

Maryville, Aug. 18th 1838

Dear Sir:

Your kind letter dated Aug. 16th came safely to hand; for which favor please accept my sincere thanks. Your letter came quite unexpectedly to me, as I had no claim upon you for it. Do not infer that your name had slipped out of my memory; far from it. Oft in the silent hours of the night and in lonely meditations have I thought of you since you left. By your course of conduct here you have gained more friends than perhaps you are aware of.

From your letter, it appears that considerable gloom and trouble over spread your mind concerning the prospects of your future advancement in literature. Your situation should rather encourage than dishearten you. You should remember that the greatest sages that ever graced the pages both of ancient and modern history acquired their renown by their own individual industry and incessant application. Very few statesmen and philosophers can be found who acquired their scientific lore by pecuniary assista(n)ce from any other sou(r)ce than from their own exertions. A person aspiring to be eminently useful is not turned from his purpose although the clouds of adversity may appear to dampen and cast a gollm over his spirits.

You stated that you intended to leave when boats begin to run, " and try your fortune in a land where you have neither known friends or relatives." If you will keep your motto--

"Whether in exile or on the throne,

Virtue shall be my eternal home"

friends will not be wanting to you.

I recd a letter from my father stating that he desired us to stay some time longer than next fall. Therefore, I am sorry to inform you, it will be out of my power to go West with you at least this fall. Truly I would have been very glad to have your company a good part of the way homeward.

You also stated that you saw Mr. McCown, the District cadet at West Point. I suppose he was here but I did not know it until he was gone. So I had no conversation with him. There were three or four other graduate Cadets here but they were such a drunken Disipated set, that it was impossible for them to talk with any judgment. If you found out from him that there is any chance for me and upon what terms I could get in here by paying my way, please write to me. Joseph L. Williams is now at Mont Vale Springs, and I exæ ct will stay there some time. Judge White is also there, he passed through here twice last week.

The Citizens talk about giving the Judge a dinner towards the last of this Month or the first of next yr. L. Williams will also be at it.

I now proceed to the last subject of your letter. I have always wished, ever since I became acquainted with the condition of the Indians, that I might be capable whenever occasion might present--- of leading the Indians against the Whites. But from the slow progress I make, that will ever be impossible for me to accomplish. You ~~may~~, perhaps, may think strange that I should harbor such a thoughts againt the United States; but very likely if you were in my situation--- witnessing ~~war~~ day the extermination of your people unjustly-- or driven from their homes without a shadow of law or

or reason-- you would make grater exertions than I to av(enge) their wrongs. Enough on this subject.

There is an unusual stir here about religion, great revivals indeed. James W.P. Johnson has professed religion and joined the Methodist Chu(r)ch. there a great alteration in his conduct.

As my candle is almost burnt out and the clock has just struck 11 I must ~~write~~ draw to a close. If it will not be asking too much, I should like very much to keep up a correspondence with you. It may be of some advantage to both of us. With sentiments of high regard and esteem I subscribe myself your sincer(e) & affectionate friend.

To Mr. John H. Reagan
Fair Garden Post Office
E.T.

Peter L. Thompson

Nacogdoches, Texas
March 3rd 1841

My dear Father,

After a lapse of some months Since I wrote to you, & without hearing from you since I left Tennessee in 1838, I write to you again in the fond hope of once more hearing from my relations & friends. I fear you have not received my letter, as I have received no answer. I wish you on the receipt of this letter to write to me & let me once more have the satisfaction of knowing how you are all getting along in the world-- whether you are dead or alive, prosperous or unfortunate in business. Think not that long absence has obliterated in me parental respect & brotherly love-- the dearest ties of nature. If I can arrange my business so as to get off I will come & see you in August or September, though it is possible I may not get off, as I have a large amount of Land to Locate & Survey & am anxious to get stronger before I quit. I am truly happy to be able to inform you that though Sickness & disappointment over-shaddowed my mind with gloom & despair for a while, when I first came to Texas, I have been verry fortunate in obtaining a considerable portion of verry excellent Land; situated on the Trinity River, a verry beautiful Navigablestream & in a country which for beauty of scenery, richness of soil, & excellence of pasturage is unequalled by any I ever saw. You can here see the wild horse, (or Mustang, as he is called in this country,) in the fullness of perfection, bounding in stately Strides across the beautifull Praires & woodland plains you can here see Buffalow by hundreds, wich on the Praires, much better beef than the common tame cow. You can here see Dear, Bear, & wild Turkeys abounding four fold pleantyer than I ever saw them in _____ country, & it is here that Hogs, Cattle, & Horses have only to be kept jentle to make the best of pork, beef, & Horses without feeding. I am aparised that people in East Tennessee will not think this possible, but I tell it to you after being a witness to the fact two years. This being the fact, connected with the richness of the soil, & in a climate adopted to the most valuable productions-- in a new government, where the people are generally poor & on an equality, though all that are blessed with tolerable health & industrious & sober habits are advancing to competent livings. Some to handsome, & others to princely, fortunes. I am daily becoming more anxious to see some of my people in Texas. I do assure you that it would be better for persons who

