

Greenwood, Texas  
Sept. 14, 1904

Mrs. Sarah Gorham and family

My Dear Cousin,

After so long a neglect I will try to answer your letter. I never was any prouder to get a letter in my life than I was yours and Jim says that is the best letter I ever saw, put it away and keep it. The main reason I haven't answered it I was afraid I would not address it right and kept waiting to get to go to Amie's for help, but poor Amie

2

it don't seem like I can bear to see her now so I will write you and risk it. I guess you know about Amie's boys giving them so much trouble. Page is now under bond for appearance before the grand jury for breaking in Mr. Pruitt's store. He was caught in the store. Sarah told me that is the worst of trouble. I am awful sorry for Amie and the girls. She has good girls. I haven't heard a word from you all since I got your letter. Uncle William came to

3

see us last winter and told us so much about Mexico that we got about in the notion to go down there if we could sell here. We have a good home here and well improved but so much hard work and never can leave home day nor night afraid the bad boys will come and do some meanness in fact we know they will. Jim has rented some land to Jim Bratton and he stayed with us while he was braking stubble. Ora came and stayed with him one week and Jim and me

4

went to the World's Fair and while we were gone the Slidell boys had been to Greenwood to church and ' in passing threw rocks through the windows of our rent house.

The Dodson boys are as mean as they can be and you know they are right at us. Mr. Burton has bought the Dodson place and fixing it up nice — has made a well and put up a wind mill and is building a new house. I do hope some lady will live there that will control their children a little bit,

5

We went to the fair, seen lots of sights and liked to have walked our selves to death. There is 1240 acres in the fair grounds and the buildings are awfully scattered and it is up hill and down hill and up steps and down steps and across bridges all the time. We put in 3 1/2 days rom early till late - one night till 9 o'clock and my feet give out on me. My toes blistered and my ankles swelled tight. Other wise seemed to stand it well, but have

been going down ever since we got home and

6

it is 2 weeks today since we started home. We put in one half day riding over town - went a 2 hours ride in an automobile. Some of them will carry 40 people and are as rough to ride in as a wagon. We went to stay ten days, but got home the 9th day. It was raining the morning we left or we would have stayed that day. We didn't think fat folks like us could get around much in the rain and mud and to walk is the only way to get round

7

The cars or an automobile will take you from one side to another or will take you near your boarding place, but to see the fair you have got to walk.

It was cool while we were up there, was pleasant day and night (when we was not too cold), but hot when we got home. But we have had good rains. Every thing is greened up, the wheat land in good fix. Jim had his all harrowed down smooth before the rain. The volunteer oats are 2 or 3 stands awful pretty. He is harrowing Mr. Bratton's ground now and

8

Gus is picking cotton. We have about 35 acres of cotton. Will make a 'A or maybe 1/3 of a bale to the acre. Corn is tolerable good. Wheat and cotton are a good price. We haven't sold any wheat yet not haven't got out any cotton. Hands are scarce ~ have the promise of a family or look for them at anytime.

Gus commenced yesterday. He is a right good boy to work but he can't do it all.

School commenced last Monday and he ought to be there but he wanted to pick a while. Jim made him

9

start last fall and he never picked a lock of cotton but stopped him to make a crop. This time he is going to let him pick and miss a crop in the spring if he is interested like he aught to be. We have a good school at Greenwood. The same teachers ~ had the principal 2 years before this.

Guess you have heard T... Milligan's wife was dead. He has bought Earnest Warren's farm and Earnest bought the Greenwood gin. Earnest is now living in Greenwood.

10

Sarah, I haven't been to Slidell since the second Sunday in May. We was there at the

quarterly meeting. We have an awful sorry preacher this year. He is young in the cause and not old in years, but I think he has missed his calling bad. He makes a poor out talking and worse preaching and praying. I think he is the first preacher I ever saw that could not pray. He is not ordained. I am glad you have a church down there. I don't see why

11

you all can't have a good happy time. It seems you have plenty and have a church, Sunday school and literary school. Some things seems high that you have to buy, but some things you have to sell are a good price and it seems like you can raise most every thing to eat. I think I would enjoy the fruit and vegetables, but how can you keep meet? Do you have to depend on the butcher's altogether? Is it much warmer there than here? Does it ever got cool? Your clothing don't cost much. Do you wear

12

summer clothing all the time or do you make like winter has come and put on dark clothing? Is there anything to bother your chickens? We have had fleas, mites and lice this year. The lice are a new pest to me. They are on the flying size - great big ones - lots of them and go in a gallop all over them. I hear of them killing grown chickens. I have tried to rid ours of them by feeding sulfur, oil of sassafras and have give some coal oil in their feed. They are about all

13

cleaned off. Fronii Barnett and children stayed here Saturday night and Sunday. They are in hard shape — pitiful to look at. She has moved to her self -- are living in the log house where Atta lived. She don't look strong, but says she is well. She has 3 little girls — bright little chaps too. Ora has bad health too. Sarah if you get this write soon and I will not wait so long. You have such funny names and spell so queer. I don't know whether I can address it or not. Love to all. Your cousin, Mary A, Gilbert