

To Henrietta from Mary Mariam. Henrietta had recently been for a visit. She asks about Virginia, her stepdaughter who has just had a baby boy and wonders what he will be named.

"I was truly glad to hear of Virginia's safe confinement. She is a worthy member of my family, I hope you will now and always treat her as she should be, as a sister and never look out for something to differ about."

It seems that the baby is subsequently named Joshua Morris "Dot" Craig, born September 11, 1849. He is Virginia's seventh child, she has another five after Joshua, 12 in total, six boys and six girls. Mary Mariam says about her life:

"I feel as if I could live just on the road between John and Mr. Craig all the time. I love social, interesting, intelligence society and I have concluded if I ever am my own Master I will go to a free state where I may be quiet. What say you all?"
"

September 23, 1849
Sunday 11 o'clock

My dear Lovely Daughter

I left Lexington about 12 o'clock the day you left, both Roger and myself were quite complaining, got home safe but in heavy rain and got quite wet. He is still almost confined to the bed and room taking medicine from Dr. Taylor. He thinks it a slow fever of some type. I found Mrs. Bruce and Coleman at my house who remained until Friday and yesterday sister H [Henrietta] and Henrietta B [Blackburn] left for Mount Sterling. She looks no better, thin spiritless and heartbroken. [It is her sister's daughter another Henrietta, whose husband was killed in a gunfight]

I have been busy as you would know Roger sick, Kitty out, and my house and dairy to attend to. I however found Nony so much worse on Wednesday. I took her to see Doct. Hood he thinks her heart and lungs diseased but she is more comfortable today. I shall take her up again tomorrow. Rebecca dined with the lady one day and they dined there on Thursday. She will leave the children with me and go to the Fair on Tuesday. Sally and Laura and Fulton are here today but have gone over to Salem. It looks lonely I assure you I often feel as if my days had come when I had not much to live for and again I feel as if thousands far more worthy than I am have less to comfort them and I feel like singing "Lord revive us Oh revive us all our help must come from thee."

Well I got the silk dress plain black Italian mantua \$2 a yard, wide 8 yards made the dress and cape. I shall have a large cape made with a ruffle pinked around it. Sally is making the green taffeta Collett brought me yet I do not think I shall wear it much. I am not able to visit and I feel as if I was better at home attending to my interest. Well there is still great excitement about Joe Lyon, his body was found on last Wednesday morning in the pasture opposite McCanns gate covered a few inches with dirt and grass almost eaten up by the worms, so disfigured that it

could not be decided how he was killed. No clothes on and up to yesterday no clue to the guilty one but every effort making.

We got John's welcome third letter on Monday and I was delighted to see it. Your Father says he will write to Mr. Holloway and get him to take the Englishman down with his bottle, if he can. But he is walking through every farm now where he wills. He promises the neighbors if they will let him alone he will soon have him in a better range. I was gratified to hear John was improving his farm and all, I have no fear but he will be handsomely and comfortable fixed soon and then that beautiful son would induce anyone to exertion. Oh I miss him so I don't like to think of him. I sometimes think I hear him and almost start to take him but oh, I am a child of disappointments and xxxxx

How did you get down and when and who did meet you at the river? I am so anxious to hear from you my dear child. You had a good sweet girl with you, Betty is a promising child. I was truly glad to hear of Virginia's safe confinement. She is a worthy member of my family, I hope you will now and always treat her as she should be, as a sister and never look out for something to differ about. We should look on the fair side of all things here and you must be neat, careful and industrious and pleasant to Mr. G and all his family. I would be so delighted if I could spend the winter with you if I was so situated but I hope to be able to make a visit once again and I will try to make that during the winter. For in the summer months, you all can visit me. I shall now be confined having my (?) made and servants clothes made.

I have engaged 200 pounds of butter at 15 cents. General Combs wants two kegs and Mr. Hunt 4. I have some in hand and what we took down I got 15 shillings for. Tell Betty I want to get her a coral pin for one thing and Molly an arrow for her hair and what shall I get for that lovely son Antonie? He is so bright and promising his grandpa says he can't be raised, he is too lovely. All the black children talk of him all the time. I have made Prissy some new clothes and got her in the yard. I make Richmond churn and I take up the butter as soon as I am done breakfast. Rachel is gathering beans in the morning and spinning in the evening, Katy attends to Nancy all the time. I shall make Roger some drawers this week and shall look for Collett and Willy and you know I shall have some sewing to do for him.

You must write me all you do and all John does and Judy and Sarah and tell Virginia you both must make me some apple butter. I will pay for the sugar. If you do not have any cider tell her I will make her a jar of pickles and have it ready for her when she comes up. And tell John I want him to send me two barrels of apples this fall and I will be good to him for them here after. Well I will go down and see how Rose is doing with dinner and linen this evening. My lovely children I pray we may soon meet and live and love together.

4 o'clock

I am again seated in your room under the back window. All hands gone to Salem to hear Mr. Bullock who addresses the colored friends. Your Father on the lounge reading and singing, Roger in the front porch, the Jack [*male donkey*] walking about the yard and the wind howling like winter. It makes me sad to know I am so separated and my household so scattered but again I feel as if all were at least comfortable and respectable if not wealthy. And I do not desire for one

of my children wealth for their exclusive benefit, but to entertain their friends kindly and comfortably and to the world at large, give when required at home or abroad and that, not grudgingly, for as we do to others so we and ours will either be rewarded or punished - will you think I am preaching?

Well I love you all so I can't be silent. I feel as if I could live just on the road between John and Mr. Craig all the time. I love social, interesting, intelligence society and I have concluded if I ever am my own Master I will go to a free state where I may be quiet. What say you all?

I will now stop and wait until the mail gets up in the morning and I shall hope to get a letter from you. Do write one a week at least, all you do will interest me as I can hear from my children, here often. I hope Edward will visit us this fall and tell Mr. C and Virginia to write me soon and let me know what they call the son? And tell her she must have a nursery in her basement those rooms are so nice with a good stove. Well I have sent over to the office and no letter. I have been moving down all the things out of [*the*] lock room and put it in order for Roger to sleep in. I am now ready to start to town with Nancy to see Dr. Hood and have my dress made. I will put this letter in there. Rebecca and Laura [*her step-granddaughter*] have gone to Athens today shopping. Sally will go over this evening and bring over little son to stay this week.

Adieu my dear child may you all be far happier and better than your

Devoted Mother

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