

Daphne ^{Virginia} March 10th 1858 1254

Dear Brother & Sister

I take this opportunity of writing a few lines to you to inform you how I am getting along. I am by the blessing of God enjoying very good health at present and hope you are enjoying the same blessing. I received your letter and was very glad to hear from you. I was quite surprized to hear you had a young son and I hope he may prove a blessing to you. It is very cold here yet the coldest weather I ever saw. So that I am unable to do anything. The folks are all quite well out here excepting Maria she is failing very fast she lost her baby last week and I think she will soon follow it. But our lives is in the hand of a merciful God and he will do with us as seemeth it good to those who put their trust in him, oh what a pleasant thought to think that we have such a blessed Saviour that he will work all things for our own good and when lifes journey is over we shall then see him as he is and be permitted to enjoy his everlasting kingdom above, oh may we all be prepared so when he sees fit to remove us from here below we ^{may} pass through the valley of the shadow of death and fear no ill for there will he sustain us and bear us safely home. You wanted me to let you know what kind of a country this is. it is chiefly wood land in the north. But the south part of it is prairie & woodland. it is a very good farming country the soil is very good they raise an abundance of wheat in the south part. but here in the north the soil ^{is} is not so good it is

Clay and if a person wants a farm he has got to work very hard before he can commenst to raise any thing the wood is very thick and is mostly pine & maple so it takes a good while and great deal of Labour before you can clear a place large enough to raise any thing on. I wish you could come out here this spring and see the country yourself you and father I think you would like it in the south part there is a good many very pretty little vilages and they are growing rapidly. Land is selling for from \$2.50 to \$5.00 pr acre for Government woodland, and for improved land from \$10. to 30. & 40 dollars pr. acr

If you should come here you would see how the settlers live when they first come here they go right in the woods where sometimes there is not a house for some miles they then go to work and cut down a place large enough to build a Log Cabin for their families and then go to work clearing land so it takes a good while before they can commenst to raise any thing. They make a great deal of maple sugar here in the spring they will soon commenst to make some. Jus you ought to be out here you could get enough shugar to last you all your life time Randolph makes from 11. to 1800. weight in a year on his place alone There is 2 tribes of Indians out here the Oneidas & Manomenees. the Oneidas are all civilized and very good farmers the Government has given them a large tract of land and they have got some of it improved and have got some very nice farms there is a Methodist & an Episcopal Church in there settlement and they appear to be very

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devout christians. I went one sabbath with
Randolph to the Methodist church and it
seemed very odd they have got 2 ministers one
of them is an american missionary he preaches to
them in our language while the Indian minister
interprets it. The squaws have all got a large
white blanket which they wear on their heads
and gowns which are all woad with beads
they are dressed very pretty especially the chiefs
daughters. they are the prettiest singers I ever
heard they sing in there language, but the
Manomenees are a very dirty set they live by
hunting & fishing and steal what ever they can
lay hands on and will do any thing for rum
but if any one is caught selling or giving them
rum they are sent to state prison. There is a
good deal of game out here there is plenty of
Deer & fish of all kinds I have seen them catch
fish here as big as myself, Cat fish weighing
from 30 to 40 lbs there is a great many stur-
gen there was an old fisherman caught 130-
Gurgen here in 24 hours the biggest fish I
ever saw so you see a person need not starve
to death out here. So I believe I have told
you all the particulars and must close
my letter for the present write to me as often
as you can give my best respects to Harriet
and all enquiring friends and may God
bless you all is the prayer of your
Affec Brother

Palwin [Davis]