

Goliad,

February 21st, 1860

Dear Cousin,

I went up home last Friday evening and there received a letter from you, but having no paper could not answer it. On Sunday evening I came to Goliad. It being late when I got to my boarding place and I having a big lesson to get for the following morning I could not answer it then, and I have been very busily engaged since that time till the present. On account of the above named reasons I hope you will forgive my tardiness, and henceforth I will try to be more punctual. Well the first thing that I think of that is new is that we had a very fine rain last night which was very much needed here at present. The grass was almost gone and stock was dying very fast in some parts of the county – I have just finished my supper and returned to the table for finishing my letter.

Mr. Stewart preached here last Saturday night and three times Sunday. I believe I said in the beginning of this letter that I went home last Friday but I was mistaken. It was last Friday evening one week ago. Our denomination do not have meeting very often about once a month is as often as we have church, but the Methodists and Presbyterians have church every Sunday, and the Methodists have prayer meeting every Thursday night, therefore I never get lonesome here. Sometimes I get homesick then I get a horse and go home. Well John I can hardly write. James Denham is here by my side, sowing on the

fiddle and he bothers me very much.

Your letter was very short John, but sweet. John we being cousins, we ought to advise one another, therefore trusting that you will not be offended I will make a suggestion in regard to writing letters. In the first place you should be particular to write plainly and always leave some space between words. The only fault I see in your writing is that you do not leave space enough between the words. You should leave very nearly half an inch between the words and in every word you ought to connect the letters together, which are required to express the word you want to use. For example, in commencing the letter you wrote to me, this is the way in which you commenced.

(1) Dear Co s I n itake my pen in hand

(2) Dear Cousin I take my pen in hand

The first line is the manner in which you wrote, as near as I can imitate it, the second line is the way you should write. For fear I have not imitated you correctly enough, I will send in this letter the final line in your own handwriting. I know you will not be offended as it will be for your own good, perhaps it would be easier to learn to write as I have told you by leaving a inch space between the words, thus "Dear cousin I take my pen in hand." Well I think I have said enough on that subject.

The portraits which you drew were quite amusing. I presume you intended them for your and myself. We were very glad to see each other and sure I would be very glad to be permitted to

shake hands with you once more, but I am going to school now as usual. And expect to continue going until next June, then I may not go any more for a year and it may be that I will never go any more. I want to go onemore year at least then I am willing to quit. This leaves me well, and the folks at home were well when I left them. Write soon, give my love to all the family, save a portion for yourself. Give my respects to Mr. Upchurch.

Your cousin G. W. Jones (to John W. Butts)

Note: George W. Jones, son of Mabry Jones, Evidently his mother was a daughter of James and Nancy Lovelady, as was John Butts' mother, Jane Lovelady. Sarah Jones died about 1860, after the birth of Henry. Jane died about 1847.