

Letter from James Jehu Robert to his son Milton George Robert  
along with addition to letter written by M.G.R.'s sister

Cincinnati July 2nd - 1850

Dear Son

I have seated myself to write you a few lines hoping it may find you all well as it ~~is~~ leave us at present we have had some of Cold & some Fever but we have reason to be thankfull we have recovered. We have rented A House for (or at the rate of) Two hundred & Twenty Dollars a year. We boarded out at the hotel at Two 25/100 Dollars per week for 2½ Weeks for each grown & half price for the children. Your Mother Wm & myself went down to Cincinnati & bought our finneture & cooking stove, it is very little trouble to cook with a Stove every family ought to have one. We gave but thirty Dollars for it & it requires so little wood. Your Mother cook our first Dinner & Sat in her chair three fourths of the time. The house we rented has fourteen good rooms ~~and~~ a brick kitchen attached to it. The pump is but ten feet from the kitchen. When any one wants water just step to the pump & we get in a little time. Your Mother Julianna & the whole of us pumps water even to Wm. son Joseph. Julianna has cooked us several Dinners when Mary was Washing & Ironing. The House we have rented is a brick one & about one of the largest in the Town, the owner wants to sell it to me. They ask Twenty-three Hundred Dollars for it. I like the place very well. Provision Cheap corn forty ct. per Bushel Beef 6 ct per lb. Lamb & Veal same price Bacon (hams 8 to 10 ct). Now for the People. I never was among more Sociable (in my life) & friendly as to the Abolishonist. All that I have heard speake of them was against them. I wish I had carried another with me to help Mary. I have wrote to Joseph when he comes to bring me Old Jefery (?), but I wish I had Young Jefery. I think I must give you another in his place & take him as I have Sister Mary. Tell Cloe & Jeffrey that Mary is well; the Land is rich but very broken just as hilly & Broken as Washington Georgia, but it does not wash away as your roling lands in Georgia, the land here is more lomey it sticks together therefore it does not wash like your. I have had several places offered me. They ask some forty-five some Sixty & some Seventy five Dollars per Acre. - I have left for you my Secretary, Slab Arm Chair, Double Barrel Gun, Map of the U. S. the small andirons shovel & tongs that you had in your Room one Bed & Mattress bolster & Pillows. This is what I recollet at present. As some of the rest of the family wishes to write this I will stop. Give my respect to Mr. & Mrs. Colley & to all inquiring friends. Kiss Fanny Clifford me. Give my love to Sarah & Milton do not forget your lord ~~and~~ Master. Read your Bible. Christ says search the Scriptures for they are they which testify of Me, praying that the Lord may bless you all

I am your Affectionate  
Father

Jas. Jehu Robert

Dear Til

I received your letter several weeks before we left hom, and should have answered it long ere this - but we were kept very busy for months having so much sewing work to do. I thought I would put off writing you until I felt like it, but I find I feel no more like it now than

Letter to M. G. R. from his father and sister July 2, 1850

I did when I received it. I was in hopes I would get rid of work by coming to Ohio, but I have done more work since I have been here, than I have done in years at the South. (Father has just bought the house we are living in.) I get up before five in the morning, make up my bed sweep the room, come down stairs sweep the parlors, Papage (?), Mothers room. After breakfast make up the Boys bed and fix their room, sweep down the stairs steps, by the time I get through, I feel very tired. I think I do more work around the house than any one else.

I like Lebanon much better than I expected, but I have wished myself back South more than a dozen times. Don't think I am indolent and dislike work. I can work equal to the next one. The people here do most of their own work, and are remarkable plain in their appearance. Brother William Stiney Benj and myself, with Mary and Cary had to ride about five miles in a two horse waggon, on all of our baggage. I was ashamed to ride up in town in so much style. The man who drove us promised to drive around to the back street but when we got to the Hotel there were about fifteen or twenty men standing out at the door gazing at us. I felt pretty badly. Since then, I see a great many ladies ride in waggons about town. Era Corwin says they frequently do it. I am very sorry we could not see you before we left. It was a very great disappointment to me. Not to see Fanny Sarah and yourself. Why does not Sarah write me? I have made up my mind to return South should I outlive Father and Mother. I have left some dear friends behind and would give anything to see them again. I wery often think of them and hope that we will yet return South. Goods here are as high as they are South. I see nothing at all cheaper. Ohio is not the place it is cracked up to be, that is I do not think so.

