

12878

To Spencer C. Randles, Boyds Creek, Tenn., from N.L. Rector, Bellefonte, Ala.,
July 15th 1837

Dear Uncle

With pleasure I can inform you that I with my friends & people generally of this Country are well.- As it respects the times hear they are dark & gloomy like my letters thought. I am in hopes they will get better as the Banks of our state have been looked into by a late Session of the Legislature & prepared for the general convenience of the people in point of change by authorizing the Banks to issue notes of of 50 \$- also authorized the Banks to issue past notes payable 4 years after date at 6 p \$ per annum & for the payment of debts due the Banks it is arranged so persons may have time on them By paying 1/3 of it Feby, March, & April 1838 with Int. 1/3, 1837 & 1/3 1840 which its thought will be of vital importance or rather Interest to this part of the country as we are all in debts. As it respects Crops Corn is very good cotton very indifferent we have had good seasons here this year for corn.- As it respect the money that is coming to you from us I will put in the amt and start it to day 59 & 43 which I xpromised to start today.

(NB) As I cant make the change I send you \$60.00 which we can arrange when I see you.- As it respects the way I am gitting allong I am selling slowly at present as I have nearly sold out every thing but my liquors. We have considerable confusion on account of Electioneering Warfare.- I expe ct you will wish to know something about the price of produce in this Country- the last sale of whiskey was at 50¢ flower \$8- & other things in preportion give my love to all paries - (sic) the ladies so nothing more- I am yours respectfully
S.C. Randles N.L. Rector

(N.B) excuse my bad writing as I am hurried considerably it being Saturday evening

Betsy Randles, dau. of James Randles &
Rhoda Claib Randles, married Kenneth Rector,
so above N.L. Rector must have been
a son of these two. (J.A.S.)

These Randles letters were sent to me by my
Nellie Randles, Elkland, Missouri. She is a
grand daughter of Spencer C. Randles & a J.G.
grand dau. of Spencer Claib. (J.A.S.)

To Rebecca H. Randles, Tishamingo County, Cartersville Post office, Miss.,
from Mariah C Rogers, Winston County, May the 27 1843

Rebecca Cowan M. Spencer C. Randles

Dear sister

I received your letter of Febuary last I was never more rejoiced to receive a letter in my life I had began to conclude that you never intended to write to me or were all dead I was glad to hear of your health and also that you seem sattisfied with your situation I wish I could say as much for my self I will give you a short history of our affairs you remember when I wrote to you last we were living in the house with Bob Rogers we continued to do so untel september some time when we moved to our selves in a cabbins Joshua bilt on the far end of his farm close by a good spring of water Joshua crops with him this season they all work to gether and he gets the fifth of the crops they work one hundred and ten acres of cotton and seventy acres of corn and fifty acres of good wheat which they will commence cutting in the morning there crop looks tolerable well but the cold late spring has made every thing backward we have had the coldest winter here that has ever been known sence the country has been settled as to our health we have enjoyd tolerable well e ever sence we come here with the exception sintha Catharine and oliver sintha was taken with a severe pain in her right breast some time in the winter which she continues to feel the effects of ever sence I am inclined to think that it is her old complaint that has followed her some years Catharine and oliver had a few days of chills and fever last october I think this section of country about here is healthy and when that is said almost all the good is said that belongs to it, the nearest market we can haul to is gainsville in Alabama which is fifty miles and then takes Alabama money and its considerably under par as for society if there is any I have not found it people are thick enough settled and very well off but resemble the jews and samaritans in there intercourse w with each other I have paid but one or two visits sence I have been here we live the lonsomest life we have ever lived bob Rogers and wife ~~xx~~ come sometimes to see us Joshua intends leaveing here this fall or winter as soon as he gethess and disposes of his crop he intends going nearer to the Mississippi river you wanted to know if I had heard any thing more of the boys I received a letter from brother John last fall they were all well he has ten liveing children six sons and four daughters his three eldest daughters is married and Mary is a widdow Davis lives in three miles of him and were all well I received a letter from Andrew dated the 26 of March in which he says they were all well and has had no reason to complain of health for several years he lives on big black river in hinds County he has seven children all girls but one Hug lives intwelve miles of him in another county Andrew wrote to me he had received a letter from sister Ann that if I wanted to write to her to direct my letters to Bollands post office Itawamba County I want you to write to me if you seen or heard any thing of her

I received a letter last week from Martha Poindexter in which she informes me of a great many things I will inform you of what I think you have not heard in the first place she says there has been a great stir about religion that a great many had joind the church among them Adella and Caroline Hufaker Mariah and Elizebeth Porter and Nancy Rogers had join the methodist and that Adella Hufaker and Bart Chandler was married Champs family was well both his black women sal and bet was dead and that he had to sell Charles to pay a security debt of Ira Hills she also stated that Champ was trying to sell his farm she did not say where he inteneded moveing to she said there was a ball at ~~Mx~~ anallys in seveirville the 16 of March of which she was one of the party that Will Rogers was her partner she seems to insinuate very strongly that her and Will Rogers was a going to marry she ~~may~~ may be joking about it .

*Robt. H. Rogers (son Rev. Elipah)
M. Malinda H. Benson*

She spent a lifetime
 studying the Chas. Rogers
 families. Her son in
 law is now in
 the army.

