _____ Yours

19th August 1844

Letter from Paul A. Haralson

Social Circle 19th Augt 1844

Dear Sir

I have sent Camillus over to See you again on the Subject of his Schooling. I am truly thankful to you for your Kindness to me in this thing and So long as I live I can have no other feelings for you than those of gratitude and Kindness. I had hoped that by this time I should have been enabled to have Sustained him at School myself but I find that my calculations are disappointed and unless I get further aid I Shall have to give out the idea of giving him that education which I had always intended and which to me was a matter of Very great importance- You, I Know will understand my feelings when you think of my Solitude and anxiety for my only Son. and my wish to See him a good and a great man- It is true I have property- And it is equally true that I am not much in Debt. But my present Situation in a New Country almost amongst Strangers, having had in the Course of the last three years more than \$4000 to pay as Security for other people and in consequence being drained of all my resources, and now having to bear my part of Col. Graves' liabilities & withall having to live in a trial and a weight which you can understand without my attempting to describe it- I should have been glad to have Seen you, but I cannot now leave home,- I have a claim which you will See here enclosed which I do not want to enforce for the next 3 or four years- (which in fact I do not want ever to enforce) But which I did not want to demand payt on under several years.. because the obligors, like myself are hard ____ . I had promised to wait, & my word is binding on me - This claim, (if you desire it) I hesitate to place at your disposal to be held by you as Counter Security or as an indemnity if you would take the responsibility on yourself of the education of Camillus- or any other arrangement which you might think right- I know I would be asking much at your hands.

But nevertheless I have confidence in him to whom I place my child. pardon me in indulging in the expression that I have known you almost from the cradle till now & I know that nobody to whom I can go with more confidence- I had expected to have received \$750 from the sale of a negro man.- But I have just learned that it has been detained to pay a Security Debt of \$600 in N.C. for a man & the only man for whom I was. Security who I fear has Swindled me by Smuggling ____ property. Write me by Camillus

Yours very respectfully
Paul A. Haralson

P.S. I Send you Esqr. Miles letter to read which tells me of my last Misfortune.

This letter was addressed to C. A. Haralson Esqr, Social Circle, Walton Co., Ga.

Jefferson Jackson August 28th 1846

Dear Camillus,

Now Ramsey I tell what I want you to do old fellow. I want you to ask your sister to ask your Mother to ask your Father to let you come over to Athens at Commencement. If your mother won't give your Father permission to let you come, run away and come any how. You can borrow your Father's saddle horse I suppose, if you will take him without his permission.

I have been quite unwell since I left Oxford, and not well now by a cart load. I hope to be well enough to go to Athens, infact I will go any how. Commencement at this place came off last night. The house was crowded beyond discription. If all the _____cians in the State had _____ there skill in me, they could not have given me so sucksessful a steering. At least half of my mortality evaporated and some of the spiritual part, the big half of the congregation was negroes. Chlorene gass is younger brother to the perfume that arose from that modly crowd when the caloric was aplied. I have enjoyed myself as well as a sick man could. There are young ladies of all discriptions about hear. Some of the Swine family have been at Brothers. They stated that they had received a letter from there relations a few weeks ago. And at the table wanted to know of me when I had seen them last. I was taken sick forth with and left the room, it was to warm for me. I feel quite bad, am stooping over an old desk, to high to sit and wright, to low to stand. The room is as hot as a stove. Write to me soon. Excuse all errors. I have been disi____ting so my nearves are unsteady, no dictionarys in this _____. Believe me as ever your ardent friend.

F.B.E. Overly

Wm. H. Haralson speaks of his father who according to family history by Robert H. Haralson Jr. died May 27, 1847 just after this letter was written. The letter was written to brother Paul A. Haralson.

Brownsville 12th May 1847

Dear Brother

Your Kind and lengthy letter of 10th March Came to hand Sometime Since, but I differed answering until the present, as there was no change in Family except that of our beloved parents. And I am now happy to Say my dear Brother, that they are improving in the Health - but not much in Strength. They are both verry feeble - and require our Constant attention - and we are yet Compelled to administer Medicine to them daily to Keep them up. Strange as it is to those who ____ them, and to all who have Known them for the past 12 months-(Never believing that they could recover So as to walk about again). They are now able to walk about the House without any person assisting them - in fact, my Mother walks into the Garden- and my Father ventures out into Yard alone. _____ watch them to See that they do not fall, or _____ too feeble to return alone. My Father _____ upon him very fast and we Keep a _____ watch over him for fear that He goes off without any one Knowing it. This is the _____ ifaction of the Heart. -- in other words, a bone forming round it. This Compresses the Heart, and Causes the Blood to rush, or _____ to the Heart - which effects the system Something like_____. Our Mother's disease is also one that is incurable - the Effection of the Lungs. She has at times, Spells of great difficulty in breathing. but we patch her up by Medicines ____ until we get her breathing good or partially so. They both at times say- My Son let us go. I tell that is my duty as a child, to administer to them, and Comfort them all _____ and my dear Brother, I have no doubt with the help of Almighty God, that I have prolonged their lives for near 3 years. And were we this day to Stop our Medicines, I do not believe that either would be living in a Month or Two - in fact, we cannot tell how long they will remain with us- but, there is some hope now for their living with us for a little while more. I cannot answer your letter in full at this time for want of room-when I get to writing about our Parents- my Mind is full & I consume too much paper, to say all I wish, upon other Subjects. And truly it is the case with with all affectionate Children- yea yourself. I can only answer that part of your letter about my Family, or Boys in this way. That it pleases Almighty God to give to us all Boys - and we must become reconciled to his will. Yet we would like to have a Daughter - and perhaps we may be fortunate enough to have one yet. As for Brother Greene - I cannot hear one word from him, nor do I Know where he is. Some years Since I heard, that he was a Methodist Minester - and I truly hope it is So. We rec'd a letter from Brother Herndon a few days Since - which brought the Melancholy News, of the Death of his Eldest Daughter (Mary Ella). She was a lovely Child, and admired by all who Knew her. This was a great

Shock to him and his affectionate Wife. We rec'd a letter from Haywood a few days Since. He spoke of Coming up about the 15th of this Month. He, I am told is getting a verry good practice, and bids for to become a Emm_____ Att'y at the Bar. This I am truly happ to hear - for I have assisted him a great deal in a _____ - what I done, was done to _____ that it was out of my Father's power to assist him, and I Saw that he was Striving to become a man of emm_____. Judge Hughes also, done a great deal for him. We heard from Sister Mary Steele a few days Since - all was well - I am told Mr Steele is doing well. Sister Jane Gorman is now in Texas attending the business, or unsettled business of Mr Gorman. She last accounts from Judge Hughes Family - all were well.

