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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Jan 2nd 1889

Very dear Son

I expect by this time this reaches you you will feel as if you would like to hear from us all. I hope you had a safe & pleasant trip & found board an satisfactory place & by this time begin to feel a little at home. I do hope you will find the change to you an advantage, write us all about everything concerning yourself, we heard through "Uncle Hiram" of your arrival in Tachikahoe. I wish you had a cold time the night you left. I have missed my dear boys as much feel lost without you both. Benben enjoyed the Cachel party very much wore the "booby" fringe, a boy baby dress up in fancy style, the supper was splendid, meats, cake of all sorts, fixings

mate, jolly & charlotte mace, this morn-
ing Miss Love returned my
cabin filled with different kinds of
cakes, we have enjoyed it very much.
This morning we had a note from
Mabel. Have asking Reuben to go up
to stay with Mother, he went but
returned to dinner finding that
Mother & Alice had gone into town
after he ^{that is} left for Selma. Reuben is
milking regularly 2 cows, don't know
how long he will keep it up, today
we have shinned 4 hours, no better
yet, am afraid my new girl Lodie
will be disgusted with her first
day's work. I think she will learn
well if I can only keep her.

This pencil is too bad must try the
ink but that is worse. Fanny R
& the Misses Brown leave tonight.
Reuben thinks it his bounden duty to

Jan. 2, 1889

see them off. Reuben says Jeremiah
Robinson has left the store & is going
to school to Col. Murphy. I wish we
had known it sooner might you
would have liked to go with him.

As there is no episcopal church at
Starksville I hope you will be able to
attend services at some other of the
churches next to our church. I prefer the
methodist, think it better to ^{go} than than
not attend any service, perhaps they
have services at the college they used
to. It is getting too dark to write so
with much love good night

Your devoted Mother.

Must I address your letters to Mr. or
Ladies B. Mr. Duggan.

Jan 8th 1889.

My dear Son

I was very glad today
to receive your Sunday letter &
trust a reply that we may
send a draft, you certainly have to
cut close as the saying is. You
did not mention the overcoat, if
you had heard from it, I wrote
you Sunday to send your money
if it had not been found, also
to look at them in Starksville,
suppose you received the letter &
will attend to it, this cold
weather you need an overcoat
put on your vest when you are
out, or news paper doubled & put
over your breast with coat button
ed over it is a great protection,
try it if you can find a news

paper. I will send the contents
with pleasure and soon make
them, don't you expect to have a
soon mate? You don't say how
you are pleased & how things
compare with the University.
I had a letter from "Aunt M"
today she said she would miss
you so much, that Sunday she
found herself looking out of the
front door for you. "Uncle Ben"
has broken up again the stable
was not making enough to pay
him a salary so he sold some
of his stock I think sister I said
& is going at something else. I
will send Aunt M's letter for
you to read, return it because I
want to send it to Fred, had
a letter from him also today. H

JAN 27 1889

was detained, did not reach
College until Thursday.

I think your studies will keep
you quite busy, but if you can't
work try to exercise in some
way to keep in good health.
I had said they might let you
work in the experiment station
& pray you but I am not anxious
for you to work if you can
exercise without it.

We had a very unpleasant
surprise this morning - Shrews
after saying he would stay with
us, concluded he would sit, went
off this morning has not return-
ed, we don't know whether he
will take Kate off or not, she
is willing to stay. The boys have

to feed, they will have a muddy
 time tomorrow morning, the rain
 is pouring down steadily. This
 evening Lewis & Allen killed the
 white hog & the two pigs so that
 trouble is off hand. Yesterday I
 had 8 turkeys dressed to send to
 Kepps, (88 lbs, at $12\frac{1}{2}$ a pound) will
 more than buy you an overcoat.
 The boys are eating Mrs Browning
 killed 1 yesterday & one today & one
 of our guineas. Little West brook was
 at the store yesterday said they
 were doing finely. Mr Bledsoe is
 buying cattle, took one load to
 Mobile & says he sold for much
 less than he gave for them, but
 is getting up another load.
 Yes, I like to know how you spend
 Sunday, & any other day, am alone

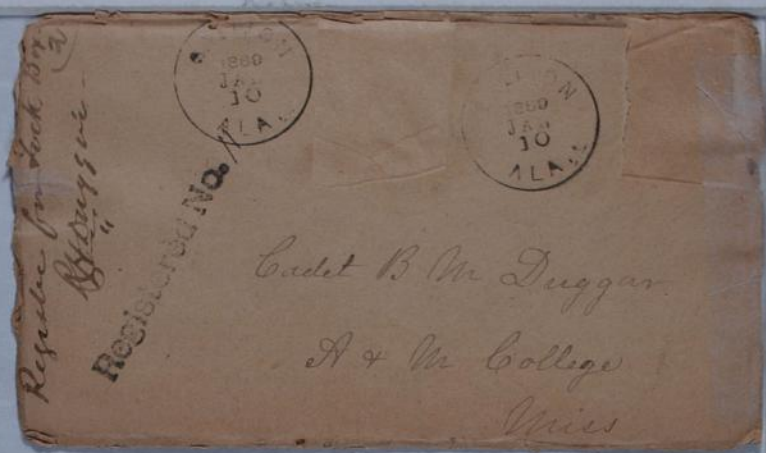
interested in whatever concerns my
children. The boys say they will
try to write to you. How forgot to
tell you ~~dear~~ your Father gave
you last year. I think it would
have been useful to you.

My new maid "Sadie" does very
well indeed is very steady &
regular, quick to learn too.

My eyes are hunting and as I
will say good night, with
much love from us all ever

Your devoted Mother.

With love M. W. W. W. W.



Jan 10th 1889

My dear Ben

I was very glad to receive your letter last night for I wanted to know about the over coat. I sent directions for measurement, got one of the boys to take it for you, I expect you can get a tape line & as you take each measurement put down no of inches. I am not willing for you to be without an overcoat, we may have hard weather yet. I enclose \$5.00 to make up the 15 you think you will need your Father sent the other day a check for 10. I am writing in a great hurry as you see - Shamus took Kate

off yesterday evening & probe
Jenny is my dependance in the
kitchen as yet hope to do better
I am staying up late today from
the white hog & shoats, made
the arrangements yesterday. It was
pinching cold early this morning
I do wish I had a coat I could
send right now. Can send
contents and coat together let
us have mine as soon as
possible. Must say good bye
now, with much love even

Your devoted Mother

R's shed, Anty. wrote
to F. Anty's letter
about overcoats, mailed mine
& drafted. In hope Sunday
D. J. J. Watson Son

March 28th 1889

My dear Son
I hope you are well. Wish
everybody love ever
Your devoted
Mother.

