

COPY

Sept. 16, 1866

Dear Cousin:

After my best respects to you, these lines leave me & family well- I was at Brothers the other day & saw a letter from you the perusal of which gave me great Satisfaction. I was truly glad to hear from you, but sorrow to hear of the death of your dear Son and other friends.

Well cousin there has been so many changes wrought by the war that if I cannot give you a full detail in this. I went thru the War safe, served 4 years, went thru many hard fought battles; was wounded once and once a prisoner. I lost two Brothers, Robt & John, they died with Sickness near Shelbyville Tennessee. We were true Rebels & I am no Yank yet.- I suppose you heard of Fathers death- The rest of the Family are living- Mother has broke up house keeping. She & youngest sister lives with Brother James; & Grand Ma & Hannah with Joe. They live  $5\frac{1}{2}$  & 6 miles west of Franklin; were well last account. I live  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles South of Franklin with Father-in-law & Sister Huldah lives here, Sister Hattie lives 1 mile from me & Jane 7. I married during the war ( May 19th 1864). My wife was a Thomas Daughter of Z.J. Thomas and of course a cleaver girl,- We have a fine son 5 mos old call him Zebulen Mansfield. We are doing the best we can; the war broke us up. I lost pretty much my all, it is true I did not have much, but it was my all, but I only regret we failed in gaining our independence.

Crops are very short and bread will be hard to get in these parts an other year.- I taught School some three years previous to the war; and made some money, but times are so hard that it will not pay well in this country. I think I can make a living yet if let a lone. The State of the country is generally quiet with us; but there is some cutting up in adjoining counties.- While I was in the War I was at your Brothers (Flayles). I learned that the greater part of the old neighbors on the creek were Union men but I deputed it to their ignorance & some of them now Sleep in a yankess grave where no tear of Sympathy was ever shed. I do not say this to wound your feelings as I learn John raised the Flag against his Home.- I glory in your Spunk & may prosperity and happiness ever crown your pathway.

The family are all in the Church all are Methodist but myself and I belong to the Presbyterian Church. We have good meetings going on in these parts. The preacher who rides is by the name of Moore and the Elder's name is Richeson. They are good preachers.

Cousin I will have to quit as my hand is getting out of order. I have all most lost the use of my thumb & fore finger on my rite hand during the war and consequently I can scarcely write as you will readily see from this. I wish you to write to me and give me the news in general. Tell all the friends to write. Direct to Franklin Macon County N.C. Myself and wife send our best respects to you & family. Be sure to send Flayl and wife my warmest regards. Please excuse this hasty letter and accept the love and best wishes of your friend and cousin.

W.T. Anderson