

1857

Smith, James R., Sandersville, Georgia, to Will

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Sandersville 14th July 1857-

Dear Will -

Your letter was rec^d some weeks ago and ought to have been answered, but I have been quite busy and have not been able to keep up my correspondence - You will excuse me this time as I promise to do better in future. As you may suppose my profession keeps me well employed - and although I sometimes feel that its fatigues are greater than I can bear yet, I would scarcely desire to have them less while so many are dependent upon me - It is bad to have too much, it is worse to have nothing to do - and as I expect to be compelled to labour while I live - I feel perfectly content with that allotment which while it requires me to work at the same time provides the work for me -

For some weeks past Typhoid Dysentery has been prevailing in some sections of our County with unprecedented fatality - In one week we have known of sixteen deaths - It has as yet been confined to neighborhoods remote from town -

My family are not well my daughter Theodosia Long - has been confined to the house for some weeks with a low fever and fever -

thaw \$4000 dollars —

Except an occasional fit of the blues I bear the adversities of life patiently & cheerfully — and console myself amidst the troubles and trials of the present with the hopes of that "Rest that remaineth" — The dispensations of Gods Providence are mysterious — and when his book is unfolded in the day of Eternity there will be much to interest us —

I shall cherish the hope of seeing you apt upon Earth — It would be a great pleasure — and Cousin Mary also — whom in Sandy Spring I should have loved if she had permitted — I should like so much to show you my children and recall with you our boyhood days — I am getting old; on the 7th inst I completed my 46th year — My hair is silver — Eyesight is beginning to fail and my children around me warn me that I must soon give place to another generation — I am content — When my work here is ended I trust I shall be ready to answer the call of the Master

The Crops in this County are suffering terribly with drought — We are burning up here — and unless ~~we~~ we shall have a general rain soon half Crops of Corn cannot be made and half Crops of Cotton are considered out of the question — Wheat Crops were excellent —

The Democracy of Georgia are getting terribly

She is in her sixth or seventh year I believe
and I fear from her symptoms that she
will probably be confined some weeks - A
slight heat in the hollow of her right foot
has been followed by inflammation of the
whole member - and she is quite sick -

Your Cousin Anna is at Oxford and will
not return before the first week in August

By a letter rec^d from her yesterday we
learn that Mr Uncle and his family are well -
She gives a gloomy picture of Brother's professional
prospects - as he and kids are in the enjoyment
of health in common with any body else
in that section - he had not had a profession
at call during the last three weeks ^{wholly} I have
not ridden less than four hundred miles - beside
attending to a respectable business in town -

But I am not settled yet - I have not yet
purchased a home - and must wait until I
can command the funds to do so - I am now
living upon a rented lot in a small house
with three rooms built for a kitchen - for which
I pay \$150 per annum, rent - and which I could
buy for 1500 dollars - I would buy it but the
owner wants the cash and although I have more
than that due owing ^{on my last year's accounts} ~~me~~ I cannot collect -
My business thus far this year is upwards of seven
hundred dollars - and should the present be as
the past year my practice will not be worth less

out with Buchanan, abt Walker and Kansas -
I think they are wrong, as he stands where
he did during the Caucass - and where
those who opposed his Election at the South
contended he must stand - I am out of
Politics now take no part except to vote
and as I did not vote for B-n I regard
this as a sort of family quarrel with
which I have no right to interfere -

The destinies of our Republic are in
His hands, who will take care of it - His
will be done!

And now good bye - My family all
send their love to you and yours -

Give my love to Cousin Mary - to your
dear children and bid adieu to me as ever

Your affectionate Uncle

James R Smith

P.S

Do let me hear from you soon - and
write me when you will come and
see us -
JRS