

Montgomery, Texas Jan 3, 1846

Dear father, your letter of the 3 November came to hand this first of December and found us all well though I was at Houston at the time whar I met with Michael Stewart from Middleford, Delaware who saw Arthur John a short time before he left home, and new you and grandfather Willis better than I did. I insisted verry hard on his coming home with me if he spent but one night as he might call on you as he went back and tell you he broke bread with your children, but his time was out and he could not go up country for fear the packet would leave him. He came to this country with the view to look for a situation to sell goods, though we talked so much I don't know whether he was satisfied or not. I told him so much about our Delaware friends and Maryland also (for he new everybody) that it was equal to a visit home to me. Dr. Cohy - Dr. Townsend & the Mrs. Milby (all Delwarians) gave Stweart great oncouragement to come to Texas. My advice was to him the business that he wanted to pursue the vacancies was pretty well villed up, though it much depended on the man. The great failure of the cotton crop this season will brake into our arrangements verry much as our collections depended principally upon cotton as it is the only thing exported out of the country. We have a good deal out and will have to waight till the people make another crop for a great portion of it. We have managed so as to keep out of debt ourselves, sold a good many goods for a good proffit got but little cash on hand and is about as near as I can tell you about our business ending 1846 without giving you the particular amounts which we don't exactly know yet but will as soon as we make a balance sheet of it. Corn crops ware abundant- it is only worth 25 cts in the interior & 50 cts in Houston & Galveston. Cotton is ranging a 9 cts pork is scarce 4.50 to 5\$ per cut lands are about the same no change but little emigration as yet except to the western part of Texas whare thare are a great many Dutch going direct from Germany over ten thousand had emigrated to the western part of Texas in the last twelve months. Richard talks a gooddeal of marrying but has not done it yet we hare had quite a Merry Christmas a gives many parties & of a profusion. an adress by the Masons on Sunday last from the Lodge at this place. We have recently taken the sensus of our burg. 176 sould of all sects & colour is all we could make. I tell Caroline if we don't make better collections than the present prospects bids fair for it will be uncertain about her going with me home next summer. She is ancious for to see you all. Our boy has been quite sick with worms but is well a gain and running all about - will be thirteen months old the 7th of this month and out cries a campmeeting. Caroline thinks a woman can't keep her matters well regulated about her house with out getting mad at least once a month, and she wants to know of Mother if she is not reasonable enough. She has not been mad this year so far -

Dear Parents you may infer from Mr. Willis that I am always mad, but mother you know we will get vexed about our little house matters, but Mr. Willis is of so even a temper himself he thinks I should never get in a bad humour though I think we get along very well together. Sister Mary you must write often as I am allways glad to hear from you all and must excuse me for not writing

to you before as I am so poor a hand to write but I will try and write to you oftener. Mr. Willis speaks of taking me with him to see you all next summer but I tell him I am afraid that it will be ilconvenient for me to leave home so long as we have just got under way of keeping h ouse though I should be very glad to see you all and to take our little boy to see his grandparents. I shall insist on Mr. Willis going if I dont as he has not been home so long and talks about you all so much. give my love to sister Caroline and brother John- from his letter we expected him out this fall but I tell Mr. Willis and brother that none of you will come out to this back woods contry. I hope we may hear from you often,

I remain your affectionate daughter

Caroline Willis

Your affectionate son

P. J. Willis

Dear Parents I join in as third & last in this letter to you and all of the family but feeling quite unwell this last month from colds that have settled in my chest, but sincerely hoping we will often hear from you and sister. Your affectionate son, R. S. Willis

Envelope:

Short A. Willis, Esq.  
Hunting Creek  
Caroline Co.

Maryland

Short Adam Willis (born April 13, 1783, Died November 6. 1860) married Mary (Polly) Rich Griffin (born June 24, 1788, died September 15, 1861). They had eight children:

1. Arthur John Willis Born September 27, 1813 Died March 1889 Age 76
2. Peter James Willis Born March 26, 1815 Died November 28, 1873 Age 58
3. Sarah Ann Willis Born January 12, 1817 Died September 24, 1828 Age 11
4. William Henry Willis Born July 2, 1819 Died July 2, 1843 Age 24
5. Richard Short Willis Born October 17, 1821 Died July 27, 1892 Age 71
6. Thomas Alexander Willis Born November 5, 1822 Died 1850 Age 28
7. Mary Elizabeth Willis Born May 17, 1824 Died October 6, 1824 Age 4 months
8. Mary Ellen Willis Born June 11, 1826 Died 1879 Age 53

Arthur John Willis was a Senator in the Congress of the State of Maryland during and after the Civil War.

Peter James Willis, William Henry Willis and Richard Short Willis, the second, fourth and fifth children (sons) came to Texas in 1838---Peter had made an initial exploratory journey in 1836. They first settled on Buffalo Bayou near Houston, but later moved to Grimes County and purchased a farm called "Ringold Farms" between Navasota and Washington -On-The-Brazos.

In 1843 William Henry Willis died in the Yellow Fever Epidemic. Peter James and Richard S. moved to Montgomery, where both married and built their homes.

Thomas Alexander Willis was lost at sea.

Mary Ellen Willis , the youngest child and only daughter to live to adulthood, was badly spoilt and quite determined. During the time their roof was being renovated she fell in love with the Scot carpenter who worked on the job named Jones. Failing to convince her parents of her determination to marry him, she crept out of her bedroom window and escaped on a ladder he had placed against the side of the roof and they eloped. Her brothers were broken hearted.