

3rd

valley" had no lessons for her - we
carried her beautiful boy all unconscious of his
great loss in her presence, that she might look
on him for the last time - she left a message
for him to be given him when he was old
enough to appreciate it - she wanted him to
keep the Lord while he is young & to become
a minister of the gospel - Oh it is so
hard to give him up, but what is my love to Eugene
to duty's - Eugene's suffering is as terrible
I shall be almost glad when he has
to go to Greenville, tho it will be a sore
trial for me to give him up - If I can live
Father I want to go to see him - In Mrs Devotie's
beautiful funeral sermon he spoke of her experience
when she joined the church - said in all his memo-
rial life he ~~did~~ did not think he had
ever heard an experience so calm, so
quiet, so factory & so heavenly as hers was -
Death truly loves a shining mark -
I never expect to see any one like her -
Dear Aunty & ~~the~~ the baby are with me, telling you
the baby to her, but I could not give it up, it
is the light of our house, as I begged & pleaded

that she would live with me - I don't suffer
so much from loneliness since she has been
here - I wish to ^{be} some comfort to her in her old
age, since she has lost her adopted daughter -
She wishes me to give you all a great deal of
love & tell you she was much distressed to hear
of your Aunt's illness & that she would have
come, but was not certain that she would
find her alive & could not well leave
or cursey the baby - She says that if her sister
is still alive & ~~you~~ wishes for her & she can
be of any service she will come - She says
do write immediately & let know how her sister is
& that she is very glad to hear of Mrs Wood's
recovery -

Now my darling do write me just as soon
you get this, it has been so long since I have
had one your sweet letters - If I go to
Greenville to see Eugene, I intend to ~~stop~~ stop
& ~~stop~~ make you a visit - Oh I do want to see
you dreadfully - Don't wait a week before
writing - Good night & God bless you
my darling friend -
Yours lovingly
Mary -

Fayetteville, Talladega, Ala.

Feby. 12, 1868.

Miss Julia E. Brookes,
Woodville, S.C.

Josie informs me that you expressed a wish that I should write you in reference to the action taken by Stephens and his wife regarding the Will of your Father to be regularly proven according to the Statute of your State. I have been anticipating a movement of the kind for some time and am only surprised that it has been postponed so long. There is another and shrewder party at the bottom of this transaction than either Stephens or his wife - the same who came near succeeding in disaffecting Lawton with the view of effecting the same purpose through him and Anna. The object of the parties unquestionably is to vacate the will and thereby divide the Estate, as the law then would do, between all your

father's children. This was not
the desire of your father, would be
ruinous to our interest and we
ought not, nor can we allow it.
Walker has committed himself
to the validity of the will by accept-
ing the bequest in it allotted to
him, as well as by many expressions
made by him after the death of your
father. You may expect the will to
be attacked in every possible way,
even to the extent of attempting to
make it appear that your father
was non compos mentis at the time
of its execution. One thing must
be strictly guarded against,
that is in the want of the app-
ointment of an administrator,
not to suffer one to assume the
management of the Estate who
would be in the interest of the
other party or more favorably
inclined to them than to us - if so
the four heirs and your Mother
would at once be sued for the
full amount of all Cotton and
property as well as rents received

or disposed of since the death of
your father. In such an event
at the present depressed price of
property we had better far ^{have} "given
up the entire Estate to them. Other
and expensive suits would be in-
stituted and a final settlement
of the Estate indefinitely postponed.
In view of these facts I have sug-
gested to Mr. Ayer that you Ma
accept the administration and
that we at once employ a compe-
tent and reliable attorney to assist
her and look after our interest.
It will not do for us to mince
at matters or to attempt to dodge
the issue sprung upon us. Tell your
Ma if the other concern with me she
must accept the administration.
Aside from the considerations men-
tioned I would prefer that she
should receive the profits of an
administration than any she else.
Tell her I will be of all the service
to her possible and will be at her
bidding at any time. An estate
of that size with the losses we have