I did not write yesterday because your Father sent off a letter Sunday or Monday with a draft for \$32.00 hope you received it safely. I hope you have not been sick with mumps, but fear you have, if so take care of yourself try not to take cold, this is a disagreeable day, wind from the east, just the weather that you ought not to be exposed if you have had the mumps, or are taking them.

Reuben has recovered from chicken pox, the others have not taken it yet, he has gone up to Wau Down to spend the day, & Wade & Lewis off fishing & I am quite alone but not lonesome for I have a plenty to do. A new cook started in ^{the kitchen} Tuesday & much of my time is spent teaching her, she is not near so good a milker as the girl I had & not so good in the kitchen but we thought it the best we could do, my butter has fallen off a great deal since she took the milking.

Yesterday I was sewing away on the machine, heard some one calling loudly for me, looked out & Mrs Goble was at the gate, stopped a little while on her way to Mrs DuBois.

where she expected to spend the night, she begged me to go to Selma with her Monday to have my teeth fixed but I can't leave home now. I have heard nothing more from Tackuloosa since the card I sent ay, saying they had whooping cough badly. Had a letter from Fred Thursday. This is about expiration time isn't it. I hope you are through all right.

I was surprised yesterday by a letter from Mary Jackson, the first in months, she made many excuses, says all her brothers are from home, she devotes most of her spare time to writing to them. Has all the sewing for the family to do, house-keeping & working the front yard also chickens to attend to. Tom is in Texas, Temple at the University, did not say what Tom was doing, or in what part of the state.

I am still much interested in finding turkey eggs, have 62 in all, 37 sitting under 2 turkeys, and basked out with chickens, hens so slow taking the nest. I have sold \$16.00 worth of turkeys, have only 3 more to dispose of, think we will eat them ourselves, had an order the other day for 6 but could not fill it, I believe it would pay if I could go largely into the business & have a good many early ones. Mrs Smith has already 150 chickens. Thursday just as the dinner bell rang your Grand Mother & Uncle Waver drove up, took dinner, Reuben drove her to see Mrs Hatels & ~~was~~ stayed here. Mrs H- is sick a great deal, the rest of our

I sent it by mail & for up my letter to
 send off, but a
 letter from Aunt
 M. Lucy was
 better. With much
 love from
 Yours devoted
 Mother.
 P.S. I forgot to
 tell you the
 boys for a while
 some of the
 fools for the
 girls here &
 Maybel expected
 to be some
 from but no
 school spirit
 it, or rather
 they are not
 there to see
 things show
 the boys.

I don't know how it was that Saturday &
 Sunday passed without any writing to you, hope you have
 not been uneasy on account of the delay. Your letter did
 not come this morning, but I expect you were busy
 with your examinations or maybe, were through with
 them, & took a trip to Columbus. We were all glad this
 morning to have a good shower, tho' not enough to wet
 the ground much it will help a great deal & we have
 the promise of more, our plants are very large but have
 had no reason to put them out, suppose we will
 set them out this evening. This is the last day our
 man will stay, then the boys will have to feed &
 Reuben & your Father work the garden.

Waver & Lurie were taken yesterday week with chicken
 pox & could not go to school the whole week, Waver had
 a head ache & fever yesterday but is up today. I tell
 he is well speckled with the bumps, they have turned
 black & look so badly, Lurie's did not do that way.
 Saturday evening Lurie drove me to see Mrs Smith, his
 Mother is there, then we called at the Sted's, they
 were out so I had time to make a visit to Mrs

Shivers, at Mrs Smiths I heard, rumor says all the girls in the neighborhood are to be married in the fall, that is, Miss Bertha, Dora, Fanny & Lucie, I was joking Lucie at Sunday School about it, she & Mrs R both denied Lucie having any such intentions, said they could not answer for Fanny, Minnie would be the only young lady left, Mr H- is fixing up for her, put a bridge where you turn to go in the front gate & marked off the road on each side with a plow! very necessary as it had become almost obliterated. I think some painting is going on & the front yard being fixed up, I furnished the violets. Fred has applied for recommendations with a view of applying for the place as agent at the Co. Experiment Station, I hope if he does apply he will get it.

I am getting on finely with turkeys, was so glad to be able to tell Mrs Smith that I had 4 setting, (have set another since) she brags so much about what she has but had to acknowledge that she had only 8 turkey eggs, I set 98, have others on hand, chickens have not turned out so well have only about 37, will set some more here soon. The rain prevented Mrs R from coming to school as Lavin returned & is mending up his saddle. Your grand Mother, Alice & Addie Michael stopped at

April 6th 1889.

Dear Son,
I was surprised but very glad to receive a letter from you yesterday, it had not been but a day or so since I received the one before that, it went to Fannedale & it seems was delayed & I was wondering why you had not written & if you were sick. I think the Prof. treated you badly about your marks & it must have been very provoking to you, is there no redress? could you appeal to the President? or would that injure you here after with the Prof? certainly the examination marks were the things to go by I think. We understand it, probably you will not be annoyed that way when you are a regular Sophomore, of course you have some pride about class standing but as you say, will have to disregard that this year, & next serious things will be all right I hope, we believe you do your best & that is all any one can do. You know Fred was bothered about his marks too, especially by Dr. Phau & he gave him glowing recommendations, Fred sent extracts from the different papers letters, they were loud in his praise & if good words from those letters would gain the place he will have it, but he doesn't seem to count on it. I hope he will not be disappointed, would be so much easier home & in a less trying climate.

This morning I was heard at work making some pies & trying to keep my temper with the old cook when Mrs Smith, & Miss Smith's Mother, were announced, of course I had to drop even the pie making, as I knew they were very

pleasant & I was glad to see them tho' I did have to leave
my pie to the mercy of the cook. I was not expecting my call
returned so soon. Yesterday I had a great surprise, as
usual I was in my working clothes not ready for company,
the house girl came in & said there was a lady in the
parlor she thought it was "Miss Kate Davies," I hurried
on a dress & went in, you may imagine my surprise
when they arose & spoke to me & then Beccie, little Beccie,
"Dave" & Otey, they sent a card saying they were coming, I
received it yesterday evening after they left. I did not know
Beccie had returned from Texas & had not an idea of
where they was, she has been spending a week around
with her different friends, will go to Mrs Jimmy Otey's
from Beccie's, from there to Tenn the 1st of May to spend
the summer with Mrs Carter his cousin. Beccie is working
on the R. R. with Mrs Otey, head quarters at Birmingham.
Beccie spent only two weeks in Texas.

