

MS-J
A-17-B
4-14-373

Chickadee

Mr Nelson - Read
this forward if possible
Col. W. H. Pugh

Alto - Sept 21st - 1863

(Belongs in Martin Papers by
J. L. H. Pugh)

My dear Sir,

Will write to you, tho' I fear
that my letter will not be received. I shall
direct it to Mr. Nelson to read and forward
to you if an opportunity presents.

I received
this County ten days ago. I have compared with
the survey of the Green family, which
has, having left - Entering Minn'a. 24 July -
All of my sons were there. Robt. is out to trouble
for his wife. And Ann tells me that family has
left for Mass. which astonishes me. All were
well. Since arriving here I have seen Edw. P.
who is looking well, tho' he imagines himself poor.
And Ann and myself went up St. Louis to
see Mr. Williams and pass 3 days. Mr. W. is
found land for me if possible. The cleared
land in this vicinity is in small tracts of
20 to 50 acres, and are high - 30 to 50 or
1/4 plant 1/4 of better made. Corn and
other articles of good value. Pork not to be had -
Beef about 8¢, Corn 12¢ to 3¢ per bushel & even
5¢ in some localities. The county is safe from
invasion - it is 150 miles from navigation. A few
poor & great oak growth - but little water
at this season: and in every thing to be seen to

feed an army. I hardly know what to do.
I may have my negroes to do as they are
making salt. There is no general demand
for negro labor. Simmons is making a salt
spring some 75 miles off, and I have written
to him to learn if he can hire negroes to him. They
do so to a Mr. Smith of South Co. to whom Mr.
W. & Richard P. have hired them.

James ran off 3 nights ago - completely;
and I presume is trying to reach Mans-
field.

I was 5 weeks reaching this place.
Marched on foot 130 miles out of 150 from
Mansfield to Alex. - the day before the night
before of Alex. I had a light fever -
two days afterwards a high fever, and
the next day a still higher fever from
which was compelled to lie by 2 days; and
on reaching Mansfield I was yet
sick and confined 3 days. The fever affected
the sight of my left eye: it is now well,
and I am in good health. Many of
my negroes were sick on the way.
I had to purchase a 2 horse wagon &
2 horses & a yoke of oxen to reach Alex.
then a fancy wagon for decay another
wagon and finding my cammels & mules
at Mansfield I took them to have the

little negro and myself. Expenses of horse
and cammels high, and the value of
negroes may be consumed in this way.
Every body here is dissatisfied, all wishing
if they could invest elsewhere. There is a
good country in all things but beef. The
low value of our money makes value
this high. Mr. Young & Mr. Williams have
made nearly if not quite enough for
the coming year. All are anxious for
peace and to return to our own land.
The ladies will have much to tell of their
adventures. Much sickness among the young.
The day I reached here, all were well -
the ladies and Walter and I can not
get well - sickness against fever -
Frank has been heard from. Mr. -
and I speak of coming to see you some
time.

Dick P. has a plantation. He is
active in attending to his concerns, and
much sickness among negroes. The country is
not a healthy one - on the stream, Alex.
is near the Augusta 10 miles west of
Nacogdoches. Your own people are much
amused since I left home. Hope

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my request may find some one to care for
them. Please not stay to the top of your
request - the effect of the call of your household is
all at home. And my request to call of our
friends in your vicinity. Write to me at
Shelburne Vt. Yrs. truly R. C. W.

S. O. Nelson Esq.
New-Haven
Conn.