
1863 - August 18:

My dearest Cousin,

Your kind letter, (the first since I wrote you more than a year ago) was truly welcomed a few days ago. I was so glad to hear from you and yours and do so want to see you in your home surrounded by your lovely family. I have a full years talk for you so see no other way than to come to see you since you won't leave Mr. Gex long enough to visit us. We often talk of you and Ma wants to see you so much. We are all in usual health except dear Ma who looks badly, but when not over anxious about the boys, she is in her usual health. Willie Everett [*her brother William*] is at Johnson's Island, a prisoner you know. We hear every week from him and have the privilege of sending him anything not contraband. Peter [*her brother*] is in Va. Sam [*brother Samuel*] with Joe Johnson [*Joseph Johnson, Confederate general*] in Mississippi. Dear boys we think of them and pray for them always. I hear from Jimmy occasionally, he is at Little Rock. George [*brother George*] is at home, not very stout and so harassed on Peter's account. Sha [*sister Sarah?*] has been so troubled by the troops, she thinks of breaking up and boarding.

My own little family are scattered, William is at his Grandfather's, [*Major Edward Mitchell Blackburn*] Lilly left for Chicago last Tuesday, she has been with her Aunt, Mrs. Morris several month's going to school, passed several weeks with me lastly and has just returned to go to school again. I went with her to Lexington, stayed all night with Aunt Sally last Monday night. She is well, but very anxious to go South. The boys out of business and she finds it hard to get along. I was sorry to hear Rebecca lost one of her children lately. [*Albert died 15 June, 6 years old*] You heard I suppose, John Brand was wounded, he is improving. Lizzie Higgins was moving last Monday to a smaller house.

Sha goes to see Laura Everett [*the wife of her brother John*] near Shagsville on Monday. Laura has an infant called for Ma [*Henrietta, born in 1863*]. Poor brother John named it before his death. She has three very interesting children. Shack has only one, a son named for Pa.

I wish you could see my youngest children, they are very smart but very bad. Heb Turner is in Richmond - dear little Mary grows so fast is a lovely child. Het's youngest is named Charley, she prettiest child she has.

I written so hastily I am ashamed to send this scratching but excuse it. I will do better next time and hope to come to see you this Fall. But Ladies with husband and brothers in the Southern army and Negros in the Northern army have but little to travel on. If possible I will make you a visit this Fall. Let me hear from you again soon and often. My best love Mr. Gex. I have greater desire to meet with him than any relation I have. Kiss your darling children for me. Ma and George send love - very hastily but sincerely attached, your cousin

Henrietta E.B.

[Source document](#)