Anited States Marshal's Office, Western District of Virginia, S. L. GRAHAM, U. S. MARSHAL.

Jazervell C. M., Va., Dec 19th 1885 Dear levsby, Well and Ella. I Know you all Think I am Very negligents about witing to you, that is time, and my exouse is, that I have alesent from here the greater part of my time for The last two months I was at workeley to day for The fish him in 8 or g weeks, They are all well ex-Ceft Mi Kelly is complaining of Theumation some 8 or 10 days ago the East end of the County was wrested by a severe storm of wind and rain That ded great dimage to Genoing, and hay and foodder stocks, or rather hay Stacks and fodder shocks, The upper story of Mr Kelles Stable was blown off into the lane, and the hay Thoroughly drenched with Rain, but he thinks he can feed it out before it is entirely spoiled, to day is sunday, and I have to go to Sacahonlas on Official business on Thesday, and well helion on reednesday, and must necessarily ber delamed on business in the neighborhood of Journ on Thursday, and be unable to enjoy the pleasure of being with you on christmas, I am sorry of this but I can't heep myself. I have all along that I could go to see you at that time, but some business came to me by Fridays mail, that cannot be postponed. I just Returned from Harrisonburg, East Tuesday, I had

Letter written by Samuel Livingston Graham, father of WR Graham, grandfather of Charles (Pops) Graham, Great Grandfather of Bonnie. The letter is to his wife Cosby, his son Will (WR) and Will's first wife Ella.

Tazewell VA. Dec. 19, 1885

Dear Cosby, Will and Ella,

I know you all think I am very negligent about writing to you. That is true, and my excuse is that I have been absent from here the greater part of my time for the last two months. I was at Wm Kellys today for the first time in 8 or 9 weeks. They are all well except Mr. Kelly is complaining of rheumatism. Some 8 or 10 days ago the east end of the county was visited by a severe storm of wind and rain that did great damage to fencing and hay and fodder stacks or rather hay stacks and fodder stacks. The upper story of Mr. Kellys stable was blown off in the lane and the hay thoroughly drenched with rain, but he thinks he can feed it out before it is entirely spoiled.

Today is Sunday and I have to go to Pocahontas on official business on Tuesday and will return on Wednesday and must necessarily be detained on business in the neighborhood of town on Thursday and be unable to enjoy the pleasure of being with you on Christmas. I am sorry of this but I can't help myself. I have all along that I could go to see you at that time, but some business came to me by Friday mail that cannot be postponed. I just returned from Harrisonburg last Tuesday.

a cold trip, but suffered mack going to and re Tuning from haham. I have had a terrible cold but am considerably better. If congress does not pass a law allowing The marshal a Salary, I will resign. I can't undergo The responsibility, Rabor and Trouble incident to the office, without remuneration, as at present, I have not enjoyed life since I left Buchanan, as well as I did their though I have been treated with the colmosh Kindness and friendship at every place I have been I intend to go to see you the first spare Time I can get, but can't tell whether it will be in a week or a month. If I don't get off in a short time I will write. I want you all to write often, for I Know you have more time to write than I sur before it is entuly spailed Trave I will settle with Cousine Jim Perry when I go down. He owns me a fex, to come out of my board bill Grin my regards to all our old friends and neighbors, The winter thus far has been a cold one here, though not much snow. I can't risk myord. I know all clong turber or a sures a sure with the sur Affectionally yours maple I him that ound be profund. I Traham alumed from Harrowling last Tustion, I had

I had a cold trip but suffered most going to and returning from Graham. I have had a terrible cold but am considerably better. If Congress does not pass a law allowing the Marshall a salary, I will resign. I can't undergo the responsibility, labor and trouble incident to the office without renumeration as at present. I have not enjoyed life since I left Buchanan, as well as I did there, though I have been treated with the utmost kindness and friendship at every place I have been.

I intend to go to see you the first spare time I can get, but can't tell whether it will be in a week or a month. If I don't get off in a short time I will write. I want you all to write often, for I know you have more time to write than I have. I will settle with cousins Jim Peery when I go down. He owes me a favor to come out of my board bill. Give my regards to all our old friends and neighbors. The winter thus far has been a cold one here, though not much snow or rain.

Affectionately yours, S.L. Graham