I left two dozen small tea plates with Sister Matilda for you. Do Til answer this letter as soon as possible. We are all very anxious to hear from you. Francis is now with us but expects to return to Oxford shortly. I must now close, as it is getting quite late. Give dear little Fanny a dozen Kisses for me. Tell Sarah she must write me.

In great haste I am as ever

Your Sister

Answer my letter -

F. W. Robert

Phoebe McKenzie Robert to her son Milton George Robert

Marietta 15th July 52

My Dear Milton

As I know you must feel anxious to know how we are getting on, I must write if it is only a dozen lines. I do not know when you received a letter from any of us, we have had so much sickness that we have all been somewhat alarmed. I don't think I ever saw such lingering fevers in my life. Selina who first had it, has done no work yet; three months No I don't think tis as long as that, but I know tis more than two, since we had the first case we have had 7 cases with Alexander who is now at Lawrence's he carried him on Monday to try the change of air. A has been sick four weeks & still has fever, I fear he will be quite sick. Poor Stella died about three weeks ago she was better and took a dose of castor oil without our knowledge, which brought on a dreadful dysentery which could not be stopped. I suppose distress of mind for her children Esther & Adam who were in a dying state (to all appearances) brought on a relapse. She never seem'd to be as ill as the others till just before her death. I miss her very much & never expect to get her replaced but I hope my loss is her eternal gain. I could have parted with any other, with less regret, but it was not left for me to decide, my Heavenly Father saw fit to take her from me, & I must be resigned. You know how we all valued her. Esther & Adam are better. Glad am I my child that you have escaped this fever on your place, for it seems to me that the negroes will not be able to work again this summer. We must not murmur at the Divine Will knowing that whatever is right. Every one has had a relapse except one or two. This makes me fear the worst for Alexander - Emma Chovin is now quite sick with scarlet fever (the Dr. thinks,) we can't imagine how she took it. I suppose all the children will now have it & perhaps some of the adults. You know I had it when Furman was an infant but he never took it. He is now dreading it very much says he wants to go off either to Wilkes or Robertville. I hope for the best tho fear the worst. Aunt Mary Brisbane has just left for Ohio. She staid with me two weeks - I expect Charlette Rhodes here from Macon next week. She is there having the cancer taken from her nose. Poor thing I feel very much for her - she seems very anxious to come here by her letters. She was staying there with W. L. Lawton but he has sold out, & gone. He is going to live in Florida. Charlette is now with a cousin Cater who is very kind to her - she writes me that through the hole that is made in her nose by the cancer being extracted is large enough for her to breath through. Poor child I fear it will disfigure her for life. This a pity it was not attended to before this. She writes tis as large as a ten cent piece.

Joseph Lawton & family are lving up here. Dr. Smith from Robertville is up here says there was some sickness on Blk Swamp not much. Joe Thurmand Sr. died of bilious colic little George writes his wife has been sick, & wants to come up here, with her Father & sister & spend some time wants to know what Lawrence thinks of it. I would be glad to see them but our rooms are all taken up with our large family & so much sickness, that we find it bad sometimes for the sick must be nursed you know. Mary has been nursing night & day till this week she is down herself. Tell Sally we would be delighted to see her & the little ones with yourself you know children can put up with anything so don't let my saying we have a large family hinder wither of you from visiting us. There is not much news about only there was some little afay took place at the College between Robinson & one of

P. M. Robert to M. G. Robert 7/15/1852

the cadets, Pohhill (cousin to Matilda), he has been staying with Benjamin ever since. He wants to try & get back. They just had an examination. Ben with the rest has to camp out ~~for~~ for two weeks. I fear it will make him sick at this season. The cadets give a ball tomorrow evening at the College hill. I suppose there will be a great number there. My paper bids me close. We all would be very glad to see you & young William expect to leave ~~for~~ Atlanta this evening. I will send this ~~wik~~ by him. Eugenia Clark with Alpha Williams is staying with them. Hoping this may find you all well & that you will write soon I stop. My love to Mrs. C. Kiss Sal & the children for your devoted

Mother -  
P. M. Robert

Friday morning. Edwin has the scarlet fever also. God only knows how it will terminate. Alexander is not as well as he was yesterday. Oh my son pray for us.

