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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.



July 15th 1896.

My dear Son

I hope my round of duties is completely finished up & that I will be uninterrupted long enough to write a letter. Your Father said he wanted to write this week but we were off yesterday, & again today he is off, so I will write & he can do so some other time. We have long talked of spending a day at Uncle John's, the morning was bright & roads good so we decided to go down yesterday, found all the family at home, even Uncle John, Mrs. Chudwick & niece who travels around with him, Bess Searey, Willie Selden & son were there, so there was quite a house full, two more cousins were expected last night. As usual when we go there a rain came up, thinking the cloud was not in this direction we started home when the rain ceased, & such a time as we had, the wheels were loaded down with mud & dead grass, it was impossible to move out of a slow walk & Annie looked as if she would give out, three times on the way we had the load of grass & mud cleaned off did not reach home until nearly nine o'clock, having been on the road nearly 4 hours, the latter part of the way we could scarcely see at all, next time we will have to spend the

night but really I did not see how she could accommodate us
all. The girls are having a gay time, going some where, almost
every night. Now Edmund says he never saw young ^{people} people
go so much. When we reached home Lewis gave us a note from
sister Sally asking your Father to go to see Reuben, he was taken
sick in the night at home, had his old man drive him up to
sister Sally's as soon as the vomiting ceased, a bilious attack I
expect, he very often has those attacks, your Father has gone to see
him. Reuben stays in the sun as much I am afraid he will
have a severe spell, follows right behind the hands, most of the
time on foot. He works at such a disadvantage, I say won't
farmers come for the mules half the time, the negroes are without
money, & everything is against him, no matter how hard he
works it makes no show, with it all he is as uncomfortable.
Your Uncle John returned from the Chicago convention Sunday
night, he was one of the delegates, was much pleased with
his trip, gone just a week; he drinks Stafford water all the
time & his health has improved very much, that must be
fine water. That reminds me I heard several springs had
been found about three miles from Greeneboro their properties
have not been tested. No chance of a move for us yet, I
think we are doomed to remain here the rest of our lives,
but if I was the man we would not. I would if I could do
no better close up this house, leave a servant on the place & go

to Grumboss, got into practices & trust to getting or selling the
place. After words, now is the time to move to Grumboss. The
unexpected is always happening to me, just here Mrs Shivers &
her crowd came in as down went my letter & I devoted myself to
their entertainment for some time, treating them to grapes & tea
cakes. Now the dinner bell has rung & I must stop again as I
am "waitress". Well, dinner is over & I have had a little nap,
will return to my letter. Our domestic matters are constantly
changing these days, about three weeks ago I engaged Sadie to come
early in the morning, clean, & clean up, that was a great help to
me but in about two weeks she behaved very badly, finding I
tried to put up with it & hold on to her as cook she left any
how as then I hired Sadie to cook & milk & Eva Mae Wms to
clean up in the mornings, don't know how long that arrangement
will last, Sadie seems very poorly as the ladies say & Stephen
is not willing to move over here now, we have no servant on
the lot at night. John cuts up terribly but we have to face at
him a little & still hold on to him as we can hear of no one
to take his place.

What do you think Ben! Old Mr Alexander is to be married
very soon, a lady in Lebanon has consented to take care of him in
his old age.

The Tayloe family seem quite reconciled now to "bro William"
marriage have called on Lily, Mrs Hostet was much surprised &

disappointed too that she is so homely, ^{ugh} she says, opinions
differ, Beccie thinks her "such a handsome girl". I enjoyed
your last letter but have misplaced it, those falls must be
grand, you have a chance to see as much that is beautiful.
A short letter from Fred last week, at that time all were well
but seem to have given up all idea of making us a visit, Fred
thinks of the expense, & Fanny of the ^{possibility of the} change making the children
sick, in other words, fears she would be interfered in her manage-
ment of diet &c. I am much disappointed at not having them.
We are having some right nice grapes, I see, & Niagara, Concord
not ripe, have had some Perkins, very nice.
Uncle Waver dined with us Sunday, looks thin & badly, still stays
in town at night. There is not a breath of ~~any~~ news in this
neighborhood, every thing distressingly quiet, Lewis feeling the need
of a companion wrote to ask Mr Lee over, but he had promi-
sed to make a visit of 2 weeks to a friend at Shelby, after that
may come over. I hope to hear Reuben is better this evening, your
Father has not returned, the sun was too hot for him I reckon.
Do you see Prof Thatch & Wilmore? I believe they are at Cornell -
With much love

Yours devoted

Mother

affliction.