← Mr. Lucile
 ← Gibson Pleasant (now deceased)
 Excluded from this marriage

Franklin Randles left here about the first of Desember in company with Bob Rogers brother in law they went to Mobile to get into business of some kind b but when they got there they could find nothing to do they wrote back they intended to go on to florida and that is the last we have heard of him there come a letter for him sence he left here from his father he stated there was a great stir of religion in the Missouri that Jack Miller had joind the church and was ordained to preach the gospel that two of his daughters had joind the church that his wife and one of his daughters was sick with the chills and fever

Robert Rogers eldest daughter was married last october to a Mr gibson from the state of vermont they started shortly after they marriage on a visit to his relatives they have not returned

sintha says she wants to see you all badly but does not know when she can do so we have had bad luck lately the horse that Joshua bought shortly after we left east fort he swapt off and got him one worth one hundred dollars he had just started to preashhing about two weeks sence she trod on a hoe and the handles run into her body eighteen inches she died in three days after wards and so we are left without a horse

We are all working as hard as we can I am spinning and weaveing our own wear at this time

I want to see you all but shall have no oppertunity soon as I expe ct to be on the move again this fall or winter should we both live to die with old age I trust I shall see you again but these are matters we know nothing about but if we cannot see each other we surely can have the pleasure of hearing from each other sometimes I wrote every thing I can think of at this time I want you to write to me shortly excuse my bad writing and spelling alas, while I remain your affectionate sister
 Rebecca H Randles

Mariah C Rogers

Mariah C. Rogers was Mariah Cowan
 of Boyds Creek. She married Joshua
 Gist Rogers son of Rev. Elipah Rogers
 and Catherine Cook Rogers.

Rhoda Clack Randles to Spencer C. Randles, Jan. 4, 1844

Rhoda Clack was dau. of Spencer Clack

Tennessee Sevier County January the 4th 1844.

Spencer C. Randles, son of James Randles & Rhoda Clack Randles

Dear son. I received your letter of October near a month ago but have not had an opportunity of writing until the present time. Stone and Polly were up this winter and staid with us nearly two weeks during which time Stone made Richard and Jim sing a note for one hundred dollars as the amount coming to him from that plantation and the boys are right hard run at this time owing to their failures down the river for the last few years I expect that Richard will come out and see you this winter. there has been several deaths about here this fall. Mrs. Williams is dead and Billy Randles wife and he has taken his children to his fathers, and old John Smith got drowned a few weeks back. Cage Rogers folks have all gone to Texas but William and he is clerk in the circuit court. Champe expects to move next fall and has already sold his land to the McMahanes. Old Mister Beman and old mister sharp are both dead. It is thought that old Billy will have to sell one if not both his negroes. Old Peggy Whittle was (sic) a few weeks ago to (sic) of considerable property. Ben Chandler was a few weeks ago to a lady by the name of Newel. Sally was well the 1 last account I had of her but her little boy had been like to die. Pattison is tolerable hard run. The people about here are generally well at this time. I would like to see you and Becca & the children but dont expect I ever will unless you come to this country.

son of Wesley Hubbahe & Rhoda Randles
James Huffaker to Spencer C. Randles (part of same letter as above)

Dear Uncle It is with pleasure I accept this opportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you know what I have been about and what I am about still. I have been going to school up to this winter but I have now (sic) I suppose ended my (sic) life. I am now Teaching a school at (sic) but have but few Scholars. The people about here are all marrying dying or getting broke up. Merton Williams was married to Miss Nancy Hodges a few months ago lifted and spent all her money but thirty Dollars he has bought him a little nigger gal. Old Josh has got to be a perfect believer in Ten Payms Ol Andrew Chambers is married to Vina Henderson which in these diggings is the wonder of the world Mike Smith is dead leaving a wife and one child I would like to see you in this country once more and if you want to see things resembling those you left in this country you had better mount your horse and come in as speedily as possible for things are changing very fast I want you to write to me and tell me all about the country its people & c. There is a lawyer (sic) here (sic) Mississippi by the name of Robt (sic) Hudson if you know any thing about him I would like for you to inform me whether he is much lawyer or not as I went to school with him in New Market.

James Huffaker

Rhoda Clack Randles to Spencer C. Randles (part of same letter as above)

Since writing the above I have received a letter from Betsy Rector she is on her way to Texas and they were all well George had been to James Randles he is well but the rest his wife had been sick for two or three months they had got several letters from (sic) this summer he is about to preach and writes also that Billy is doing very well. she writes that Richard is a candidate for circuit court clerk I have nothing more to write.

Your affectionate mother R. Randles

Wesley Huffaker M. Frances Randles

Dear Friend

I intended to have written you before but we have an opportunity of sending it to the office and I have not time proceed but accept for yourself and family my best wishes Fanny sends her best love and respect to you and your family.