to back it they will find a dan-
gerous thing to law against if we
will but act in Concert. Their hope
is that we are all scattered and
as such will be disposed to offer
a compromise. Of course I shall
not be obstinate but if the matter
were left to me - they would get it
only at the end of the law. Be sure
to have the witnesses to the will in
attendance at Edgelyfield and also
some one who can prove your father's
and your Aunt Olivia's handwrite.
I have written to Mr. Ayer to try
to be out on the 30th March. Write
to the Ordinary at once to have
the witnesses to the will subpoenaed
and write to your uncle William
and your Aunt Margaret and your
self to be sure to be there. Agree
to pay their expense. I will write
you again on the subject in
a few days - in the mean time
I would like to hear from you.
Josie has just written you.

Love from all to all Truly yours
Ashley C. Wood

Who has the will? If you have it look and see who the witnesses are and send their names to the Ordinary at Edgefield to be Subpoenaed - if it is at Edgefield write to the Ordinary to Subpoena the witnesses subscribed to the will notifying him where each one lives - Their State, County and Post Office. Send him also a list of four or five names besides those to the will and ask him to subpoena them to be in attendance - let there be parties who you know can prove your father's and your Aunt Olivia's hand write - Don't mention what you want with these witnesses in your letter. Consult at once with the parties as to an Attorney. Your Ma is as deeply interested as any of the rest.

W^m Brooks & M^{rs} Peeson
17th April 1868

" Making our basket \$5 "

" Paid for Miss Julia 7 "

19 June " Basket " 8 "

\$20 ..

W^m Brooks

Dear Madam

As I expect to
to go after spring goods next
week and am rather short of funds
I will feel greatly obliged by
your letting me have the amount
of the above small account as
soon as possible

Very respectfully

Angusta

Peeson

9th July 1869

Mrs Brooks & Mr. Gibson
17th April 1868

Making over bonnet \$ 8 - "

Drab hat & lining 7 - "

19th June Black lace bonnet 8 - "

\$ 25 - "

Dear Mr Brooks

It would oblige me
very much if you would let me have
the amount of the above small account
as I require it

Respectfully
Y^{rs} Gibson.

7th July 1869

For Miss Brookes

Columbus Miss Augt. 31st 1863

My Dear Sir -

My wife rec^d a letter from Cousin
Mellie, a day or two since - (which she hopes to answer
soon) written by your Son - from which we were
glad to learn of the good health of the family
& of Cousin Mellie's comparatively comfortable
Condition - & of the hopes entertained for her
future health. - My wife has been anxious
about her Condition & has desired often to
see her. - We expected three weeks ago, to have been
at your House about this time - on a visit - in-
tended mainly for her - I still hope we may
be able to see you all this fall - We were dis-
appointed - by Typhoid fever breaking out on my
plantation - & by the sudden expectation of
seeing my Son - (who was a F. Douglass friend)
Every day, - Tell Cousin Mellie - That - "Cousin Mary
is not dead yet" - & That the war-times &c &c - must
be our apology for neglecting her so long, &
I hope she will recover speedily.

I thank you for the suggestion
contained in yr. Dear letter - relative to the Taxes
on Mary's Lot in Augusta, - May I ask the

favor of you a year or so to ascertain
immediately the Condition of these Sols -
& what amt of Taxes (State - County - City
Military & Confederate) are now due on them
& let me know, - I will send a check for the
amount by return mail, - I hope it is not
asking too much of you, - I supposed that
Mays Agent was attending to it as formerly -
yet perhaps I ought to have paid more
attention to it -

Many units in kindest regards
to you & each member of your family - and
very Especially to our afflicted & beloved Cousin
Kellie! - I write in great haste & must
close as Mary is waiting on me for a Buggy
ride -

Yours very truly

Geo. H. Davis
L. H. Davis

I must not forget to tell you that
M^r I put my piano in nice order &
have no more fine music. I would
not take any price Rose Lawn L. C.
for the instrument. Sept 7th 1868
I practice regularly
& find it quite a diversion.

My dear Mother

I was very sorry
I could not send you a letter
by the last mail. I intended to do
so but I was very busy & did not
remember it was mail evening
until it was too late to write.