James and archy - (his sons) have waded through all the Battles with Genl Taylor & Escap'd unhurt. _____ Bravo Mississippians - Tis Said, had it not have been for the Mis' Reigment, that Genl Taylor, Must have been inevitably Cut off at Buena Vista- but every one in that reigment Stood to the flag, as if the Victory depended on him alone. They have now a Name that Never Can be forgotten. Yea, the Bravo Tensieneians a few days Since, at the Battle of Cero Gordo - acted _____ part - our Bravo Genl Hask_____ (or Col' Hask_____ there) Came So Near taking Santa Anna, that he got his wooden Leg Carriayd _____. Such feats of bravery Cannot be forgotten. My Family are in tolerable good Health. Isabella will answer Sister S_____, in a Short time. The whole Family Send their love in the Most affectionate & Parental manner to your Sister and all the Children. Remember me affectionately to Sister and Her Children and _____ me

affectionately your Brother
Wm H. Haralson

I met with a man by the name of Sharpe a few days since in the Town of Brownsville, who told me that, on the 9th May 17 years Since you issued his Marriage License. He Says that you Married a _____ of his wife, He believes in Trenton T_____. Corn is Selling at one Dollar per Bushell with _____.

THE JOURNEY OF PAUL ANDERSON HARALSON

STONE MOUNTAIN GEORGIA TO

INDEPENDENCE, TEXAS

MARCH - APRIL

1848

Transcribed by Thomas F. Booker Jr.

AT INDEPENDENCE, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 1983

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INTRODUCTION

Paul Anderson Haralson (1798-1852) was my great-great Grandfather. His wife was Leannah Graves, and one of their children was Leannah (pronounced Lena).

Lena was married to William Thomas Willie at Independence, where they lived the rest of their lives. Their children were:

Rebecca Robertson
Sarah Pope
Caroline Emily

Caroline was married to William Lee Booker at Independence, and here they lived virtually all their lives.

Their oldest child who lived beyond infancy was Thomas Frederick Booker (1881-1972), who was my father.

"Paul's Diary" is one of the few remaining records that reveal to us who our people were, what they were like, and the life-styles and events of their time. He had a facility with the language, and an interest in people, that made him perhaps our outstanding practitioner of the art of communication, long before that term took on its modern meaning.

He must have been active in establishing or carrying on the family custom (which was enjoyed by my generation if not later), of handing down the family history by word of mouth.

Here, I must digress to acknowledge a debt I feel, to Aunt Sadie Willie, Aunt Mary Pope Booker, and to my own Father, for their devotion to the task of recounting the family history and their patience in passing it on orally to me. I regret that I was not a more attentive listener.

The Diary is a simple account of the highlights of each day on a trip Paul made from home in Georgia to Independence, Texas and return, in the Spring of 1848. It does not pretend to be more than that. That simplicity permits it to reflect a certain grace and dignity (and at the same time earthiness) that must have characterized the man.

The little book is still clear and complete, for all its age and handling, lovingly preserved by Grandmother Willie, Aunt Sadie and Aunt Mary Pope. However, just a few more times of handling could crumble the paper to dust. It is for this reason that I have transcribed it, and hope to get copies into the hands of all the family. The size, format, spelling and punctuation are reproduced as closely as possible, in order to convey something of the feel of the original. The original will remain in Uncle Bob's collection.

If Grandpa Paul could have his "druthers", I imagine he would like to see us, his descendants revive the custom of keeping journals or diaries, for our own pleasure and to serve as aids to reflection and "getting perspective" on what is happening to us and our world.

Tom Fred Booker,
Independence,
August 1, 1983.

JOURNAL OF
PAUL HARALSON OF THE STONE MOUNTAIN
DEKALB COUNTY GEORGIA - TO TEXAS - 1848

* * *

Started from the Stone Mountain Depot on Monday morning the 20th day of March 1848 in company with William Garrett of the Social Circle. Garrett had come up on the car that morning on his way to Shreve Port La. came to Atlanta and took the Macon (?) cars to Griffin at Atlanta. Saw Judge King & talked with him about my new building, & also about the hire of Mrs Pick's Carpenter. At 8 o'clock left Atlanta for Griffin pay \$3:50

Arrived in Griffin at 11 o'clock & put up at the B... & K... Hotel. Here found Charley Miller the Stage Agent, and being both on the Square, he provided me with a Seat in the Mail Coach in company with Wm. Garret & Andrew .. Lamar. Left Griffin at one o'clock in the mail coach, wiht a jolly crowd & being well pleased. talking first on politicks, then on Religion & winding up on the consequences of the recent French Revolution- The first news of which we heard this morning on board the Georgia Rail Road Car. which last conversation had a narcotic effect. from silent mediatation fell into ennui & from ennui to drowsiness & from drowsiness to gentle slumber- When I & my slumbers being disturbed by the jostling and ricking of the Stage, produced strange dreams, and amongst the many other strange visions which I had under the protection of Morpheous I dreamed that my friend Garret was a Deacon in the Church, and a Justice of the peace, & kept a Stud Horse.

Tuesday The 21st, March

Last night from the rocking of the Stage & my disturbed imagination, I became sick and ate no supper but this morning my appetite was of a wolfish nature, and the 50 cents which I paid for my breakfast was hardly a Valuable consideration.

Arrived at Opelika, the terminus of the Montgomery Rail Road at eleven o'clock & took the cars to Montgomery paid \$3:15 for my fare to Montgomery- I forgot to mention that I paid and extravagant Stage fare from Griffin to Opelika, it being less

than a hundred miles over a rough road, giving a fellow no time to rest & very little to eat. And making him "sea-sick" or Stage-Sick, and dragging along at the slow pace of about 4 1/2 miles to the hour, really it is intolerable.

It is a wonder to me that some disciple of the Lord Coke has never looked into the actionability of this case- Garrett left us at the Greenville to wait for his negroes Who were coming on behind by private conveyance as he said, but the price of the fare & the trials & sufferings he had in the Stage were enough to scare him off before he got to Greenville. We paid \$10-50 for one night's suffering- on board the cars to Montgomery we had a fine company of passengers. Dr. Wilcox of Halifax N. C. & A. I. Lamar were two gentleman with whom I had a pleasant conversation-

Arrived in Montgomery about four o'clock & took the Exchange Omnibus to the Steam Boat "Montgomery" which was then nearly ready to sail- I had hardly got on board the boat before I was met by Alonzo Haralson, who greeted me with that warm-hearted cordiality so characteristic of the Haralson blood- Son is a noble fellow. He is reading law in Montgomery but promised to take a recess sometime during the Summer & make me a visit- He told me of the cause of the fight between G. W. Jones of Tennessee & his Uncle Hugh in the House of Representatives-

At 5 o'clock we sailed for Mobile, in the beautiful and splendid Steam Montgomery- The Montgomery is a new boat & put upon the River this season in place of the old boat of the same name. She is 235 feet long with an upper & lower deck. Can carry 3000 bags of cotton & can comfortably entertain more than 250 cabin passengers, besides Deck & Stearage. On board this boat we had a splendid array of beauty, fashion, Wealth Glory and ambition with now & then an occational touch of the oposite extreme from the wise to the otherwise from the palace to the hovel & from the Mexican War-Dogs to the willing worshiper of the God of Peace.

