1850

EBWS 1.22: Correspondence and Documents, 1850

that you should suffer a long long week to pass and never write one word And Oh! Mole you know well how sad it makes me feel! Now I shall have to wait till Tuesday and even then perchance you will not write - I can't write much tonight as Miss Moerill is here - I write only to ask why you don't write to me Give my love to all and Believe me yours affectionately

Sophia Bridges

There is nothing of any consequence to write or I would lengthen my letter

Answered Dec 13th/56

Miss Mary H. Edmondson,

Holly Springs,

Mi.

Dear Bettie

Can it be possible that for the last time I address you as Bettie Davis? the wild frolicsome school mate of other years. I cannot realize it, yet it must seem so, written documents are here to prove it. I wish I were capable of reading you a long lecture dear Bettie. Doubtless you'll find many lectures on the future for you so young and so early ushered into the "primal existence" Bridal happiness so to prove an unmingled and enduring blessing for many years. May that future prove to you a truly bright one my sweet friend. May your life be an ocean each hour a wave which may throw up its pearl. You will ever remember the warmest wishes of a sincere heart are yours. Would that I could have been a witness on the occasion when a friend so young so trusting and pure entrusted the most beautiful of woman's possessions a warm unsophisticated heart to the kind care and safe keeping of another for a life time. Many thanks dear Bettie for your cordial invitation, would that I could possibly appear to you the unfeigned regret that I experienced when I found it would be impossible for me to attend. To have been with you would have afforded me great happiness, but the miserable roads said "No" and stay at home I must. I might have gone on the stage in time, but Father could not possibly have gone with me now. Father and Mother send you much love and wish you an unclouded future. Give my love to your dear Mother and you know I say no brother

Dear Bettie

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for the lengthy intrusion upon the precious moments of the young Gentleman which you will be when you receive this. Take half gallon Rum: a handful of the bark of the root of sassafras: Boil down to one pint then saturate it with Alum. To 1 oz of Nitric Acid diluted with 1/3 its quantity of water add a teaspoonful of Calcined Peccoon Root. Shake it well for three or four days when it will be fit for use. ——

Take a piece of lint the size of the Cancer on the Right Breast and apply it to the Cancer. —

Take the Acid Compound with a feather twice a day to the lint, wetting it all over, for 6 or 8 days: the eschar or scab will be formed then remove it, reapply the lint and proceed as before, repeat until it is cured, which will generally be by 4 to 8 applications, if the cure is not of very long standing. Sometimes fewer scabs will effect a cure. The continuance of the applications must be determined by the judgement of the Physician. When it is thought proper to stop the applications let the last scab remain & apply common salve until it gradually comes off when the cure is cured.

If inflamation arise at any stage of the process Slippery Elm or Bread & Milk poultices must be applied until it subsides.

Holly Springs — Feb 18th 1860.

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Coffeeville Jan 11th 1860

Dearest Molly,

I have written one letter to you and sent it to Pontotoc but I know not whether you are there or not so I have concluded to write to Holly Springs – I have not heard one word from you since I came here except by the letter you wrote a day or two after I left – I am so tired of Coffeeville I am nearly dead and I want to come home Do write to me if you are in H. S. – I am not very ceremonious about it but I do not deem it necessary to be particular with home folks and positively I shall die of ennui if I stay here in this muddy town. My relations are so kind and do everything in their power to render me comfortable I ought not to grow weary of Coffe:– but I do declare I can't help it to save me – I wrote for you to go with us to New Orleans and you must – I will come there and we can get ready together and then come through here if we take water at Grenada or go on to Memphis from H.S. I am crazy to see

you all - Do write and I'll come as soon as I get your letter - I have not time to write much as I am going to the country in a few moments

Love to all "Good bye"

In haste Yours unchangeably

Sophe

Answered Jan 14th 1856

GREENFIELD
Jany 12
Mi.

Miss M. H. Edmondson,
Holly Springs,
Mi.