Why don't you write us often. You know we will be glad & are always anxious to hear from those we love.

To Milton George Robert, Washington, Georgia

8

Centreville Miss  
June 10th 91

My Dear Milton

I have just read your letter of 6th and will try to send answer by the 2 1/2 mail. I shall not be able to do so, for it is now ( 1 3/4) - My letter will be ready for you by to-morrows mail - & I will send for you to read another La. letter with more names than Mrs. Hargrove's. This was by the daughter of Rev. Baynard Cheney Robert a son of Grimboll Robert & brother of Rev. Peter W. Robert the father of Mrs. Hargroves.

There were three brothers Tanner. Robert Linn Tanner Baptist Deacon a son of Aunt Providence Robert Tanner who was daughter of Peter Robert. He built a church house at Cheneyville. I have preached in it. One of his brothers differing with him joined Campbellite church and he became a preacher and built a church house too.

They had a younger brother who became converted, & he discarded the doctrine of both his brothers and joined a sect not known there Christadelphians, I think - soul sleepers (appears to be the word but is difficult to read) or something of that kind & he erected a church house too. Strange fellows these were - and one church house would have done for the whole community.

But I have a letter from Bro Joseph to Stoney Lawton about the birthday dinner of old aunt Sarah Robert Lawton 1831 - in which Bro. Joseph says - that "in March 1785 her elder brother John Robert, & her husband with their families removed from Stone Creek, near Beaufort, and settled plantations near where now is Robertville, both families previously Episcopal had embraced Baptist sentiments and together were the founders of the Baptist church at Robertville and the chief supporters of it during their lives." We were at that dinner. I send you an account of it which you must read and return too as soon as you have the time to copy it in yr scrap book.

Grandfather was in the army when our father was born in 1781. His home was then in Colleton Dist Co. Ca. His father James Jacques Robert B. 1711- married Sara Jaudon 1735 - He died I have written 1774 at Coosawhatchie and was buried at Stone (sp.?) Church near the Cumbahee Colleton Dist. His wife Sara daughter of Daniel and Sara Jaudon (this doesn't agree with Our Family Circle) is put down as buried at Blk Swap April 6th 1779.

P.S. Did you see that spech of our Miss Ed. D. Grimbell in Cin. at the Cen. lately. He said he never would believe in the affection of the North till they paid the South all that they got from us for their negroes with interest added. They should pay at least that much for the elevation of the negroes - that this had cost 60,000,000 and that the South had paid of it 20,000,000 now let the North pay up what they received from us Etc. etc.

He said while the negro did not stand well on the Decalogue the white man did not either - but the negro stood well on Jordan. That while negroes stole the chickens & watermelons the white man stole thousands and even Banks & Rail Roads etc. On in Miss. a few yers since \$400,000.

Copy this for your old Grandpa. I wish to rewrite it & add to it for your keeping. I have some of my old manuscripts I want you to have which I know you'll keep & remember me.

