

Oak Hill near La Grange

August the 25th, 1872

My Dear Aunt Susan

After a long silence your welcome letter arrived. I had given up ever hearing from any of my once friends I had lost all trace of Pa's and George's whereabouts. I had written to Henry Shapes to know if he knew where Grandpa was. I have not received an answer. I would have written to you but you never answered my last written over a year ago. So I did not think you wanted to hear from me and I knew Pa and George did not want to hear from me for they knew where to write to me and the knew I did not know where their Post Office was. I have written to Pa three or four times and he has never replied. I cannot bear to give up the boys but I guess they have forgotten me, or want to.

Mr. Norton has sold out he went up to the Northern Texas started the 4th of July staid three weeks was very much pleased. We will move up there this fall. While he was gone Mr. Dabney and Brother came by on their way home from Lyons where they had been holding a meeting. He said they had seen Grandpa and George. And Mrs. Rabb come to see me not long ago. Mrs. Jones (Mrs Rabb's mother) staid a week with me she gave me her picture. She is in good health. Bob, Mrs. Rabb's oldest boy is quite a handsome young man he is in the ministry in the family. Mr. Rabb is a weakly man and had the misfortune to have all his fingers sawed off of his right hand. Bob can use tools very well. Lee and Paul are little men to work. They are the size of Andrew. Either of them will go to the field and work all day alone as well as though they had their father with them. They are very hard run, lost all they had in both overflows. Every spare day they have they work for some one else and get the money - and help improve their home. Mr. Rabb thinks as much of Bob as he

does his own. Bob joined the church last summer. He is exactly one year younger than Cyrus. The last letter I got from Sister and Cyrus said Mr. Wiggins had joined and Cyrus wanted to join the church. Sister said now she and her husband could commune together. Did she tell you about her little bit of a baby only weighed 9 lb at two months old. She said she wanted us to look for her a home in Northern Texas.

I am looking for a letter from her now. How long is Andrew going to stay with you? Pa lets the boys go and stay other places but will not let them come to see me but maybe they do not want to come live with us. We are going where they have fine schools. Mr. Norton wants me to try again to get Andrew to come live with us. I know we can do more for him than Pa will ever be able to do he has let Sister and George have a brother, and now when I ask him for one he will not let me have one. I guess he thinks I do not deserve one. I wonder if he remembers who took care of his four little motherless boys for him. I wish you would ask Pa to let me have Andrew. We have invited Pa and all my folks to come to see us but they do not come, and when Mr. Norton was down there Pa never even asked about me, nor invited Mr. Norton to come back. Mr. Norton says he will take me down this fall, but I do not want to go so far to see anybody that does not want to see me. It is a long way to ride and meet an unwelcome when you get there. I cannot ride horseback for now. I weigh 193 lbs, have splendid health. Does Frances have any better health now? You never said any thing about Stephen is he doing any good? I suffer a great deal of uneasiness about Stephen and Andrew. I believe George will take care of Henry. I am afraid Pa will not be strict enough with the other boys. How are Berry Susie & Lizzie?

I would love to see my little pets once more. I would love to have all of your pictures. Do you remember Mr. Jackson's

family? Fannie and Maryetta are married. Marietta did not have on long dresses last year this time they left here last August. I do not know where Mr. Jackson lives the girls are in Houston, both married the same day. Why can't you and your children come to see me. Mr. Norton liked you very much he often tells me the Baptists will get you but I tell him he does not know Aunt Susan as well as I do nor he would not say so. I tell him you understand the truth and believe it too strong to leave it and join any other. I tell him you would be ashamed to own any other name. I heard that Levi was preaching another doctrine, is it so?

Can you tell me why Pa went and got into the Devil's Pocket? I have heard twice that he was there, the boy that come after the things George left here told me that Pa had moved to the Devil's Pocket, that was all I heard until Mr. Dabney said he heard the same, then you said they were all in your neighborhood, that is every word I have heard of Pa, since Mr. Norton was down there. The note George sent by the boy was written a month before the boy came, in it he said they were all well and would probably visit us this summer. I was so hurt to think George, Frances, and Henry could all write and never had time to write only two lines. I could have written back to them but thought if they had not time to write they would have no time to read a letter, besides I did not know where to write.

Well I will close this grumbling letter, hoping to hear from you soon. We will notice for your horse. Give my love to your children. Will you ask Pa to let Andrew come to live with me? Tell me what they all say about me. Do Stephen and Andrew even mention me? Tell Stephen I think hard of him. I know he could have written. He wrote to Sister but never told her where to direct a letter to him. It is by carelessness and neglect that so many families when separated never hear of

each other any more. I never thought my brothers could so easily forget me. I have always written to them when I knew where, but goodbye. Answer soon. Yours as ever

Mary Norton