The boys spent the morning clearing off the space in the
garden occupied by the Texas blue grass, & from that to the
railings, they rolled in a great deal of manure & fixed
bills for water melons & cantaloupes, will plant this evening.
It was a good morning's hard work, gave them a good
appetite for dinner, I hope they will enjoy some nice ones.
You said nothing in your last letter of going to Columbus
tomorrow but expect you will, I will be anxious to know how
you like them all, your candid opinion, especially of Miss
F. for my part I liked the Mother best but don't hint
that to Fred. I am writing you a great letter but have not

April 12th 1889

I do not remember what day last week I wrote but think it is time to be writing again tho' there is nothing very interesting to communicate, only home affairs to write about.

I wonder if you made your visit to Columbus Sunday & how you found Miss Fanny, Fred wrote that she was sick the early part of the week, she must be delicate, I hear so often of her being sick. This is real summer weather isn't it? I expect you find it pretty hot working at 2 or 3 o'clock in the day, you have a steam heat have it you? Your Father has been in the garden a great deal & complains a good deal of the heat, he never did any work before but this spring he has done a good deal in the garden. For two days we have had an old man hired to work the garden, he has cleared it out nicely & now we want a good rain to make things grow would soon have peas if it would rain, the potatoes are large too, expect we can have some Exeter (Sunday week) I expect your grand Mother will dine with us that day.

My dear son I am so glad to know that you wish to be confirmed, you can't begin too soon, to lead a Christian life, it is a great comfort to us to know that our children are enlisting as Christ's soldiers & endeavoring to live here, that they may attain everlasting life hereafter. My prayers have been for you all & most thankful I am

Take care of the calf & return it in the fall fat enough to kill. I must stop now & fix my
battling before dinner.
we are all well &
hope you are enjoying
the same blessing.
With much love
Your devoted
Mother.

that he has answered them so far. I wish Reuben would consider the matter & come forward to, but he seems to have no idea yet, we must all pray for him & for each other. If I can get any books on the subject of confirmation I will send them to you to read.

Your Grand Mother was here yesterday, came up to work in her square, Mrs Kornegay was with her, when they finished they came over & made me a visit, I like Mrs K - very much, it is the first time I ever was in company with her.

I am still busy with my fowl, have about 50 chickens, 139 turkey eggs setting, my first turkey ought to hatch next Tuesday, another Thursday as I will be still more busy, my house girl is so slow she never has time to help much with the fowl. Reuben came in a while ago & said Bobby Collins had returned.

Did I write you that Mrs Robinson is to have a little exhibition at the close of her school, the boys are learning their pieces & the chorus they are to sing. I wish you could be home in time for it, they will have the grand exhibit at the "Jessie Griffin Hall." Dr Tank's office is nearly finished so we have two new Dr's offices in town. Mr Bledsoe keeps "fancy groceries" fresh beef & fish (on Saturdays) at Dr Tank's office at Gallien. Lewis Brown bought "Brown Lady" the other day so my butter is falling off a little but I was glad for hents go we have so many to feed & hay nearly out, there it is so hard to get so many cows well milked, he is to

April 29th 1889.

My dear Son

Levie went to the office yesterday evening returned with your letter & a long one from "aunt M" of course I was delighted to receive them. Your letter quite "stirred me up", I feel quite sure Fred will apply for the place & if he can only secure it how glad I will be, I think he must stand a good chance, let me know how it is decided as soon as you hear, maybe it was well he did not get the place in Georgia, this would suit all parties better I think. I suppose you all are in a flutter of excitement today, making arrangements for tomorrow. I hope you will enjoy the day. Well now I will tell you what I have been doing, Turkey came over to stay a few days, so Friday, Reuben & myself went to Dennopolis to sell our butter, Mr Ely gave us the large price of 18^{cts} a lb, but while there made an arrangement to send it to the Hotel for, 20^{cts} that is the highest any one will give now. Saturday at 3 o'clock Reuben & I started for your Uncle John's spent the night, went to Sunday school & services in St Michael's & returned home to dinner because I wanted to go to the (postponed) Easter festival in Dennopolis last night. I enjoyed my visit very much Beccie is always so kind & affectionate. She bought a parlor organ, it arrived that night we had the pleasure of helping them unpack it, she is organist for the S. S., says she is going to drive Mary & Beccie taught. Miss Jew Alexander is church organist Miss Alice & Charlie Walker are the choir. The church

full, the Bishop will be there Friday, Mr Dennis has a
large class for confirmations. We have had no notice of
the Bishop coming here, maybe this is a special visit to
Farmdale. We will go down, are invited to dine with Mrs
Bennett.

I have been taking off more chickens & turkeys today, have
about 120 chickens & 47 turkeys, some more hatching, the
first 32 are growing finely hope all may do as well.

Bessie has out any & only 40 chickens as I feel as if I am
doing right well have had as little help in taking care
of them. We hired a boy Saturday night, I hope he
may prove useful & that we can keep him, have no
one but Sadie & I have put her to cooking & I clean the
house. Turkey went home today.

I know you will be glad if Fred gets the place, he will
be a help & company for you too. I am sorry you will
not be here to the boys grand commencement, their
school closes early in June. Our boys are invited to an
Episcopal S.D. picnic, Wednesday week, don't know
whether they can go, it is to be some where in Wm. Sellers
woods. We are having very cool nights but the days are
warm & it is getting very dry again, have had as
much wind to carry off the moisture. Enclose 1.00
as a little pocket change have no other in paper or
would send more. The boys are going to the depot so
I must bid you a rather hasty good bye, with much
love ever

Yours devoted Mother.

We were glad to see this program.

May 6th 1889

My dear Son

We are just from Sunday School, Waver wants to go to the office this evening so I will try to get my letter written before dinner. Friday night I received, as I supposed a letter from you but in the envelope was two half sheets to Fred, none to me, I suppose you put them in the wrong envelope & my letter & part of Fred's went to him, the first part of his, to me, I took the liberty of sending it then enclosed to him, suppose he will do the same with mine & I will receive it in a few days. I have heard of such mistakes before, only worse.