Hermion Dugger, a nephew of Postmaster G W Dugger of Greensboro, died of congestion in Selma, on the 16th inst. His age was about 16 years. He was a son of the late Mr Joe Dugger, and was a bright, promising youth.

seen him since, expected him, sister Sally's family & the Wares to dinner
Sunday, but no one but Mr
Collier, of course Ware comes every
Sunday. One of I saw Beulah
Tom certainly would try for another
got and the full. Miss Helen
was at church Sunday, went
home with "Barley", stopped to
see some apt sewing, decided
she knew as being the best
that was ever. "The engine"
went up today to see her,
took advantage of the ship
rates. Mrs G. is making some
a paper flower for the table
+ 1896
+ Longford walking to
coming off next month, the time
down here are making dresses

We were very glad to hear from
you this morning & that the weather is so
pleasant with you, we are almost burning
up, every thing seems drying up too, after
such a long wet spell the hot dry days
tell on vegetation, the tomatoes & chrysanthemums
look worse than any thing else,
even my geraniums are dried up, Mrs Tolbut
sent me a basket of beautiful ones, very
large & double.
I fear this will be rather a dry letter,
nothing of interest going on, this neighbor
hood seems dead, no visiting even. Today
there was an excursion, \$2.00 the round

trip to Birmingham, 70th to Selma, I intended going over to see if anything could be done with my teeth but as I am cook could not leave. I think I wrote you of engaging Sadie to fill that place, she cooked one day & was taken sick, I have been unable to get any one else, have a little 12 year old girl who helps me, but it is as lonely for her I fear she will not stay long.

Uncle John is a good man but was sent as a delegate with instructions, the union rule prevailed & they voted under protest. You spoke of investing small sums, I have loaned out nearly all I had left of my 500, Uncle John wanted it, he gave me a note signed by himself & the firm also, will settle in Feb. I have always been able to get my interest from him so I thought he might as well have it. I

for the occasion, seemed
to have turned completely
around & expressed their
relief as pleased with
the match. Oh! I
forgot to tell you that
hus actually visited
Dr. Bauman & daughters
to tea, & has made
some calls on Arthur.
is not he coming out?
I should think he could
save money now, could,
if any of them knew how
to manage & look after
things. With much
love
Your devoted
Mother.

had a letter from Fred a day or so ago,
Frederic was still not very well but
improving in weight, Frances quite well & both
enjoying an increase of actions, Fanny is
feeding them now by a book, they never
mention Mary Ann at all, they have lately
been floods of rain, too late to do much
good. Last night a tramp (negro) appear-
ed at Gallows, at closing up time he had
disappeared, it is supposed he went on to
Van Dorn for some one attempted to enter
Mrs Koenig's house by putting a box at
the window, Mrs K. happened to be on
the gallery & saw him, ran in for his gun,
shot at & with some negroes pursued him
down the road but the man evaded

JULY 24 1896

them, later in the night Mr Harris was
robbed of about 80.00, left it in his pants
pockets & they were hanging in the room.
Mr J. (section boss) had just been paid
off & had also some money for the hauls.
He entered Ely Stokes house also, he must
be a desperate character, had on a pistol
& belt with cartridges when seen at Gallin.
I will be more afraid to stay alone than
ever now. When your Father is off at night
I get Lavin to stay down stairs but we
both sleep as soundly one might take out
all we have without awaking us.
Richard Fletcher has just come to say his
wife's sister will come to cook for us, we
had her once & she was a terrible piece but
Richard says she has become more
civilized & will do better. I suppose I will
have to try her.

Reuben's spell was short, I have not

there. I have a woman who used to milk & cook but she is no cook, any more, but
it. My dear, I am not well, but
be going, looking better.
I must be thankful for
what I have got - I
suppose, know I must
be for a short time
now. This is terrible
writing, since I have
been working so much
my hand is sore, &
so please write when
I can. With much love from
all
Your devoted
Mother.

July 27th 1896.

It is hot enough today to cook a "boiled dinner"
in the corn without fire, I feel as if we are burning up almost,
have had no corn for a month & the corn shining with all its
power on our devoted heads. I don't see how the field hands can
stand it but yesterday they were pulling fodder in "hog pen"
& singing as if it was delightful, the gardeners can't stand
this much longer. We were glad to have your letter today, the
gipsy dinner was a noble affair, sure enough, did not equal
our pie & rice, at least in bill of fare. I expect it was the first
time you ever ate roasted corn, at any rate since you were a
boy, I remember how the boys used to beg to be allowed to eat
some the cooks would consent. At dinner your Father said "if
we were only rich we would close up house & all three go to
Athens to stay until frost," I wish we were rich - That reminds
me. Waver has an idea in his head that he is hoping some
develop into something nice for him. Has some an advertisement,
some firm has offered a large sum to any one who would patent
a bottle that can't be filled but once, I think he has decided to
pay \$5.00 to have the patent office searched & if there is nothing

like his idea he may proceed to get out a patent, he thinks
he could get it for about \$5.00, has had some correspondence
with attorneys who make it their business to "search" the patent
office. I don't suppose you can tell him any thing about such
matters, your Father says he can't get a patent for 100.00, you
know he was discouraged once trying to get a fence patent.
Those attorneys wrote that a whiskey firm in Ky offered 20000.00
for the exclusive use of a patent for such a bottle as I have
mentioned, of course there is nothing to build on yet but I
certainly would be delighted if Warrs succeeded.

