

Starb Land Miss
July 5/04

My dear Uncle

Can you
furnish me with any
data of my father's
Military Career?

I am anxious to
join the Sons of
the Confederate
Veterans. All records
were destroyed by
fire. Any informa-
tion will be appreciated.

My wife joins me in Esteem

Yours affly Nephew
W. L. Gibson

After.....7.....days, return to

W. P. Gibson

WAVELAND, MISS.



Col Hart Gibson

Lexington

Ky

LEXINGTON.
KY.
JULIO - 6 - PM '84

- 1 _____

them cheaply is to raise them. In raising hogs & sheep
we know exactly what our negroes are eating. In as
much as I have a stallion it would cost us but
little to raise our own horses. To do all these things
we have fifty thousand acres of the finest pasture
land in the world surrounding us. The best plantation
in this state, Mr Ben Ricks, sells from 5 to 10,000
of meat and stock every year. No one makes more
cotton to the hand. But if these things we will talk
more at length when we meet. I have had nothing
from Pa nor Randal since their departure.

You must not fail to remember
me very kindly and affectionately to Robert & William
Buckman and their wives. Go and see Cousin Susan
Fishback and tell her that I still recollect and
love her and that if she should ever come South
that no when she will she receive a most cordial
welcome from my long cabin. I wish I was in Kentucky
just to hear Cousin Susan Grigby laugh and see
her smile by. Uncle William is treating me rather
badly. He wrote to her sent me that bunch of hog
poor provided me a long while ago. Tell him by
the by that if he will come and see me that he shall kill as
many ^{Dear} ~~beaver~~ and ~~deer~~ as he wants. This morning a ^{to} ~~kill~~ ^{kill}
one bear & two deer. Don't fail to bring me the
hands. Well I have finished my paper. Today Gladie
has a chill.

Sincerely
your brother
John P. G.

Ridgeland
Sept 5th 1859

My Dear Hart

Your note bearing date of just
a month ago came to hand about two weeks since
and like yourself I should have delayed replying
somewhat longer but for the wish to offer to you
my sincere and hearty congratulations upon your
approaching marriage. It is by far the most
important step in one's ^{life} and I am sure you have
not taken it without fully regarding & appreciating
its responsibilities. No one will be so glad as I to
^{know} that the sun neither rises nor sets without your
having cause to rejoice in those things which
render life sweet & dear.

To her whom you marry give my kindest
regards and assure her of that love and affection
which an older brother always feels for a younger
sister.

Gladie & I would be delighted to be present
at the ceremony and to have assisted you at
such a trying moment. However I hope that soon
after the happy event you will spare time enough
to write me at length and in detail.
What can I say to you as to cotton planting little

as I know about it. But this much I can tell you. Take a place, deadened one year - the Tombs there for grain - with eight or ten hands and common on the first of February and it is an absurdity to suppose that cotton can be made on it, ^{for this year} these are the conditions upon which I began and I shall feel that I have had success if enough corn is made to do for the next year. Most of our corn was planted during the latter part of June and if the weather be favourable during the Fall it may yield full twenty bushels to the acre - and from this you must count on a loss of one third because of the bear, weevils and other insects, besides that lost by falling & loss. We have in about one hundred acres and I calculate ⁱⁿ housing 12 or 14 hundred bushels. Pumpkins & fodder we shall have in abundance. On these two articles we shall be obliged to depend for food for the stock. I am unable to say what will be the expenses for the coming year. But there will be necessary a good six mules, four negro cabins, clothing, shoes & pork. When you come down in the Fall, together we can make a more accurate estimate of what all these things will cost. We have had a very sickly summer, with the loss of one of my women - enlargement of the liver being the cause of death, as shown after a post mortem. And now as to holding this place. Without going into the why &

wherefore I must say that a better investment could not possibly be made. Cotton lands are increasing rapidly in value and our place is widely known as one of the highest and best in the Yazoo valley. If we had 5 instead of 4 hundred acres I should think the value of the land in five years could hardly be told. With a good gun, four more cabins, a large corn crib - the which I am putting up now - and the hundred acres now partially open part in cotton, and the hundred more that I shall clear between this and Spring will make the tract worth \$75,000 cash.

To give you an idea of what cotton will do in new land I will say that from the ten acres planted here we will probably get at least

More you must send if you don't bring your three worth down sheep, one bird and two cows, three basketfuls pigs - a box of two sows and certainly four large mules. You can get them in or ship them from Kentucky easier and cheaper than they can be got at and shipped from New Orleans.

Godia joins me in the kindest love to those who love us and who are near to us

Sincerely & affectionately
Agnes H. Gibson

We must look to, as a very considerable item, stocking the place with every thing. Making our own meat raising our sheep and beef for domestic use. Upon a new place are invaluable but the only way to get

Wm P Libson
Dec 4th 1860

Ridgeland
Dec 4th 1860

My Dear Heart

You can scarcely guess our surprise this morning when your letter of the 21st ult was taken from the mail bag. "What's to pay," "What's to come next" "Heart must be in a glee" were the expressions constantly escaping from us both before and after reading it - To let you see exactly what effect the confirmation of a change of residence has had upon us, I take my pen in hand to write you these few lines immediately. The prospect of leaving home next Summer will, of course, depend on the prospect of the crop, but at best our absence would be short and the trip made late in the Summer so as to enjoy a Kentucky Fall. But to be candid I have hardly a hope or idea of leaving at all. The "when with all" will be wanting and I have made too many pinching trips in my life ever to attempt another. What it would cost us to make a pleasant visit to Kentucky would put us up, at least, a comfortable home here - Such thoughts, unbidden it is true, eternally thrust themselves in the way when a trip abroad is talked of. There are so many things to be

am, requiring constant personal attention, in a
new and unimproved place that I rarely think
of leaving. But our time will come around some
time or other.

