

United States Marshal's Office,

Western District of Virginia,

S. L. GRAHAM, U. S. MARSHAL.

Tazewell Co. N. Va., Dec 19th 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 shocks. The upper story of Mr Kellys 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.

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. 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.

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turning from Graham. 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 re-
sponsibility, labor 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 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 Cousin Jim Peery
when I go down. He owes me a few
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

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Affectionately yours, S.L. Graham