Reuben came down Saturday night quite late, remained until
Sunday evening, the girls & boys & I all enjoyed the grapes on
Wednesday night, I believe I wrote you they were coming down
to eat grapes, the night was lovely & they enjoyed the ride very
much. Uncle Harris & Rich have been sick, the latter is up
but Mrs H - was in bed yesterday. I asked Lewis to drive
up late last evening to see how he was, & take Reuben &
himself some grapes, also a large straw hat I lined for
Reuben. Elvira has returned from Tuckalooa, stopped at
Eppes Station to visit Mrs Proffert Harris, visited Gainesville,
saw Mary Jackson & Lucy, also Mrs Reavis Jackson & baby, none
of the boys were at home.

In spite of hot weather the Farmers Lake people are having all
sorts of frolics, military ball last night, a dance at Mrs

Miss Walkers tonight & something else a day or so ago.
Mrs. Alexander was to be married this morning. I think
Lavinia hates to miss the dance tonight, but your Father
thinks he should not go. I really think the young people
should mind how they frolic this hot weather. The thermom-
eter is now 100 & the sun has gone under a cloud, I do
hope we will have a shower.

Uncle Waver spent the day with Mrs. Gholson at her winter
villa, I have not seen him yet to inquire into his many
successes. Lavinia spent a day last week with Mrs. Benton, helped
him smoke wine & receive his many lady visitors. Bessie
Blanchard wrote us to ship him all the grapes we could spare,
we sent over 28 lbs, have not heard how he sold them,
he is hard to hear from. Your Father spent Monday in town
trying to hunt up some silver spoons mentioned in Mother's
will but they were no where to be found, are telling what she
did with them, or whether they were stolen.

The travellers returned Saturday night, all pleased to be home
again & all agreed that Olm was a good place to come from,
but a poor place to return to, say the people are as poor.

This neighborhood is as dull as usual, the visitors to Gholson
have not returned. We have not heard where Mr. Willie Taylor
will live but he took his girl down to look at Windsor & we
thought perhaps he expects to spend a portion of his time

Thursday

Canton, Miss.,
July 1895.

Mr. T. M. Duggan,
Uniontown, Ala.

Dear Duggan,

Your favor of
last Sunday, to hand.
While we failed to materialize
our little plan, I shall
never forget the many
courtesies and kindnesses
that you have extended
me.

Under the circumstances,
I shall not say that I was
disappointed, as I had not
accustomed myself to hope. Al-
though the work that I
am now in is congenial,

Gottseelig loses out his
 friends and the country's
 money; First National
 Bank closed, Fertilizer
 Factory shut down as a
 result. Gottseelig's where-
 abouts unknown. Now
 just received a letter
 from Col. who states that
 sentiment is very decided
 against Gottseelig. If
 everything is as reported,
 they might not stop short
 of hanging him.

Am trying to make
 arrangements to get off
 to Chicago for a two
 weeks stay about August
 17th. They have to put
 off until September. In
 case you will be there

station work is what
 I have had in view,
 making my present
 work a stepping stone.
 The next few weeks will
 decide whether I will
 continue, as a life work,
 the work as now engaged in.
 The deciding is a question
 of probability that I feel almost
 willing to think.

Let me congratulate you
 on your success. It
 is my ambition to take a
 course at Cornell under
 Prof. Bailey, especially
 touching on hybridizing,
 crossfertilization &c. The way
 as yet is not clear.
 Suppose you have heard
 of the Starkville trouble

at that time would be
delighted to see you there.
Don't think Col will take
the trip.

Daggar, whenever a moment
of leisure presents itself,
let me hear from you.
Your letter will meet a
most cordial welcome.
Much success to your
Harvard studies!

With kindest regards,
In haste,

Your friend
Edward L. Coe

Not as bright as the daisies played bare ball all day, judging from their galls they
enjoyed it hugely. Lewis
was employed as a
clerk, for which he was
promised 1500, -
I don't know that he
has been paid yet.
I don't think I told you
that he is spending
today at Prof T.C.'s
special invitation. I met
the Bruce Vail, Mrs
Stewart, guests. A son
& her family are there
also. There is a dark
cloud east & south & a
great deal of thunder, I
do hope we are to have
some rain. First
saw Augustus & Francis
are doing very well, very
independent actions very
manly, have a few talks
& chess 2 or 3 times a day, he
very much enjoying the baby
I am sure, with much
love & devotion
Mother.

at the dining room table, the coolest place I can find,
for a letter to my dear son. Your letter came this morning
& was very acceptable, as usual. I am glad you are
interested in home news for there is little else to write,
sometimes I think may be I am tedious with my
details of home life. We had a day or two of tolerably
pleasant weather but again the scorching days are upon
us, nearly 102 at 2 1/2 o'clock, every thing looks parched,
no green grass even in the front yard, only a slight
sprinkle since I last wrote, a great deal of thunder
& lightning last night, the rain must have been a
long way off.