Yours respectfully

W Huffaker

Rhoda Clack Randles to Spencer C. Randles, October 15, 1848

French Broad Sevier Co Tenn. Oct. 15 th 1848

My Dear Son, I received your kind letter a few days since. I was extremely glad to hear from you for I was beginning to think that you had forgotten your old mother but I was glad to know that you had not, that you yet think of one that ever thinks of you. I wish I could see you and talk with you face to face for there is so many things that I wish to converse with you about that I can say comparatively nothing on paper- but I will say a few things to you any how. I will in the first place tell you all I know about your Brothers and sisters I received a letter from Betsey last spring she is living with Nelson. He is practicing law Gerry was farming; the girls were teaching school; there is none of them married but Nelson. I got a letter from Sally this summer- they were all well; with the exception of these two I have not received a letter from any of the rest for two years. I have not had a letter from Jack or James for three years but I heard from them this last summer they were all well Dicks health was getting tolerable good the last account, he had moved out of town & was teaching school. He has joined the Sons of Temperance; he never writes to me, and so you will see how often I get the privilege of reading a letter from my children. I hope you will take a hint & be resolved to write to me two or three times ever year as long as I live. You know it can not be many years untill you will have no Mother to write
(two or three lines at bottom of page were illegible)

20 or 30 professed religion. Mr. (sic) a James Huffaker held a two days meeting at Seven Islands last (sic) a sabbath there was a very good meeting & professed religion. the preachers were on their way to conference, which is in session at Knoxville at this time. the Boyds Creek church has fallen down & they have employed Jordon Newk to build a frame church. I fear we will not get it soon now. I have told you about our camp meeting & you said that yours was to come on in a weeks or two & now Spencer I do hope when I hear from you next that I will hear that you & Rebecca have both got religion & Joined the church. my very soul would rejoice to hear such news as that. My son if I meet you on earth no more. O! may we meet in Heaven there where parting is not known, seek ye the Lord while he may be found-

Aunt Becca Gannon is dead She died with the fever w about three weeks ago. Old Jacka has been like to die, but is getting well. Bart Chandler little son died the 12th of Sept. with the Hoopingcough he was a very interesting little boy. he was three years old; they have two daughters left. Old Maj Williams & old Billy Palmer are both dead- There has no person married about hear I believe, but Lis Peter she married Mr. Hitches from Massachusetts, they have gone there to live- Your Uncles John & William Randles are well and getting along as usual There children are all getting along sorty slowly I believe. Josh Williams has come back but he does not live with his wife, he is working at Nortons. there is none of his children married but Martin (Norton?). Your friends in this country are generally well. You said something about

apples. You live so far from the river it seems like it is (several lines missing at bottom of page)

Wesley Huffaker to Spencer C. Randles (included in above letter)

Considering the small space I have left you will (sic) I must condence in both (sic) and (sic). as to the general news I find this included in your mothers Letter.

As to my difficulty with Brabson I am not determined what course I will pursue he gained the suit by proving that I told him I had no claim to the Land as to that you will form your own opinion the witness he proved it by was T.C.B. (Thomas C. Brabson). You ask am I out of debt I am bound to say no I am indebted about \$1500- to meet that I have some 4 or 500 Dollars in good debts and between 15 and 2000 Dollars in bad ones I might say desperate and about 100 head of fine hogs ready for market which will weigh from 3 to 400 each and the reneau farm which I am offered 1500 Dollars so you will see I have some fair hopes of getting out of debt but my constitution has been so frail that I am (rest illegible)

Fanny Randles Huffaker to Spencer C. Randles and wife Rebecca Cowan Randles

Sept. 25 18 ?

My dear Brother and sister, It has been a long time since I received your very kind letter. I was extremely glad to hear from you- to learn that you were all alive and well. I must acknowledge that I could not help being a little vexed to think that I had written to you so often & had spent so many uneasy hours on your account & that you had no excuse but negligence. You said you had received all my letters and had read them and laid them away carefully in a chest. Well done for you that is a new way of corresponding. I do hope you will not treat me with much indifference again if I thought so I cant believe that I would write. if I mistake not you promised me that you would do so no more & upon that I write, expecting a letter from you in a few weeks.

We have just received a letter from brother Jack. He & family are greatly troubled, their youngest son died with Typhoid fever on the 28 of July. He was 18 years old. Doubless their loss was his eternal gain he was a professor of religion & a member of the baptist church. The rest were well. Brother said (sic) there had been so much dry weather that the crops were light that in a great portion he feared the seed would not be made. I also received a letter from sister Betsy not long ago she is living with her children sometimes with Nelson & sometimes with Kizza. Gerry is in California. They were well & doing very well. James & family were well the last account he speaks of visiting us this winter. Pelly was well a few weeks since. Her children are all married except Mack & they know nothing of him. John is still living w with her. Salie is living on Mossy Creek & doing very well her little boy is a very smart child. Jessa Parsley lives a neighbor to her. Jim is a very rude boy. Sarah is said to be quite a cleaver little girl. They are both very little. I believe I have now told you all that I know about our Brothers & sisters. Do you ever write to any of them? Do you ever hear from Dick? There has a great many changes taken place in this country since I last wrote you. Many have died and a great many have married. None of my own family have died except a black boy who died last summer with Typhoid fever- Caroline lost two children last year a son and a daughter. they died in seven weeks of each other. She now has three daughters, her oldest is in Asheville N.C. going to school. William Bryan has got to be about the best Doctor in our (sic). They are getting along very well. Adela lost her son last

