

1875

W.A. Lenoir, Columbia, Mississippi, to Mary Lenoir

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Columbia Miss Jan 4th 1875

Mrs Mary Lewis

Dear Cousin

I received yours
of 24th Nov, a year day ago & now propose to
attempt to answer it. I was truly glad to
hear from you & was surprised to receive a
letter from you, not having heard from you
in so long a time, the news of the death of
sister Myra, in yours, was very mortifying,
although we had heard of it some time ago.
I feel very sorry to know that she is no
more on this earth, but it is a great
consolation to know she died happy, & that
if I live a christian life, I will meet her in
Heaven, I am trying to get there & hope your
wishes for my ~~salvation~~, may be accomplish-
ed. I will strive to meet you there. I thank
you for the interest you manifest in my future
destination, you speak of often thinking of
writing to me, I would have ^{been} proud to have
had you to write, there is nothing that would
have given me more pleasure, I regret to
know that you have not been knowing from us.
You speak of being old & afflicted, I can
sympathize with you, I am in that condition
myself, I am troubled of asthma, a great
deal & have been very unfortunate generally.
last Spring I had a tree fall on me &
disabled me for some time, it struck me on
the head. knocked me listless & cut a very
large gash which was for months ^{cut a large scar} ~~cut a large scar~~ ^{cut a large scar} ~~cut a large scar~~
I was not able to do anything ~~seriously~~

all last year, tho' we are doing bad enough down
in this nation, have not made scarcely a
support for several years, caused from
unfavorable seasons + I guess want of work
last spring we had an overflow, which
lasted so long that there was not heat
enough to trade to feed the people, this year
the worst of all with me is the condition of
my wife, she has partially lost her mind + is in
very bad health generally, she is confined to her bed
most of the time + has been for 3 years,

We have 8 children living 6 girls + 2 boys, 2 girls +
3 boys dead, those living are named Lizzie, Johnnie,
Myra, Julia, Emma, Ida, Bulah + Frank, Lizzie is
married + has 2 children, she married a Mr.
Fosterworth + lives 12 miles below us, Julia
is also married to a Mr. Haggnes, she lives
in Simpson County, some distance from us,
Johnnie is on N. O. + J. R. Road at Brookhaven
Georgia, is doing very well,

George is following his profession, doing
well, I see him very seldom, Cousin
Louisa has not married, she is living in Brookhaven
Whitman ^{is the only that} has married since you heard from them
(of her children) she married a Bowen + has one
child, she did not live with him long, he proved to
be a drunkard + worthless character + she quit him
+ is living with her ma, I cannot say how Cousin
L. is getting along, bad I reckon, like the rest
of us, Cousin Mary May has lost her husband
which I reckon you have heard before this
she has 5 children, 3 girls + 2 boys, the 2 oldest
Alice + Sallie are married, Joe is married

has one child, Molly, he married a Buckley
& lives at his father's place, you heard
correctly about Whit Jelks. I hear
occasionally from Thomas & Dol, I cannot say
whether they are making any money or not,
old man Ross is still alive, I suppose
you have heard that his wife is dead she
died some years ^{since}, he has his sister Mrs
Drummond living with him, Mr Bracey
is dead, he died several years ago, the others
still live in Hinds, I have not time to
give you a minute description of all
your relations & friends, but to give it
to you in a nut shell, those in my
knowledge & myself generally are doing
sorry, we are troubled with the negroes
like you, only we dont make the crops
for them to gather, this Country is gone
& I expect to get out of it as soon as I
can, I am not able to move, unless I
could sell my land & that I am not able to
do at present, I am a Grainger, but
I cannot say whether it will benefit
the South or not, I am afraid it is
beyond redemption.

I hope you will excuse me for not writing more
for it has been so long since I wrote to anyone
that I hardly know how to write,

Give my love to all, my family join in love
to you & family, write soon & often
to your affect, Cousin
May God bless you,
H. A. Gair