Here I met with Leornard H. Sewell Son of the old Judge of N.C.; with a brother of Hardy Croom, with James Gilmer, who owns the Rich Cotton Plantation on the Red River below Dr. Vance with all his family etc. etc. etc. This night after the boat got

under way & feeling the need of some rest, I took State Room No. 16 and in a few minutes travel passed through the land of Nod and was soon in the pleasant and happy Country of Dreamland, where without anything to distract my peace and Comfort I enjoyed myself until breakfast the next morning.

Wednesday 22nd, March

I this morning arose at the ringing of the breakfast bell. had a pleasant wash & a fine Breakfast & came out on deck & found that in a few minutes we were to be at Cahawbe, near where I supposed Em Browning lives: as the boat took in wood & freight at this place, I went on Shore & enquired for my friend- Met with Warren Holcomb who is here with negroes for "sale": found that Em lives six miles from Burton & learned that Monroe Blann was fiddling & dancing in Mobile.

returned to the boat again & spent the day pleasantly.

Thursday 23d.-

Rose and found the morning beautiful, with the promise of a pretty day. We traveled very slow, having to take in landing & freight at almost every point on the River- Today had a pleasant conversation with my friend Sewall & Gilmer on the physical resources of Georgia, as compared with those of North Carolina and Lousiana- as we passed down the river today saw an Aligator sunning himself on a log, and landed in Mobile about 5 o'clock just too late to witness the great Ball play between the Choctaw Indians who live in the neighborhood of Mobile on the one side and a band of the remnant of Cherokees who live in Sumpter about 200 miles from this place. The contest had been advertized for some time in the Mobile papers & the play came

off today at three o'clock for a wager of \$20 a side in the presence of a great crowd of Spectators. Ten on a side, from what I understand it is something of the character of Bandy-playing, in which they use sticks about two feet long with a cup at one end to catch the ball & throw it, instead of using the old-fashion Bandy stick to strike & roll the ball: the were the victors- Soon after arriving at Mobile I transferred my baggage from the Montgomery to the Montezuma, which sails tomorrow at eleven o'clock.

I registered my name on board the Montezuma & took lodgings there-Visited the Town, but found no acquaintances-

Friday 24th March

After early breakfast this morning, I went on Shore visited the cotton packing screws. Bought me a summer coat for a Sovereign & called upon M A Van Hooke and spent some time with him. At 11 o'clock the Boat bell rang & I went on board paid my passage \$4- and just at 12 o'clock we left port, & on board this boat I found the Capt a very clever fellow by the name of Kelly, and he told me that he had a Sister living in Cass Coty at Kingston with a Judge Ever-

I also on board the Montezuma found a Clever Young Gentleman by the name of Duval. Who was very attentive and polite to me, and who was perfectly familiar with all the Coast from Mobile to New Orleans. Who pointed out to me all the important points as far as Paschagola, where he left us. (This man had once been a commander of one of the Mail packets from Orleans to Mobile) The Clerk of The boat (Mr Randle) is also a clever fellow- At Pass Christiann where we stopped to wood, a fine looking Gentleman came on board & told us that he had just found the body of his friend who had been drowned a few days before & he wanted that boat to carry it to Neworleans.

It seems that the Telegraphic wires between Mobile & Orleans

had gotten out of fix, and the two operators of the Telegraph (Mr Lyons of Utica N Y, and Maj Willard of Orleans) had gone down on the line to find out what was the matter, and in attempting to cross the lower end of Lake Ponchartrain near the Regulets in a Peroque (or Canoe) a squall upset the canoe & they were both drowned & to day the body of Lyons was found which we took on board. The body of

Willard has not been found & it is supposed that it has been eaten up by the Aligators and fish-

Saturday 25th March

This morning at light I was awakened by the Capt & told that we were in Sight of Orleans. I got up & dressed & walked out & had a beautiful morning. Passed the Shipping at the lower landing and came up to the Canal Landing & there we took the canal boat and came up to the city seven miles and landed in Orleans about 8 o'clock. Came to Planters & put up and went on the Strand to look for a boat which was going to Galveston. found Palmetto was to sail tomorrow at 9 o'clock & returned. hunted up Frank Haralson who has been appointed a Notary Public of the City, and had a pleasant interview with him, for an hour or more- He told me that Judge Hughes, my brother in Law was in the city, with his son (John) & Daughter Mary.- Frank went with me over the city & to Dr Duncan's where I found Judge Hughes & Daughter Mary. He told me that he had sold out in Jackson & was on his way to Galveston, where he intended to settle. That Archy was already there having previously gone over with his effects. That James his oldest Son was in the Quarter Master Department in the City of Mexico. And that my brother John H. was still in Jackson practicing Law. - I went to the Strand or Warf to engage passage to Galveston & at the warf, I met with Henry Willie & Joab Robertson with negroes for sale & had but a few minutes conversation with them.

I returned to my room & after a late supper retired to bed being a little unwell. but was saluted and serenaded with sweet notes of the Pianno until near midnight. It made me think of home.- Ah if there be a nearer, dearer, Sweeter place that all else in this world besides, that place is home-

Sunday 26th March 1848

After Breakfast and paying a Bill of \$1.50 I went to the Steam Ship Palmetto & took State Room No. 1. Soon afterwards Judge & family arrived. And at 9 o'clock we sailed. The Scene and beauties of this beautiful River out to the Gulf I have once before in my life attempted to describe and I now feel that any effort of mine in

that way would be ludicrous if not perfect mockery. The Grand & Majestic River. The Rich farms, the Stately palaces, the Orange Groves. The ships in full sail, laden with the rich productions of the earth, from every country and clime.

The battle ground where Lord Takenham fell to gratify British ambition with his thousands around him under the unerring aim of the American Rifles, all these & many more, are more than I shall attempt to describe, but all those we here see & witness as we pass down this Great Father of Waters. We arrived at the Bar which opens into the Gulf just as the sun was setting, and as soon as we got into the Gulf the ship commenced heaving and rocking under a severe Gale, which carried me to my State Room as usual. I suffered the sufferings of the sickest of the sick- With me night passed away with one unremitting heave &

Monday-

came and went I know not how, for really I felt (prepared or unprepared) that I was willing to die.

Tuesday The 28th. March

This morning about daybreak, I felt the ship stop and only now and then rise & fall again as a heavy billow would roll under her. I opened my State room door & asked what was the matter & the Capt said that he had to anchor until day light as the sea was running so high he was afraid to cross the Bar before light. I begged him to risque it for I had rather be stove than to suffer as I had done another day. he told me to be patient for in four hours he would be in Galveston-

And never did the words of Salvation come to the Heathen with more joy than did those words from the Captain.

In an hour we weighed anchor again & was soon over the Bar & into smooth water. When I got up and striped nked & paid the Steward to pur six pails of fresh water over my head and body.-

Which cured me-. we arrived in Galveston at 9 o'clock and put up with Mrs. Reese, Step-Mother of Kellar Reese, who is keeping a private boarding house in this place.