M^r I left Thursday morning
on the Train, as I did not have
time to write by him or to get up
the little package I promised
Julia. Tell her if it is as trouble
to send John down to the boat
this week trip or the trip after & I
will try & have it there.

When do you expect to leave home?
I hope you keep well. Please
write often. I will be anxious when I

don't hear. Tell Julia I shall expect to hear from her more frequently.

We had a pleasant trip down. I met with two very pleasant ladies. One of them was formerly a Quaker. I usually find a great many friends in them.

I saw Buddie at Concord Church Sunday. He has a bad cough & is quite hoarse though he says he is a little better than usual. I gave the children some apples they appeared quite pleased. Have you heard from John or sister lately?

I will send up some envelopes to John as I would like some papers. I think your idea a good one. Some of the apples are very sweet, I enjoyed them greatly. I dreamed last night I cannot

had left your employment & that Amanda had taken her place. I hope nothing unpleasant has transpired. I have been quite anxious about the cemetery since my return so I write to let you into and John over to clean out the grass. I know it is in a disgraceful condition & unless it is attended to the flowers will be seriously injured & may die. If you think John would cut up any of the flowers I would get some one who knew flowers from seeds to him & clean it out nicely & then John ought to clean it a little every week & keep it in good order. If you will hire some one to him & clean it up nicely I will pay a part of it or the whole rather than let it remain as it is now.

When you write to me all the
and I hope to hear from you
very often. Accept many thanks
for the assistance in ^{my} planning while
with you. I regard it a great
help & hope it may some day
be in my power to assist
you. The surrounding country
is usually healthy. I have heard
of only a few cases of sickness and
cases of various illness among
them. There are a few around
who are sick but it is nothing unusual
as they are always complaining.
I have gone to speculating in
the Mexican cotton seed. They
have no servant at all now since
their cook left. I think M^r & E
must have a hard time.

I will write again soon.
M^r & E is a little better. I am tolerably
well. Love to all.
With an abundance for yourself
from your former child.

Rome 4a Oct. 6th 1868-

Dear Julia -

You wrote Virginia
a note, which has become mislaid,
she would answer you + your
mother's letters if she was not sick.
She has been suffering intensely
for two weeks from neuralgia
facialis - The neuralgia has settled
in her right eye + right side of
her head - Impairing her vision
very seriously - She is in bed + the
room has to be kept dark - hopes
the remedies that are being used
will relieve her - Laura is also
indisposed - As to the papers of
the Estate bring them up with
you - Mr. Hills is going to Augusta
soon - long will get him look
after matters. Have you rented
your house in Augusta. What
is the matter with you that you
never write - Shall call you to an
Aunt when you come up - Love -

All to your M & yourself
Come up as soon as you can
Lovingly - Your affectionate B
M.F. L.

Rome Georgia
Nov 26th 1868

My Dearest Aunt

I received your letter
some time since and would have
replied with pleasure long ago but
my eyes have been so weak I have
not been able to see to do anything
scarcely since last May. Altho they
are a great deal better they are very
weak. Ma's eyes are very weak she
almost lost sight but they are a
little better still she cant use them
You must write to me very soon I
am always delighted to hear from
you I would be glad to hear from
Uncle Sam. Grand Ma has been
waiting on Aunt Julia to write
you but she has put it off. I write
to let you hear we are all well.
Grand Ma & Julia expect to leave

Love on Aunt Monday 30th Pro.
Exeter. I am going to see & visit
you & visit Aunt Spring if I can
I know I would enjoy myself with
you & Uncle Sam. all send love
to all give my love to all & accept
much love & many kisses for yourself
& Uncle Sam. I close with the hope
of hearing from you very soon

I am as ever the same
Your affec & attached
Niece Jennie Ayer

Monday night
March 9th 1869.

My dear beloved Ma.

I did not write to you last mail hoping I would get a letter I am sorry to have deferred writing so late as I will only have time for a few lines. I hope you will write soon & tell me what you thought of my last letter & what you thought to do. Then you will please say something about yourself for it appears like a life time since we have been separated.