The boat excursions must be very pleasant, I expect
you are learning to row quite well. Your Father does not
remember New Canaan, said there was no scenery at
Prof Thatch's that day.

I think Waverly rather feels discouraged about his bottle,
he sent on the 5.00 dollars for "the search" there was

nothing found new enough like his to prevent his getting a patent, so the man he has been corresponding with wrote. He thought the idea a valuable one & wrote he would proceed to get the patent as soon as Wave sent him 20.00, afterwards other fees come. I advised Wave before sending the money to make some inquiry about the man, find out if he is reliable, also to write to the Ry firm who this man says has offered 25000 for the new refillable bottle, you know there are so many humbugs these days it is hard to trust persons until we know something of them. Wave will not talk with your Father about it, I don't know that he would gain anything there; he throws cold water on every thing, might discourage Wave so much that he might give up every thing. Uncle Wave is a poor one to advise with too.

Levie went ^{Monday} ~~Sunday~~ evening to make his pretty call at Mrs Burns Walker's, spent yesterday at Uncle John's, left all well. Mary has as usual the house full of girls, says she is coming soon to spend a week in the neighborhood, part of the time with Willie Braupins at Mrs Hatch's & part with me. Aunt Bessie sent word I must let her know when I was fixed with a cook, she wants to come over to spend a day or two. It seems

I am not to be fixed. The woman I wrote of came the next day but is no cook, says today she must leave that her husband wants her, we thought her a nice woman she is one of the trifling sort, can't stand up to work, tomorrow I suppose I must go back into the kitchen. I wish we could live like the northern & western people, not cook so much. I would like to see one of those stoves covered with asbestos to keep the heat from the cook, should not think much fuel would be consumed if all the heat is kept in the stove.

Monday was election day, a notable time with the darkies, a large barbecue was prepared in Mr Dairies lot, the election took place in our store, as each democratic negro voted he was handed a ticket to dinner, the whites were served with dinner, then the negroes with tickets were let in through the lot gate, guards were stationed all along the fence to keep out intruders so all the democrats had a good dinner, the others could only smell it, perfect order prevailed, out of 450 votes only 50 were for Goodwyn the popularist candidate for Gov, the democrats carried the whole ticket in this county & Johnson has a large majority in the state over 25000 it is said & I suppose all points have not been heard from. The the case was

May be visiting some of those places he spoke of when the College was putting its facts.
Uncle. Wave drink
with this Friday I
think it was.
Lince is expecting
Mrs. Lee to write
him a note, I
wish he could have
come early as the room
where we had some
vegetables. This is a
sight from better place
except it, with much
love
Yours devoted
Mother.
Cordell, your Father
has just returned
from New Orleans.
He still has fever
Lucey is today.

August 12th 1890

Your welcome letter was handed me just
before dinner, for a wonder Lince did not go down this
morning, Wave sent the mail up as he sometimes does.
Lince is taking in hay today, & trying to keep a boy employed
who presented himself for him, we wish to detain him until
your Father returns, when he has declared his intention of leaving
but is hanging on to see "the Dr." he will be a happy
sight, as he is so lazy & disrespectful. We have had a hot day
100 when I sat down to write, but a cloud is coming up
I hope, a few large drops are now descending but larger
drops indicate short showers I believe. If we do have rain it
will be the first in over six weeks.

Uncle Harris was taken very sick again Sunday night,
by light Monday, Aunt Melville sent for your Father, he spent
the day leaving him much relieved. but yesterday he had
high fever again, Lince & myself spent the day there, Mrs. H.
was in one bed, & after dinner Rich & Lucey took the other,
all three with high fever, when we left Mrs. H. & fever was
going down, he asked me to send your Father up to breakfast

this morning as I had him up by 5 o'clock, sister Sally has
her hands full besides the three mentioned. Susan is sick &
Mr & Mrs John Harris arrived yesterday morning, fortunately
they will stay only three days. Ladies came to work Monday
morning as I determined to make a birth day cake & some
bread to take to Reuben yesterday, we went to his house but
neither cook nor lot man were to be found, Reuben had
gone to Jay's as we went in, found front & back door open
& an almost empty safe, we put in the bread, butter, a
cake, some stewed pears & some grapes, closed the door behind
us & hoped the things would be safe until his return, when
we drove up to Mr Harris' he came in from another direction
& spent the day, told us of some one going into his room
Saturday & turning every thing up side down ~~in his room~~,
took some white shirts & underclothes, were evidently hunting
for money or a check they heard he had, a coat he had
hanging in the room was taken to the table the pockets
emptied & papers all looked over. Boarder had told the
servants that Jay would send Reuben a check to pay
off some wages hands & no doubt the person who went in
his room was looking for that, thinking he could use it.
So thoughtless are Boarder to be telling the servants such things.
Every one is so down hearted about the crops, cotton small &
nearly all open, corn so poor & potatoes & pears doing so poorly,

Mrs Dew Rose is the only person in good spirits, she has heard cotton will be 16^{cts} & as she gets 60 bales for rent, (she says) she thinks she will be well off, we drove up there Sunday evening to take her some grapes, they are pretty well over now except those late ones, Protons Virginis we call them.