After breakfast, walked to the Tremont House. To the Strand, to see the shipping- and down the beach in company with John Hughes who was as much delighted with the sea shore as young men commonly are. Here too we met with Archy Hughes, who having been at the battle of Buena Vista entertained me very pleasantly with the stirring events of that important event.- After supper this evening, We were treated to some rich music on the pianno by a Miss Carnelia Robinson, the second Daughter of our kind hostess- this evening Hugh MQueen who is practicing Law in the city came over to see me and spent an hour or two- I was furnished a bed in the same room with Judge Hughes, and we talked until a late hour in the night-

I also had a very interesting interview with Archy on his future prospects in life and was pleased with his views on the subject of Economy, both in regard to time and money - I do hope he may make a useful man.

ednesday 29th March

I rose early this morning and in company withe John Hughes, went down to the warf to engage a passage to Houston. had a long and pleasant walk. Visited the Market & heard a Dutch quarrel, and after breakfast paid my bill and went (\$1:00) with Judge Hughes to his office, and from there to the Steam Boat Reliance which sailed at 9 o'clock.

Genl. MQueen came on board as one of the passengers- we had a pleasant trip-

As we passed up the Bayou Buffaloe to day we saw a good many water fowl of a peculiar species called here the Water Turkey. A different bird from any thing I ever saw before.

we were also pointed out the famous battle Ground of San Jacinto where Santa Anna was made a prisoner in the Texas Revolution, and where the Hon. Sam Houston acquired an undying fame- Arrived at Houston at 7 o'clock and put up with John O'Bracken who married Durrit Richard's Daughter of Milton-

Thursday 30 March 1848,

This morning, I found upon enquiry that th Stage did not leave until tomorrow morning, and had to remain here all day. Hunted up & found James Walker who tells me that he is doing a good business in the practice of law. Spent a leasant time with him and talked of old times. He told me that Fred A. Hill had gone to & settled in Milam in East Texas on Red River.

Made the acquaintance of a clever young Gentleman by the name of Geo. C. Red, of Washington County, who is a practicing physician in that county and is acquainted with my Sister Jane Ann.

Met here also with a Gentleman by the name of Sheppard, son of Sevier Sheppard formally of Caswell.

Walked over & viewed the Town and as near as I can gess it is about the size of Madison.

Was pleased with the society & general appearance of this place.

Friday 31 March

After breakfast this morning, paid my Bill and took the stage to Washington in company with Col Gross, Mr Perryman Dr. Red & four other Gentleman, had a pleasant company of the stage companions- during the day became sick from in the stage and eat no Dinner-

At the Dinner house was shown two Mustang Colts which had just been caught in the prairie.

Came this day to Mrs. Stephens where we slept all night-

This night we were crowded & although I got a bed to myself, yet I was disturbed by a fat Dutchman-looking fellow, who took a bed by the side of the one I occupied, & from some cause or other jammed his bed against mine. greatly to my annoyance. And in requesting him as civilly as I knew how not to be too familiar he pettishly replied that he was not lousy. I had a bad nights rest-

April 1st

The next morning we eat breakfast before we started-

At this house we parted with several of our stage companions & amongst them Col Gross whom I found to be a clever man & one who I understand is of the aristocracy of Texas. Here too we changed stages & got into an open four horse waggon not much over the speed of a Dutchmans cart. Which I found to be the character of the Texas stages generally. We came a few miles to the Brazos Botoms & here we dropped Mr. Perryman formally of Twiggs County Georgia & a wealthy planter of the Brazos. - Came on to Washington without anything particularly to attract notice if I may except the Richness of the Brazos bottoms which is inferior to nothing I have seen in Texas except Old Caney.

Arrived in Washington at half past eleven o'clock and went directly to Mrs. Moore's (widow of the late Dr. Moore) where I understood my sister was boarding.

She had understood that I was in Houston & was expected up in the stage, & she had gone to the Hotel expecting me to stop there & whilst I was at her boarding house to

see her, she was at the Hotel to see me- As soon as I found she was at the Tavern, I left & went up there, but she understanding that I was at Mrs. Moore's left the Tavern & went home & in passing we took different streets & did not meet.

My mortification was as great as hers- She soon sent for me,

and as the stage had about 30 minutes to stop I had hardly time to tell her howday- But she determined not to be outdone, got in the stage with me and went up to Independence-, I should in justice to my feelings pay a passing notice to this meeting.

Here in this strange land I had met my widowed Sister whom I had not seen in Twenty Seven years. and upon this occasion I had feelings which I shall not attempt to describe, even if I had time to do so-. arrived at Independence about two o'clock & put up at Hoods Tavern. My sister having no acquaintance with Mr Graves & wife stopped at Tavern & afterwards went to see an old acquaintance of hers by the name of Mrs Taylor-. As soon as I could arrange my baggage, I went over to parson Graves! was met before I got to the house by his wife who recognized me. Found Henry L very sick with nervous headache & all the rest of the family well.

Was told that Runnels had moved up the Brazos to Judge Longstreet's land, had built him some shanties & rented land, & was making a crop with all the negroes except Susan who was hired out in Town to Mrs Butler, as part payment of the board of Runnels children who were going to school at the place- Spent the evening very pleasantly, found the Rev Mr Huckins there. etc. In the evening walked over & brought my sister to Parson Graves' & introduced her. took tea at the Parsons & returned with my sister to the Hotel, & she to Mrs Taylors. - This Hotel, I should here simply remark, is not as fine a one, as the St Charles in New Orleans- or the Astor House in New York-

Sunday April 2d 1848

Slepy late this morning and after breakfast went over to Parson Graves'. who told me that Runnels, he had just heard, was expecting to die at his place up on the Brazos

about 20 miles- Anxious to see him before he did die I borrowed a horse of H L Graves and rode up to where he lives- found him very sick with Bilious Pneumonia & two Drs with him. Dr Eldridge & Dr Munson. Stayed all night & finding him too sick to do any business, never mentioned to him the object of my visit- But must here be permitted to give some little idea of his situation- He is three miles in the Bottoms, & about half way between the River and the Prarie or High lands. Having one small shantie about 14 foot square, made of Split Hackberry, puncheon floor, one door, badly built. Stick and dirt chimney.

At the end a shelter for the negroes & one log smoke house, about 10 or 12 acres cut & the brush piles ready for clearing up. He rented 40 acres of bottom land from Mr Hill, 30 of which is in cotton & he also rented land 25 or 30 acres of Mr Echols, mostly in cotton- In the sickliest place I have seen in Texas- where the land is as level as the Mason instrument & where the Brazos River overflowed seven inches in the Great freshet of 1842-

Monday 3d April 1848

This morning we had a heavy dew, felt unwell myself and examined the premises & came to the conclusion to take my negroes from this place.

Was surprised to see the vegetables so large & the cotton so high-. Corn is over knee high & in some places the weeds of this year are waist high- Had a conversation with Reynolds & told him of my determination. & he seemed to be greatly disappointed & said that I or Henry L Graves must furnish hands to work his crop. I told him, I had nothing to do with his crop that I expected my negroes were hired out as I directed.