summer which makes two that she has lost. She now has four children three girls & one son her baby is a boy she calls him Benjamin Robert. They are getting rich as fast as they want to I believe. They have both been in very bad health, but are improving, the death of their last child came very near killing them both. Their has a great many children died within the past year no family scarcely but has lost some of its inmates some as high as three or four. I am almost destitute of children, but thank God they are not dead. My three youngest daughters, Sarah Jose & Clarin are in Asheville at school. Julia is teaching school in Sevierville & Napoleon is married. he married on the third of January last to Miss Margaret Bates of Bradley County. He has a fine wife. They are living on the farm above us, once owned by Brabson he thought that. I believe that he has a notion of going to Kansas. I suppose he will not go this year. James is stationed preacher in Knoxville at this time. Since the Editor of the Holston C. Advocate died James has been editor & will be until conference. He said he will send you some of his papers. So you see I have but two children, Nancy & Bobby. Bob is a noble looking fellow I tell you. (sic) well tell whether he was designed for a president or what. You have doubtless learned that we have been (sic) by Chocera in E. Ten. It has been very alarming (sic) Madisonville, Loudon & Knoxville. A great many persons died in Knoxville. It has well nigh abated at this time. James was there & visited the sick & buried the dead all the time but the Lord mercifully preserved his health. Uncle John and Aunt Nancy are yet alive though frail. Sam & Eliza Pitner are married & have an heir. Betty is still unmarried. Henry is a perfect sot. Uncle Billa & Aunt Betsy has broken up & are living with their son Billa over near New Market. they are all doing about as usual. Now something about the markets & wheat is selling at one dollar & 36 cts delivered at Knoxville. Corn is selling at 40 cts in the field pork 3½ per lb beef is so high (or rather was) that I can not tell what it was but they say our merchants are broke. There was good wheat raised and in some places corn is tolerable good, but the season has been so very dry that there is nothing like a full crop. Wesley sold one field the other day at 40 cts they are going to turn hogs on it. I have well nigh written all that I have room to write and before I quit let me ask you if you think you will ever visit Sevier county. Come up this winter. come when brother James comes and let us see each other once time more be sure and bring Fanny with you & Give my love to each one of your children tell them there Aunt Fanny would be very glad to see them. Now Becka I dont want you and Spencer to do as you have done but write dont put it off untill next weeks if you do you will put it off a year. The family send their love to you all, inconclusion accept of the best love of your sister.

Fanny Huffaker.

S.C. & R. Randles

Sept. 12 1865

Fanny Randles Huffaker to Spencer C. Randles and Rebecca Cowan Randles,

Dear Brother & sister, I received your kind letter in due time & with a heart filled with gratitude to my heavenly father for his merciful providence over you. I perused its pages I am glad to know that your lives has been preserved through this terrible struggle there are but few families in this country who have not lost some near relative & some of the neighbors too to three sons & one man in this county lost five sons all that he had their name was Web. I was very sorrow to hear of your troubles in that you was compeld to leave your home and seek refuge in a strange land unless it should prove a blessing to your souls by driving you to the Saviour who hath said call on me in time of trouble & I will hear if you have not made your peace with God by giving him your whole heart & the loss of prosperity should cause you to turn to him for help cause you to seek his favor & find him precious t

to your souls. What would the loss of prosperity prove to your immortal souls. My brother my sister how it would cheer my heart to know that you & all your children were on the road to Heaven please tell me if you are disciples of my blessed Lord without the comforts of religion I feel that this would be a dreary world to me my children are professors of religion & I believe our sore trials has drove them all nearer the cross.

Uncle John is still alive but verry frail inddeed he has spells of headache which causes him to go deranged entirely his spells last him sometimes a week when he is at himself he appears happy & says he longs to go to rest. his children are doing pretty much as they used to do Betsy & Sam & his wife are all that live with him Henry lost a son in the war. Billy is living on the place where Jim lived John is living on the Maniford farm living for himself alone has a pretty good house & good orchard he is a very profane swearer has seven children Uncle B & Aunt B are living in Jefferson & on a farm belonging to Billy & are making their own support all of them was union folks there are none of them rich Sam Randles lost a son in the war Rufe Creswell lost one Rufe owns Uncle B old farm & two of his sons has lately bought a part of our old farm for which they gave \$1000 they were both in the army Dickey is living right at our old wash place his oldest son was in the army. You ask what has become of the Cannons Old Jacky has been dead nearly one year he was strong for the union his bre was is still living he was a rebel & has been well nigh broken up he is living with James Sharps family they were all rebels Sharp dare not show himself at home he is preparing to move Ben Brabson has moved to Middle Tenn & Tom is going shortly neither of them been staying at home since last winter they have been robbed of all their stock & a great deal of their household plunder all of the Brabson family were rebels except Dr. Medsons Family they are all greatly injured by the war Betsy McNut lost her oldest son he was killed in battle Rebs Davess sons was in the rebel army & dare not show themselves back only one who was conscripted & he is broke up. Harve Cowan died in the army he was Capt his family are doing very well. I have told you a great many things but not half what I would tell you if you were present. I will now tell you of my own affairs. W.P. Keener and family have moved in one end of the house with us he rents the farm & gives me one third of every thing that is made takes care of our stock & furnishes our firewood so that it is not nessary for me to keep a hand hired he is a very clever fellow & quite a business man they have three children B M Chandler is going to Ala next weeks where he expects to stay some time his family will remain at home if not molested if they are, he will take them to Ala they have six children 3 daughters grown James has moved to Green county is teaching in (sic) Now dear relatives I want you to write to me soon and often tell me all about your family it has been so long since you have corresponded with me that I am not acquainted with them cannot some of you come to see us this fall I would be so glad to see you I have not heard from sister Pelly for two years her family was strong Sesesh and I recon was almost broken up when the yankeys passt that way all I am as ever your devoted Sister

Fanny H

Dear Uncle Mother has left room for me to say howdy do. I would be mighty glad to see you all one time more. I am not the little girl I was when you left. I am married to good clever fellow ' have three of prettiest children of the connection, one boy his name is Bruce, the girls, Fannie, Nannie Jo. My little Wesley died two years ago. Give my love to Aunt Becca & all the children.

