
Home Sunday May 1st 1881

My Dear Mother

I now have a favorable opportunity of replying to your last. Today Bettie and the children went over to Anderson's to see how Mary was getting along: I will go over late this evening. Mr. Shockley is here with me, we are out on the porch, he is reading and I am writing: We have been out to examine the clover, timothy and wheat. The C & T is all up and looks nice. The fall wheat will be very light. We had a nice rain yesterday morning and last night. The grass is getting good, although I have not quit feeding my stock yet. Mr. Burris will finish fencing his quarter tomorrow, it will all be fenced in a week. I want to commence planting corn this week. Cousin Annie was down week before last and stayed a while with us. I was up to Maryville last Saturday a week ago to get some barbed wire. I saw Mr. Frank, said he had recd a letter from you; I did not have time to go to his house, but went to the hotel and took dinner. I set out my onion sets you sent me, and they are up nicely: the pineapple cheese was delicious, as well as a great curiosity with the people here. I kept it on the clock shelf to show: Gear Mark saw it and wanted to know whether it grew on a vine or tree. "I told him they came from the full blood jersey cows." I sent a portion of it to Bettie's Grand Ma and she pronounced it excellent: MY shirt was a good long one, plenty long to hide my killick as John calls it. I am ever so much obliged to you for them all. Why can't you come out to see us this summer? I recd a letter from Bud L [*his brother Louis*] not long since, I must answer his and Bro Dud's letters soon. I suppose you have seen Dot [*his cousin Joshua*] since he arrived; poor fellow he looked very sad the last time I saw him. There was a poor traveler stopped here a few minutes ago and wanted something to eat, I gave him some meat and bread, butter and milk, he ate what I gave him and the way he went. We are all well. Love to Aunt V's [*Virginia's*] family.

Love to all Write soon to your loving son

RBGex

May 12th

I forgot to send this letter to the office until today, we have had lots of rain the last week. We are busy planting corn

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