Oxford Dec 7th /50

Dearest Molly,

The week has passed and not one word or line or echo from you - Why is this Mollie? I almost fear to ask the question for fear you have cast me off entirely - My confidence is so easily shaken that the Slightest neglect causes me to tremble with apprehension - I have been so often deceived of late I am getting to distrust everyone nearly - It seems strange

say I would go see them as I returned.
We then went to the Wharf-boat in order to be
at the river when the Sultana should arrive so
that we might not miss her entirely, all our
bachelor cousins went down with us and remain-
ed until the ~~twoclock~~ then we retired, about
3 o'clock in the morning we were aroused by
the arrival of the Sultana, dressed ourselves
hurriedly and went aboard. Mary Ann and
Sh Lou came with us as far as St Louis
Mary is going North to remain until Septem-
ber. I was delighted that they came up with
us you know of course; there were two
cases of Cholera on board and now tis
said to be raging on the river as an epi-
demic. I shall be very careful going home and
not indulge in eating fruit as I did coming
up, they had so many good bananas
and Oranges I could not refrain entirely.
We did not stop in St Louis as I expected
the weather was so unfavorable, but as we
return I hope we may be more fortunate.
for whilst I have an opportunity and am
abroad I want to see as much of the world

as the case will admit. I have not been home
sick at all for indeed 'tis impossible for me
to feel so when I am so much at home;
they are all so good, kind and pleasant
. I know you would love them for I do
if Jo was only with me I would enjoy it
more but 'tis highly important she should
be busy at school now until she gets al
together so I am willing to be denied the plea
sure her company would afford me when I
am so well aquainted 'tis to her decided ad
vantage. tell her to apply herself very closely and
sincerely do I hope she may take lessons on
the Guitar, she is so anxious I know she
would learn very soon, tell Father I say
please please send her. Cousin Sarah's curtains
like ours are for the dining room and are both
wanted, she has four large tassels to suspend
her curtains by and the tassel loops up the
curtain to the curtain pin. hers look very pretty
indeed but they are much fuller for the win
dow than ours, don't for mercy's sake put up
that little tight muslin curtain, but be on
your guard or you can't exchange it as you
would wish for a very full muslin curtain

I hope some of you have written to me before this time I shall anxiously and impatiently await a letter from home All send love to you. Tell Jo to take care of my dress patterns and not to send them but take Kate's earrings and things home Best love to Kate, Cousin Mary and Mrs Dabney. Tell Father to write to me. Aunt is quite anxious to

Mrs Mary A. Edmondson
Care of Jennings
Hannibal
Mo

PORT
MAR 2
1858
MO.

hear from you all. I hope Sophie is with you before this time. Make Jo write to her. I wrote to Jimmie by some Californians I met with on the boat from St Louis to Rochport. Love to all and make them write. Good bye. Your loving child. Mary

Don't do so anxious or they will make you sick. Mother I could not help crying when I read what you wrote however we will let it pass unnoticed. Cousin Albert and Lucius are with them or rather I've come home. We will remain until about the 10th of April. Cousin Albert is coming and Cousin Frazier will come for himself. Oh! I have not written to you since I left home but I wrote to you from St Louis on last Thursday one week ago today and have not written to any one since until this morning I wrote Lizzie a long letter also to Cousin William according to Cousin Eb's request and now for Mother my dear Mother and the dear ones at home. You are well at home I hope. We all have dreadful colds contracted on the river, the atmosphere was so damp. We remained in Memphis until Sunday evening at Cousin Frazier's just as we were getting in the Hack to go to the river there came a note for me from Mary Dixon begging me go immediately to see them as she and her Ma were both sick and could not come to see me. I could only send my love and

(1850)

Rochester April 8th/50

My dear Mother

Oh! I know you will be very glad at that. Yesterday I think I shall not be able to come home. They do not wish me to go but I think I shall come when I feel like it. I know they will miss me very much indeed. Mrs Dixon is very ill and I know I ought to do differently from what I am but I can't help it. I am in a hurry if you be in a hurry I can't do, but I can't help it. I can't write a decent letter. Anna & Lizzie Dixon are with me until I fall asleep

Tulchea

Friday Evening.