Your Father & myself went to St Michael's Friday to hear the Bishop, there were 10 confirmed, your Uncle John, Mrs Bennett, one of the Ruffins girls & Blund Selden among others, oh! I am so glad your Uncle John has come into the church, only one more of my brothers to come. We dined with Mrs Bennett, she had no company but ourselves, we could not persuade Reuben to go, the church was full, I saw many old friends & enjoyed it. I have not heard yet when the Bishop will be here, hope not until after you come home.

I feel so anxious to hear if Fred got the place, do hope he did for I think they have rather imposed on him in Texas, have given him so much to do.

Mrs Robinson showed me part of a letter from Gordon this morning in which he tells of Sammys success at a concert, says she led them all, leaving such a girl

behind her that none could cross," was a long way ahead of them all & looked as pretty, said he felt "quite proud of the old girl" but that she took her honors very calmly. I hope they paid her for singing, Mrs R. said nothing about that, she talks of going up about the time for Fanny to come home, Gordon promises to return with her for a visit if she will go.

I have two summer cravats will send you in a few days, let me know if you need any thing in the way of clothing before Commencement. The S S pie is at Fannedale comes off Wednesday, your Father told our boys they could go but they don't seem to care much about it.

Your Grand Mother & Alice stopped at the gate a little while this morning. I gave her some nice lettuce to take home for dinner. This is rather a short letter but our dinner will soon be ready so I must close. All unite with me in much love to you

Your devoted Mother,

I send you a little book on confirmations you will see it has Lewis Michael's name on it, some how your grand Mother had it & I got it from her.

May 21st 1889

My dear Son

We feel rather lonely tonight without your Father, he left this morning for the Church Council at Birmingham in company with Capt Taylor & Mr Smith. I expect he will stay until Saturday, hoped to be able to run down to Tarkenton to spend the night with "aunt M". In her last letter she speaks confidently of returning to the plantation in the fall, she had the delightful expectation of having "aunt Lucy" to make her a visit.

I received your letter Saturday I think, your boys must have enjoyed the strawberries, I would like to have ^{had} access to them, would have put up a nice lot of preserves & strawberry vinegar. We have enjoyed the dewberries, had a great many & so nice, sister S. said they had not seen any, & strawberries were 15^{cts} a qt, too high she thought for them to indulge in. Saturday evening I was much surprised by Mrs Goble making her appearance, spent the night & next day, went to church with us tho she was very unwell & looks badly. Mr Cobb & brother Waver came home with us. Mr C. says he will get the Bishop to put off his visit as late in June as possible so that you may be here. You asked about Mrs Robinson's Commencement, it will come off the 2nd of June & there is no chance of your being present. Fred has never said what time he would be home but that will depend on what place he gets if he leaves Texas.

Wednesday morning. I had a letter from Fred this morning
which I will enclose, I am very sorry he was defeated in 94.
The young men are making plans to have a dance at the
"Griffin Hall" about the 12th of June, I want them to wait
until you & Fred come but they say about the 12th there will
be some visiting girls around here & they must have some
entertainment for them, after that Susan goes to Mountville;
& I run off somewhere. Reuben's head is full of it, he is hard
at work now on the road fence that the cows broke down
yesterday evening, the old fences are so bad; they must
intend to keep him busy for just now Nora is breaking
into the artichoke lot, that will be to fix, the boy and have has
not sense to do anything & is slower than a snail except
about stealing eggs he keeps the nests clean, sells them at
the store. Alice Sprague had measles very slightly is well
now. Very few of our turkeys have died so I think we will
have as many as we can manage, there is an abundant
crop this year will be cheap in the fall, the chickens are
doing well too, will have some nice ones by the time you
come home if they are not stolen by Richard, if he takes
eggs to sell I suppose chickens will stand no chance either.
Every thing is suffering for rain, we are having such drying
winds, worse even than the hot sun. I must stop now
& answer Fred's note. I hope you received the draft I enclose
you Friday or Saturday. With much love ever

Your devoted

Mother.

May 27th 1889.

Now devoted
Mother

are to play as
I saw one picnic.
It keeps clouding up
but no sun the
gardens are bringing
up. Dinner is very
ready I must close;
Please excuse
mistakes. With
much love to
you

I was glad to receive yours of the 22nd, did not write yesterday because from Sunday school until dinner I read & talked to your Father who returned on the 9 o'clock train, & in the evening he proposed we should go up to your Grand Mother's, I gladly consented. I seldom have a chance, the evening was pleasant & I enjoyed the ride in the road cart, always thought them uncomfortable things but find I was mistaken, Alice is quite well of measles, Mother was not complaining at all but looks thin & callow. Uncle Waver gave glowing accounts of Adele's wedding, said he never saw so much meat & bread, calades by the bucket, ices, cakes &c &c in quantities, it took two rooms for the supper, two parlors were opened for dancing besides other rooms for "wall flowers" & old married folks. The presents were numerous & beautiful, Mr Stickney married Miss Marnie Harwood the night before & accompanied the young couple to Birmingham. Your Father enjoyed the visit greatly I think went down to Tuscaloosa Friday evening, left for home Saturday evening, said they were all well & partly promised us a visit this summer, he did not once think of getting your coat &c from the University says you can write to your friend to send them home & ask him if there is any one he could leave them in charge of, ^(the books) to sell for you next fall, as the coat would be injured by moisture it might be sent with the cap to Aunt M. to keep for you until fall.

I will ask her to do it & you make the inquiry about the books, if nothing else can be done they might be sent home by freight. Your Father heard that the Uni is going down rapidly & they think if they don't get rid of general Clayton & his crew that it will go down entirely. I don't envy you the job of decorating the chapel but suppose it is considered rather an honor to have it to do, hope your class will succeed well with the work, suppose it will give you a good deal of extra work. Your Father says you can collect the \$12.00 order & bring it when you come home. This morning we went to the school house to see Mrs R - about the flags I have to make for her school exhibition, our town could not furnish materials so Reuben has gone to try at the depot. I have the U S & the Carfield flag to make. Reuben is to be one of the speakers on the occasion. I am very much afraid it will be a failure, our boys take an interest in it, don't know how it is with the others. I am determined to try to take all the boys to the concert at Prof Mellin's school on the 12th of June, Alice is to sing a solo, they have never been at a concert & I want them to see what it is, I mean the little fellow - I sent her Grace came in to get your Father to bend some wire in the shape of wings, she will cover them with cloth & then with crissed tissue paper to represent feathers. She is to be the Goddess of Peace ~~with~~ ^{each} the nation brings her an offering of peace & plants it flag at her feet, each one recites a piece as they come up, if carried out well I think it must be very pretty.