have moderate farms in East Tennessee to abandon them, without getting a farthing for them, & get to Texas, even under difficult circumstances, than to stay there & work hard all their days & have nothing to show for it. Now, my dear Father I want you to consider the above advantages & ballance them against the difficulty of a long moove, the danger of a change of climate, (if indeed their be danger,) & the inconvenience of beginning the world a new & see whither you can consent to come to Texas, if you are a mind to come I will give you six hundred & forty acres of Land, with complete title, & assist you as much as I can in getting provissions to do you untill you can make them here. If you were here I could be of considerable advantage to you, while you could be as much to me. If you cannot come yourself I would be glad Richard would come, for, without any inconvenience to myself I can cause him to make more in five years than he can make in East Tennessee in his life. I should be verry happy to see as many of my friends & relatives in this country (as possible). I think it to their advantage to come. Give my compliments and best wishes to all my relations, & to my old friend Mafr. Walker & his family. Be sure & write to me when you receive this, address your letter to Nacogdoches, Texas--- & pay postage to the line between the two givernment, or it will neaver get to Texas.

Timothy R. Reagan
Sevierville
East Tennessee

Respectfully,
Your son,
John H. Reagan

Ft. Houston Texas
Jan'y 6th 1842

Dear Father,

Notwithstanding I have frequently written to you & neaver received an answer. I will not despair, but hope you will write & let me know that you are all alive. I can inform you for myself that I have enjoyed good health for the last year, & notwithstanding the times have been hard in this country, I have been successful in acquiring some property. I have been engaged in Surveying for the last two years & have succeeded in securing to myself about ten thousand acres of excellent Land on & about the Trinity River. I intended to have come to see you this winter but have taken a commission to survey a large portion of Land, & suppose it will be out of my power to come before next fall. I would be happy to see you, my Brothers & little sister, but the fates have separated us for awhile, I hope however that our meeting my be the more happy in proportion to the time wee are separated-- Give my respects to my relations & friends. When you write let me know if Malvina Walker is married. I have not written to Majr Walker since the Spring of 1839 but would be happy to hear from him. When you write direct your letter to Fort Houston Texas & pay the postage to the line between the United States & Texas otherwise I will neaver get it. I (write) by Thos. Metcalfe who has been a citizen of Ft. Houston for some time past but has become dissatisfied & returns to old Tennessee. If you should see Mr. Metcalfe who will stop in.... county (he will) know what my exertions have been in Texas & what success has attended them.

