

Sallie Texanna Kendrick Horsley
Letter to Green Horsley Knowles – 7 Jun 1871
Original letter in possession of Charles Knowles 2011

Edom Texas June 7th 1871
Mr. G. H. Knowles—

Dear Cousin—

Your favor of May 4th is before me. Came to hand this evening and I confess that I am well pleased with my newly found acquaintance and Relative— I am sorry to know of your afflictions, tho it is verry apt to be the case with those who come to Texas when they first come they are apt to be sick. Tho I hope you will all regain your health and will enjoy life freely[.] Good health is a rich blessing to the human family[.] You must not however become weary and fall out with Texas because it is not as healthy as the old States are, tho I know nothing about the old states[.] I hav'ent received a Georgia letter since I wrote you before but have been expecting several. One from Cousin Green Perdue and family— Cousin Hiram Perdue had moved to Forsyth Georgia[.] the last account his Wifes health was so bad that he moved back to Town again. I have learned some verry important news from your letter for I know but little of Uncle Joe Horsleys family.

Your request as regards my brother & sisters shall be granted. My oldest brother, Andrew Jackson Died several year[s] before the [Civil] war, he was afflicted from his childhood had an Abcess rose in his side and he was allways one sided never did have any health—never married— The next child— was sister Caroline Young now lives in [p.2] McLennan Co Texas— Then two little sisters dead— the next was a brother, David Volentine [variant spelling of Valentine]— he was killed in the Mexican war while quite a youth— The next a brother Jacob King— now lives at Peora [Peoria] Hill Co Texas[.] Next— a brother— Abraham Goggins an Idiot died about two or three years before the [Civil] war— Next a sister Martha Amanda Piles— I am the baby of all[.] I am a Texian, a hoosier [ie, rustic, "hillbilly"], never was out of the state in [my] life.

I do not know anything of uncle Johns family[.] I have not received any letters from them since the war. I can find out by writing to Uncle Jim Horsley and will write today. His P O is Oglethorpe Georgia[.] I am going to write to your Ma and your Aunts for I do love all my Kindred[.] Aunt Annie Brandon had two sons living in Texas[.] Alexander Brandon lives near Canton Vanzandt Co[.] Thomas Brandon lived in Smith Co Tex[.] he died about 9 years ago[.] He had but one child living, he lives now near Canton Smith Co Tex[.] his address is— George Brandon Troup PO Smith Co Texas[.] Cousin George is doing verry well I guess tho I have not seen him since the war closed. I think he loves to make money verry well. James Kendrick Perdue did live up in Davis Co Texas [Davis changed name back to Cass Co. later in 1871] I do not know where he lives now[.] his P O was Douglasville Davis Co Texas but I have had no letter from him in over a year. Cousin I know you must all be quite lonely, but we must pass that by for if loneliness would ever killed any one shurley it would have killed me— I have heard nothing of those Cousins you spoke of by name of Bryant[.] I can make enquiryes all I can [p.3] Now you will find out whether or not I love to write to my Relatives. Now please tell me. If I mistake not you are living with your brother. What is your brothers name. also your sisterinlaws name. do not consider me too enquisitive— how long have [you] been in Texas.

I suppose you will expect a reply to the question asked in your letter as regards to what I am doing with my land and the country generally[.] I have sold 100 acres of my land at \$3 per acre and had the chance to sell 300 acres at \$3-50 cts pr acre but land was rising so fast I did not care much about selling— I do not feel safe to refer you to any one for information as regards the country for there is no one can tell me whether or not I would like Florida [Green's family moved from GA to FL by 1860]— The advice I should give to you is plainly this Come and see for your self. We should not put confidence in no one when it comes to where we shall live, we had better satisfy our own minds that far and not confide in no one what ever.

Do you get letters from Sister Caroline? I have never received a single letter from any of brother Jacobs family since I was out thare in the winter[.] I do not know why they do not write.

I have wrote every thing I can think of and now I will tell you that I was much amused when reading your letter when you spoke of the respect you had for the Horsley blood[.] I did not know any one was as myself. I esteem the Name highly and reverence the blood, tho I know nothing of none others than my fathers own family[.] not with standing all that you must not consider that I would disregard you and not claim you as a Kindred because you have been sick and low spirited—

[p.4] I am willing to claim Relationship with my relations and friendship with all who try to act honest-deal farely and conduct respectable &c [etc.] Poverty is a respectable position for if a man is poor he can make enough to live on with out steeling or taking any thing that does not belong to him[.] he is better fit for a good neighbor a good friend and a dutiful Christian[.] Riches only raises him above the poor man for a few days only to annoy his peace and happiness in eternity— I can safely say that I have been raised to hardships and love to know that I was[.] for it is a pleasure to me to know that I was learned to work for my living and not to depent upon friend nor enemy for a support— But I will stop before I weary your patience to death for I am good at that as you may see

tell your brother and wife that I introduce myself to them hoping I do no wrong by so doing— I should be glad to see you all and visit you. Give my best respects to your brother and wife[.] tell them they would do no wrong to write occasionally

Crops are all late here and we have had so much rain that it has been allmost a thing of impossibility to work the ground— Come in here in the last of July or in August rather when every thing is about made and you can see the sandy pine hills displaying their utmost beauty (If there ever was any beauty connected there with) Peaches will be ripe then[.] as for apples we have none in this neighborhood[.] the apple trees are all to [too] young to bear yet there is plenty peaches tho— I must stop[.] I know you have wished long since that cousin Sallie would quit
Write soon

Yours &c— Sallie Horsley

[Transcribed by Joan Horsley from digital copy of original from Charles Knowles. Original spelling and punctuation retained; additional punctuation and comments in brackets added; paragraphing also added, none in the original]