

Bellwood S.C. Dec.14. 1892

My Dear Sons & Daughters

We received a postal from Frank, & a letter from Carrie on Tuesday & are glad to learn that all are well. Carrie's letter contained the R.R. tickets which will be of use for your Aunt Julia on our return home. The programme laid down for us is, that we shall attend service at Trinity on the first Sunday - at Mount Lebanon on the second- & at St.Matthews on the third Sunday- Bro. Hallman wants me to preach in Augusta on the fourth Sunday, which will be Christmas DAY. So you see, if we carry out these appointments, we can not reach home until after Christmas. We are still in the Pine Grove neighborhood, will go down to Elloree on Saturday, thence to the Mount Lebanon neighborhood, & then to St.Matthews.

I am glad to be able to say that we are quite well & are enjoying ourselves finely with our friends, who spare no pains to contribute to our pleasure & comfort: Yesterday, we dined at Mrs. Carrie Kellers, a daughter of Cap't McClure. She is a widow & has a son nearly grown living with her, also her sister Miss Ann Smoke. In the afternoon we went to the Fogle grave yard, & found your sister Julia's grave, which we freshened up & your Mother planted some evergreens on it. She was much affected while at the grave, but not as much as I had anticipated.

Our friends here send you all their best respects & wishes for your future prosperity. They treat us with the utmost kindness, & would like to have us remain much longer than we can. They also express a great desire to see you all, & regret very much that you would not come with us. When you receive this write to us & direct your letter to Haigler's, Orangeburg Co., S.C., care of Rev. Dr.Hawkins.

I had the honor of baptising the infant son of Mrs. J.B.O'N. Holloway on Sunday last.

I forgot to say in my last letter, that Miss Mary Trezevant - grand-daughter of Mrs. Baker of Sandy Run , & her younger brother were at the Dedication, & spent an hour at Bro. Holloway's with us Sunday afternoon. You remember seeing her at the parsonage at Sandy Run- She is still single.

Cousin Lizzie will remain with us until we start for home. She is delighted with the people of the neighborhood. She, your Mother & Aunt Julia are enjoying themselves to the utmost. It is true that there are very few of our old acquaintances living, but their descendants treat us as if we had always been among them. They hold us in high esteem, having heard their parents speak of us..

I could write all day, but do not know where to begin or where to end...(following in pencil)  
we are so busy visiting that we hardly have time to write-

{Same letter continued in pencil on p.4}

Lone Star Orangeburg Co. S.C.

Parsonage Friday afternoon

We came here this morning & expect to go to Trinity church at Elloree in the morning. The Parsonage is just 2 miles below Pine Grove on the road towards Trinity. Next week we will go to Mount Lebanon, & so future letters to us must be directed to Haiglers., Orangeburg Co. until further notice. This letter was commenced yesterday, but as they only have the mail twice a week, it will not go off until tomorrow. I received Carrie's postal yesterday afternoon, glad to learn that you are all well. We are in good health, & enjoying ourselves finely. You do not know how much you have been missing by not coming. The people are so kind & attentive, even the younger ones whom we never saw before.

Much love to all from us all. Our kind friends desire to be affectionately remembered to you all. Let Thornton know that his mother is well-

Your Affec't Father  
John P. Margart