

Washington - July 2, 1838

Dear father I received your fourth letter yesterday, and am sorrow to hear of the death of My old aunt and the misfortune of JC Martin. The day I wrote you the last letter I started for Nashville. Mr. Barret & daughter met me there. Made sail of the remainder of our goods to a verry good advantage and dissolved pardnership with mutual concent - you know I have ever been opposed to pardnerships, but my capitol being so small that I was compelled to take some person in or my own would not pay hour rent - which was thirty dollars per month and Mr. Barret had recently arrived from Lockport - New York with some goods & money, and we joined together and turned our capital over several times, which was principally pervisions and after winding up we done a good business, without one word of discontent. I have done a far better business than at any other thing I hurd of at that time. There are now a great many goods in the country, owing to so many emigrants and each one laying his money out in the states as I did hoping to double and tribble it - until this country is saturated with goods, and many who have not enough to do a business sold entirely taken first cost seeming enough. This will not last long for the consumption is very great and are dependant entirely on the Military. I had been absent from the boys two months, but soon found way to them after selling out, and found them both well. I think your first letter is there and it informed me they had written to you and informed you of how they ware doing. There corn is latter but is very flourishing. Richard commenced work with the Gentleman whom he boarded with the morning I left - William is to finnish plowing the corn over for the last time and then go to work also by this means by this means to work out there board. They are very well pleased with the settlement whare they are, and Will talked if he and Dick had a peace of land of thare own in that settlement he would ask no man any add. so there was a sale of land while I was there but was sold in larger lotts than they want but one of thare neighbours bought a lot & told me I could have two hundred acres for them for the same he gave and the same payments which was two dollar per acre one to cash balance in payments that I willingly agreed to as I was anxious for them to settle also. I knew it would be a gratification to you for them to have a home of thare own, and as this land that I shall locate will be on the frontier whare it is not safe to settle as yet - I tole them not to take the land until thare part was designated -I proved up my citizenship when I first returned and obtained a certificate for my headright. I am waiting now for the board of Land Commisioners to meet in order to get a land consent for the same. I shall then leave for the falls of the Brazos to locate it - with my other claims. I suppose you are aware that my claims ware under the second chap & could not be located til the first of August. You will find a short history of of Texas in the telegraph dated 23 of April by Bannol which from the best information is all correct - the weather is getting verry warm and in the lower country sickly. The prospect of corn was verry flattering but at this time it is verry dry which will injure crops seriously - Rosting ears & watermellons in abundance and all other vedgitables that any climit can afford. I have traveled a gradeal since I have been in this country . This time while I was in business Mr. Barret attended to the store and I was

plying to and from the cost reconting our stock, which in all amounted to more than two thousand miles -; farming is far the best business in the country though it is uncertain whether I shall do it or not. I yet have a gradeal of traveling to - to locate my land & in fact you may rest asured the boys will continue that business. I think it will be out of my power to go home this year, so I hope you and my friends will keep up a communication with me and direct to this place as I shall make this my home. The emigration to this Country will be large this fall, & I cant help but look for some of my old Maryland friends in this country. I harr Mr and Mrs Albert Wilson house was raised opposite Herringtown on the Macky place - he has been in this country for ten uears. He alsy infprmed that William Watson from Kingstown who was a cousin of his resided at Houston and was doing well. I am very glad to hear from my dear Sister, that she still commemorates her brothers birthday, which gratitude I know they will repay. You informed me that my particular friend was corting but not married. You can tell her for me as she and myself have been confedent of each other, if she would inform me of the circumstances which I am anxious to hear it is hily probable I can remove the obstacle - give my respects to the nolford generation and may god speed thare labour marying exercises &. I must close for want of paper remember me to all of my acquaintances and tell them to write to me as I would at all times be glad to hear from them. Dear Father & Mother I remain your oneary son Peter J. Willys

Envelope:

received August 21th 1838  
This letter dated July 2nd 1838 was

Washington, Texas July 3rd  
1838

Mr.

Short A. Willis  
Caroline County, Maryland  
Hunting Creek

Postmark: New Orleans