

Athens, Ga. Dec. 10th, 1893.

Mrs. T.F. McMurtray,
Camden, Miss.

Dear Aunt, ----- I received yours of the 5th. of last month, and it is useless for me to try to express on paper how glad we all were to hear from you, also to know that you all were enjoying good health for it is a great blessing to us. We are not well as a family and haven't been this year. Mama and Papa are having tolerable good health although they both are getting quite old and failing in health as well as strength and are quite feeble at times, and at the present they are both up and about and doing their little errands but both have been complaining of the Lagrip lately. And as for myself, I had quite a long spell in the spring but at present am enjoying splendid health and Tom had the fever 5 weeks in the summer but is stout well and hearty now. Sam is just getting up from a short spell of fever and Johnnie and Sam's wives have both been sick a great deal this year. As for Emmett the one that was paralyzed in Miss. last May a year ago he, of course is never well but was able to be up and could walk about until early this spring when he had his third stroke of paralysis and was confined to bed and room for about two months then he got up and about again and joined the Missionary Baptist Church and was baptized in August and seemed to be getting along very well until the 10th. day of September (just 3 months ago) when he took fever and is still in bed and has some very bad bed-sores and is perfectly helpless today but is fast improving and we hope will be able to be up by New Year's day. Robt. Aycock and sister Nannie both have had an 8 to 10 weeks spell of fever sickness and of course we have had our share of minor sickness such as colds and Etc. But these I mention are long and hard spells, so you see it has been a very unhealthy year for the Cobb Family.

You ask about Brother Henry's two children, they are still living very near us yet (and by the way) and one of them had a spell of fever this summer too, one of them is about grown and the other one nearly so, they are both well at present, but we ought to feel blessed, our sickness could have been worse, so far we have not had any deaths in our immediate family, Mama's sister (Aunt Bettie Durham) died this year and there has been a great many deaths in the country this year.

We had a very good crop year but on account of so much sickness and at the time it came we did not move as good crops as we could have made and our crop is somewhat short be we will make corn and Meat and Wheat enough to run us till we can make another crop and in other words we made plenty of everything we eat and feed to stock and if our expenses had not been so great for sickness and hire we could have payed out very easily, but as it is we will be very short. We made upon an average of 6 bales of cotton to the horse and sold at about an average of 7 1/2 cents when we ought to have made 8 bales to the house and 8 cents for it to have defrayed t this years expenses.

We have contracted already for 94 and are putting in our small grain crop some wheat and oats are up and looking well and we have some to sow yet. The crops are all gathered here and people are changing around for another year. No excitement through the country at all except a great deal of stealing on the small scale, such as chickens, ducks, geese and a basket of corn or cotton or cotton-seeds. Money seems to be very scarce and of course a great deal of complaint about hard times, but if the people would save it they make plenty to live on and I notice they are buying less supplies such as corn and meat and etc. ever year and while there is a great deal of corn in the county, hogs are very scarce and are in big

into the river and destroyed, it has been in the papers sometime. You ask me if Capt. James White was dead? No, he is not dead, he looks as well as I ever saw him and is still Cashier in the National Bank of Athens. I saw him and had a talk with him two days ago. We had a big meeting and a good meeting this summer about 40 were united to the church, our pasture has 4 churches within 6 miles of each other and in these 4 churches he has baptized about 150 candidates so you may know we have a splendid preacher and a good man to preach to us and he will preach for us next year. We have had a splendid fall for gathering and a moderate winter so far and today is a beautiful day. The small grain that is shines like spring. Tell some of your children or grandchildren or as many of them as will to write to me and send me their pictures and I will answer their letters. Tell some of the girls to write me I love to write girls as well as boys, and of course I want to see how they look. Tell them not to feel backward at all because it is all kindred and if I can get up a correspondence with two or three of your family we'll get acquainted with each other.

Is Cousin Robt. still in Greenville Texas?

Well Auntie I guess I've given you all the Family news, and of course you'll excuse all mistakes and also the kind of paper I'm using as I have no letter paper on hand.

Hoping to hear from you soon and also that I'll get some letters and pictures from some of ~~you~~ the boys and girls I'll close.

Your nephew,

W.D. Cobb,
Athens,
Ga.