

No. 32

Coracana, Naranjo City Texas April 1st 1851

My dear Mother

I am happy to say to you that I have at last arrived at this place. I fear that you have suffered yourself to become somewhat uneasy and permitted your feelings to grow somewhat sad about my long delay, but permit me to beg of you, if you have such feelings, to discard them for I am now and have been ever since I left home in very good health. It is true that I sometimes feel a little homesick and suffer my spirits to become a little depressed but this is all soon dispelled by the comforting thought that, by the protecting care of God, I will soon be able once more to see the only two upon whom are centered all my parental and filial love.

You can't imagine the deep and fervent anxiety that I have to hear from home for from the day that I left up to the present time I have not heard a single word from Holly Springs. I wrote to you on the 26th day of last month, (the day after I reached this place) but as the mail did not leave here last week I thought it well to mail the letter and consequently put it in my hat intending to send it by the first mail that left this place. But yesterday I was in a very heavy storm (or rather I was in a bad was in the storm for it blew so badly that it hardly afforded me any shelter) and the letter got out and I concluded that I would write another to day and send it in the mail that leaves to-morrow. I wrote to you from Galveston and told you that after a delay in that city of 14 or 15 days I at length succeeded in getting off on the 3rd of March and after a trip of 17 days on board of the boat on the Trinity rancho at a little place called Naranjo about 70 miles from this place. Here we endeavored to get horses to ride to Coracana but after spending two days in the attempt and failing we concluded to take it on foot. So we left our trunks and shouldered our saddle-bags and walked the first day about 16 miles and then "struck our camp" and slept with our "mattress cloaks" around us. There were three of us in company and we fortunately met up with some owners about night and camped with

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them. Feeling somewhat refreshed by our night's rest we again put out
early in the morning and after walking some 7 or 8 miles one of our company
broke down and swore he could walk no farther. He was a very gentlemanly young
man from N.Y. by the name of McNeil. We then went up to a house a short
distance off and told the owner that we were compelled to have some conveyance
to Peira Bluff about 8 or 10 miles distant and he sent us in a wagon
there. Here we waited until next morning and proceeded in getting
horses after paying very high for them. We came within 12 miles of this
place that day and stopped for the night at Col Elliott, a very intelligent
gentleman. When Croft introduced me to him he immediately told me that
there was a tract of land owned by Mr Aubrey about five miles from his
house and asked me if I was the owner. As this is the first intelligence
that I received of our land. He says that it was very fine land and
appeared very anxious to buy it but had not the means. The next day
we arrived at Cordocana. I saw Henderson immediately and he told
me that my delay had not been of any injury to the potato. We have
1476 acres in one tract and 1920 in another all in this country and
is as fine land as you ever saw. There is another tract in an
adjoining County of 840 acres making in all 4036 acres to which
we have clear title. After giving Henderson his portion which is 7
is left 1600 acres. The expenses that are now due on the estate
is about \$200 and in order to pay this I will have to sell some of the
land if I can possibly do so. I could get \$1 per acre for it but no one
is able to pay the cash and as I find my self ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ difficulty as
to what course to pursue. Land is increasing in value daily and
to sell now would be at a great sacrifice. But if I can do so I
shall be compelled to let some of it go at the best I can get, for to tell
you the truth we are compelled to have some money. One gentleman
Gen Tarrant has kindly offered to let me have \$300 if I will make
arrangements with Mr Smith to pay it or pay it my self on my arrival
at home, to some merchant in New Orleans. But as I did not wish
to depend either on Mr Smith or Tarrant and as I knew we could not
raise that sum I thanked him for his kind offer and refused to
accept it. If I had about \$500 or even \$300 I would not think

of selling a single acre for less than 4 or 5 cash. For land in the course of
two or three years is compelled to throbble its present value. This is the
most beautiful country I ever saw in all my life it is destined to
be very thickly populated. We have a very pretty fortune if we can
only pay the expenses that are now resting upon it without having
to sacrifice it by selling at the present prices. I would go to Nacogdoches
about 200 miles distant and have a final settlement of the estate but
I have not the money to do so with. I am perfectly delighted with
this county and have picked out a place for us all to settle at.
I find Kenebroun to be very kind and acts as well as I could
ask of him. He will doubtless do what is right about our affairs.
I have had a real Texas trip but have undergone all my hardships
with cheerfulness. Every body here is dealing in land and there is but
very little money in the County. By remaining here some five or six
weeks longer I may be able to sell some of the land for \$1 per acre, but
I shall leave him in two weeks at all hazards. I shall be at home
I expect about the 18th of May and it may be that I will reach there
before this letter does for the mails are very uncertain. On last Saturday
I went over to Col. Clots about 12 miles from town and during my stay
there was a very severe storm and it rained so very much that
the creek we had to cross about a mile to the west of
we had to cross it wading in water all the way up to our saddles & hats
but this was my fun. Remember me kindly to all the family. Give
my warmest love to Peter and little Jimmy. I shall see you,
I am in hopes, a short time after you receive this. May God
bless you dear Mother

Farewell

Your son

J. S. Gentry

Cosucana Tex
April 2

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Miss Martha W. Aultry
Holly Springs
Marshall Co
Mississippi