

Springfield July 30th 1851

My Dear Children

Your mother, Ben Lucy & Campbell, & My self will start on Wednesday the 13 and reach Gordonsville on Thursday the 14 if nothing happens to prevent. Your Mother has been suffering with a pain in her back but is now much better I have suffered more than I can express from my old complaint and a severe Rheumatism. But I hope I shall be entirely relieved hereafter from what I have been suffering so long with. The family are all well and join in love to you both.

Yours with the sincere affection of a Father

J. Bay Top

My Dear Betty

I have been expecting a letter so long, I cannot account for your long silence. I am afraid something is the matter, yesterday sent to the office no letter, this morning Martha was going to the court house to get a few things for me, and I got Mr B to write the above to let you know at what time to expect us, but before the carriage was ready it was raining, and has been pouring down all day, consequently she could not go, and I am writing myself, Lucy & Sinclair sent to invite Martha to go with her to Hampton to spend a week, she is anxious to go and is afraid though it is a bad day for doing up dresses, I have been quite unwell for a fortnight, with a pain in my back and have it now I intend trying the cold bath, I procured a large tub yesterday for the

the purpose, we have had another dry spell and fear we shall
make a short crop, I mentioned Lucy Ann Campbells coming up
with me, she is anxious to come but as never mentioned her name in your
letter, she is afraid she would not be welcome, how is the baby well I hope
and as lovely as a cherub, I long to see her tee her grandmamma is coming
soon I shall have a protracted meeting going on a Beechams, one just over
at Salem, we have had some fine water Melons, peaches are nearly
ripe, Lucy Stubbs is looking very badly, I fear she is destitute like poor
Rebecca, but hope not she has had chills and fevers, she was here from
dry day untill monday morning with Miss Fargo, who is far from being well
quite feeble some of the others have been sick, two of the servants have
had a long spell but are recovering slowly, I am afraid this will
be a sickly fall, there was a severe blow sunday night in some parts of the
county chimneys were blown off trees uprooted fences blown down but it did
not reach us, Martha is more prostrated this summer than she was the
last, she is very thin now, but says as the school is over, she will soon
revert, I hope so, I sometimes think I shall never be weeing for her to teach
again, Rowena is very well but is not near as fat as she was when you
left us Indy is all life and spirits anticipating her trip, Eugenia is a
squab never saw her so hearty, your aunt Martha is quite thin she has not
been very well lately, little Martha and Poker run about so much they
are as poor as cranes, Sarah has been quite sick, but is hoing on the
hope of seeing her brother Hugh soon, and going back with him to
Louisiana to visit her sisters, Thomas is hard at work, well now I
have written more than I thought I could when I commenced I must
conclude, with love to all, untill we meet my dear child Fannie

Your devoted Mother

L J Baystop

P S Betsy has another boy born yesterday

Dear Betty Mother insists on me filling up this sheet
Although I feel very little like writing, but I will make every effort,
and try and think of something to amuse you, Pitt has just returned
from Kingans Queen he went to the Association Cousin Tom went also to see a
Miss Motley, poor fellow he has tried every body in Gloucester that
he can fancy and has been to look at the ladies of King Town
I hope he may be more successful, he talks of nothing else but
marrying, We went to Salem last Sunday and spent a very pleasant
day, I went to the E. G. to an Indian concert not long since I saw
five Indians, they shewed us the manners and customs of the Oregon
Indians, they were descendants of Black Hawk and Osceola,
We also saw a Panorama of the Rocky Mountains the Columbia
River and a Grave on fire, and a great many of others they were
beautiful, one thousand persons were there to see them, Gilly and
I spent a week at Wilson Creek not long ago, we went out crabbing
and caught seven more than any of the the others, the fish have not
commenced to bite yet, Cousin Sarah J is still in Hampton
we heard the captivated two beauty, she goes to Old Point
every night and dances, I believe I have told you all the news
I could think of excuse all mistakes. I remaine your affectionate

and devoted sister

Burr

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Wm. P. H. H. H. H. H.

Stamfordville

From the Va



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on
trail