

VICTORY

Palaski June 21st 1863 Hancock
County State of Illinois

Miss Jane McRobert

Dear Granddaughter I will this once more attempt, to write you a few lines to let you know that your grandfather is still on the land of the living and is in tolerable good health at present and likewise so is all the rest, your grandmother is in her usual health and Sarah is well I cannot find words to apologize for my not writing sooner only a want of resolution to begin which I am I hope you will excuse as I am now gray old and does not like to write so well as I used to do but I will write to you now and again as long as I am able to work I am you have wrote to me two times since I have wrote but I will expect you to do so often, I am on receiving your last letter we were all highly delighted when opening it to read your getting and your likeness & I am how we all joined, then your grandmother and Sarah and me were all at Palaski that day when we received your letter and likeness and we were also on our way to Augusta another town on the railway when we got a beauty case on it before we came home and I assure you that Sarah takes great delight in showing them to every one comes in I am when I look back to that time when your mother died and left you so young the impression on my mind was that you would grow up to be a woman, and never mind whether you ever had a grandfather get a line or not but I am I am glad that it has been otherwise with you I am glad you have a kind and feeling heart I am glad you have got so good an education that fits you for respectable society I am glad

your father is doing so well so that in future times it may
be for your good, and I hope that the speculation which
he has made may turn out for great benefit to you all I think
Richmond is a beautiful name for it, I have read the account
of it in the Newspaper which you sent me which gave me great
delight I could wish that we were all with you as I expect
you have a peaceable country an improving country not the case
with this at present, for we have war and blood shed and a
great deal of it too I suppose you are aware that at last Election
for president, there were several parties Republicans and Democrats
there were also Abolitionists that is for abolishing slavery in the south
this the southern Democrats stood against but the Republicans out
voted them and Abraham Lincoln was elected as president the
southern states then seceded from and rose up in rebellion the north
then thought to whip ^{them} into it at first we thought that the north
would have no trouble in bringing them back, but contrary to
our expectation it does not seem to be any nearer a close than when
it began it is uncommon what troops they have in the field on both
sides and what officers and what money is expending and
what money will have to be paid at some future time by taxation
I believe this country will be ruined before it stops

I had only one son whom we thought a great deal of and in
whom I thought I would spend the remainder of my old days in
pleasure sorry to say that on August last when the president made
a call for three hundred thousand more men that William along
with many others around here volunteered, and went to the war
he keeps well as yet and nothing has happened him but he may
escape or he may fall god only knows but I hope god will

protect him from all harm and that he may be restored to
us again his Mother is greatly grieved at his being in the war
and in being in so much danger Sarah is also a great deal out of
spirits and lonely since he went away it keeps her busy to be
up she writes often he is now in Kentucky I have a man in his
place ever since he went away I asked Sarah to write to you
for me she said ^{she} would, only that she could not ~~to~~ write so well
as you but I expect she will write to you beyond any thing
that I would like better than that my children would correspond
with each other Sarah has a good many Cousins in this Country
which she writes to and receives letters from them you may let
your Father know that Alex. Lowry and Mrs. is both dead and she
has one son and two Daughters in this Country the girls is doing well
Sarah writes to them After the eldest Isabella is a young widow
~~she~~ also writes to her Cousins Alex. and Ann James Mc Cann
and to her Cousins Robert Stewart family a part of whom is married
Robert Stewart is also dead some years ago James McCann is living
in this State of Illinois about 50 miles from this I write this to
your father as I know he knows something about them I received letters
from Ireland not long ago my connections were all well when they
wrote they let me know of a death there an intimate acquaintance
of mine and one whom your father also knew that is Hugh Kennedy
of Island Reef he had not married, but kept an old house keeper
he had been out to Admillan one night it is thought had taken some
drink going back the boat upset and he was found next morning near
the shore drowned, his brothers Robt and John had come out to
this Country some years ago she said that David's son Thomas was
now living in the Island she said this last summer was a very

not and that the harvest was late that market was low that the
poor hours was full of poor that flouring was badly paid, and that all
kinds of Cotton goods was dealed in price which is also the case here
on account of the war with the Cotton states, you the people of British
Columbia would suppose receive all your supplies from England
how long is a ship from England to British Columbia, - - -

I can't as this is now the middle of winter and the weather is cold
I cannot at this time go out to Augusta to get my like ness taken for
to send it to you but the first good weather that comes I will, for this time
you must content yourself relying that I will be as good as my word,
your mother and me both think that you are more like the M^r Hobart,
than the M^r Nees; we think your father is much like what he was only a
good deal of skin I sent the newspaper which you sent me home to Helen
to let my friends see the account of that place which you live upon.

When you write let me know if your young friends is still living with you
and what is become of the other young men that came with them
I think I will send you a newspaper now and again, and I am
I request of you that you will write often I expect too for my own

Now I am I will conclude by your Mother, and Sarah,
and me, sending our best respects to you, and to your
Father and Mother, so no more at present,

but remains your Grandfather,
William M^r Nees