Dear Jo & Kate

July 6th 1850.

I hope you may acquit yourselves with much credit at your approaching Examination have a care that you arrange yourselves very neatly be perfectly clean and understand all your lessons thoroughly behave with much modesty and don't be laughing and sniggering as most of the girls are generally on such occasions but bear in mind that you are strangers there and many persons may form opinions of you there which may reflect upon your Parents Remember this and comfort yourselves with ease and quietness, don't for my sake don't be boisterous nor quarrelsome, be kind to each other and remember the eyes of the world are upon you. If I can't be with you think of me and of the advice I give you, how much I want you to behave yourselves as perfect ladies don't laugh at this nor think it intended for merriment or sport but be guided some what by it and have a happy and quiet conscience as most assuredly you will if you follow it. Don't be led to do anything foolish by any wild giddy girl, but remember me and what I have written to you and be ready to tell me all about how everything goes off.

Yours with love and an abiding interest

Sister Mary.

5

CONTOOCOOK
JUL 6
N.H.

Miss Joanna H. Edmundson.
Holly Springs.
Miss.

In haste

subject - tho' not one I take any great pleasure in I wish
however to know all about it. - Some reasons for
writing about it at all - I would as soon be friendly
with him as not tho' I am not in his opinion I do assure
you -

School will be out in ten days - Oh, I am so glad
I will be at home on the 22d I reckon - If I can
get in the stage there are eighteen or twenty
College boys going up about that time to spend
their Christmas holidays at home and the
stage will be full. I will try to be at home
on the evening of the 22d tho' I can't possibly come
home - Aunt is going to Memphis I am so ready

Answered Dec 13th 50

1850

Miss Mary Edmondson,
Holly Springs,
Miss.

and willing to go immediately on receiving as early time
I should have sent much sooner but the
road is melting. They have found it
however but not in such a state as the
time I had down the mule - I have
thought of that before for James &
John McKaren is the only gentleman
who would venture to call during
this bad weather -
And Mollie I will give you my
full and free opinion of the Ed
Matthale affair - I couldn't not think
of blaming you for feeling hurt
to the you that you like him &
treat him kindly - Why should
you not be friendly - I am very sure
you like me better than Taylor do
think - but I may have acted hastily
I know I think I did not act exactly
hastily for Ed Matthale insulted
me in his note and I could not
act otherwise than I did - It might
have originated in a mere letter
with the time but you must agree that
that sufficient provocation
was offered - as Ed Matthale

Rec'd of Jno. L. Ludson One hundred dollars, amount furnished for Starting a grocery and eating house in Stockton — The above amount to be apropriated by me for the payment of rent for the first month — the month to begin 15th day of October 1850

This 20th day of Aug 1850 —

Lewis Lanier

I could think of no other way
to send the paper and envelopes as I
forgot to send them by your Father - I hope
you can see them - I will send you some
more if you ~~want~~ these.

Oxford Sept 28th/58

My Dear Darling,

I regretted under the present circumstances that you should have been put to the trouble of getting me a dress and the paper but I made the request before our dear little Andrew left us - Oh! Moll I do feel very grateful but I am sorry since you are putting on black that I am taking it off - I had resolved to wear it as long as you did - but since the dress is made I will wear it for your sake precious precious one - Oh! what would I not give to be with you - perhaps I can get Cousin Hoggate to go with me some saturday soon - Oh! my own darling sister I would love to be close close beside you now in your

sorrow why is so that I am away - Oh
me! I have only three months to stay
here now and then I will be with
you if not before - Nell can't you still
come to Oxford darling we would be
as retired as you could wish and I
think it would be beneficial to you
after awhile - I do not ask it now - but
some time this session - I will write
you a long long letter by the next
mail - I just a moment ago received
your letter and write this in great haste
for I fear it will not be mailed this
morning - Darling Nell I am so grateful
to you for the trouble you took and
am sorry it happened to be my request
just at this time - I love you as fondly
as my heart can love oh! far dearer
now than ever before - You bear your

trial so sweetly made us different from the rebellious spirit I have always possessed God will temper the wind to the shorn lamb - He will take care of you - My sweetest sister I feel all your grief as you do and would give worlds to weep with you - I must quit now Do write soon - my darling my precious

