

Oak Hill near La Grange Dec. 18, 1870

My Dear Aunt

Yours of the 27th of November arrived a few days ago. I was glad to hear from you. I am glad to know some of my old friends think enough of me to write, and you gave me so much news. I was expecting to hear of Nat and Ellen. William told Mr. Norton he thought it would have come off some time back. I was so much surprised to hear of some of the weddings. Some were so small when I saw them last. We are living in a German neighborhood so I can not know who marries. If I did I could not speak their names - one girl has told Martha she will invite her. She will marry shortly her name is Pauline Houghler. An American girl told Martha and I she was going to invite us when she married. She has been preparing some time. Martha will spend a week in town she will spend her Christmas there. We have had our cotton ginned we made six bales weighing over 500 lb each.

William left for Waco last week there are just three of us in family and no prospects of an increase. Tell Mat she is not as true to her word as I am. Tell her I still say I am not going to have any children. I am in splendid health, have not missed a month since I have been here. Mr. Norton has good health too, we all work. I helped plant all the crop. Martha and I helped pick the cotton, helped gather the corn and expect to help next year. Mr. Norton Martha and I killed 5 hogs a week ago. We have two to kill yet. One we gave \$15 for and she is barren and we will have to kill her. She will weigh 250 now. We lost eleven young pigs four came too soon the other sow had 7 beautiful ones and the Buzzards found her in a short time and ate the pigs, ate two entirely up. We doctored the rest but they were so badly bitten they died.

We have a very fine male. We get two pigs mixed one part

Ginnie (Guinea) one part Berkshire. We have a good start now. We want to sell the male. I call him Robb he is a beautiful hog he is about a year old. I milk three cows. I have put up 16 lbs of butter since we turned the cows in the field, besides what we eat. I have not milked but four cows this year. I have enough butter. We all love milk and butter so well we ought to have six cows. We did buy six but have not got them home yet. And now we want to move and I do not think we will bring them here. We have offered our place for sale. We have been offered one thousand dollars but we do not want to take that. If we sell we will go to Northern Texas or Tennessee. Has Paw moved to his own place? Where does Ellen live? Where is Sarah?

I wrote to her but she did not answer. I only wrote to please William. I do not wish any one to write to me unless they wish. I did not get the letter Stephen wrote. I would write to Paw, Stephen, Andrew and Henry once in a while if I thought they wanted to hear from me. I am glad the little girls are going to school. I hope they will learn fast and be a comfort to you. I am glad Berry is helping you. What are Stephen and Andrew doing? I think Stephen might come by here and Andrew might come with Stephen and Henry. I shall look for Henry's letter. He must not disappoint me.

You must write as often as you can. I am always glad to hear from you. I have not heard from George for a long time. Write soon. My love to all. Goodbye. Your niece,
Mary M. Norton

Tell the girls they must learn to write me a letter. Little Runie sends word to me often. She sent me a nice jet cross not long ago they are warm (worn?) I do not like it but keep it because Runie sent it. Sisters Post Office is Liberty, Liberty Co, Texas.

“Sister” was Susan Mariah. Runie – unknown.