I received Nellie's letter enclosed in one from Lima a short time since Tell Nellie I thank her for it & will write to her very soon. I am quite pleased to get such a nice letter from her.

I went to Buddie's on yesterday to see Mary who has been

extremely ill with pneumonia
She was getting a little better &
Buddie appeared hopeful of her
recovery.

I have felt unusually well
since my friends absence I am
really fortunate in being well
only when I have some one
with me. I think M^r I have
improved too. We expect to
make a short visit to Park
House will leave on Wednesday
I am going to have a tooth
examined I fear it needs
plugging.

Give a great deal of love to your
sweet a kiss for her & each of the
children. Do ma be careful
with yourself not to take cold.
& when you have please have
some one visit you. Please give
me your reason for staying
so long. With much love & kisses
from your devoted
child.

Augusta Geo-

29th June 1869.

Mr. A. T. Ayer,
Rome, Ger. }

Dear Sir;

The time is near at hand when the returns of representations of Estates are required by law to be made to the Court of Ordinary.

Please inform ~~that~~ ^{that} it is necessary for her
retains to be accompanied
by the original vouchers of
money expended for the
Alinea estate; otherwise
they ~~them~~ not sustained
by such vouchers will not
be allowed. If she will
forward me her vouchers I

will take pleasure in making
her return (as requested by
her some time since) as
her agent or attorney; and
will consolidate all expen-
ditures and receipts of both
her and myself. I would
have written on this subject
before, but have been engaged
in Court for several weeks
till this day.

Please say
further to Miss Brooks that
sometime before the 1st of
October next, I should like
to be relieved of the agency
of renting and collecting
rents. While I shall be
pleased to continue to serve
her in the capacity of an

Attorney at Law; yet as the
duties of an agent to not
a legitimate part of and
frequently interferes with the
practice of an attorney, and
as my planting interest en-
crouches somewhat on my time,
I think it would be best
for her interest that she should
select some one who follows
regularly in the same business.
I will settle with Miss
Brooks my own indebted-
ness for rent of the house
in which I reside, whenever
she expresses a desire for
such settlement.

Truly Yours -
Clarence Seward.



Clinton Sept 15th 1869

Wm W & Ayer
Pomeoy

Dear Sir

I have had applications from several parties in this & adjoining counties to purchase or rent your lands. Should you feel disposed to sell I believe it would be of a advantage to give time on one half the purchase money. The place will sell for from six to ten dollars per acre. I cannot be more definite now because the sales of lands have not commenced. Please determine to sell or rent at an early day & inform me of your determination.

Your Old Servant
James H Blount

Roselawn June 1st 1871

Dear Miss Julia

You see I have kept - my promise of writing you like a good girl; & now I will expect you to do the same. I staid two nights with - Aunt - Lantier last week, but - could not - go to the - third; as Mrs - Ella was there that night. - I have had the exquisite - pleasure of seeing the - "Trio" since your departure. Fithi says he did not - know you were going away so soon or he would have come around to bid you good-bye. Just think how fortunate I have been, dear little Sam paid me a long visit - Monday morning, he positively declared that he is not - engaged. What can

he mean by what-he said before? I
think he is a little worse. How did
you manage with the cats? I am
particularly interested in dear little
Henry. I expect - it is home some time
next week. You cannot tell dear
Juliette how much I miss you
in those nice little chats at night
now. Anna is writing to her too, & as
she has also written to your mother,
says she will not have time to
write you this evening, so begs me
to ask you to get her the black
silk sash or even if it should cost
\$6.00. Dr. Ben & Louisa's family have
come down & sent to-day for the
baggage, so no more such charming
games as we had while you were
here. Don't you miss this gay place?
I know after so much gaiety here
you will not be able to endure the
country & will have to make frequent

visits to Augusta. I am procuring
Anna's chaises & only write this
in snatches; so of course you will
excuse. It is getting so warm down
here that I long for some of that
sweet breeze that blows over my
"Home by the hearing Sea" I shall
forget your little frame & will give
it to Anna, when next we meet.
I will soon be far away, and we
may never meet again but I shall
always think of dear Juliette as
a kind friend. Since I began this
I find that Anna has written you
a note to tell you all she wants
Home you concluded to leave home this
summer? How do you answer this
my dear? With much love & a
kiss