Good bye your sister
Sophia

I will send you and Mrs Willis the money as soon as I get her bill -

5

Miss Mary H. Edmondson

Holly Springs

Miss

$11 41/13

RECEIVED of E D Bray

Eleven 41 1/2/100 dollars, in full for his State and

County Taxes, as listed in the 14 Civil District of Shelby County, for the year 1850.

Nov 7 1850

Jas E Fitts

Tax Collector for Shelby County.

error and admits that under the circumstances I did right I have nothing against him earthly for I am willing to admit his apology to you as being good & his mistaken view of the matter - knowing nothing of my reasons for acting as I did in demanding the picture he was doubtless justifiable in pursuing the course he did with some ex=ception - he ought to have been gentleman enough to control himself in dealing with a lady but he is young and perchance high tempered like I am myself You know my disposition which is to be easily offended but you know too that I can get over it as soon - Ed Walthall's offence to me has lost all its power to influence me and now I care nothing about it atall - It's true I ~~could~~ do not like him as well as I might have done but

myself - Do write me word immediately which

to do - I am almost afraid to think of it lest I get disappointed - Oh me I am so anxious for school to close

I am almost sure you may look for me on the 22d I will come if possible and if you are ready we can go on to M. immediately - I must quit now Twill for my head and back ache I have had my feet wet nearly all day and I feel very unwell - Write again this week please remember you didn't write last week - Love to all good bye my dearest best friend.

Your devoted
Sophie

15	00	
11	40	
3	60	

Wed Oct 9th 1850

My own dearest Carroll

I made a mistake in beginning my letter

your letter came on Friday and with it the visite and knife & fork — I was quite getting into the stage to go to Coffeeville to a party but when it came on I would have written by return mail — since my return they have changed the mail days hence it is my letter could not go today — I leave =day for the Party at Mr Chest Nacnil's

Martha

Bridges
Cad Ward
Cousin Hoggatt
John McKaven &
another gentlemen
from the University
he Jones and your
humble servant all
went down Friday
attended the party
Friday night and got
in the Stage about
two o'clock at night
and got home Satur-
day about ten o'clock
Quite a trip to take
so quickly! — But
Oh! we had lots
of fun — Sallie
Davidson
is

married to Henry Winter and the party was given to them — We have more beaux than you could shake a stick at — Last night we had four young gentlemen here and Sunday night five — John McRaven is my particular beau Dear me I am sorry for the boy — Dear Moll — I can sympathise with you in your case presented in your last letter — I have felt precisely as you felt when you read Emily H's letter — I don't think it a good plan to tell William Orne now of your partial engagement to John Anderson for he would surely think you merely wish to hold him as a kind of "forlorn hope" in case John A should not return — You are into it and if it be called flirtation your best plan would be to get out of it the best way possible — If you love William Orne Moll I would speak to him

I bear no malice to him whatever
I do not even dislike him for I
care nothing atall about him and
I could not expect you to treat
him indifferently for the offence
offered me a year ago - This
would be both foolish and ridi
=culous - If Ed Walthall is
willing to make friends with
me dearest Mollie I am willing
to forget all - with me assurance
that he is fully convinced I make
no concession whatever - I will
require none of him but I will
not say I don't think he acted a
little ungentlemanly - This I can very
well excuse on the score of his
youth and vanity - Does he manifest
any disposition to be friendly with
me? I am very much afraid he will
take it into his head I am anxious
to make up with him - this I would
object to very seriously - Write me
all about it it is not a disagreeable

concerning his conduct whatever has given you displeasure and perhaps he can give you satisfactory explanation. Be candid with him as far as you go but you know it is not worth while to tell everything one knows - I do truly sympathise with you and know just as well how you felt when you wrote the letter as if I had been in your heart - I have felt just so myself - I intended writing you a long letter by tomorrow's mail but those young men came and prevented - Oh! how I do wish you had or could have come with Col Duke - I saw him this morning took a long ride with him in his buggy - Can't you come down - please come if only to stay till the stage returns - I would give anything to see you - I send you seven dollars for the blue dress - I sent five to Mrs Willis for making