John H. Reagan to Timothy R. Reagan

Your dutifully son
John H. Reagan

Stock Creek Knox County
Tennessee

Stock Creek Knox County Tennessee
 March 27, 1842

Dear Son

we Rec^d yours of the 6th of Jan-- 1842 which brought us the painfull tidings that you had not Rec^d any of our letters. Since you left this Country tho we have frequently written to you we know not how to express our mortification for the failure of our letters geting to you but the fault is not ours but in the post office department or mail.-- your letter found us all enjoying Reasonable health but my Self I have been suffering for about five weeks with a Sore hand Caused by the wound of & artery under my left thumb my Suffering has been past description I Cant use my hand to work yet tho it is on the mend I wright to you my Son without a Reasonable hope of your ever Seeing my letter we are all glad to hear from you but Worry that you Cant hear from us we purposed moving to your Country last fall or winter but failed geting off. we wrote to you in answer to yours of last year to Come if possible ' pilot us to your Country this office we would be glad you Could p^rform for us next fall be Sure to answer this letter as Soon as you get it and let us know, whether to look for you or not, also give us a way bill (?) of the best way to your Country. after we would get into Mississippi River we thought of assending the Red River to the nearest point to Matchatoches then leave the water & procede by way of Matchatoches on in to Texas we want you to in form us whether you think it Safe for imagrants to move in to Texas x at this time asso tell us whether you think the Country healthy whether any part of the country be broken what Sort of water & air &c.. and what terms imagrants Can procure lands if you wish to make a Settlement of imagrants of you kinsfold & neighbours from this Country you had better Come next fall the earlier the better my Self your Step mother & all the Children except Richard is anxious to move to your Country but if you come I think he would go with us tho he is Some what affinely Joined to Cessler and the Stage..., wilson p. & J.H. Roberts has thair boat gunnels at the River in Sevier to make a boat against fall to move to texas or Some where west of Mississippi River when you write direct your letter to Knoxville County or Ellejoy post office in blunt County your brother Joseph is living this Season at John Simses at Churchwels ferry at the lower end of knoxville and will Start another letter in a few days after this. I have written 3 or 4 times & as you have not Rec^d my letters I will write now on account of my marriage which took place Second of May after you left this Country I married Elizabeth Houser Daughter of Jacob howser of knox County we have been married near 3 yrs & I am well pleased with my Companion. She was in her 19 y(ear) when (we) married. She is full blood... fair Complexted fair haired, & fair Skined blue eyed tolerable Stout very agreable to live with, a fore rate hand for business of good acco(unt)ing but bove all She dont deal in Raw Snaps. we live on the head of Stock Creek knox County Ten. 3½ miles from Cogles Store in blunt near the road leading from Cogles to knoxville. J.P. Lusk Sends him Compliments he lives at aunt Susan howser's in a half mile of us. I Sent your Compliments to your friend major walker his daughter Malvina is Single, your mother & little Sister Sem their Compliments also your brothers Sends theirs I Must Come to a Close and with all the anxious feelings x of a parent for an adventurous Son I would pray to the gracious & wise auther of our being & dispencer of human events, for your imp(r)ovement in those Morresls which adorne the human Character with Superiour excelence and for your Success in Business with Due Respect I Remain your Affecionate parent

T.R. Reagan to John H. Reagan

Fort Houston Texas

Knox County Tennessee Sept 28, 1844

Dear Son I now write the 12th or 13th letter Counting Josephs & mine and to my great grief I am informed by your letters & by Capt Rogers that you have Rec^d none of our letters my Son the fault is not ours but in the post office Department we are all well at this time and William & Sis is at home with us Richard is married to martha black of blunt Ct & lives in walker County in georgia & Roberts is with him Joseph is teaching School near John Mcgees in blunt Ct his hea(1)th has been very bad for 2 or 3 yrs but is Some imporved I have written Several times to you concerning my 2nd mariage but you did not Rec^d my letters and in Sert it again I was married the 2nd of may after you left this Country to Elizabeth Hansen daughter of Jacob houser of knox Ct we have had 4 Children one daughter & 3 Sons the last one was born the 2nd of may last my birth day we Called him Timothy Henry he Died there of this instant this is fourth Child we have buried in a little over three yrs which is all my last wifes Children we are living in knox Cty we have bean trying to get off to go to where you live a long time & has bean frustrated a great d(eal) by our letters not Reaching you, but I hope we will get off in a few weeks perhaps in nov^{mb} I thing all the Children will Come but Richard

Amrsted Hatcher married my wifes Sister Saller Houser 9 weeks after we married they have 2 very fine daughters Hatcher talks of helping us build a boat and moving with us to Texas father in law talks of goin with us

P.M. Lusk ~~xxxx~~ & J.P Lusk has each married a wife and therefore they can not come Your aunt Rebecca lusk was here to day and was with our friends is gen(e)ral(1)y well as far as I know though there is a great d(eal) of Sickness in this County and many... deaths your uncle Daniel lost his wife She died Some time in february last

My Son I have written many admonitory Sentances for your encouragement as a youthfull adventurer in the Cultivation of good morrels as the pathway to usefullness, honor & happiness but these patrimonial lives never Reached you yet I hope that wise and gracious god whose eye never Sleeps has wached over you for good we are very anxious to See you & to be with you we intend decending the river on to the mouth of Red river & thence up the Red river to nachitoches or perhaps leave the missippia, above the mouth of the red River, if we find a good Rout & not too far to nachitoches from there we Shal aime to go to James Bradshaw's in Texas it will not be worth while for you to write to us here I hope we will get off before you get this letter; there has been two Singular occurances here this Summer past little River in blunt City was Sevieral feet higher than it has bean in the last thirty yrs & done a Considerable damage; & pollitics over flowed & Rifted to gether Some thousands more people than ever was Seen in Knoxville before

Timothy R. Reagan to John H. Reagan

Sept. 28, 1844