Nancy C. Keener

Josh Williams is married again has three children living up about Bryans Ferry & is doing better than he ever did. Cynthia is living with Morton & never married.

To S.C. Randles, Cartersville, Tishamingo Cty Mississippi, from J. Rogers,
Warren County, Mississippi, Aug. 30th 1846

Dear friends

*J. Rogers was Joshua J. Rogers, son
of Rev. Elijah Rogers & Catharine Clark Rogers*

Yours of the 10th of July came Safely to hand and I was truly glad to hear that you were all well a blessing that we cannot too highly prize What is wealth and the (sic) honours of the great and powerful without that one indispensable requisite health we may be surrounded with pomp and all the pageantry of the world and yet drag out a miserable existence while not in the enjoyment of health all other blessings lose their relish but while in the enjoyment of health with a competency we Should be contented which is the great secret of human happiness.

I had almost concluded that you had forgotten me consequently was much gratified to receive a communication from you. You state that you have had very hard times to get along since I saw you I have had many ups and downs but have as yet been able to get plenty.

I am Still living where I was when I first came here my crop is tolerable good I have been sending Oliver and Catharine to School this Summer they can both spell and read very well they have grown almost out of your knowledge since you saw them Martha and Amanda are both very hearty, stout healthy children. they will all soon be grown We have enjoyed very good health since the first year we came here which was a very Sickly Season throughout a great portion of the South.

David Cowan & family are well and doing well Sally Cowan and family are all well and doing well Hugh is carrying the mail from Benton Yazoo County to Vicksburg for which he receives one thousand dollars per year the last time I saw him he stated they were all well. Andrews wife is going to move to Texas this fall he was killed by his negro boy who has been hanged and stated that he was instigated to do the act by Cox

Cynthia is Still living with me and enjoys tolerable good health for her age She Says that She would be very glad to See you but the distance is so great that She cant ride it

She received a letter from Champ the other day he is living near Fayetteville Washington County Arkansas he states that they are all well and that he has bought land and gave twelve hundred dollars for it has a good crop two negroes seven head of horses twenty head of cattle five head of milch cows a good Stock of hogs &c he Says that he is not well Satisfied with his country and if he does not have his health he will move either to Georgia or Kentucky.

It would be a great source of Satisfaction to me to See and converse with you all and I hope yet to do it I like this country very well and if you should sell and move I want you to come here give my friendship to (sic)

S.C. Randles

remain your friend J Rogers

P. 11 of 18

To Spencer C Randles, Allsboro or Hillsboro, Alabama, from Frances Huffaker,
Boys Creek, Tenn., Jan 6th 1850

Dear brother Spencer

I fear some misshap his befallen you or you have written to us before this time and being very anxious to hear from you I have seated myself to enquire the cause of your long Silence If I mistake not you rpromist when you left us that you would write at least once a year if you have your letter did not reach us the last we received was dated Sep (sic) since that time many have slept the sleep of death and many have left their native land and gone to other states but none of our relations in this country have gone except Richard Randles who is now in California he ~~ix~~ writes that he is making a dollar an hour. this is doing pretty well but it will take him a good many days at that rate to meet the demands against him he says he exacts to return in the corse of 12 or 13 months

There are a great many things I would like to tell you about but the limit of a sheet of paper is too small I shall therefore first tell you what I presume you would most wish to hear well you say how is my blessed old mother or is she still alive and well she is and greatly desires to see you once more before she dies She often says Shurely something is the matter with Spencer or he would write to me She wishes me to give her love to you and sister Rebecca and all the dear little ones She greatly desires to see you all

We had a letter from Bro Jack this fall he says his family was well but said verry little about how they ware doing We had a letter from Caroline Rector a few weeks ago they ware well and doing well She is liveing with Rizza Jones She says Riz has twins both Sprightly little boys sister Betsy lives with Nelson Gurry has gone to California Mc and Spence Stone have also gone we hered from brother Dick and James this fall they ware all well James was keeping school talks of coming to see us this winter I understand Pattisson is about to move to Mossee Creek We are all well as usual except Adelas baby it was verry sick a few days ago it is a girl not quite two weeks old we buried a beautiful little daughter on the 12 of April last it dead born

We are trying to do the best we can we raised a fine crop of corn last Summer I think between 4 and 5 thousand bushels or wheat crop was verry light flour is worth ~~xxxxxx~~ six dollars per barrel corn 25 cents per bushel pork is worth 3 dollars per hundred collfe is selling six lb to the dollar sugar ten

We are Still Sending our children to school theyare all going this winter except Nancy Napoleon is still at the Strawberry Plains high school and is progressing verry fast I exp ct he will go on until he graduates the rest are going at home the little girls are studing Arithmatic gography and grammer (sic) can spell in three syllable can your four year old boy beat that

dear brother do tell me all about your children a how much I do wish to see you all

You now ask where is James he is riding the Clinton circuit preaching the best he can and I am told he is verry extable among the people we are expecting him to visit us in the course of two weeks