I do wish you could come down
I do not think he intended
I do not think he meant
I do not think he meant

that however little the time I never fail to write and I know from my own experience that "Where there is a will there's a way" in nine cases out of ten — —

'Tis true as you supposed Holder and John Weatherall were here last week and <u>oh!</u> such fun as I <u>had</u> — Yes Mollie I am in love with <u>both</u> but engaged to neither — I do love both of them till I can't rest but <u>confound</u> them they don't love me — Holder says he likes me better than any one he knows but he is engaged to Belle Gates so it availeth naught John Weatherall did not express so much regard for me but I imagine he intended I should understand it of course — Why did you ask so foolish a question — "Are you engaged to either" You know very well that if Holder or John W either loved me or intended ever to address me they would have done it <u>long ago</u> — What puts such a thing in your cranium? I guess my dear you only wrote to <u>fill</u> out your <u>half sheet</u> as you made the indefinite article <u>a</u> a half an inch long in one place — Cousin

Tom was here last week too but I do assure you he did not "come a-courting" — John McKaven is my devoted lover now - He swears by all things here and hereafter he loves me more profoundly than ever man loved before - Perhaps it is so - I can only regret that such is the case - I like him first rate -

John Weatherall will be here again next Monday but I know not whether I shall have the felicity of seeing him - I hope I shall - Stoll Why am I not myself? You say I am not but I fear you see me with different eyes - If I am changed in any respect I don't know it - The last time I went to Coffeville I came very near going on to Holly Springs as I came back but I could not persuade Cousin Hoggatt to go with me I begged him eight or ten miles before we got here - John McKaven wanted to go but I wouldn't go with him - Louis Jones would have gone too but I begged to be excused - (My will is not my own I am swayed by circumstances and can't help anything I do - Lif weeks more and school will be out - I may go with John McKaven to Texas I may go to — — Guinea - and I may come home - "I knoweth noteth" as Cousin Alf used to say

Answered November 17th 1850.

(1850)

Miss Mary H. Edmondson,

Holly Springs,

Miss.

November 27. 1850

Cumluck C. House
N. Carolina

Dear Brother

I enclose Power Attorney to you to do the business with Mr. J. S. Edwards for my part of Nathan Snowden's estate which you will please to have a division of the negroes and sell them this January to the best advantage and send me the money as soon as you can arrange it money will be worth something the next year in this Country and I want my part of it as soon as can be had. negroes is very high in this Country men No. 1 850.# Girls 650.# you their is nothing to sell in this country but negroes to sell the corn crop is a complete failure do the best you can for me and all will be right I have no new of any importance to write you only all our relations are well Wallis sends his best respect to you and family give my love to Eliza and except the same yourself. I have not received the first letter from Andrew since I left him I think very hard of it please to let me know if he has written you and if he has tell him to write me.

Your Affectionate Bro.
Benjamin. H. Bray

N.B write me as soon as you receive this letter and let me know all about the matter H. B. H. Bray

