

Sallie Texanna Kendrick Horsley
Letter to Green Horsley Knowles – 19 Jul 1871 (24 Aug 1871)

Original letter in possession of Charles Knowles 2011

Edom Texas July 19th 1871

Mr. G. H. Knowls—

Dear Cousin—

Your kind messenger of June 25th came safely to hand a day or two ago, and was read with care and attention— but I must say to you that I am sorry you are in such great trouble, but hope you will out grow it before you are twice married. I can not say whether Texas will ever repay you or not for all your troubles[.] You can tell better than I can. You know your condition better than I do. I do hope you will not find people every where like you say they are out there, perhaps you do not appear open and familiar with them and they are the same with you, we have many different kind of people in Texas and they have different styles of fashions and different ways of doing, different ways of appearing in company[.] different manners, different conversations but we must let each other have their own way and try to have ours the best we can.

I can hardly say whether Texas is any thing like the old states as I have never been in any other state but Texas[.] I am not competent to spend my opinion correctly or in other words I have no direct view of matters that enables me to forme a correct opinion of the other states. I fear you are forming a bad opinion of our Texas[.]

Now Cousin I do wish I knew exactly how to take you— I fancy you will say that I am rather too fast but if so, let it be so for this time anyhow and let us talk[.] I know you feel lonely but do not consider every thing and every little besetment [as] judgments sent on you[.] for every body meets with more or less troubles in this world for it is only a world of trouble at best— [p. 2] do not look on the dark side of every thing, this is entirely wrong I know, I do it too much myself and know too that it is not a good idea to give way to our thoughts and suppositions and fears to a great extent in every thing or under every circumstance

Well Cousin permit me to laugh at you a little I expect you are hippoed [sic, hyppoed; ie, feeling low-spirited] a little and you must quit doing so— or at least throw it off and enjoy life freely[.] I think if you had been here on last friday and friday night and Saturday and Sunday you would have been revived up considerably— Try to come in here in September and be here at our Association which comes off The fourth Sabbath in Sept next,

I shall look for a long letter every day now untill I hear from you again. You are entirely excuseable for telling your troubles over for I guess every body has their troubles as at least I find a good many any how, and has some rite now but of such a character that I fear to express them too freely.

have you settled your selves out there or not, I saw Mr Piles* a while back[.] he told me then you had not purchased any land that he knew of—

My Regards to your brother & sister— especially your self and write when you can. I am suffering with Sore Eyes at this time can scarcely see how to write at all. I will close for this time, excuse bad writing Spelling & worse Composition— Good by—

Your Cousin—

Sallie Texanna Kendrick Horsley
In full

Since I wrote the above this morning I have received Uncle Jim & Aunt Betsy Horsleys Photographs[,] just imagin how I am taking on.

[At the top of the letter Sallie adds:]

I have had no chance to send off my letter untill now or at least I will tell you more about my excuse soon as I write again I will tell you some of my troubles and trials in this world this Aug 24th 1871

[According to Charles Knowles, the envelope is addressed thus:]

Mr Green H Knowls
Springfield P O
Limestone Co Tex

[Transcribed from digital copy of original by Joan Horsley, to me electronically from Charles Knowles. Original spelling and punctuation retained; additional punctuation, paragraphing, and comments in brackets added]

*Note:

“Mr. Piles” to whom Sallie refers was her brother-in-law, former husband of her sister Martha Amanda Horsley who died about 1856, and some of his children were Sallie’s nieces and nephews. In the census of 1870, a year before these letters were written, William M. Piles (Pyles) with his current wife, Elizabeth C. Prater, and family were living in Limestone County, TX. Limestone was located between Sallie’s home of Van Zandt County and Coryell County, the home of Green’s brother William K. Knowles, with whom Green was staying. JH