Warner was here Sunday had taken no more steps towards getting the patent but I think he will, the Attorneys sent him a little silver medal for his idea, I hope it will turn out something else in time. Did you receive an invitation to Lilly Langhorne's wedding. I hear they will take a northern trip & live at Dr Langhorne's on their return. The boys are invited to a "Fad party" at Mrs White's tomorrow night I don't know whether they will go or not. I expect rowing is good exercise & it is well to know how to swim too if one doesn't stay too long in the water & take a cramp, that reminds me, they say Mr Jim Bludeau killed himself taking a cold bath when very hot, & after eating a hearty dinner & drinking a good deal of beer, he had congestions & died in a short time, had been married only six months.

We had just rain enough to lay the dust & cool the air, but as it is thundering all around the cloud may come back this way. No letter from Fred this week, he

but both disappointed us, some times when I have sat a nice dinner I expect they will come, it is hard to get up a dinner now, chickens & vegetables nearly all burnt up.

I hope you will enjoy your trip, with much love

Your devoted

Walter

A. W. Davis says he will write some time soon. Have sent on the first installment to

get the patent.

August 17th 1896

I usually write in the evening but will take this morning for it, as it is cool & pleasant ~~now~~ right now, but I think the hot time is coming later, there was a rain almost in sight of us yesterday that cooled the air, we were not favored with even a few drops to lay the dust which is disagreeable.

Levine received your letter this morning, we were glad to know you are going to Buffalo, I expect you will enjoy the trip, also attending the horticultural institute for the novelty of the thing if nothing else. The severed connection with Stacksville did not surprise me very much, I did not tell you so but I had not much confidence in the stability of that young lady, on the whole I expect it is much the best for you, there are as many good fields in the sea as ever came out of it & you have a good chance to make a selection, seeing so many different persons. While on the subject let me advise you when you choose again don't set your affections on one too learned, one of that sort seldom makes home comfortable, it takes a

sound sense, practical woman to make home happy,
of course she must be learned enough to be companionable.
I am not against learning but other qualities must go
with it, that reminds me, our learned daughter in law
favored your Father with a letter, received this morning,
she actually writes for mine for Frederic, says that, with
arrow not does him more good than anything she has
tried as we know something, says his visit was a
benefit to the children, they have kept pretty well all the
hot days, play together nicely, Fred entertains Frederic with
talks from history, the imprisonment of Richard the Lion
hearted &c, Frederic can give a connected account of it.
Jimmy says great has been the stir at Mrs Bondurant's,
to see the crowd, preparations, & excitement going on over
there one might think all the family about to be
married. Miss Lula, is to marry Dr Harrison of Talladega
tonight. Fred's family are invited to the house as well as to
the church. Fred is this week visiting farmers around
Montgomery, will miss the festivities over the way.
Another family is in a similar stir today, the Taylors &
Ketch, Mrs Wallis Taylor will be married tonight. We are
invited to the church, but can't ride so far just to see the
ceremony. Judge Mansfield came up for the wedding.
Flora Rich & two of her sisters in law have been spending

some times with Mrs Stewart, the boys have called several times & Lewis has twice taken one of them to ride, tonight all the young folks are going to Spring Hill to a Methodist protracted meeting, Lewis to take one of the girls, all start from Mrs J Collins'; they will have a nice moonlight drive if a cloud does not come up. The baptists are speaking of a protracted meeting here, Mrs Dickinson's illness prevented last week.

Sunday was our day for services, Mrs Colby, Remben, & Blanche Wane dined with us I gave them a young gosling & some new ice cream, also about the last of the grapes, "Concord". I have eaten grapes until nearly all my teeth are getting very sensitive, must go this dentist is it ever gets cool. Uncle Harris & children were much better Sunday, he not out of bed but free of fever. Blanche Dairies has had a spell of fever, is recovering I believe, strange to say they employed Drs Gallins & Mrs Cauty. I think Mrs Collins was the cause of it, the whole connection give up to him now since his health has been bad.