Currituck C. H. N. C.
Nov. 27

10

Mr. Edmund D. Bray

To care of
B. B. Blum Esq

Memphis
Tennessee

State of North Carolina
Currituck County }

Know all Men by these presents that I Benjamin N. Bray of the State and County aforesaid have made constituted and appointed and by these presents do make constitute and appoint Edmund D. Bray of the City Memphis, County of Shelby & State of Tennessee my true and lawful Attorney for me and in my name to have receive and collect from Edward G. Edwards Executor of the Estate of Nathan Snowden deceased in the aforesaid County of Shelby State of Tennessee all money or monies in his hands arising from the sale of the lands of the said Snowden or from any other source, to which I am entitled as the assignee of Enoch F. Snowden one of the heirs at Law and distributes of the said Nathan Snowden, for me and in my name to have, make, or cause to be made a division of the Negroes belonging to the Estate of the said Snowden decd, to a portion of which I am entitled as assignee as aforesaid to receive my share of the said Negroes and give receipts for the same, and the same to sell and dispose of either at public or private sale and for me and in my name to make title to the purchasers - hereby authorising and empowering my said Attorney

5

Miss Mary Edmondson,
Holly Springs,
Miss'i.

Poverty works strange and mighty changes in people sometimes it would as soon have us to work for my living as to do it - If you can find time to do so - If you have academy and company you write.

You cute little note reached me this morning after I waited till patience had her perfect work - Oh! Mollie - has it come to this - only a half sheet and that too the first in more than two weeks - nearly three - But of course I don't complain for I know I ought to congratulate myself that you remember me at all - and I do - Emily Polk! - I am jealous of her already - She is a sweet girl I am sure or you could not love her so but she is a great deal older than you Mole I was told the other day she is at least 30 if not over - Is it so - You give as an excuse for your neglect of me that you have been so busy Now think of it well and see if you don't feel ashamed to write me such an apology - When I never fail to write to you immediately in answer to yours and every day of my life am engaged till nearly dark teaching and then the rest of my time I have to sew and read and write - Say Mollie dear don't you feel a little ashamed? I have been always so devoted to you

Oxford Miss. Nov 12th 1857

Mollie dear not by whether you receive the money I sent you for Tolbe one which Miss Willie received here - Please let me know - Send the notes of "Good Bye" - Express my love to all - Has your mother gone? Good Bye - Express my love to your father & sister

State of North Carolina }
Currituck County }

I John B. Jones Chairman of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Currituck do hereby certify that B. T. Simmons whose name and certificate is affixed to the foregoing Power of Attorney is clerk of the said Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions and that full faith and credit is to be given to his Official acts -

Given under my hand & seal this the day of November A D 1850 -

Jno B Jones
Chairman

State of Tennessee }
Shelby County } The foregoing Power of Attorney with the Clerks & Chairman of Court - certificates thereon Endorsed Was duly Recorded in my Office in Book No 6 pages 543 & 544 January 30th 1851

Wm P. Reaves Regr
By J W King D R

1298

Benjn N Bray

To

Power of atty

Edmund D Bray

Registers fee due 1.12½

Whether to pay

This Power of atty was filed in my office for Registration on the 14th day of January 1851 at 9 o'clk A. M. and so noted in note book No 2 page 180

W. D. Reaves
Regr

suit or suits to bring or cause to be brought in my name for the purpose of enforcing the payment of the said money or monies so arising as aforesaid and for compelling a division of the negroes as aforesaid for me and in my name receipts acquittances and discharges to give upon the payment of the money or monies as aforesaid — hereby ratifying and confirming all the lawful acts of my said Attorney in the premises —

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 26th day of November A D 1850

Reuben Bray — (Seal)

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
Currituck County } November Term 1850

I Benjamin T. Simmons Clerk of the Court aforesaid, do hereby certify that I am personally acquainted with Benj. N. Bray the Maker of the foregoing Power of Attorney to Edmund D. Bray and that the signature above is in his own proper hand writing — I do further certify that he appeared in open Court an acknowledged the execution of the said Power of Attorney as his act and deed for the purposes therein named — In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my name with seal of Office this the 27th of November 1850

B. T. Simmons C.C.

1850

Oxford Oct 12th

My Sweetest Mole

I have had but one letter from you for a week but I write this anyhow notwithstanding I wrote the two last I know you are busy therefore excuse you – I have nothing to communicate of any consequence & I have but a very few moments to write – I wanted to tell you that Cousin Tom has consented to return those pictures so it is unnecessary for you to write John McKaven and Cous

