

C03-0531-1

Richmond, Va., May 31, 1903.

My dear Cousin,

Yours of the 19th came duly to hand.

I am thinking I cannot tell you much to help you in your research. I was very young when the daughter of my father's sister Christian and her husband came to our house when they were going to Ohio. Their names were John and Mary Burrill. Ohio was then a rather new state, and I have no idea in what part of it they located. I think the James Pedbo referred to was a near relative, as it seems to me Uncle James has told me so. Your Aunt Rachel can, I think, tell you something more definite regarding that. And John Thompson, too. I have a vague idea that Father's mother was named Pedbo.

I am glad the letters pleased you. The one you may keep is the one written by your great grandfather James to my father Elisha. Not that I do not prize that one too, for I loved my Uncle James very much, but it seems as though that one belonged to your branch of the family. Of my own immediate family, you will see that father wrote of his two youngest daughters, Marry Ann and Elizabeth. My sister (who is a widow as well as myself) lives in southern California. Her name is Mrs. McKelvey. If it is necessary I can tell you more of them hereafter. My husband and I lived four years out there, and came here 11 years ago. Loss of fortune etc. etc. led to these changes. He died 5 years ago last March, and I had lived so many years in a warm climate, I could not think of wintering in New England, so I have stayed on here until it is quite home to me. I generally go north summers. Two years and three years ago I spent a number of weeks with your Aunt Rachel. Kilmarnock is a dear old spot; an admirable place to rest in and good people to be with, but I was raised in a town and then it was a city, and a busy place too, and the country does not suit me for permanent residence. Cousin Rachel gave me a very cordial invitation to go there this summer, but I am thinking of going another way and so did not accept. I am looking forward to the time when the G.N.R.'s go to California in Aug. and if there are half rates, I may take advantage of them to visit my sister. I spent three months with her four years ago.

I hope sometime I may see you; perhaps I may meet you at cousin Rachel's. But of

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course the years are telling on me now. I am 71 years of age, and every year less able to take long jaunts. For one thing I am very thankful; that is my ability to keep in touch with my friends by writing - I have a good many correspondents, and enjoy them very much. Remember me kindly to your family.

*Sincerely your cousin,
A. S. Davis*

Copied from a transcription by Edgar A. Francis from the original letter.

Edgar's note - "Must say for a lady of 71, she writes with great intelligence and a clear strong hand."

Info note: Letter from Rachel Francis to Edgar A. Francis mentions a Mrs. Davis, but does not elaborate on her identity.