

Houston June 28, 1839

Dear father your letter of the 18th of May came to hand the 14th of this instant and yours of February came the first of May, which gave us a great pleasure to heare of you all being well. I also received a letter from Margret E. Billettor, which informed me of all the neighbourhood transactions -marriages, corting, and those expected to be, which I am under many obligations for, also one from Luis Robbinson, which I answered the first of may, and should of answered yours before this had it not been for sickness which commenced here verry soon this season, and the boys and myself have had an attack of the Bilory fever and almost every person in this lower country, but it is in a measure subsiding, with verry few deaths. We are all enjoying tolerable good health again without the aid of a phisition. I have assisted several sick persons since I have been up, and never saw calomil administered before - the usual dose from forty to 150 grains, then a dose of casteroil and all the cold water they can drink, ice is recommended. I bought the medicine and administered it myself which had the desired affect. The rate of charges are \$5.00 for each visit - \$1.00 per nite and double milage of nights, the sickness is accounted for from thare being some timber cut on the Bayow- the new settlers also a (letter torn) . In february and broke down a gradeal of timber which is now laying on the ground.---- There has nothing transpired of importance since I wrote you last - which was in April. We have hfinnished paying for our tract of land and have got dead for it and that recorded. I have since bought Mr. Hicks his part being one fourth, also his part of the wood thats cut and improvements for \$700 and paid \$200.00 cash the balance in four months. The most important news to myself and every other person who is trying to do anything is the great depreciation of our currency in the United States which happened verry recently, which is only worth 55 cts in the dollar in Neworleans. but is still current dollar for dollar here - but persons who have to buy thare pervisions have to pay three prices for them-- as they are dependant on Neworleans Market. We shall raise corn and potatoes enough for the next year and some to spare, and we have bought four cows and calves for whcih I paid \$100.00 - The steamboat Ponchatrain which was purchased in Neworleans by the federal party in Mexico on her way to the latter put in to one of our ports (Mattagordia) - in distress and was secured by the collector of that port as a prise, but has since been released by the President, the steamship Cuba which run as a packet between Galveston and Neworleans was recked on Galveston bar the first of this months by attempting to comein with out a pilot and run in the breakers and stones. the passengers ware saved being one hundred, the freight all lost -I have neglected subscribing for your paper but will do it the next time I go to town, - thare was a party of Indians supposed to be 100 attacked and thirty of thare warriors killed by a small company of our rangers which ware stationed on the frontiers about a month since - it has been verry seasonable and crops of corn look verry well. The city of Auston is now laid of which is to be the permanent seat of government, and the sail of the lots commenced the 1st of August thare has been a large emigration to this country this year and new farms are opening and towns growing up in every section, but the depreciation of Texas money in a great measure has put a stop to

business, and a great complaint of hard times. I hope you will continue to write regular and I will try and not be so neglectful of writing as I have been.- Tell Arthur J. to write also for I had much rather pay 37 ct. for a letter than \$2.00 to go to the theater - I am verry happy to hear of my Mothers enjoying such good health, and still attending her meetings whare I know she enjoys herself so well among her old acquaintinces - but that remedy she has found for rhumattic pains is very simple but I fear she will exercise too much. Knowing as I do that she believes in it so strong, I have nothing more at present. remember mi ----- William & Richard best wishes to Mother & family also to our absent sister and tell her to write to me

I remain your affectionate son

Peter J. Willys

NB I am verry glad to hear of of the conclusion you and Mother have come to that is sending Mary to a good school and thare keep her if your circumstances will admit- of rite she accomplishes her education.

Edward Dawson requests you to inform Alcade Dawson - his brother that he is living in Houston, and is doing verry well. He bought considerable land & and wishes them to write him at this place and to inform him of his uncle Levian whether he is yet living.

Envelope:

Postmarked Houston Texas July 12

Short A. Willys
Caroline County
Maryland

Hunting Creek, PR

Oistnarjed New Orleans La. July 16

This letter was received 3rd of August and Dated
28th of June 1839.
and answered 10th September