

Oak Hill near La Grange

March the 25<sup>th</sup> '71

Dear Aunt

I had come to the conclusion you were not going to write to me any more. I was thinking about writing to you anyhow for some seeds. I am glad you think enough of me to write and how glad I would be if you could come and see me with your little family. We will soon have plenty vegetables. Could you come it would only take you two days. If Berry could not come Andrew could. Mr. Norton would be so glad to see you.

I received a letter from Sister with yours. She speaks of coming to see me in this month or next. She is becoming better pleased with her new home. She has some nice French people for neighbors.

Frances wrote to me not long since. She said for me to tell you your Father was dead. Her Ma had got a letter from some one there. We have planted nearly all our crop and it is up and looks so well. I will tell you what I did last week and you will know how I pass the time. Monday morning I dropped peas two hours come to the house got the greens and washed them, evening made a cotton sack (dress) to do my work in. Tuesday morning dropped corn got greens, churned - evening, fixed a dress. Wednesday morning helped make a cowpen, got through about three, spun till six. Thursday we all cleaned the yard - our yard is so large it takes all day to clean it good - helped haul chips to fill u a washed place between the house and garden. Friday washed five dozen pieces and scoured the house - Saturday Ironed and replanted the wartermelons. I hoed in the garden Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. It agrees with me to work hard.

I will soon be as large as Grand Pa. I weigh 170 pounds now. I have not taken but one dose of medicine since I have been here. I have splendid health. Mr. Norton has good health.

Martha helps me some but she is like a child. I have to go ahead. She gets breakfast and supper and we get dinner week about.

I have to milk. I make plenty butter from three cows. I sell some butter and eggs. I have bought a good many things with butter and eggs. I trade with a German lady. Well, I have written about all I know. I wish you would send me some gourd seeds you had some nice long handle water gourds. Tell Susie to send me some Bonnet gourd seeds, some Cypress vine and Touch-me-not. Mr. Henry's folks had some different kinds. We will send to Philadelphia for some flower seed and I will send Susie and Lizzie some when we get them. I have a beautiful Rose I will send some cuttings the first chance. You can send a few seed in a letter. Write as soon as possible it is time the seed was planted. Tell Stephen and Andrew to write. Tell Berry to be a good boy to his mother. Tell Susie and Lizzie I think of them often. Goodbye.

Your niece,  
Mary Norton.

Note: "sister" was Susan Maria Wiggins, living in Liberty Co, Texas. Evidently Stephen and Andrew, younger brothers of Mary, were living near Susan Butts. Mabry Jones had remarried to Martha Ponton. Andrew was staying with Susan in August 1872. Stephen and Andrew may have been living with Susan after the death of their mother Sarah Jones.