Do you next say who are your ~~pa~~uticians Well our representative to congress

P. 12 0818

is name Waskins from Jefferson Co Sam Pickens is our Senator in the legislature and W Dugan representative now I am done farewell and believe me to be your verry affectionate sister F Huffaker
Sm C R

A word to you dear Sister Becca I would be verry glad to see you indeed and talk to you face to face but I perhaps shall not enjoy that pleasure soon but there is a way where we may converse if we will I believe you promist to write to me now keep your promis

I was at the Baptist camp meeting in october two miles this side of Sevierville they had a verry warm time mourners were called for and many came forward among them was your sister Matilda P she cried a loud She was in as great agency appeal .. as a person could I and live she prayed hard for mercy and her prayer was herd are the meeting came to a close she was rejoicin in God her saviour she joind the church and was baptised Marthey was also a mourner but made no profession She had just been married to a baptist preacher by the name of Cowan from Jefferson County for want of room I must bring my letter to a close or family all wish to be remembered to you all in love
From your affectionate sister F. Huffaker
R R

N B Mother bids me tell you that she never received any thing for them Bed Steads you left with the Blairs F H
If you make bed steads from 8 to 12 ft long I wish you would have one loaded up for they cut all the long trees to make boats so that Julia can not get one long enough to make a bed stead for her intended "Old Man" F G H
N B I think if any thing is lacking in this case it would be a house instead of a bed stead

Yours Respectful J A R Huffaker

My very Dear Uncle will you permit me to say "howdy Doe" uncle Spencer I wish I could see you and give you a hearty shake of the hand Well Uncle Spence I'm not married yet, and that awful, but it cant be helped just now. If this was Leap year I believe I would try to get a better half and if a certain young man (I will not tell his name yet) is in the notion of taking a better half in 1850 you may say good by to N C H Dear Uncle I wish I could be at your house and see you all & hear you laugh once more I would be extremely glad to receive a letter from you telling all about what kind of folks live in ... & give my love to Aunt Rebecca and children & accept for your self the best love of your niece
Nancy C Huffaker

L. Love, of Wesley Huffaker
J. Frances R. Huffaker

Seclusion Bend Tennessee

Sept 5th 1859

Mr. S C Randles

My Dear sir

We have been inquiring and wrightin if possible to ascertain the whereabouts of you or your family Every effort Proved abertion (sic) untill verry Recently we Recieved a Letter from you from Some marks one might infer that you Still Lived in Tishiming bo Miss But from the enquires you make the Enferenene is erisistable that you have Removed to some verry Remote Region or perhaps to some other Planet

You ask why

Because you inquire about your Lost Brothers & sisters as tho you had not herd from them in the Last fifty years

Spencer I will try and give you the where abouts of your frens But in doing so I will suppose you live at the same ould place in Miss if you have removed you know how far and which way you went so you can make a prebable calculation where they now live- I will rest a little and pen it I believe over on the otherSide I said Sectm 5 I do not know that that is correct but I know it is sunday for the children have gon to Sunday School and Fanny is wrighting to her Brother Jack and she never has time to wright any other day But Sunday Now to the Promised naritive your sister Pelly stone lives about 7 hours ride this side of where you used to Live in Tishimingo Miss- in ould Sequachy she had joined the Hard Shell Baptist has the sole controle of a fine Estate and like Alexander Selkirk

From the Land all Round to the See
She is Lord of the flowls and the Brutes

Her self and family well & doing well her son in Law Havron is a member to the Legislature John is Clk of the C C Spencer C S C you Brother Jack a little the oher side of Tisk (sic) on the northern slope of the Gaark mountain is dallis Co Mo. all doing well thts (Living a letter Recently)

You sister Elizebeth just over the Mississippi there in Texas all well & doing well you sister Sally is living on the Reneau farm they are Recovering verry fast making money your Bro James is Living over South there in Taladega as rich as Jerand and I have no doubt By this is far richer He Had enough to Eat drink & weare one Little sow and 2 pigs more than he needed I have no doubt he has got them off of his hands by this time

Just here my wife gave me a slight kick with her foot and said quit your foalishness and let me wright I says go a hed if you can do any better

W.W.

Wesley Huffer

My dear Brother

I am truly glad you have again thought of us for indeed I believe we had good reasons to believe that you had forgotten you wever had a sister but I am glad that it was not with you as it seamed to us to be - but really Spencer I wish I knew why you did not write for so long a time but I am perfectly willing to forgive you & begin in the rews. now will you make a bargain with me. I will propose & if you consent it is agreed too & that is that you answer all of my letters & when you write give me a discription

