

Letter from WR Graham to his parents. WR is 18 years old and away at school.

Tazewell Co, Va. April 1st, 1874

Dear Mother & Pop,

I started to write you all a letter about a week ago, but concluded to postpone it until after Sam's wedding. We had a very nice time - all enjoyed themselves finely. There was a good many people at the wedding & infair both. Alex Greeves, Charlie Crockett, Henry (?), John Smith (from the cove), Newton Thompson and I were his staff. Mollie Witten, Sarah Whitley, Sarah (?), Lettie (?), Lizzie (?) & Ellen Peery waited on the bride. Wm Kelly was the priest. We had music on the piano, fiddle and banjo at the wedding and on the fiddles at the infair.

I am just getting over a very bad cold. Wm Kelly Rache and the children have been well all winter with the exception of bad colds, which it seems, have been prevalent all over the County. Rache is looking right well I think. Sam told me you were all a little unwell last Court which I was sorry to learn - hope you are all well now. How is Louisa? How is Dan getting along.

Tazewell Co, Va.
April 1st 1874
Dear Mother & Pop,
I started to write you all a letter about a week ago, but concluded to postpone it until after Sam's wedding. We had a very nice time - all enjoyed themselves finely. There was a good many people at the wedding & infair both. Alex Greeves, Charlie Crockett, Henry (?), John Smith (from the cove), Newton Thompson and I were his staff. Mollie Witten, Sarah Whitley, Sarah (?), Lettie (?), Lizzie (?) & Ellen Peery waited on the bride. Wm Kelly was the priest. We had music on the piano, fiddle & Banjo at the wedding and on the fiddles at the infair.
I am just getting over a very bad cold. Mr. Kelly Rache and the children have been well all winter, with the exception of bad colds, which for it seems, have been prevalent (?) all over the County. Rache is looking right well I think. Sam told me you were all a little unwell last Court which I was sorry to hear - hope you are all well now. How is Louisa? How is Dan getting along.

You can't imagine how I want to see you all.
I want you both to set your pegs and come
up at Circuit Court in May. Judge I can't
see the reason why you don't practice here.
There can be no doubt about you getting an
equal practice with the other members of the bar,
if not one that exceeds them. I do wish we
all lived up here together. I am sure we could
enjoy life much better than we do in this unneeded
separate existence. It is now several long, lonesome
years we have lived on Sunday, and if there has
been any pleasure connected with this period of
our life I am sure it is all due to the fact that
Wm Kelly and (?) Rache have been very kind to me, and I appreciate
it to the fullest extent. I think I will quit
school before long, and go to work and make some
money somehow. It is not because I have learned enough,
but because I don't intend to make my living by a profession
& think I can get through life with what education I have.
Tell Dan I have not time to write that letter I
promised him now, but will write the next time I
write. Mr. Keely has about 50 head of cattle on
hand - has not lost a single steer this winter. Write
soon. My love to all.

P.S. Would have written
more but it is time to
go to school.

W.R.G.

Yours affectionately
W.R. Graham

You can't imagine how I want to see you all. I want you both to set your pegs and come up at Circuit Court in May. Judge I can't see the reasons why you don't practice here. There can be no doubt about you getting an equal practice with the other members of the bar, if not one that exceeds them. I do wish we all lived up here together. I am sure we could enjoy life much better than we do there. This unneeded (sic) separate existence, it is now several long, lonesome years we have lived on family, and if there has been any pleasure connected with this period of our life I am unable to see it.

Wm Kelly and (?) Rache have been very kind to me, and I appreciate it to the fullest extent. I think I will finish school before long, and go to work and make some money somehow. It is not because I have learned enough, but because I don't intend to make my living by a profession and think I can get through life with what education I have. Tell Dan I have not time to write that letter I promised him now, but will write the next time I write. Mr. Keely has about 50 head of cattle on hand - has not lost a single steer this winter. Write soon. My love to all.

W.R. Graham

P.S. Would have written more but it is time to go to school.