

City Point, Florida

20th Feb 1905

Mr. W.R. Graham

Dear Will,

About the time I left home Sam, my son's, eyes were giving him trouble and I sent him to Richmond to be treated by Dr. Davidson, where he seems to have been greatly assisted and helped.

Sam, as you know, is an overgrown boy - really now a big man and only now 19 years old.

I do not think that it will do for him to undertake any work or profession, at least, at present that will require the constant use of his eyes. He is a good boy, and a ~~good~~ fine fellow every way. He has

Letter to WR Graham from his cousin SC Graham

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never done any good at school,  
probably, on account of his eyes.  
I remember in your last letter to  
me, (in December) you said you  
had a difficult task in getting  
farm hands; - and after thinking  
seriously I want to consult with  
you about sending Sam to you  
to leave farm life, if you  
will take him and let him  
leave its practical realities.  
Sam is strong and healthy and  
a companionable boy, with  
no habits of dissipation what-  
ever, unless you may call his  
love alone for a wife dissi-  
pation. This I know, for you  
know I am wide awake on  
those I know - certainly on my  
own children.

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I know of no man living to whom I would rather entrust him for the purposes I desire. You know to plant him on a farm about home would not do. I want him to go among strangers (save you) and work as any other man.

You can control him - This I assure you - for if you could not I would let you do, as you frankly would, tell me and send him home.

I am sure he would like to go to you. He is exceedingly anxious to do something and I now here say that I would be perfectly willing for you to be the judge of his wages, if his board and clothes, and a

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Mark me, I know that a Graham would not like to boss his kinsman, but it is teaching that I am after for Sam. If I thought one of my boys would make the successful farmer you have, I would be proud of him. It is not money I want the boy to earn, it is experience and manhood - self reliance. I want him to go off, as he begs me to let him do, away from town.

Brother Charles has spent the winter with me here and is a fine man. I will be in Tazewell 1st March next where you can write me. We all send regards to you.

Yours truly  
S.C. Graham

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