June 7th 1889

My dear Son

Friday has come round again as it is my usual time for writing to you will begin a letter. I feel as if I had been on a spree all the week, Monday & Tuesday everything was bustle & confusion helping Mrs R - fix up the "Hall" for her expenses, Tuesday night it was nearly 12 o'clock when we reached home so of course we had to rest some. Wednesday morning, that evening the boys were helping Mrs R get up her things, move the pians, benches &c. (Mrs Collins let her have the benches from the baptist church.) Tuesday at 12 1/2 o'clock Waver & myself took the road cart & Gordon for a trip to Lanesville to see "aunt Melville" who arrived at Beeie's at 9 o'clock in the morning, she came down with Clara, will divide two weeks between the Beeies & myself, I am so glad she came, know a little change & rest will do her good, she is looking tired & worn out. I hope I can persuade her to stay long enough to see you, it would only be a few days over her two weeks. She will come here Sunday evening or Monday.

Well now I must tell you about the "Glorious" expenses of Hedge Hill Academy, "it was quite a success, exceeded all expectations, the stage was fixed up beautifully & the children did so well. I enclose a programme. They made 28 dollars, only charging 25^{cts} for grown persons & 10^{cts} for children, there were over a hundred persons, would have been more but for a

the midst of your examinations now, hope you will get through all right. With much love
Your devoted
Mother.

threatening cloud that evening. I was so sorry we church people did not have some ice cream & cake all to help fix our windows, heard several say, "some refreshments would have been so acceptable", it was so warm. The stage was left just as it was so that the girls can have some entertainments of some sort this summer. Reuben was invited to Mrs Joe Collins' last night to meet two girls visiting Grace, Maybel was there of course, they are almost young ladies now. The boys are hard at work today helping pick up & load the wagons with oats, we have Henderson's oats now for 2 months, quite an improvement on the last boy we had. Tonight Prof Muller's Commencement begins with Art Exhibition, Calisthenics, &c., Sunday commencement sermon, Monday night concert, I intended going to the concert but will give it out as "aunt M" will be here, could take her if it was sit for Lucy, she would not leave her of course. Anna Selden will be married to Sam Bethen at St Michael's church, Wednesday, at 8 o'clock, leave on the 5 o'clock train. We can all go by sending two of the boys down on the freight to return on the passenger with them, & using double buggy & road cart. I have not heard where they are going. The morning train arrives at Gallion now at 9 o'clock, (that will be the time you will arrive) returns from Selma after 5 o'clock. I have not heard from Fred this week, hope he is not sick. I suppose you are in

Sept 22nd 1889

Your devoted
Mother.

I think it about time I was writing to you but there is nothing of special interest to write. Your card telling of safe arrival came in due time (Thursday morning) Lewis read it & somehow lost it before he reached home, this morning it was in our box, tomorrow I expect we will have a letter from you. We have had a letter from Fred since you left, he missed connection & was delayed at Greenboro, N C from which place he wrote expected to reach Raleigh to breakfast next morning, said he would be very busy & would not write again until today. The suit with T. Martin the painter comes off this week so much to my sorrow your Father will have to take a trip to Tusculum & may be detained several days. He went up yesterday to get John Collins deposition, passed through Lenoirville returning, saw your Uncle John, he said Rembert was working hard.

Mrs Robinson opens school tomorrow the windows are not in to the new part but she can't wait for them. Miss Bowen & Lizzie were both limping today I thought both had rheumatism but Mrs R. said Miss Bowen had two falls from her horse yesterday & hurt herself right much, once the girth broke, I don't know what it was the other time.

You know I invited all the ladies here to form a sewing society, few came & those that did thought a

Greenwood, W. - chimed but has not stuffed him yet, he & Lewis were busy picking cotton
those 9 acres formerly take
down the stock, also
measure about
100 barrels of
cotton seed we
bought. Lewis is
going to the
Office so good
bye, with much
love
Your devoted
Mother.

concert or winter meeting would be better, as the Robinsons & Minnie said they would try to get up a concert but I expect all will fall through, we will have to let the wind now go unfinished another winter I expect.

The birds & garrison returned Wednesday, he has gone to Birmingham. Don't you think you had better write to Bowden & remind him to try to sell your coat & books, you might get enough from them to fix your teeth. Capt Taylor went to Mobile with Willie Manpin as we had no service this morning only the lesson; Minnie & Taylor were absent too. Frank Cobb came down to take Lucy & Edith home, he is a cotton buyer now, just as I wrote that he drove up to the gate & I hear him talking cotton.

I heard the other day that both the Mrs Komeyay were sick & the little girl too.

Allice goes in tomorrow to school, will board in the Institute. Excuse this scratching my right forefinger is tied up with turpentine, I stuck a splinter in it, your Father took it out but as it hurt some I thought best to use the turpentine. Wave killed a large owl in the orchard Thursday morning, at day break we heard such a do among the gnomes that your Father went out, saw him sitting on the kitchen chimney, he returned for his gun but the owl was gone, soon after Wave heard the birds making a noise went in the orchard & there he was, he was a pretty

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Friday morning -
October 25th 1887

My dear Son

Your last letter was to Fred but he is in Greensboro today so I will write. Wednesday he met with Grauborn Bennett at the depot, he invited him to go to Greensboro with him that evening. Fred said he would be home today but it is so much like rain I hardly think he will come. I think we will have a cold change now & you have no flannel undershirts, you had better look in Asheville, let me know what they can be bought for & I will send the money. Your Father has not been off any where to get them, neither Reuben or Waver have their winter suits yet. I bought Lurie's the day he drove over to Tomopolis.

I was at Johnny's not long ago, Reuben said there they had 3 weeks work gathering corn ~~there~~. He came up Sunday for your Father to see his throat, it was very sore but we have not heard a word from him since, hope it is better. Bevie & Johnny I expect are in Birmingham at the Fair, she expected to take charge of some girls, Eugene Bethen, the Alexanders & some others. Fred & myself called at Mr Bethen's Tuesday but I forgot to ask when they were going, the same day we went to see cousin Margaret Wilkins, at Belle Wilkins'; she promised to try to come & spend a day & night with me while in the country but I don't much expect she will.