Grandpa

.....woods they could have health & more comfort where they had a plenty of fat lightwood to burn up the musquitoes. No lights except from the stands which burned all night, & gave a better light for reading than any other. When I got home from Brown University in June where I had been for 4 yrs. my Father told me I must go up on the mountains & stay until 10th of October. I started for a more mountainous locality than it but could get no further. I had never met a smarter or prettier set of young ladies. The longer I stayed the more charned I became. Did ever you read Dr. Nehemiah Adams South side view of Slavery? He married Miss Brackett the Teacher in our female school here. I advise you to get his book & read it. The Abolitionists of Boston, his home, burnt every copy they could get hold of & refused to hear him preach. The book will interest you much as you are a searcher after truth. Read Fuller & Wayland's contraversay. It made me a stronger proslavery man than ever before. I found that our slaves were better treated than hired men north. Joe Bond, one of the richest Planters in Ga., was killed in defense of his slave, ~~&-if-you-ever-visit-Macon-you-will-find-there-his-monument.~~ I can't forget what was said to me one day when walking with two Providence Boys. We met a Negro who had bought his freedom, ~~&-had-a-Barber's shop-which-I--patronised.~~ He politely doffed his hat, & asked if I had heard from Mr. Gatling lately. Instinctly I paused, those Nabobs going on until they reached next street. When I got up with them they said "Robert we have been discussing your character. You are a perfect anomaly to us. How you could condescend to stop & talk to a negro we don't understand." I told them that I loved the Negro & believed that gratitude the most noble trait in character. That when I was born, my Mother was sick ~~&-couldn't-nurse-me.~~ I was put in the arms of Mary Ann as black as the Ace of spades & I imbibed from her breast the first morsel of food I ever had. My Mother couln't nurse me at all. Uncle Jake was a King in his country, & he & his wife were taken prisoners put in a canibals pen to fatten. Instead of getting fatter they got leaner & some northern man bought them in S.C. ~~Mother's Guardian-bought-them-fer-her.~~ So I was nursed by a Princess, the daughter of Mom Nora & Uncle Jake. Uncle Jake was a Hero!! He starved preferred death by starvation to being eaten by Canibals. He was the father of my wet nurse. I revere their memory still. There was a tribe in Africa, though they had no written laws killed those who told a lie. I always believed Uncle Jake belonged to that Tribe. I do not believe he would have told a lie for his anything. I'll enclose you a piece I wish to preserve & beg you to return it after reading. My oldest Brother was the Teacher. N.M. Crawford D.D. then President of Mercer University would have joined him the next year had he lived. From Augusta my brother took charge of Colored school in Atlanta where he died & was buried by the Negroes.- they asking the privalege of erecting a monument to his memory. I must stop. Not well - born  
23 Feb.

(Above written by Milton George Robert with pencil on tablet paper and stops at this point. Crossed out words done by him.)

A. J. Robert to Milton George Robert

2324 Hartson Av.,  
Spokane, Wash.  
June 30, 1909

My Dear Brother:

Your letters are always read with pleasurable interest. After several months I received the one you sent to Willie to be forwarded. Your last postmarked June 4 has been received. I am glad to know that you are still in very good health. My general health is about as good as it ever was. I am still quite active. I walk briskly and never use a cane. I have done ll the work in our gardens since I left Georgia. I spaded up the ground in April and we now have a very nice garden of vegetables. My family are continually telling me that I do too much work. I stell them the work has never hurt me, and I like to be employed with the vegetables and flowers.

You once wrote me that daddy Cyrus was with our grandfather when he was a soldier in the revolution, and that he used to tell you a good deal about the officers, etc. I wish you would write me all you can remember of his experience in those times. Did he mention the names of the officers of the company, regiment or brigade? I remember the old man, and I can now recall his gray head and general appearance, when he dug up my calamus I had growing in the pond back of daddy Charles house, to plant his rice. This reminds me of a newspaper article I read a few days ago, which stated that half of the people of the world use rice as food, and that it was first introduced into America from a small bag of the grain presented by a capt. of a vessel to Governor Thomas Smith of So. Ca. in 1694, which he planted in his garden. I had read this many years ago in the history of the United States. So you see my memory is still very good, although I am nearly 81 years old. I have been told several times lately, by different people, that my physical condition whould encourage me to hope to reach my 100th birthday. Are any of our old school mates and associates still living? Who of the Roberts, Lawtons, Maners and Willinghams are now the old people? What can you tell me about the grandchildren of Frank, Stoney and Furman, who are now living? Also their widows?

I have copies of portrait of Landgrave Smith (2nd) and his coat of arms. I have never seen the arms of the Robert family. How many children did John H. have? Their names? Is he still living? You mjst tell all this to Mit and make him write it to me. Or he would better come to see us & tell me all about it. How many grandchildren have you? - Affectely. Your brother,

A. J. Robert