of your home & tell me a bout your wife & children about the Schoels & churches & Society in general I would like extremely indeed to see you all can not you jump on the cars & visit us this fall I hope that you will try to come & see you native land onst more you could come in two days & the nearest point to us is only nine miles that is Strawbury plains if you would let us know when you would be there we would send for you shure I suppose you would like to hear how we are getting a long well prety much like we usto we sow a good of wheat plant a good deal of corn raised four or five hundred bushels of wheat this Season we expect to git a dollar per bushel for what we have to spare We have near one hundred head of hogs to fatten this fall We have only three children single & they are all at home with us a great sorce of comfort to us Robert is 15 years old & very well grown Jose & Maria are very good girls & grety enough Adela & Caroline has five daughters each their oldest are grown are both ot them handsome & far their age quite intel-agent Ellen Chandler is at Salem North carolina at School also Reps Davises daughter they went in company together you ask about uncle John & William they are still living & both of them nearly blind Uncle B & aunt Betsy are living in Jefferson county all alone they are quite feeble Sam Randles is a widoeer with six children the (sic) youngest are girls he has went through what property he got with his wife & is quite poor the friends as far as I know are well We got a letter from Brother Jack yesterday he says Fzanklin is dead he died on the 4th August left a wife & four children had got himself a right nice little fortune Said his lands was worth 7000 dollars beside other property brother says his children are all settled in eight miles of him & doing well his address is Dallis Co Buffalo Po Mo Your sister Pollys Sequatchy Co Dunlap § o E T Sister Betsys Webberville Texas Sister Sallies Henrys X Roads brother Jameses Kelleys Creek § o St clare Co Ala You must excuse this scribbling if you can for my pen would not perform its part as well as I could wish give my love to sister & tell her to write to me give my love to all your children & except for your self a large portion of the love of your

truly devoted sister

Fannie Huffaker

P s do not fail to write soon

S C Randles

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James Huffaker, Boyds Creek, to Spencer C Randles, Cartersville P O Tish-
Mingo Co Mississippi, May 18th ?

Spencer C Randles

Dear Uncle

I am bold enough now days to write letters to people especially my kinfolks uncalled, and unasked for. So you will excuse me a boy for writing to you a man of age & dignity. I have graduated, and am now a finished lawyer, I do not mean that I am a perfect, or even tolerable lawyer, but you know that to finish is to complete and complete is to get through whether by quitting at the end of Six, eight, twelve months or two or three years, it is in this sense that I a finished lawyer, I have laid it aside not but I liked: and that excessively for I surely did; But felt that I owed a greater debt to the world of mankind than a lawyer can possibly pay, true enough a lawyer may save a rascal, and criminal from merited and well deserved punishment and occasionally get an honest man nonsuited to his great damage- and every now and then he may rob the orphan of his just patrimony and turn the widow from her door and then turn political demagogue; Stir up neighbor against neighbor, go to the places appointed for law making; quarrel and fight drink and gamble, and grind the poor man to support him by laying heavy taxes encourage and promote vice by passing wicked and diabolical laws, come home and receive the shouts and plaudits of an enthusiastic and lawless mob, and sink at length into a ~~man~~ demon's grave if perchance an other demon thinks enough of him to open the earth for his reception, and then he is gone unhonored, unsung and unwept, ^{leaving} perhaps a broken hearted widow, who for sook her all for him and a few poor, helpless poverty Stricken orphans, to be supported by the cold charities of the world This is no fancy sketch or overstrained picture for we may witness it every day,

I expect to act in quite a different sphere secluded from all these scenes, yet not divorced from public life, it is now my expectation to try to preach the gospel, consequently I expect to be a Methodist preacher- Circuit rider perhaps- dont you think I have taken the part of a wise man? I guess as how you say yes, write to me right off and say if you dont

Old Major Porter is no more, after a warning of some half hour he was gathered to the home of his fathers; Grandmother is well and so are we all; Jim & Dick & John Tyler are all well, and so is all of Uncle John's and Billie's people little Billy has bought Dave. Josh Williams talks of leaving here ere another wintry sun passed by Houston is climbing the rugged slopes of the scientific mountain in the Maryville College You ought to come up and see us all and expecially your mother ere she is called hence; we have nothing more to tell you about, only that a Steamboat (Sam Martin) has penetrated the waters of Frenchbroad as far as Dandridge.

Sevierville I believe is waning away and ere long it seems she should no longer be called a Village Cam Whittle is married to Melby Shahan alias Cowan though I suppose you know that Isom Hodges is married to Betsy Jane Ellis, Nancy is going to School in Knoxville where w she expects to graduate againts the first of August, & c & c & c
We all (myself in particular) send our respects to you my uncle, to aunt Rebecca to you Scyntha and, to you John Wesly & c & c & c

Spencer C Randels(James Huffaker

Don at 12. Huffaker & J. Huffaker

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Fanny Huffaker to Spencer C. Randles, March 16, 1876

Boyd's Creek March 16 1876

My Dear Brother Spencer

It has been a long long time since I have seen a line from your pen or had a missive from you in any way. Why I can not tell is it that you have forgotten that you have a sister still living that loves you still through all the years of silence that have sped by in rapid succession since our last correspondence and as I have a longing desire to you once more in the flesh or if you cannot visit me to write me once more we are both getting old you are nearing your three score and ten whilst I have lived five years over the time allotted to mortals, but thanks to my Heavenly father still enjoy good health & that peace of mind that the world can neither give or take away & that degree of faith & hope that has robbed Death of all the terrors & I am waiting with pleasing anticipation the summons that shall call me to my Father's house above, but willing to stay as long as God wants me to live