Lurie was a cripple all day yesterday but much better & at school today. Lurie threw a rock at Allen, it

truck Lince on the foot & yesterday morning he couldn't
bear his weight on it, we bathed it a good deal in hot
water then put camphor & tinct Lobelia on it twice
this morning it was much better, you can remember the
treatment, might get a service yourself some time.
Fred & Lince put Thornton in the road cart & drove him
nicely, soon they will try the Texas mare in the wagon &
then the cart, your Father traded "Abraham" off for the old
mare & two fillies (Texas) one 2 years, the other 18 months
old, gave 25 dollars to boot, hopes to sell all three this
fall. The mare does not pace but rides easier than any
horse on the place except Jackson, is very gentle but
awfully poor, stands by a rack full of chicken corn all the
time so she ought to fatten, Harrison brings two loads a
day for her benefit.

I was very sorry to hear of Grandma's house burning, quite
a loss to the college & of course an inconvenience & some
loss to him.

There is no news in the neighborhood, I will leave my
letter open in case Fred should come with some, still that
reminds me Miss Maggie Peterson is to be married to
Mr Pharez Coleman, they are to have 31 attendants, won't
she have presents? each one will feel bound to give her
something.

I must say good bye now & make a fire it is getting
really very cold, am afraid it will not rain & we need
it so much. With much love

Your devoted Mother.

Nov 2nd 1889

My dear Son

I was so busy yesterday that the day passed without writing to you. This is a dark, rainy, disagreeable day. Willie R. stayed with Lewis last night, in spite of a drizzle they went out for a hunt, returned in a hour's time as wet as could be, have made a large fire & are drying shoes & clothes dressed in some old ones. Mrs. Bledsoe engaged Waver to help him today as clerk, he went down after breakfast thinking he would tell him the day was sold, there would be no customers & he could come home, but he kept him. It was right funny last night to see the three boys - Lewis Garber had Mabel, Grace & Lizzie to spend the night with her, asked the boys to come up to practice dancing so after supper they rigged up, Willie wearing Lewis shirt jacket & new cravat, ^{last but some inappropriate,} they had a pleasant evening, danced some, played cards & ate apples & chocolate candy. Fred has been busy for two days painting the old buggy, Alfred says he will buy it.

Your Father, Waver, & myself went to Monticello Wednesday, Ruben met us there we bought suits for R & W - R's was a very nice black \$18.00, took nearly a month's wages. I found some nice undershirts for you, only bought two they were so high, think you can wear one, two weeks, I do.

I was very sorry to hear of another fire at the college, do hope that is the end of it, there have been a great many fires all through the country. Ruben was in such a hurry

to get off that I didn't ask him how Uncle John & Aunt
Bevie liked the Birmingham Fair, some of the Collins
family went up but we have heard nothing from them.

Your Grand Mother returned Wednesday evening, we went
to see her next day, found her looking better than when
she left, your Uncle White sent you a beautiful white
silk handkerchief with the letter D, embroidered in silk in
one corner, I will send it with the shirtwaist. I wish
you would write & thank him for it, know he would be
so pleased, tell him about yourself, the college or anything
that concerns you, his address is S W Duggan Petersburg
Va. Aunt White did not send any one as much as a pin.
Fred received an invitation to Miss May Peterson's marriage
reception, of course he will go, Tuesday week. This is Aunt
Melville's birthday 48 years old.

We sold 20 turkeys the other day for 10^{cts} per pound on foot.
they will net us \$19.00, three or four of my largest disappo-
ed a day or two before we shipped, think some body shipped
them for us, there has been quite a murmur on the subject,
even the Browns sent off 25.

Of course Fred has heard nothing from M Co yet will not
I suppose until about the 10th or middle of December.
Reuben has not taken whooping cough yet altho he sleeps
in the room with Sam Reid who has it.

I think today's showers & drizzles will start the turnips
off, it has been so dry they could not grow, we did
not have rain when you did only threatening for some
days. I must say good bye now it will soon be time

for this to go to the office. With much love from
your devoted Mother.

Nov 15th 1889

Since time, when
Father was married
on the 13th I will
leave for home
Wednesday evening.

I could not write last week
+ since I have been here have not been
able to do so, will begin a letter now,
even if I have sit time to finish this
evening. Your aunt M. & baby are getting
on very well, she is not sitting up yet
so I will not return home until Monday
evening hope by that time she will be
up, I wanted to be home for church
Sunday but hate to leave her in bed,
when Uncle Harris is in town there
is no one for her to call upon but the
servants, he is in the brokerage business
& seems to be doing some thing at it,
the milk business is about as usual
very worrying but that cant be helped.
I reckon you were surprised to hear I
had started on a trip alone, I felt

Had went to the Peterson wedding, had a

very badly about it but got on very well, the plan was for me to stop at York, jump on the cannon ball when it halted there at 11 o'clock at night, I did get off the train at York & the Conductor said to the man who met the passengers, "you will see this lady on the cannon ball tonight" he said he would not be up & spoke as about it that I told the conductor I would get back on the train, run up to Meridian & take the cannon ball there, did so, waited in the depot an hour, then asked a stranger to find out which side my train came up & he kindly offered to help me on I accepted thankfully, when I arrived at the depot here I took the street car (only one other passenger) to hotel, engaged a room & slept until 6 o'clock then went down into the office paid

for my lodging & took the first street
car out as far as I could, walked the
rest of the way, at the gate I saw so
many cows in the grove that I was
afraid to go in, called to a darkie
a head of mine & asked him to go
through the grove with me, surprised
them all very much as I arrived to
breakfast, Mr H- intended driving in
after breakfast to see if I was at the
hotel, every one was polite to me & I did
not mind it near so much as I
expected, John Hardy is at the Uni
this year is specially privileged on
account of his lameness, doesn't drill
or march to town goes on street car.
Johnny Little goes there too, they say
they are very strict this year, yesterday
they were to make some arrangement
for president, either temporary or
otherwise. Lucy has improved so much
is a really a sweet child & perfectly

delighted with "little brother" considers
him a perfect wonder. Elvira when
this winter, seems to be studying
constantly, has no time at night.
I left your flannel shirts to be
expressed to you, hope your father
did it as it is getting so cool. Dinner
is nearly ready I must close. Aunt
M writes with me in much love to
you

Your devoted Mother.