"Mrs J T" & Mabel have gone to Birmingham, to make up Mabel's trousseau we all think. Minnie Mc Country is at her Father's looking very well & generally improved I think. Mr Benton told Remben he was coming down Sunday but did not, we expected Mr George from Memphis

EXPERIMENT STATION
—OF THE—
Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Autumn, Ala., Aug. 22, 1896.

Dear Ben; I make the usual excuse for the long delay in writing you, - that I have been very busy. I have had no opportunity to take any vacation and expect to work twelve months this year. Early in August I was sent by the College to attend a meeting of the La. Horticultural Society and to inspect the La. Expt. Station at Griffin, where the society met. I enjoyed the trip and was profited by it.

I returned Thursday from a nine days trip to Crenshaw, Montgomery, and Autauga counties, visiting the farms of those who are making fertilizer tests for the Expt. Station. I met with a hearty reception everywhere. I took occasion while in the vicinity of Montgomery to inquire into the price of land near the city & near Snowden. I want to get my scant savings into land before serious financial changes occur. The great difficulty is

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to find land in desirable locations which ~~can~~
be is for sale & the difficulty is even greater
in getting track of places where the owner is
willing to sell in small bodies. I am on
the track of several places and have seen the
land, but I could not learn definitely whether
the owners would sell the small amount
I wanted, not over 120 or 160 acres. I am
now waiting on real estate agents who are mak-
ing inquiries for me. If I hear favorably from
them I shall make another trip to Montgom-
ery.

You ask about investments for small
savings. I am entirely unable to advise you,
never having succeeded in making satisfactory
arrangements for myself. I calculate that
I can get 10 to 15% on an investment
in prairie land, provided I get renters
owning teams; as I would be unwilling to
advance to them, I might not succeed in renting
for all the land I might buy, - but if I
only obtained taxes, the investment would be

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absolutely safe and I think in the localities which I have in mind advance in price would be sure and rapid. My first choice is a prairie place with a sprinkling of Johnson grass on chest road 4 miles S.E. of Montgomery, which the owner has listed at \$15 in bulk, but which I should be fortunate to get in part at \$20.

My second choice is a part of a place on main road (to be checked) between Snowden & Montgomery, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from former & $8\frac{1}{2}$ from the latter, - a place which sold in bulk last year at \$12⁵⁰ cash; ~~except~~ the only chance to get this at any price, probably \$15, depends on ~~the~~ whether or not the holder of a mortgage of about \$1,000 presses its collection or extends it.

I have some hundreds scattered around in three banks, one of them paying only 2%, another 4%, & the other nothing. I know nothing of state bonds, etc., but if I could find gold bonds, I should convert my bank accounts into them, provided I could get the money to do so near 100%.

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I start next Wednesday or Thursday for Albertville, Ala., where I am the sole representative of the Station in a Farmers Institute. After the Institute I expect to spend several days in visiting our co-operative experiments at Huntsville, Tusculum, & other localities in North Ala.

All are well at home. Frances is talking freely and Margaret is making more satisfactory progress in growth than any of them.

We have had scorching weather, & the prospects are poor for all crops, cotton in my judgment being scarcely 60% of a normal crop. This is true wherever I have been.

Miss Lula Boudurant was married Wednesday but I did not get back in time for the church wedding & reception. If Fannie were writing she would describe it, thinking you might be specially interested. I was introduced to Prof. Bailey at Griffin. I hope your work continues profitable in promise & continually pleasant. Write when you can & as the nights get longer I expect to be able to reply more promptly.

How do you like the idea of lecturing as part of next month?

August 26th 1896

My dear Son

There is nothing specially to write of, but like myself I reckon you will expect a home letter at the usual time, this week Lewis was to write but he is busy trying to entertain Mr. Lee, they are fixing up the guns for a dove hunt this evening, the probability is a cloud will put an end to it, there is a cloud every evening some where, we have only gotten the benefit of the outer edge, not rain enough to wet the ground more than an inch, but weather keeps up.

Mr. Lee came unexpectedly last night, Lewis happened to be at the train,

borrowed a cart hitched Jackson to it & brought him up. Mr Gee wrote the day before saying he was coming but the letter came over with him. Your letter has not come this week. Probably you did not get back to Ithaca in time to write Sunday. I hope you enjoyed the trip to Buffalo. I felt the after I heard of the number of arm strokes there, that you would be better off in Ithaca. I don't believe there ever was such a season as this has been.

I have just read a letter from aunt Melville her sick are up but Mr H- had a fever a few nights ago & keeps very weak. Reuben went there Thursday had been quite sick half the night sister S- doctored him & he returned home Monday morning. I am afraid if he stays at that place his health will be ruined. Mr Jackson was here

today & was speaking of Reuben & what a poor showing he had working that place.

A protracted meeting begins tonight at the baptist church, I suppose the boys will amuse themselves attending at night, it will make up for the departure of the "Beaverly twins" as your Father calls the West girls.