Hoggatt called to see me last night and I enjoyed their company first rate notwithstanding I was mad with Cousin H. for his negligence of me heretofore He made all manner of excuses and said he couldn't get away from College – Mr McKaren and he promised me many buggy rides &c &c – but now it only has to pass into execution before I believe a word –

I have no time to write more Mollie my own sweetest sister for the mail goes pretty soon and I write this merely

to tell you it is unnecessary
to write for the pictures - I
feared I never would get them
but he says he will send
them back - Do write by
Monday's mail - I will see
Mrs Willis and know if she
received the money I sent
her for making my dress

In haste your sister
Sophie

3

FREE
OCT 1
1861

Miss Mary Edmondson,
Holly Springs
Miss.

Oxford Dec 17th 1850

My Sweetest,

I have only time to write a few words - it is nearly dark and I have not commenced dressing for Mrs Bowen's party - I was disappointed in not receiving my trunk the key came safely enough but there was not one word written to let me know whether the trunk had been stolen or not Will you write Beaucoup Moll and let me know - possibly it went down to Coffeeville - I am so sorry for I greatly fear I will not

get it by Friday and maybe I could go Friday if I had it Mr Dennis is here but I have not seen him I hear he has a message for me from you I must make haste and run and hear what it is - Can't I guess? - Gus precious heart would dictate something like Lele has to <u>come home</u> at least by the 22nd — The girls are nearly ready to go at least nearly dress for the party and I haven't commenced I hope to see you very soon