I am here surrounded by all of my daughters except Adela who still lives at Sevierville. they are all doing tolerable well. I have 41 grand children living and seventeen dead & fourteen great grand children. Caroline's oldest daughter is married to a Methodist Preacher who is traveling in Virginia this year his name is John S Kennedy is a pretty good preacher Nancy's oldest daughter is likewise married to a Preacher who is traveling the Maryville circuit this year He is a good man of very fair promise by the name of Henry Lee Napoleons son is also a Methodist minister & is finishing his Education at the Vanderbilt University at Nash and as James is still preaching all together you see there is four in the family & with the exception of two of Napoleons children every one of my grand children over twelve years old profess religion and are members of the Methodist Church all seem to be trying to do what seems to them to be right for which I feel most devoutly thankful I have seen N Psttson twice since he came to this country he seemed to be in fine health & spirits seems highly gratified to see his sons in law & their families occupying so high a position in Society as they do Goforth is President of the mail College & Baun? President of the female college at Mossey Creek Times in this country are very tight money very scarce indeed but provisions seem to be plenty pork & bacon are high but corn cannot be sold for over 35 ¢ per bushel wheat one dollar One of Nelson Rector's sons came to spend his vacation with me last Summer He is at Emory & Henry College will graduate this Summer He is a splendid young man such an one as any one might be proud to claim relationship with I had a letter from his father telling me about his son being in Virginia at College I then wrote to him to come & spend his vacation with me so he came & stayed near three months with me. I heard from sister Polly not long ago she was enjoying tolerable good health far one 84 years of age I fear I shall never see her again O my Dear brother I do wish you would try to come one time more to see me & visit your native land O what changes has taken place since you left here. now please write me all about your family who of them are married & who of you all are on the heavenly road give my love to sister Rebecca tell her to write to me love to all my children & especially to H C tell him please write to me again I love to get his letters I John P is living near you my love to him & family tell him to write to me give my love to all my relations and I pray God if we never meet in this lower world we may all meet in that world above where friends that love shall part no more forever may this be our happy lot is the sincere prayer of your

devoted sister Fannie G Huffaker

Nancy C Keener(Huffaker) to Spencer C Randles , Oct. 16th 1882

She was dau. of Wesley Huffaker & Frances Randles Huffaker (J.A.S.)

Arthur, Oct. 16th 1882

My dear Uncle

I know you will be surprised to get a letter from me for all I was quite a child when you left here I have never forgotten my dear Uncle Spencer, but no doubt you have long since forgotten your little nience Nancy Huffaker, if not, or if you have, it is her that is now trying to pen a letter to you. I have no idea when we ever heard from any of our kin out in Missouri. I recon some of the girls wrote to you after our dear Mother died, but dont know. I will just say she died in great peace at my house the 26th of March 1880.

I will first introduce you to myself and family. I married Peter Keener son of Abraham Keener(& by the by have got the best husband in the lot) We have five living children our oldest Fannie, she is married to Rev. H.S. Lee of the Methodist church, he is now stationed in Trinidad Colorado. was to preach there yesterday for the first time his wife & three children will be home on a visit next week before going West. I tho (missing, torn out)..... likely stay at home (missing, torn out)... Our next is Bruce our only son. he is book keeping in the Pension Office gets \$50 per month. I think he is a clever boy. I expect he will marry before long to a young lady in Knoxville. Jodie, Nora & Velma are the names of our three youngest daughters, the least one is 8 years old.

Sister Della has six girls all married except one. She lives at Grand fathers Clacks old home. she is doing well. Sister Carrie is living about a mile above our old home, & is a widow for the second time. has eight nice girls, half of them married. Sister Julie left one child, & he bids fare to be as rich as Old Billy Cannon if he lives. Next is Sallie. She is living at the old home place. You will remember she married John Randles son of Uncle Jim Randles. he died two years ago with a cancer on his nose, & left her in almost destitute of every thing, with five children & she was in bad health & not much better (missing, torn out) of her land to Mr (torn out) and hes got about out of debt & has land enough yet to suppoort her family on, if she can only live. She has 3 boys, the two oldest are very industerous & she has twins (girls) that are 11 years old. I hope y she will live to raise them Next is Sister Joe. She is living in Dallas Texas. her four boys. her husband got broke up, but thinks he is about to take a rise again. Fannie the youngest one is living in about 1/2 miles of us. her husband is now in Baltimore tending the Lectures, she has three children Brother James is still preaching hes been living in Abington for two years. three of his children are graduates hes an interesting family Napoleon lives at Rome Co. he has one son & three daughters. doing tolerable well. So I have told you about us all only where we live. We are building us a new house up there just across the river from Uncle John Rendles on the Bluff. We have a splendid view & will have a good house when completed. Undae Johns old home (torn out) & so dose Betsy. she is old and hard of hearing. looks like she has nothing to make her happy. not one of that family are professors of religion except Andy & Billy & Andy has been dead a year & no doubt he is now happy in heaven. Every one of mothers children are Methodist & 32 of her grandchildren are methodists One son & two Sons in law are Methodist preachers, so you see we are a Metho-dist set, & I hope none the worse by it. I have not heard from Aunt Polly Stone lately. was well the last account. I dont know whether this will ever finde you or not, but Sallie says you live in Uncle Jacks old neighborhood I want you to write to me all about if Nancy is there tell her to write

Adeline Huffaker - Y. Bart Chandler
C. C. Chandler Place - near Sevierville
was where Spencer Clack settled, J.A.S.

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to me. give our love to them all & to John Patterson if he is there.

I would be so glad to see you & Aunt Rebecca one time more. Give her my love & to each of your children. tell me all about them. Do you look like an old man? or do you keep young. Now please write to me one time. Address me to Arthur Sevier Co Tennessee) Your niece N.C. Keener