We have finished picking cotton with
seventy five thousand pounds in the seed. This is
certainly a large yield for a new place, without
ditches or plows. I am making every effort to plant
full two hundred acres the coming year, and corn
I must have in abundance. I have now about seventy
young pigs and with any sort of care and corn I
shall be enabled to make our own pork hereafter
I shall not forget your promise to send me a Berkshire
pig this winter and you may accompany it with
a pair of your sheep - of all flesh I like mutton
best.

If Uncle William will ~~come~~ call on H his way
down this winter he shall have a cordial welcome
and the best bed in our log cabin. We write in
sending him much love.

Tell Mary that I have been
unable to get the Church's gun taken, either
in Vicksburg or New Orleans and would be glad
to have her send me a bottle by the first opportunity

Pa seems to have been following ~~his~~ fortune
through the season and now he writes me that
he has a prospect of losing full one third of his
crop. How much less trouble there is in cotton
than sugar planting.

Write again when you have the
licence. Send us a sequent of the little boy.

Godie says, that, if Sister says so, he must be a beauty.
Godie joins me in love to you and Mary and to all who
may ask for us.

Affectionately & Sincerely
your P. Gibson

difficultly in raising meat enough for the plantation every
year. However it will not be long before we shall be prepared
to raise all kinds of plantation stock

I expect you in about
time of my coming ^{the} and I'll close. - but it's doubtful
if you get even this the postal arrangement being broken
up. What's sister doing that she don't write to me? It seems
a long while since I heard from her. Tell Uncle William
to get in eight of paper and fill it when he answers my
letter and take a little of the address to yourself. I have not
heard from Pa since he left her more nearly a month ago.
I don't know if he has returned but I am looking for Claude
very my B. by the way I see he has been appointed lieutenant
in the army of Louisiana. What'll bring up next? I don't
it seems but right that out of the half dozen, should be "a bold
soldier boy". We hear that Doug's going to join the church. For
what? Has she experienced. What's your in the best love to your
Mary and the boy why I like to fondle him.

Sincerely and Affectionately
John P. Wilson

March 22 1861

Richmond

Wm. P. Wilson

Richmond

March 22 1861

My Dear Nant

This evening it is raining like a thousand of
bricks, knocking our work into the middle of next week and
playing the mischief with every kind of plantation labor.
The larger part of our corn ground was planted upwards of a
week ago, since which time we have kept busy and steadily at
preparing land for cotton. For two weeks the weather has
been exactly what we wanted and as a consequence every thing
moved smoothly and rapidly. But for this rain we should
have in the neighborhood of a thousand bag and bush crop on
fire tonight and by Monday morning two hundred acres of
land would have been ready for the plow and cotton seed.
Pa says that this is my last gasp - a big crop or go by the
board. The crop is my naturally my choice and I am trusting
the earth is not heaven to come out right side up. But that
I shall succeed there can scarcely be a reasonable hope. The land
is covered by a dense and heavy growth of timber, the negroes
are unskilled and unaccustomed and my own experience very
limited. Kotten had materials to get a crop out of. Our last
years crop amounted to just fifty bales. It will be on the
market just in time to catch the late rise in prices

Our postal arrangements are broken up, our papers come to us
irregularly and hence we are unable to keep up with the rapid
march of events in the political world. I have seen the names
of the heads of Departments of the Southern Confederacy and the
constitution. Nothing else. The President holds office for six
years and is not re-eligible. I should have preferred a term twice
or three times as long. The Senators hold office for the same
length of time as in the old Union. The term here too should
have been extended and probably will be in a few years. Internal
improvements by the General Government is foolishly forbid. The
foreign policy will be free trade and sailor rights. Good for cotton
and sugar. The talk is that in his management Lincoln means
war and that Davis will march an army of fifty thousand
men on Washington city if a single blockade takes place.
But you must know more of these things than I. Send me
a Lexington paper occasionally.

This Spring we have set out one
hundred and fifty peach trees, forty or fifty plum and a few
fig. It will not be many years before we have an abundance
of fruit. If the money could be raised and spent we would
soon have an orchard containing every variety of fruit tree.
Today we finished setting a long bed each of strawberries and
raspberries. Tell Joe Humphrey that we should be glad get
seedlings from his garden. He would send us a bundle without
difficulty to the care of Handaway and White at Berkeley.

I recollect the magnificence of his strawberries and the
splendor of his plums - especially of those trees standing at the left
of the back door.

We have a very kind invitation from Uncle William to spend the
Summer at Spring Hill and I should like to go to Kentucky, if for
nothing else, to get slips, roots and cuttings for our garden and orchard.
You too offer me an inducement of quite a different kind, but you
are certainly safe in making or giving the invitation to stay at Hunt-
-land. It seems to be the wish of some of the members of our
family to have plenty of property but no money and I must needs
confess to you that I am of the number. I have heretofore determined
never to leave home until I can travel without leaving the impress
of my fingers on each dime and hence my resolution to make
this a comfortable home for all time to come. Well I had almost
forgotten to say that your note of the 9th ult has been received. Both
of us are obliged to you for the offer of stock and when you come
down hope you may be enabled to bring them along with you. I am
really anxious to get a pair of some good kind to cross with my
land-picks. You may bring with you if you can a couple of ^{fine} ~~to bring~~
buck hounds - a male and female. It would probably be better, common
sheep than the fine South-Downers. For which we have plenty of pasture.
There are no enclosures and all stock are subject to the ravages of
the wild beasts with which the woods are filled. This winter I have
had not less than seventy young pigs destroyed by wild cats and foxes.
But for these destructive animals there would be no