The Taylor & Lamy home wedding was quite an event, I looked for a description of it in the Greensboro & Dermopolis papers to send you but could find only a short notice. Minnie Mc Carthy created quite a sensation at the reception, was considered the handsomest woman there, in full evening costume, low neck & short sleeves, she must have looked well. Willie Manfries was the prettiest brides maid, the Gallison ladies three Mount air girls in the chaise, the old Capt says, there is no

beauty in Uniontown. Mrs Spencer made
me quite a long visit Monday, yesterday
Mrs Morisset (Frank) stopped on his
way to Denopolis to see your Father,
not finding him at home he called
again on his way back, we thought he
would spend the night but he did
not. Your Father has gone to Spring Hill
this evening to see Mrs Trigg, that ends
the weeks happenings I believe & there
is nothing more to say - oh yes, I
have been wanting to ask how you
like your present life, if it is more,
or less pleasant, than in Colerainville.
After "Gee" leaves I reckon I will
find time to write, with much love

Yours devoted
Mother

& there is nothing decent to be had around here. I intended making you
 two nightgowns, shirts, but
 failed to get such goods as
 I wanted. Now Father says
 I must get some colored
 cotton & make you two
 night-shirts. Still how
 I was afraid you would not
 see them, would you? I
 should think you would not
 flound night-shirt as
 winter. Again wishing
 you many returns of
 your birth day & with
 much love from us
 all
 Yours devoted
 Martin.

I mailed a letter to you
 a day or so ago & you will doubtless be
 surprised to receive another so soon.
 Monday will be your birth day, this
 will reach you about that time. I
 suppose if mailed in the morning.
 We all wish you many happy returns
 of the day & hope you may spend
 the next with us, but you are so far
 away I fear it is a vain hope. Your
 letter came yesterday, we were much
 interested & entertained by it, so glad
 you were enjoying the stay in Buffalo,
 meeting the botanists &c &c, I am sure
 it will be an advantage as well as a

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pleasures to your arresting them. The trip to Virginia & Lancaster must have been very enjoyable. With such cheap dry goods in reach I hope you were able to fix yourself comfortably for the winter, but maybe winter goods were packed away. Wood was cheap enough too. Was it the New Johnson you were with in Ill that you met in Buffalo? I hope you will not have to work very hard on your return, to make up for lost time. Have you fattened any on Northern air? we are all thin, at least the boys & myself, suppose it is the hot weather that has pulled us down.

I wrote you Mr Gee was here, he & Lewis hunt until dinner & again in the evening, yesterday at dinner time brought in 14 doves & two squirrels, today only 11 doves, Mr Gee killed also 2 large hawks. They are fixing now for the afternoon hunt, he leaves for home

in the morning, wants to take Lewis with him, we can spare him better a week or two later & I expect he will wait.

I rode down yesterday evening late to take Waver some birds, he had received papers from the Patent office to be signed before a Notary, as they are working on his patent, he will hardly get it in six or eight weeks. The latest news from "New Bob Wood" he is news monger, is that Bobbie has rented the Royal Hotel in Danvers. Waver said nothing about it, we are wondering if Bob & Jessie will attempt to keep it. I am afraid Bob is fixing to break again, poor prospects for merchants this year, no cotton or corn worth speaking of, rents will come short & the banks have nothing.

I wish I had a present to send you, none of us have been to town in weeks

Gallatin Ala.
Sept. 16 '76

Dear Ben,

Several weeks
writing periods have
passed since your let-
ter addressed to me was
received, and to which
I believe mother respond-
ed, as usual. Just at
this hour, immediately
after dinner, and a
very dull one too, I am
at Leisure, while she is
plying the needle in my
hair, straining her
eyes over a lock cause
one of my biennial
under-garments.

Should I attempt to
give you local news
I am afraid it would

not be doing justice
to this metropolis, for
I just returned last
night from a pleasant
little visit to a friend
in Selma, and conse-
quently have had little
opportunity to gather
local items. However,
the same conditions
as to an extensive
dry season still pre-
vail, we continue to
breathe the dust and
hope for rain, to
endure the heat and long
for refreshing breezes.
The question of the
water supply in this
section is beginning
to assume a serious
aspect. I know there
are many animals at
this moment suffering

for water. The first re-
side to leave the average
place now is the water
wagon. bawd. for the
nearest artesian well.
Of course our supply will
probably be sufficient
unless this drought lasts
till winter but the dif-
ficulty is in having
these free negroes draw
sufficient for the water.
The Baptist brethren
have placed the markers
on the ground and
are breaking the earth
for the erection of
their new Church.
which you know is
to be just ^{at} across
the road from ours.

I'm breaking this ground
however. I am afraid
that they will have to
use dynamite, for it
is certainly too hard to
be penetrated by ordinary
utensils. Undoubtedly this
is a very extraordinary sea-
son with us. The whole
face of the earth looks
 parched, even the leaves
of the large trees wither
under the mid-day sun.
Last night as I came
over from Selma
we noticed in several
places woods on fire
and was told that
that scene was quite
general over the
country.