Really it seemed to me from Runnell's manner that he felt I had no business with my own negroes, & I am now convinced that if he had kept them 2 years longer he would have claimed them & plead the Statute of limitations on me. The Lord only knows what he is to do with the Dr.- He gave me very little satisfaction about the hire of my negroes last year & said that there was no money for me- I told my negroes to fix some shafts to my old carry-all & be ready to start tomorrow- This night I spent with a Mr Jones a Batchelor who lives nearby.

Tuesday 4th April 1848

After Breakfast came over to Runnells & found my mule gone, whether by design or not, I am unable to say & Tillman sent off to load a waggon. I waited until near night when the mules were brought home & I sent for Tillman, & just before night I started. first demanding and getting my gunn & stirup iron which is all that is left of my horse & saddle.

Came to Capt Hill out of the bottom & stayed all night

Wednesday 5 April 1848

Started soon this morning and came to the Yeawaw Creek & found it very full & had to swim over & build a raft & float over my carry-all. Arrived at Henry L Graves just before night & stayed all night.

I had learned from my negroes where they were hired last year & I resolved to ascertain something of the conduct of Runnells. I found that R. MWmson had hired Sevier & owed \$72 for it except what he had paid Runnells.

I saw him & he paid me \$15-

I learned that a Mr Isbell had hired Tillman & the amot was \$92-, I saw him & he told me that he had paid some forty odd dollars to Runnells & the balance he still owed.

I had to take his statement & I took his a/c & bond for the balance of \$50-. I understood that a Mr Dix had hired Susan. I saw him, & he told me that he had given his bond to Runnells for the amot which Runnells held- I asked him to pay the money to H L Graves- I also understood that a man by the name of Pennington had hired Jim, but him I could not see. These settlements I made from the statement of the negroes and from what I learned from the men themselves- And what I saw and heard, I have come to the conclusion that this man Runnells is not an honest man, notwithstanding that he is a Deacon in the church, and notwithstanding his solemn promises to Dr. Graves & myself to keep a just & correct account of all his acts, and use strictest economy.

I spent the day in arranging my business- Saw Mrs. Butler who hired Susan, and she seemed unwilling to give her up. The bargain she had made with Runnells to board his children & to deduct it from the hire of Susan, suited her very well, & I expect it suited Runnells better.-

Slept at the Tavern to night as H L Graves had company-
Thursday 6th April.

This morning having nothing to do,- I shaved & went over to the Parsons, found Mr Hutchins there & had a long conversation with him.- Found H L Graves much better & nearly able to go about. Talked about old times and resolved to be off in the morning, intending to carry my negroes down to Washington- leave them with my sister, and get a horse and go down to Brazoria.

This evening after Dinner Mr Huckins and myself got some horses and rode round Town to look at the site & location of the Colledge which is shortly to be built; and in our route we fell in with the largerst and finest heard or flock of sheep I ever saw.

1400 in one flock besides goats, owned by a man by the name of Dix, whom lives within one mile of Independence.

We also fell in with the finest heards of cattle perhaps, now in the world.

In one herd there were said to be 3000- These fine stock prevented me from paying attention to the coledge location, which I ought.

But I found out one thing & that is, There is a Strong probability that there is to be some difficulty about the location.

Some want it in Town.

Some a half mile from town & some away from the influence of Town.

Friday 7th April 1848

After breakfast this morning I fixed to start & was off- intending to go to Washington leave my carryall & negroes with my sister; buy a horse & go down to Brazoria to learn if possible what sort of fix Runnells had gotten into there-

Started about 9 o'clock came three miles & was overtaken by Dr. Slaton who proposed to sell me his horse, saddle & bridle. He asked me \$45- which I paid him and sent his back with H L Graves' mare. Came on to Washington where I expected to make a stand for several days. But finding things there different from my expectations.

And that I could not do there as I expected so as to enable me to go down to Brazoria. & feeling home sick any how & knowing that I could effect nothing by going- I concluded to go on home and try to come back again in the fall.

with that view I crossed the River, Cane to Ringolds (The Butchers) bought 11 lbs bacon & 4 dozen eggs and came to a Batchelors by the name of Gilbert. Where I stayed all night.

Saturday 8th April 1848

This morning after we had gotten breakfast and was starting, my Slaton horse which is a real Spanish Mustang refused to go eastward, and run backwards & fell with me on him. I mounted him the second time and his conduct was worse, first pitching & then running back & finally rearing up & falling backwards, catching my leg under him-. Upon examination by Tillmon it was found out that the Girth was not right, & that his back was sore which was the cause of all his Mexican misbehavior- If I had been actuated by the same feelings towards this horse that President Polk was towards the country from which this horse came I should have this conduct as being in bad faith, & a just cause for War, & should have given him a whipping- But forbearing, as a good Whig should always do, And believing that believing that the fellow could not have done much better under the circumstances, I fixed him & tried him again. When he done finely-. Came on without much to attract attention & came to Capt. Plasters. Where we got corn & where the good lady sent us a half a bushel of butter milk.

Sunday 9th April 1848.

This morning we got a good start and came five miles to Rivers', a Mexican Tavern- Keeper where we found a great many hunters just ready for a Buffaloe Hunt,- It seems that on yesterday two Stragling Buffaloe that had wandered off and got down into this neighborhood, and the neighbors with Rivers & his son-in-law had gotten after them and had three shots without effect- had ran them down into the Swamp below Rivers' & had lost them- And this morning, all the neighbours had assembled to hunt them up.- I felt a great inclination to be in the chase, but my situation as a traveler, and the thought that it was the Sabbath restrained me.

I however got sight of a Buffaloe yearling, which had been caught last Spring & was gentled and domesticated with the calves-

Came on to Robins' ferry on the Trinity and there waited until the carry-all & negroes came up.- At this ferry, was overtaken by a young man on foot by the name of Taylor who had been to San Antonio & who requested to travel with me to Croket.

Paid an extravagant ferriage at the Trinity and came to Parkers old place where we bought corn & stayed all night.

Monday 10th April 1848

Started from Parker's old place, (where I camped three years ago) Very soon intending to make a few bigs days travel. came through Mustang Prarie, which was celebrated a few years ago for its great number of Wild Horses but where there are, now , none to be seen. This is the prettiest prairie I have seen in East Texas, and came fourteen miles to Croket the County Site of Houston County- This place, I once thought was a pretty place, but the idle, gaping, enquiring crowd, which gathers around every Stranger that comes into this town, leaves a bad impression of the people & the place on the minds of Visitors and travelers-

Here we dropped Taylor - the San Antonio traveler who requested me to inform the ferry-man at the Neches, that he was here without money or friends, & unable to get any farther, & say to the ferryman to communicate this information to his (Taylors) father who lives about a mile from the ferry- Poor fellow he is to be pitted, driven from his parental roof, by the tyriny & cruelty of a merciless Step mother he had sought refuge & peace in the Mexican War. He there soon became sick & lay many months in the Hospital until he was discharged, & by the kindness of some Texian Traders, he had gotten to San Antonio with his health gone & friendless helpless & moneyless he here lay sick for some months on the charity of a Dutchman until he was able to work when he drove an ox team for his bread and some clothes, & feeling able, he had started & gotten as far as Croket. where he became so weak from sickness that he had to Stop, & as he said, where he expected to die. came on to Mrs McLanes where we bought corn and Camped for the night
This Lady gave me a fine quantity of good Butermilk. Perhaps she took me to be a widower.

