

Mercer January 23rd 1859

Dear Bell

I take the pleasure in writing these few lines to you
hoping they will find you and your little Eli in good
state of health as leaves me at present thanks be to God
to inform you that your sister Rachael has been very sick
and confined to her bed for the last past week
but she is fast recovering and is able to sit up
the best part of her time she had what they call the
Plurisy she was blistered and bleed she is getting along fine
I have no particular news to send to you but i long
to see you coming back i will try to get things prepared
for to make you comfortable and happy as well as i
know how i have got the promise to get a good Hog
from Archy McCain and Rachael will salt it down
for me Dan Burns has sold his land to Mr Griffith
and he is going to move the house on the McCain
lot on the side of the Creek Next Mercer and build
me a nice little Kitchen to it so i shall have a bedroom
and a sitting room i have a very fare promise of every
thing that is needfull to make us comfortable he has bought
me a first rate team i have to follow the plough all
next Spring and Summer so Bokenridge will have nothing
to do with me I am treated at my boarding house better
since i got a scrape with Brackinridge he told Mr Griffith
a parcel of lies on me wich i will tell you a nother time
I dont think i can get time to come after you Mr Griffith
is afraid to trust me away he says he will send for you
when we will see each and i suppose about the middle of
March when i shall send for you if the weather will
permit you can write to me soon i want to hear from
you after the time is going on fast and we are
going faster i hope the Lord will restore both yours
and mine good health the future time as well as
the past and I am leading a good Moral and very
Sober Indeed and Mr Griffith is very Glad of it
we are on the very best terms i remain yours Affectionate
J. J. H.