Of course cotton is
being harvested rapidly
and brought in to

the creditors, but I think there has been little sold on account of the persistent low price.

While in Seema I attended several dances and other less fatiguing social functions and on the whole spent a very enjoyable time, having met a good many of the young folks of both styles.

Suppose by this time you have forsaken your mountainous abode, the cool breezes and picturesque scenery and are now engaged in more con-

finding employment.
I am now anxiously
awaiting my return
to Mobile where I can
again resume active
and regular work.
This year will probably
be the most difficult
of the cause and I
am anxious to begin
it.

All give in love and
best wishes, and hoping
to hear from you
at times, I am,

Yours off & on,
Henry.



Sept 28th 1896.

My dear Son

It is quite late in the afternoon but I may have time to finish my letter for Lewis to take down tonight, he goes to meet Mrs Gee, we seldom get breakfast in time to mail letters in the morning Lewis went to Gallins last night for Mrs Gee but he did not come, it will not be long before they will be thinking of getting off to Mobile, the College opens on the 7th of October. Your most welcome letter came today, I expect you rather enjoyed getting back to your own quarters altho you did have to run off so soon. I am glad you have a lower room for the winter, suppose it will be warmer than the 3rd story room.

Well! at last we have had the long wished for rain, a good one Monday evening & again at night but the thirsty earth absorbed it so fast that Tuesday the garden was in (nearly) order to plow by 12 o'clock; turnips & mustard were sowed & again today more have been put in & some clover & red cent sowed. Nothing could have been more acceptable than that rain, we were literally parched up & why every thing did not die I can't see. A letter from Fred yesterday says they have

suffered for ruin, that even the oaks on the statures grounds
are dying from the drought, they have had rain since we
have. He said the children were doing fairly well as regard
health, & were chattering at a great rate, very interestingly too.
Frederic thinks he is a big boy & wants pants & a gun. The
scarlet fever is in Opelika, if it breaks out in Auburn he
may send Fanny & the children down here. He is so far out
I should think there would be no danger of his children taking
it even if there was some in Auburn, but we would be
very glad to have them come.

Aunt Melville's family were with us Sunday, all well but
herself she was suffering with an abscess at the root of a front
tooth. She was deciding the ride to Gainsboro today, Lucy
wants to see Sadie Waller married tonight & Mr Ho- thinks
all hands should go to please her. Dr Ray of Bloch ton is the
groom, he is doing very well & all Sadie's friends think it a
good match, they are to be married in the Methodist church,
will have 15 brides maids, Clara & Melville Minge are of the
number, of course Bessie is going. Reuben did not come
Sunday as I expected he would, wants to see all he can
of Kate Bethea before she leaves for school I reckon, rumor
says he is very much taken with her. She is going to Bailey
Springs school. Uncle John sent the twins there & a good
many girls of our acquaintance are there. Mr Collins actually

dropped the Judsons & sent Katy but I believe I mentioned that before, excuse the repetition. Melville (train) does not like being out in the country at school, it is 9 miles from Florence & costs a girl 1.00 to go in town, you can imagine they don't see town often.

Since the rain the weather has turned cool, last night a blanket was hardly enough to keep one warm. I hope we will not have an early frost, want the potatoes to have time to grow some more & the turnips to get a good start. Monday your Father went up to see Mrs Cobbs, he has been quite sick, he dined with Green at the hotel, he has rented out his house & taken back the hotel.

Bolling, they say is doing well in Tschakowa & is much pleased, his wife's health is poor, perhaps Tschakowa air will improve her. Rumor says Lucy & Edith Cobbs are to be married to Messrs Baettmann & Selden (Jr) the latter is worth about 30,000 & has a good place in the Greenboro bank so it is thought Edith will do very well. I know nothing of Mrs Baettmann, but Father lives in Greenboro & I suppose he does. I am glad some of them will be off Mrs Cobbs' hands. Your Father sold a little Jersey male to Mr Seed Monday so I think he must have liked Duchers & his calf tho' he said nothing about them.

The Bowder home is being repaired as directed in the will, it with 400 acres was left to Mrs Bowder, the estate is to be kept together until the debts are paid & they say Mr Powell

will work it out of debt in two or three years. No, Uncle
Wave & your Father have done nothing with your Grand
Mother's estate, Shindens was the place to probate the will but
Uncle Wave wrote he was n't going there as no telling what he
is going to do, between ourselves I think both want to get out
it some way, don't feel like giving bond. Alice Duggan has a
Solms lawyer to represent her, Alice Sprague & daughter have
authorized Mrs. Elmore to act for them so why cant the others
have a lawyer too.

I have written quite a long letter, my chickens are calling for their
supper so must close, with much love from us all

Yours devoted

Mother.