I am ever your Affect^{ed}
Friend Fannie A. Richardson

Parley's Island Oct 17th 1871

My Dearest - Juliet -

I had hoped that you would have answered the letter - that I wrote - you long ago while in Allendale, and I think that you can hardly neglect - "Dear friend" to answer this. When I say how much pleasure it would give me to hear from you I must justify. I often think of the time we spent - together - in Allendale I would have liked so much to have spent some time with you on my way home but - Busu's illness in Savannah I decided to remain that way I stayed in Savannah about two weeks and had a very pleasant time while there. Did you go away

from home this summer? What has
become of C. L. G.? you must know
I thought (if it were possible) of
trying my chance in town if he
were home in my way but you
will have to wait till such notice,
Is Mrs "little Annie" around you
may still I think if I had seen
him once more I would have lost
my heart - What you think I must
be a despicable animal. I suppose
the little Rabbit - is flying around
Fiddie. I suppose you have heard
the great piece of news concerning
me. Did it surprise you for
I think most of my friends were
a little astonished? I wish you
could see him. He is certainly good
but not handsome. "Two are good
and two friend" What would I not
give for a long talk with thee. You
were always such a nice bed fellow
I miss you so much at nights &

is often - think of the chats we had
together - I have written three times
to Anna but have not heard
from her since my return home
and wondered what - kept her silent.
until a few weeks ago I received
a note - from Sam ^{and} which he
said Anna was unable to write -
on account of her eyes. How child
I was truly sorry for her and
wished I were there to help her
she must be so badly not being
able to do anything. It has been
quite gay here this summer at
times but I must say I have not
enjoyed it as much as last year
remember I promised if I ever married
just to write you to my wedding. I hardly
think you would come however. It will
be a wedding as mine will be. I am expecting
the "little fellow" any day. Love to you
Mother & self. What you write to me darling
O my dear Anne & good friend
Your affectionate son
John

24
Fayetteville Ala
Nov 3rd / 87

My dear Sister

I have been
anxious to write to you for
some time but I have been
so circumstanced it was
impossible for me to do so.
Ma received your last letter
on yesterday we were greatly
relied to hear that her
letters to you have been re-
ceived. I will enclose the
measure of the shoes to you
which I hope you will un-
derstand. I send the measure
of the baby's feet, please get
me some woolen stockings.
I wish also you would select
me a drop Hat for Julia.

The boys hats if you have not purchased you need not do it, I will send the size of the head by Ma. Please get me 10 yds of good bleached sheeting and large size shirt bosoms to suit. The thread to sew by hand you could select better than I can as you can see the cloth. Do send me half doz. spools for machine. also 1 doz. common Pocket-handkerchiefs.

Ma says you must be sure to write to Anna. She heard from her on yesterday says she has never heard from you. Tell Minnie Ma would be pleased to hear from her. I forgot to tell you to select me a neat bonnet for fall & spring wear.

Get Nellie 2 pr common corsets - 1 pr kid gloves & 2 pr shoes.

I must not close without telling you I have another fine looking boy. He is stout and hearty and I think grows every day. I have not named him yet. Ma don't like the name I selected "Albert Wm". So you must all help me to find something that will be suitable.

Mr W- says he will be satisfied with any thing that I like. He says the reason he didn't write he has been much engaged in canvassing & you must excuse apparent negligence. Let me hear how you have succeeded with the word-robe.

Clinton is so he can belt
himself a little. We are
having a pr. of crutches
made to assist him in
getting about afor a while.
The other children are
well. There has been several
cases of Diphtheria here
one death. I hope my
family may escape.
Present much Love to Jimmie
& family. All unite with
me in Love to you

Yours affectionately
Josephine

Get me a pr. \$5. shoes
Needles No? 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.
Do excuse this miserable affair
they have all talked so much
I scarcely know what I have
written. Write very soon
I will be glad to hear from
you. Good-bye H. J. W.