Gallion Ala -

Nov 15th - 1889 -

My Dear Son -

By to day's Express I send you a box containing xx & two woolen undershirts &c - The silk handkerchief was sent to you, from your Uncle White in Petersburg. Your Mother has just returned from Va having spent a month there. I send you xx - as I have it on hand & know you understand how to care of it for your own good.

Your Mother is still in Tuskegee - went up on a visit to your Aunt Melville - who has a son. Your Mother may be back on next Sunday morning, so we expect her any way - Fred was up to Greensboro to attend the wedding of Miss Maggie Peterson & Phares Coleman - and Mr Leabbs said he would be down to Church on Sunday & take dinner with us - perhaps bring some young folks also - So we may have to entertain them all without your Mother - as she may not come home.

P.S. You might write your Uncle White a short letter
& thank him for his remembrance.

She had to go on to Meridian & thence to
Tuskaloosa - not being willing to risk the
Cannonball Train. There was a large
fire in Stannopolis last night
(The oil mills. -) I have not heard
the particulars.

For Sunday we expect to have for din-
ner - Sweet & Irish Potatoes, Cress Mustard
salad -, string beans - Baked Beans - Turnips
- & could have some nice Cabbage, all
from our garden - Can give: "Horticulturalist"
best state. The chickens destroyed our
lettuce & pick it as fast as it comes up.
We shipped 20 Turkeys to Selma - @ 10^{cts}
pr lb. We have 20 more to sell.

John Elden & Miss Sallie Griffin
were married the same night as Miss
Peterson, Few attended - . They had a
bad rainy night. Fred enjoyed himself
very much in Grunst^l meeting so many
of his old friends. Write me as soon
as you receive the package - I have packed
the box up carefully so I hope it may
reach you safely - I must hurry for this
evening's train.

Yours aff Father.

W. D. Suggs.

Nov 22nd 1889

My dear Sam

I am home again & have been so busy that I almost forgot that this is Friday & my regular day for writing to you. I left Tarkenton Monday evening, Nov. cold & cloudy, Uncle Horrie put me out at the platform, that he might return before dark, I went into the depot & waited three quarters of an hour for the train, there was a crowd getting off & on so I was considerably pushed about until I got behind a tremendous lady & kept in her tracks, a gentleman kindly offered to take my suitcase which was a great relief, I found also two ladies going as far as Decapolis, we were room mates at York & I certainly was glad not to be alone, before day Dr Moore had us down at the depot & we were soon on our way to Decapolis where most of the passengers breakfasted. I saw the ruins of the oil mills that were burned a few days before, the planters around here have been hauling off the cotton seed meal (that was injured by the fire) to use as fertilizer, 50^{cts} for a two horse load, 100 for a 4 horse load, cheap isn't it. I left all at Tarkenton doing well, they tried to keep me longer but I felt it would be too much of an imposition on Fred, he had everything to look after, Turkey was here part of the time but she needs so much directing. I have an ignorant in the shape of a house girl, her ways amuse us sometimes, then again I am thoroughly out of patience with her, if she ever learns I will be surprised. The Horrie baby is a sweet little fellow & was getting very good, slept all day & nearly all

night, Lucy delights in watching him.

I was very sorry to hear through your letter to your Father of another fire on the premises, do hope they are at an end now & that the incendiary will be found out, can't help being uneasy about the dormitory, are you on the first floor? This has been a beautiful day tho' quite cool I have enjoyed it, have had so many cloudy ones in the last few weeks. The boys are getting on as usual, Wave claps every Saturday for Mr Bled soe, Service hunts, but Saturday was caught out in the rain, took refuge at Mr Thatch's where he spent the night. Reuben came up Tuesday to consult your Father, had a dreadful pain & soreness in back & side, your Uncle John thought it pleurisy but after talking with Reuben your Father decided it was a sprain, a horse jumped from under him as he was about to mount him. R. returned next morning, he has a bad cough & cold.

Grand Mother & Uncle Wave came the other day about 3 o'clock, it was sprinkling then, soon rained hard, we begged them to stay all night but they would not, went home before the rain stopped, I suspect both suffered for it, he had a very bad cold any how. I have seen no one so have no neighborhood news. We are all well & unite in much love to you.

Your devoted Mother.

Excuse this miserable pen.

Dec 6th 1889

My dear Son

I have been so busy about a variety of things that this day has nearly passed away without my usual Friday letter to you. I arose unusually early this morning to get my work straight so that I could go to Vermontown but it was so cloudy I concluded not to go, and now I did not go for we have had no rain & it has been so pleasant for a trip, not cold enough for fire. We have had a little darkey in the house since my return from Tarkalooa, true she was stupid as could be but I had taught her something, yesterday she ate her dinner & left so I have all the house work on my hands again, have the promise of another but she may do the same thing.

I am glad to hear they have found out something of the incendiaries & hope they will be well punished. The boy who speaks before the Legislature ought to make a very nice talk for the bulls.

As the Bishop passed us by, he preached at Solman Vermontown & Farnedale, Dick & Mary Wilkins were confirmed, Sam & Laura Bethen, Mattie Webb, Mary Adams Mrs Shahan & Nell Jeffries. Fred & my self dined & spent the night at Beebe. Samuels John will not need Reuben much longer, don't know what he will find to do, he is such a poor hand to inquire about please help himself along. Fred is expecting to hear from W.C.

about tomorrow, if he is not called there he too will
have to stir around. ~~xxx~~ Wave is clicking every Saturday
for New Bledene. Service is trying to get up a little entertain-
ment for 4 ones, it will be in the school house, Service
was learning his part to a piece. I hope they will succeed
as well as they did in the summer.

They have heard from Dad since they landed but
they had not been there long enough to express an
opinion as to how they liked it.

Fred has gone to town for Alice this evening, "grand
mother" & "Uncle Wave" have both been sick, the latter is
looking dreadfully but he will get up & go about on those
cow legs & they have no chance to get well, all came from
scratching a chiga bite, I have forgotten how to spell
it. The new horse does pretty well tho' some one said he
is the same foolish horse Mrs Walton owned. Minnie
Hatch has had Carrie Cawthorne from Selma with her
invited Fred down to spend the evening, then asked him to
ride horse back with her which he did & cupped them
again, then Miss Lou Bowden invited him to meet them
at her house night before last, he did not think Miss
C- very interesting. I must stop now & try to get this
to the office, with much love Good bye.

Your devoted Mother.

College, M, 19, 89.
Dear Mother

Friday I
heard from Ga.
after mentioning the
fact that during the
balloting I received a
number of votes and
that I was recognized
as a coming man,
"yet you were
defeated". I did not
learn who secured
the place.