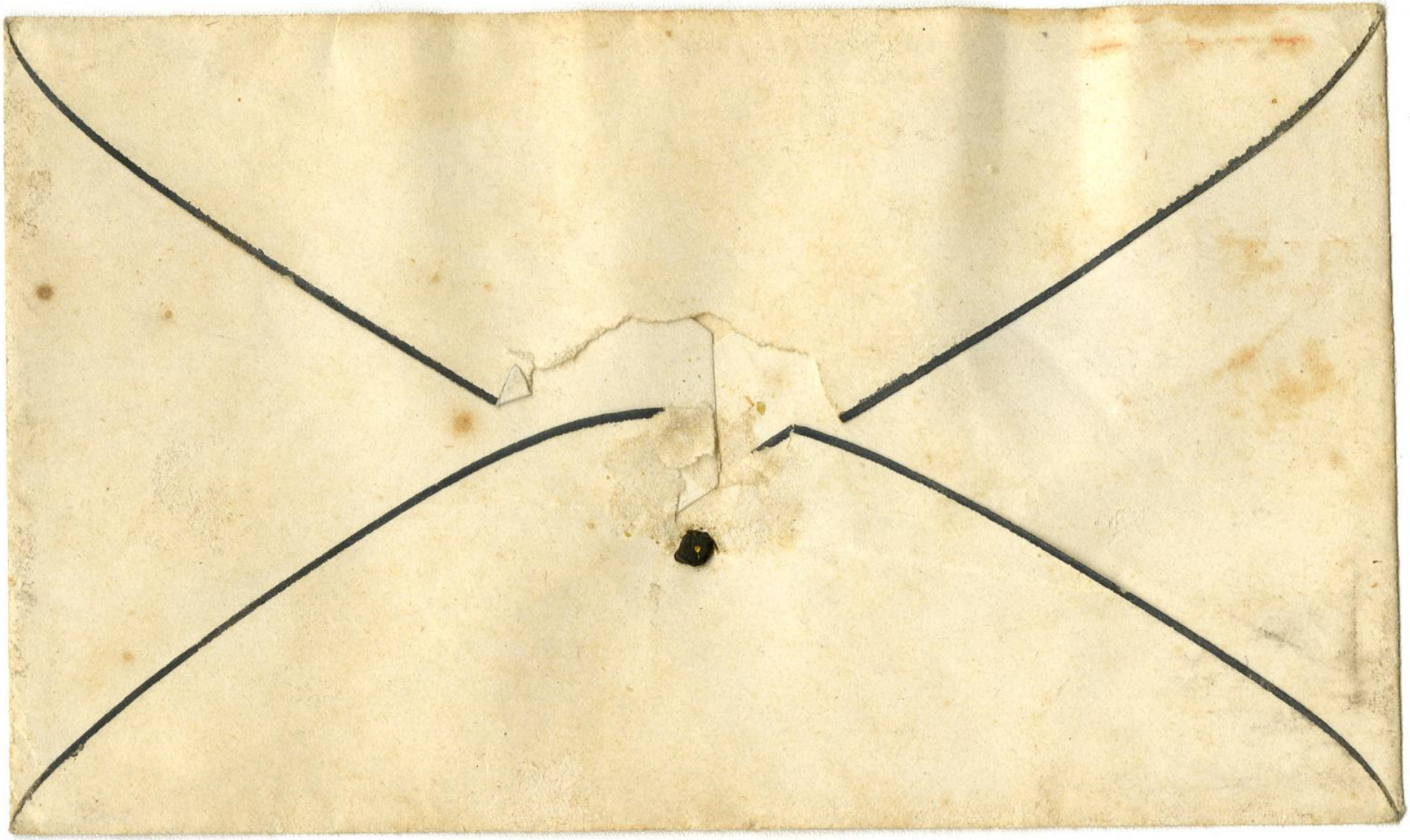
Good bye my own Sister

Yours ever

Joseph

5

Miss Mary E. Edmondson
Colt Springs
Missis



Decr. 25th 1850 Curituck C. House

Dear Brother

I Received your letter dated the 25th Nove. last, I have sent you a Power attorney about six weeks ago it must have reached you before this, My wish is for you to have the negroes divided as soon as possible and sell them immediately for the most you can Cash or notes payable 90 days in Bank so you can get the money for them out of the Bank You wrote me you wanted the use of my money for my part of Snowden's estate, it is impossible for me to lend you the money, I have made an engagement with a man for 3000.$ 15 per cent therefore I cannot let you have it as soon as Mr. Edwards pays you and you sell the negroes I want the money as soon as you can arrange it, If you can sell Jim for one thousand Dollars cash to some good Person do so I cannot take one Dollar less, Money is very scarce in this Country the Corn crop is half cut off therefore there is nothing to bring money in this Country but negroes and they sell very high — In Richmond they are worth Nº 1 man 1000.$ Girls 650.$ 700$, I received a letter from Andrew the same time I did your last, dated the same day, all well Wallis talks of going to Memphis next May perhaps you and him can buy the place you speak of, but I think your place where you are will grow in value very fast yet for some time but you know best, about that time if he is lucky in fishing he will have some considerable money, I sold two boys to Sandy Dozier one 6 years the other 4 years for 800.$ on time with Interest and he says if Jim was here he would give me 1000.$ (his old Master) I think Wallis will perhaps buy with you in may if he is lucky in fishing and if he is not and he thinks it a good bargin I will by that time be able to let you both have some money. but not now

I should like to oblige you but I cannot but perhaps I can by the time you need it — I think Wallis will certainly go in May unlep he is sick, my Wife send her best respects to all, we are all well and all the rest of your relations You may tell Wet. Wallis and Lindsey has made up there minds to send him some fish to sell this Spring. when you write send me the firm I forgot the name of it, the sound is full of Wild Gees & ducks such honking I never heard before, I shall leave carrituck in two or three years as soon as negroes falls, there is no newse to write you of any importance Your attention to what I write will oblige me very much

Your Affectionate Bro.
Benj. M. Ray

N. B.
(Christmast Gift)

Currituck C, H, N, C,
Decr 25

10

Mr. Edmund D. Gray
Memphis
Tennessee

95
34
129
9
38

56 16
00 02
56 14
00 02
56 12

150 night
160 night
170 night

847.95
98.95
122.85
58.95
23.90

Amt Tuesday mgh 91.00
Amt Wednesday mgh 29.00

Feb 3 Monday mgh 51.95