

July 11, 1860

Dear Aunt,

I received your kind letter last evening and was exceedingly glad to hear from you and to hear that you were all well but sorry to hear of the dry weather for we are in a bad fix, no corn or grass and every little water. We have to have water from the well where Uncle Lex did live. It is splendid water it will not last long. Four families use water out of it. I know of no sickness in this neighborhood. Mr. Bene (Bean?) the man that bought Uncle's place, had a very serious accident a few weeks ago. He was helping to blast the rock in George Gacobs' well and was working in it with a piece of steel where the powder was and struck fire and blew up in his face. He is almost well now he will lose one eye if not both. He can see out of his left eye but it pains him a great deal yet.

I should like to be there the fifth Sunday but cannot. George speaks of going, when we move over the river we can visit much easier. I looked for you a long time. I am so sorry you could not come, we are all about to leave this country. Pap and Grandma talks of going to the mountains they have sold their cattle. I have no news to communicate to you. It is so hot and dry out here. You must excuse my writing - as I have no pen. I have to write with a pencil. Pa will go to Helena tomorrow. I will send this there. I do not know when I will have a chance to send it

to Yorktown. Do tell the boys to write to me. They might come over to see us. You all can come when we move. I do not know what to write about, so I had better quit. You may look for George Friday before the fifth Sunday. I would come if I had a horse. We have but one horse that is fit to ride. We have old Bill and Ball yet. Cyrus and Stephen ride Bill every day. Well I must close. Give my love to all. Answer this as soon as you get it. I was surprised to hear of Ann's wedding. I think she is quite young. Write soon. Your niece
Mary

Added at beginning of letter --- I have got the sweetest little brother. He can sit alone, he is as fat as a pig.

Note: Letter evidently written from De Witt County