I am now on
the lookout in North
Carolina.

Yesterday I
spent in the Bry-
an creamery. It is

much larger than
ours and its system
is essentially different.

I enjoyed the day
and learned much.

Found the manager a
northern man well
posted accommodating
and pleasant.

Last Thursday
night I drove some
married ladies in to
see a wedding at the
Baptist Church in
Bryan. It was the
social affair of the
season. Was pro-
nounced splendid
by most.

It reminded
me forcibly of a
fine stock show, and
a street parade.

The bride was the
sweetheart of one of
my friends here, but
now she is the wife
of another.

In a talk
with Prof. Curtis
last night - he
thought he could
not spare me be-
fore the middle of
June. Too late for
at least one com-
mencement.

When are
Gordon and Mrs
Famme to be at
home, and how
long? The drum
has beaten for
church and I must
close. Love to all from

Yourself, son
Fred

Jan 2nd 1889

My dear Son,

I expect by the time this reaches you you will feel as if you would like to hear from us all. May you have a safe & pleasant trip & found board an satisfactory place & by the time begin to feel a little at home. I do hope you will find this change to you an advantage, write us all about everything concerning yourself, we burnt through "Charles Hanna" of your arrival in Tuscaloosa. I wish you had a solid time the night you left. I have missed my dear boys as much feel lost without you both. Benham enjoyed the Christmas party very much & wore the "booky" prize a boy baby dress cap in fairy style, the cap was splendid, sweets, cake of all sorts, fruits

Jan. 2, 1889

see them off. Reuben says Jeremiah
Robinson has left the store & is going
to school to Col. Murphy. I wish we
had known it sooner maybe you
would have liked to go with him.
He there is no episcopal church at
Stanhewille. I hope you will be able to
attend service at some other of the
churches next to our church if possible.
I wish I could, but I think it better to ^{go} there than
not attend any service, perhaps they
have service at the College they want
to. It is getting too dark to write so
with much love good night.

Yours devoted Brother,

Wm. T. Duggan
P.S. I addressed your letters to Mr. or
Loudet B. W. Duggan.

June 8th 1887

My dear Son

I was very glad today
to receive your Sunday letter &
writes a reply that we may
send a draft you certainly must
not close "as the saying is. You
did not mention the overcoat, if
you had heard from it, I wrote
you Sunday to send your answer
if it had not been found, also
to look at them in Sturkewills,
suppose you received the letter &
will attend to it, this cold
weather you need an overcoat
put on your coat when you are
out, a new paper doubled & put
over your breast with coat button-
ed over it is a great protection,
try it if you can find some

①

top

papers. I will send the costume
with pleasure, can you make
them, don't you expect to have a
room made? You don't say how
you are pleased & how things
compare with the University.
I had a letter from "Aunt M."
today she said she would write
you so much, that Sunday she
found herself looking out of the
front door for you. Uncle Ben
has broken up again the stable
was not making enough to pay
him as salary so he sold some
of his stock I think sister I said
& is going at something else. I
will send Aunt M's letter for
you to send, return it because I
want to send it to Fred, had
a letter from him also, today, the

bottom

(2)

JAN 8, 1889

was detained, did not reach
College until Thursday.

I think your studies will keep
you quite busy, but if you can't
work try to exercise in some
way to keep in good health.
I had said they might let you
work in the experimental station
& pray you but I am not anxious
for you to work if you can
exercise without it.

We had a very unpleasant
surprise this morning. Sherrin
after saying he would stay with
us, concluded he would sit, went
off this morning has not return-
ed, we don't know whether he
will take that off or not, he
is willing to stay. This boy has

19
to feed, they will have a Sunday
Term tomorrow morning. The rain
is pouring down steadily. This
evening Lewis & Ellen killed the
white hog & the two pigs as that
trouble is off hand. Yesterday I
had 8 turkeys dressed to send to
Keppel, (8 @ 12s, at 12s a pound) will
more than pay you are owed.
The hogs are eating Mrs. Kew's
killed 1 yesterday & one today & one
of our guineas. Little West took
at the store yesterday & said they
were doing finely. Mr. Bledsoe is
buying cattle, took one load to
Molitor's says he sold for much
less than he gave for them, but
is getting up another load.
Yes, I like to know how you spend
Sunday & any other day, am always

(4)

5

JAN 21 1889

interested and whatever concerning
children. The boys say they will
try to write to you. How forgot to
take your duck gown. I think it would
have been usefull to you.

My new mouse "Tadiv" does very
well indeed so very steady &
regular, quick to learn too.

My eyes are hurting now as I
will say good night, with
much love from all ones

Your devoted Mother
William M. (1) 1889

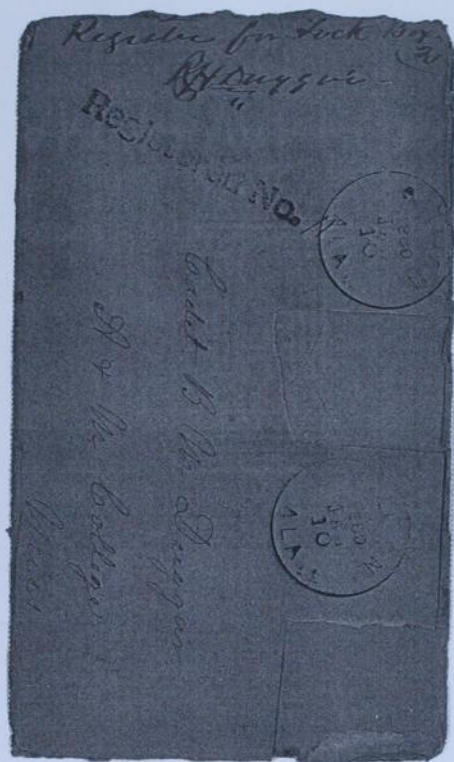
(5)

Jan 12th 1889

My dear Ben

I was very glad to
receive your letter last night
for I wanted to know about the
over coat. I need directions for
measurements, get one of the
boys to take it for you, I expect
you can get a tailor here & as
you take each measurement
put down no of inches I am
not willing for you to be with
out an overcoat, we may have
hard weather yet. I make \$5.00
to make up the 15 you think
you will need your Father send
the other day or check for 10.
I am writing in a great hurry
as you see - Steamer took notes

①



Envelope Attachment