Tuesday 11th April 1848

Had a good start this morning and came on the Hennis' ferry on the Neches River. Stoped at Hennis' House & called out the good Lady & told her of young Taylor & his situation and requested that she would send word to his Father who lives about a mile from this place- at the Ferry met with a Queer genius by the name of Jos B F Garrett who boasted that he was a Texian of the right order & from his manner & conversation, I really thought that he spoke the words of truth & soberness,

Came on to Mrs Bradshaws who had just died & the whole Household was in mourning.

At this place I was shown an artificial mound made by the the Indians - perhaps the Grave of some illustrious chief of older time. It is about three hundred feet in circumference & 20 or 30 feet high & in the shape of a cone- came on to Angelina River and crossed the Toll Bridge and thence to Douglass a small Town in Nacogdochez County-

Could get no meal at this place and came two miles to a Mr. Thomas Garretts where we paid a half a dollar for corn enough to feed two horses and an extravagant price for meal and meat- These old settlers of western Texas are yet, in a great degree, actuated by the feelings and motives which first brought them to Texas- Here we stayed all night-

Wednesday 12th April 1848

Started very early this morning with a view of crossing the Sabine River which is 28 miles from this place. Came by a small village called Sand Hill, and bought some coffee, and in my travels to day saw a fine parcel of Hogs and amongst every gang which I saw I found several of the largest with bills on.

These are the first hogs I ever before saw Billed. To day we traveled 33 miles and came to a mans house by the name of Bell. Who was a Tennessean, and who treated me very kindly. Where we stayed all night

Thursday 13th April 1848

This morning the weather had a cloudy appearance & a threatening prospect of Rain.

And after an early breakfast started and came 12 miles to a Blacksmith Shop where we had some repairs done to the carry-all. This Blcksmith is georgian from Daloniga.

Here we met with a man who had come to the shop to have some repairs done to his Gun. He told us of having, on the day before found a wolfs den of seven young ones, which he had destroyed and spoke in a marvelous strain of his Superior tact in Wolf

hunting- Soon after leaving this shop I met with Washington Trammel formally of Walton County Geo & brother to Jael & Thomas Trammel.-

He has moved to this place & settled on a new farm where he expects to live- He speaks extravagantly in praise of this Country, & was very anxious for me to go with him home- Came on to Grand Bluff on the Sabine River. Here I met with Dr. Ware, formally of Hancock Coty Georgia, with whom I had a pleasant conversation for an hour or two until the carry-all came down. Crossed the Sabine about 4 o'clock and came six miles to a Mr. Watsons where we stayed all night-

Friday 14th April 1848

Started early this morning with a view if possible of getting to Shreve port which is 39 miles from this place-

Came to a Capt Anderson's where three years ago we had met with Pack Dacres, and West Campbell. Talked with the Capt about these men. He had never seen them since we were there & had understood they were both dead- Told me that Blant Means had property, but before he engaged in the fight which resulted in his death, he had conveyed it all over to Campbell, as he expected to be killed when he went down the Sabine- He spoke well of Means, but rather disparagingly, I thought, of Campbell & Dacres-

Came a few miles & was overtaken by a young man with four horses, all tied together carrying them to Shreveport- These horses had been borrowed by some young men

to ride to Henderson, at the price of \$2 p.day each & were sent back by this young man- I let Jim & Lewis ride his horses to within four miles of Shreveport, where we stopped at a Mr. Guize's, who had some pretty daughters, & where we stayed all night.

Saturday 15th April 1848

This morning started after breakfast, having only four & a half miles to go and came to Shreveport. Tied my horse and went to the Hotel and asked the Land Lord if there was any sale in town for a horse, & mule & Carry-all.

Told him also that I had some negroes to sell & asked him the price- Learned that the price of Cotton in Orleans had scared off all negro buyers.- was told to sit down in Town for a few days & he thought I could sell. Fixed a tent or camp near the ferry, & myself put up at the Hotel- Where I stayed all night.

Sunday 16th April

Came early this morning to the camp & eat breakfast & finding no respect paid to the Sabbath day, as the stores generally & most of the other shops were open, I walked about town & more than once was bantered for a trade.-

In the evening on the arrival of the Steam boat Caddo, a young gentleman came to camp & told me that he wished to buy my horse Bravo- That he was himself a Methodist, but was there without a horse & must have one.- That man was not made for the Sabbath but that the Sabbath was made for man, and as he was from necessity compelled to leave town and had no mode of getting away except by buying on that day, He hoped I would regard it as no sin to sell, as a precedent had been set by the Saviour in taking the sheep from the mire on that Holy Day. And all that thing and that sort of thing etc. until he pretty well convinced me from the force of his reasoning of the propriety of the measure-

And amongst other sensible things which he said, he told me that he would give me \$50- for the horse & a trade was the immediate consequence, least some sin might be committed by chaffering, Dallying & long delay.

Monday 17th April 1848

On yesterday I forgot to mention that the Billiard Tables & public gaming houses were generally open all day & I could see very little difference between that day and any other.

This morning I tried to sell my mule & carry-all & also tried my luck at selling the negroes- but failed- was offered \$800 for Tillman in cash- & \$700 for Lewis in cotton at 7 cts p/lb., but refused to take it- had several applications for my mule & carry all- But could not get half price bid- Laboured hard all day in trying to sell but effected nothing- I however slept sound at night-

Tuesday 18th. April 1848

This morning eat breakfast at the Hotel. sent out Tillman, Lewis & Jim to look for their masters & told them that if they would sell themselves well, I would give them \$5- each & a new suit of Clothes apiece. They told me they looked through Town but could find no bidders. To day I made the acquaintance of a good many persons.-who seemed to express a desire for my doing well-

Tried hard all day to buy me a pr. of pantaloons as those which I have on are all that I have got. But found none that would fit.

Wednesday 19th April 1848

I had some little prospect of selling Tillman- I had been offered \$800 for him & thought that if I could do no better I would take that offer- sent Tillman out & promised him a fee if he would sell himself for a higher price, but resolved to take that sum if I could do no better, & in an hour he returned and reported that the man had bought two other negroes and did not want him- I felt mortified & got me a hook & line & went fishing- Caught one fine cat which weighed 23 lbs. & saw another caught which weighed 34 lbs. Went to camp & had a fine fry-

Thursday 20th April 1848

Came to camp this morning intending to put Susan on board the Steam Boat Satona & send her home. Saw the Capt. (Smoker) & made a bargain with him to carry her to New Orleans & give her into the hands of Capt Kelly of the Montezuma. Who was requested to send her to Mobile & place her in the hands of Alonzo Haralson, who would pay her rail road & stage fare to Atlanta & then old Brother Kelsey was to send her home-

Wrote all the letters necessary & put her on board & gave the money into the hands of the Capt who was to send it along with Susan. And then intended to lay in some provision & leave Shreveport, and try my luck through the country- by Bellvell, Minden etc. as occasion & prospects would offer- - After buying my provisions & getting getting ready to start, I concluded that I would wait until morning to see the boat (which was to carry off Susan-) start.- So in company with a Mr. Guild who lives on the Brazos & a young Gentleman by the name of Ramsey, we visited the french settlement & Garden etc. & afterward took a fishing spree but caught nothing. I left my hook standing out, well baited for a big Cat-

Friday 21st April 1848

This morning at 8 o'clock the boat Satona sailed, & I went to camp with a view of starting, but met with a gentleman who told me that his name was Owen of Titus County Texas. That he was a merchant & on his way to New Orleans- & was waiting for the Steam Boat Victoress. Which had been expected down for several days, that on that boat there were two gentlemen who owed \$2000- & that if I would wait until the arrival of that boat & if when they came he could get his money- He would give me the \$2000 for my three boys.

I told him that he had too many "ifs" & conditions in his proposition & that I could not consent to wait- - Just at this time Tillmon came for me & told me there was a gentleman in town who wanted to buy Jim. I hunted him up found his name to be John R Taylor of Upshur County Texas. Offered him Jim at \$600. & he told me that he had but \$500. which he would give & no more.

I could no better, & I took his offer & sold him Jim, which is the first & only negro I ever sold. But I have the consolation to know that I sold him to a good man & one who will treat Jim well-My hook which I set out last night, caught a cat that weighed 42 pounds.

Saturday 22nd April 1848

Paid my bill at the Tavern this morning (\$2+) And after early breakfast started.

Crossed the ferry at Shreveport & paid the extravagant ferriage of \$1.25.- Came to a Mr. Burnams & offered to sell him the negroes. But he had disposed of his money. Crossed the ferry at the Benwais Bayou ferriage 20c.

Crossed another ferry over a dry slough, Willow Shute, & paid 50c. & came to Nother ferry at Lake Bodceau. Where I paid 50c ferriage-Great Earth! thought I how many ferries & money traps have I stumbled upon? Before we got to Bodceau Lake the right fore wheel of my carry-all gave out, & Tillman fixed it up until we got to Bellow. Arrived at Bellow about sun down and got an out house near the Jail to go into. tried to buy butter, meal, corn & eggs, but failed- There seems to be very little of these things in this Town to sell.

One gentleman sent me a plate of Butter & came down & talked with me until Bedtime. his name is Long. He seemed to be a very clever man.

Saturday 23d April 1848

Arose this morning & had an excellent breakfast of Scrambled eggs which I had bought on the road yesterday & walked out to look at the town, found it a new place. The County Site of Bozier Parish.

Some half a dozen or more families, Two Hotels, & one grocery or deadfall, a very common jail & a very uncommon Court House.

I called on Mr. Long the Tavern Keeper to ascertain if ther were any purchasers of negroes in this place & in a conversation with him I learned that Mr. Key and Lady resided here who were once great favourites with Dr. T A Graves. I resolved to call on them and make their acquaintance. And according about Ten O'clock I walked down.

When I got to the gate I felt that I was approaching the house of a Lady. The front yard so tastefully arranged. The choice collection of flowers in such rich profusion and every thing about the premises so indicative of neatness, elegance refinement, and good sense.

I walked in, and introduced myself and was met by that warm generous Spirit (both by the gentleman & Lady) not always to be met with in the common circles of life, and which made me feel my situation a pleasant one from the first interview.

I spent some two hours with them and should have dined there, but the situation of things at camp required my presence there at Meal Times, & I returned to camp before dinner.

I had hardly got home & directed my dinner operations before a Servant Girl of Mrs. Key's came to the camp with a large Tea Tray and told me that here mistress had sent me "Some dinner".- I raised the beautiful white linen towel which covered it. And !Great Earth!! What delicacies and what luxuries I had before me.- It must be remembered that I had traveled all the way from the Brazos Bottoms to this place with negroes, and upon camp fare, and that camp fare of the texas character. Which is at least one hundred p/cent below common waggoners fare.

That my appetite suffered and longed for something beyond bread baked of coarse corn meal, ground in a coffee mill or mashed with an axe, & a piece of fat bacon broiled before the fire on a stick. I say my appetite longed for something beyond this. and I had hoped soon, to get out of these Troubles, but I little expected that An Angel was emptying her rich comforts upon me, like Manna from Heaven upon the Camps of Israel.- Here were all that my heart desired. Meats, vegetables, and desarts of the best kind and served up in the neatest & richest manner.

And with an appetite as keen as a Hungry Wolf- Oh Ghost of Apicius!!- what a meal I made-. I shall never forget this Lady.-I never expect to see her again, but I shall never forget her- I had thought she was sister to one whom I had expected to have the pleasure at some period of my life of calling "Sister", but I find she is a Cousin.

I don't wonder that Dr. Tho A Graves should love a family like this- I do pray that she may live long in this world, Die Happily-& in Heaven, reap the rewards of her noble and generous deeds here upon earth.

Monday 24th April 1848

I forgot to mention that last evening, after I had eat my supper, I again called upon Mr. Key and his good Lady & spent the evening with them. There I met with Dr. Hamilton & another young gentleman whose name upon introduction I did not learn.

Whilst on my visit to Mr. Key & Lady, the Land Lady at the Long Hotel, Mrs. Long, sent a servant over to my camp with the rich delicacies of her table for my supper, which I learned after my return to camp, and I regret that I missed enjoying it.- This Lady, Mrs. Long, I had noticed before. She had entertained me very pleasantly an hour in the forenoon of the day & I was much pleased with her. I understood that she is a Georgian. & I loved her some on that account. But her easy and pleasant manner, her interesting conversation, and the interest she manifested for me (a perfect Stranger) gave me a very high opinion of this Lady- But the further manifestation of her disinterested generosity and magnanimity last evening in sending me that Supper has fixed the remembrance of her hereafter forever in my mind-

Bless the good Lady- I do hope she may have her share of the good things of this world.

This morning after an early breakfast I walked over to Mr. Lawson's, who I understood wished to buy some negroes, but he was from home and his Lady told me that he had declined purchasing for the present,- I then made arrangements to start and called over at Long's Hotel. Thanked my friend Mrs. Long for her kindness and bade her farewell.

Came on through a Beautiful plain country, but badly watered, to Minden & arrived there about 3 o'clock, and by the kindness of my friend J M Morrow got a good out House to go into- - - At the Minden Ferry today I had a Jolly conversation with the ferryman who would know me in spite of all I could do & say. He also told me of a man (Russel Long) who he thought would buy one of my boys, & promises to help me find a purchaser.

Tuesday 25th April 1848

After an early breakfast this morning, I walked over town, and was struck with the improvement made here since I was here last.- I once thought that Minden would at some future day be a place of great importance in North West Louisiana, and I find that the public and enterprising spirit of its citizens, together with the increasing agricultural interest of the Surrounding country about it, etc more strongly convince me of the truth of my first impression.- Besides a large Mercantile interest already established here, the mechanical business is being directed and concentrated at this point where can be found shops of all kinds from the iron foundary, to the Blacksmiths forge, including cotton gins shops- Silversmiths & waggon makers, Tinner gunsmithy etc.

But above all the attention of this community seems to be turned toward the Education & Moral Culture of the Youth of the country. There are at this time three fine schools in Minden.- To day I dined with J M Morrow- purchased a pr of pantaloons of Mrs Chaffe & got Mrs. Gilcourt to make them.

Was introduced to many Georgians here, now, looking at the country, and tried to sell Sevier to a Mr. Washington Early Edens, who lives about 25 miles from this place, But

he spoke of the hardness of the times and scarcity of money & walked away & left me.

Wednesday 26th April 1848

This morning I arose early and by previous promise of yesterday took breakfast with my friend James McMorrow. Again walked over the town, Was introduced to a ery clever man by the name of Scott. With whom I had a sharpe dispute about the future price of cotton. Was introduced to day to a Gentleman by the name of Austin & his brother, one of whom lives in Columbus & saw me at the Stone Mountain in February- The other lives in Campbell-

Tilman went to Mrs. Gilcourts for my pantaloons & she made him pay a dollar for the making, after having agreed with me on yesterday to make them for 75 cts.- Put them on & they fitted finely- They are the only pair which I have except the one I had worn from Independence to this place and which were worn out. Ah me! Had my own beloved wife known my situation on yesterday in regard to Breaches how unhappy she would have been- Tis well for the happiness of mankind that some things in this world are hidden from our knowledge.

To day, whilst I was at camp at my dinner, Mr. Edens came up & offered me my price for Lewis, \$712.50, and in five minutes we made a trade. Lewis was well pleased, as this man is said to be one of the cleverest and most humane men in all this Country. He has but one other negro & that is a likely Girl of 13 or 14 years & he wanted Lewis to make a family-

Thursday 27th April 1848

I had never been to see Mrs. Murrell

* * *

Note: the writing simply stopped at the above point. All of the 6 or 7 sheets remaining in the book are blank, except for a few notes in pencil that were made when he was in Independence, and seem to be 1- or 2-word reminders of what he wanted to include in his diary.

At the front of the book, on flyleaf facing the first page of his Journal are these words, written in ink: I am to be at C. H. on Thursday the 2d. of June. 1825. to Settle with Richardson Burton & Hubbird- P. . Haralson.

And one other entry: Call on Francis N Haralson of New Orleans & get Dr. Thomas A. Graves' trunk etc etc- & Bring it with me to the Stone Mountain Georgia or to Social Circle where the Dr. lives - Paul A Haralson

The author of this letter is Mary Booth Haralson who was Paul A. Haralson's second wife. The letter was written to Leannah Jane Haralson daughter of Paul A. Haralson and Leannah Graves Haralson. "Aunt Jane" is the sister of Paul A. Haralson. "Aunt Louisa" is Maria Louisa Graves who died Jan. 12, 1854? The baby Paul Haralson may be the son of Ann Slade Haralson (daughter of Paul and Leannah) and James Frank Leonard. The baby was born Oct. 1853.

Phila Feb. 4th 1854

My Dear Jane,

I need not say, how much pleasure the reception of yours, a short time since, gave me. I had looked long & anxiously for it & learned by a letter from Mary, a few weeks before, that you had both written me - but the letters did not reach me. What would I not give, even not, to get hold of those letters, as well as your Aunt Mary's. I have never rec'd a letter from her, though it would be very gratifying to me to receive one. I shall ever cherish feelings of no ordinary kind for the sister's of your dear father, although I have not seen them. Remember me very kindly to your Aunt Jane; for I presume you see her often. In my last letter to you, I did not intend to express any doubts - I only mentioned, in my great anxiety to hear from you, what thoughts flitted through the mind - but they were immediately banished; I fear if you do not soon get better, you will have some local disease that it will be difficult to remove. - Let me again urge you to make any, & every sacrifice that may be necessary to regain general health. In some way take a great deal of exercise every day, & be very particular in your diet. Avoid all rich food, & all kinds that disagree with you at all. In addition to this care, I wish you would take a little rhubarb daily, just enough to act as a gentle, very gentle purgative (of course this letter is for your age only.) I use the root, & cut off a little piece, the size of an ordinary pill, & take it once, or twice, or even three times a day. I have not a doubt that it will improve your health if you will persevere. Will you not, you may find something more efficient necessary, even now, to remove disease. But I wish you to follow my directions, for the improvement of your general health, for weeks, & months if necessary. - Till you feel well, - till you are free from headache, & lassitude, & all the host of evils that accompany indigestion (The "laziness" of which you complain would vanish with the other troubles). Is not good health worth the effort? It is only with very great care, that I enjoy comfortable health. During the months of Aug Sept. & Oct. my health was very bad; I did not know a night of refreshing sleep - Afterwards my health improved, but I am not now quite well. Dr. McClellan, (my physician you know) died a few weeks since, of disease of the heart, I cannot tell you how much I feel his loss. I do not feel as if any one else could prescribe for me as well. The family are all well & desire a kind remembrance to you. The children listened to your message with a great deal of interest. Sarah is from home at this time, or she would have messaged to you. It has been quite cold here, & I have felt it very much; but I suppose we shall not have much more cold weather.

Have you made any definite -arrangements- about returning in the spring? Write me all about it as soon as you do. You have very little idea how much pleasure your "laziness" has deprived me of-for you do not know how anxiously I watch for your letters.

I do not know when I shall go to Ga. not in the spring however, for I need as cool and bracing an atmosphere as I can find during the summer. My health is so _____,- & so variable, that I dread travelling very much; though I know that when I am able to go, my health is benefitted by it. We shall be very glad to see you here, & I hope to do so some day, & am very anxious to see you.

Will you not write me immediately on the reception of this? & write often. I should so love to see a few lines from your pen, every day or two, till the sheet is filled; & then I should have a picture of the manner in which you are spending your time. Remember that life at longest is short, & try to do good, & to get good each day- that at its close, you may be able to _____ a life well spent, & look forward to a happy immortality.- Don't let the pains & pleasures of life banish from your thoughts,- the one great object of your existence is "To glorify God"- & be prepared to enjoy his presence forever in the prayer of your affectionate Mother. M. B. Haralson.

There comes a letter from Anna- She calls her babe "Paul Haralson" as you probably know, & I presume too, you have heard of your Aunt Louisa's death. _____ says "What has become of his Jane? I have not rec'd one word from her since she has been in Texas. _____ has written to to his _____, but can get no answer." Dr. Weare has sold his place moved to La. _____. _____ Butler is married, & Mrs. Graves is dead. Atlanta is the county seat of the new county-called Walton.

I believe this is all the news - Remember affectionately to all our friends with whom you are staying - again farewell M. B. H.