1869.
Susan Ann Smith
Abyrdeen Miss:- 7. Decr.

quite fleshy. Susie with her interesting little girl, spent Novr. with us, it was very pleasant for us all to meet here with Thomasine she left on the 29th. as her Husband expected to meet her in Mobile, I expected to have gone down with her, but as Pickens was obliged to leave home to attend a Meeting of Synod in N. O. the present week they have prevailed upon me to remain and spend Christmas with them so that I now contemplate returning to Mobile on the 28th inst. I am glad to inform you that Julius is now at housekeeping, he has been fortunate in getting a house on very reasonable terms and commenced his new duties in Cotton as you know it is the first time they have kept house since their marriage, writes me, that they are getting on thus far very well, Sophia expects to be married this month, I think I mentioned in my last that he was engaged. I have not seen much of the young lady, as she resides over on the Bay but am told that she is a pious girl,

I suppose ere this Bot has left you & was very thoughtful in her writing to me the third time to have them Christ & replied to her letter soon after I came up here, & hope it has been received.

Your affectionate and interesting letter my dear Brother, has been duly recd. for which I now send you many many thanks, I expect you will be a little surprised when you see the postmark of my letter, as I presume you have had no tidings from any one of my movements during the past summer, and now my dear Thomas you must forgive me for not writing you before, for I have really intended and several times thought of writing, but owing to procrastinating, and my growing aversion to take my pen in hand, I have allowed the moments to pass until day after day and week after week have passed away, without my putting my threats into execution and now I am almost ashamed to tell you I have been here so long without giving you some account of my visit, I arrived here

Believing you to be a lover of truth as I am, I remain Your Obedt. Servt.
Susan A. Smith
Aberdeen Miss. Dec. 7th 1869
Dear Sister & Brother
I received your letter a few days since, while I was very sick, I am now better, I hope to see you soon, Please give my love to all, Your affectionate Brother

will engage this month, I do not know, as I feel that I may be disappointed, and I feel about as much pleased

the 8th of July, expecting to remain about three months with Thomasine, but it seems my movements are uncertain, for it will be near 6 months ere I return to Mobile. Aberdeen is quite a pretty Town, and could be much improved, the lots are generally very large, and in summer when fully cultivated it is almost like town & country combined. I have found the climate delightfull, no mosquitoes to contend with, and have spent a most delightful summer although I have not been about a great deal, but have kept pretty quiet at home and generally find something to keep me employed in assisting the children so that the time seems to pass very swiftly away. We had quite a large fire last Tuesday which destroyed 7 or 8 of the principal Dry goods stores, which falls very heavily on the merchants as they had just got all their goods and most of them doing good business. Pickens still has charge of the College, the building is quite a large one, and very pleasantly situated, just in front there is a mineral well, which is a great resort of a summer afternoon, and many think the water is very beneficial, the smell to me is much more unpleasant than the taste. P now has 50 odd scholars, and I believe his mode of instruction gives a good deal of satisfaction, he has engaged a Miss Cornelia in the College department, who is said to be one of the best Teachers in the South, Juliette still has the primary department, her little scholars all seem very fond of her, although she keeps them pretty strict during school hours, one of them said to her the other day, "Miss Juliette I do love you so much when out of school", a gentleman said that he was much pleased with the improvement of his two little girls who have been going to her only since Christ. she is fond of teaching, and either Aberdeen air or teaching agrees with her, for she was looking quite thin when she came here, but is now

hear of our lost relatives for it is certain that there can be any doubt about them now, I have never but once and that only in a casual way ever heard any thing about them & that was soon after their removal to Maryland we heard somehow that they were there in very reduced circumstances. I never knew any of the family, but have heard those who did, say that G. A. Z. Smith was so manager, frequently from home, so that his business was neglected, and in that way he became embarrassed, and I suppose he moved, with the view of bettering his circumstances but it does seem strange that he should never have written to any friend or relative in Carolina. No doubt you have had a full account from Mrs Poyas, who you know takes a delight in tracing relationships and besides is well acquainted with all the family. The last account from Charleston Sisters Ann & Dorothy were suffering a good deal, Is it not wonderful how D holds out. I must now cease, as my paper is full, The girls unite with me in much love to you & all with you, as ever your fond sister

she is a member of the Baptist church, her name is Seymour Bates, I really hope he has made a good choice, and that she will prove a helpmeet to him. So Emma has left you, and I suppose Susie will soon follow her example, does it not seem too bad for our children to leave us so, in our old days, but I suppose we cannot blame them, having done the same ourselves, they have my best wishes for their future welfare. Thomasine met Mr Charles Lanneau at Mrs Bowens last week, (he married a Niece of Mr B's,) when he gave her some account of you and yours, says you are looking well, and he sees but little change in E. he also informed her that Emma J was spending a short time with you, How does she like her Northern home. Thank you for the letters you enclosed for my perusal, Does it not seem strange that after so many years, and so many inquiries made, that we should now, and in such an unexpected manner

I am aware my dear Thomas your time is much occupied with your own business, but believing you feel interested in our welfare, induces me to write you this, begging you will assist us in endeavoring to obtain a situation for Mr Smith, you will no doubt agree with me that some active employment will suit him best, and perhaps in going up & down, so frequently you may hear of some place at the Rail Road office. It comes hard my dear Brother at our time of life to be so dependant even upon our children, although they are respectful, and willing to do what their limited means will allow, and none but those who have been somewhat similarly situated can enter into our feelings, still I do not wish to murmur, and pray to be resigned to the will of our Heavenly Father, who cannot err, and doeth all things well," Do tear this when you have read it, it is so seldom I see you to talk, I thought I ought to write, feeling confidant you will make every allowance for all I have said,

Yours with affection
Susan Ann

Susan Ann Smith
Ch. Glen — 1860 –

19th Janry 1863

My dear Brother

I received a letter from Julius a few days since in which he mentioned that you had kindly loaned himself, and brothers, the sum of $1000, and let me now say to you that we all return you our sincere thanks for this assistance, and hope the time is not far distant when they will be able to return it to you, with interest. I endeavour to exercise the most rigid economy in my household affairs, and have made the few hundreds the Boys were able to give us, go as far as I possibly could. It seems hard at our time of life, and at such times as these to be so perfectly dependant, but still I do not wish to murmer, but endeavour to view the hand of God in all our trials, & hope it will be sanctified to us, I know that I have much to be thankful for, our lives are still spared, and I have kind and affectionate children who are willing to do all that is in their power to promote our comfort, and

I often think too that we ought to feel grateful that we have so kind a landlord who seems so fond of us all, and takes such an interest in all our affairs, Pickens returned on the 29th, made every effort to find a home for us, and has at last succeeded in getting a house situated just at the suburbs of the Village, it is called Poole's Farm, and takes us about an ½ hour to walk into the lower part of the Village, it is also about a ¼ mile from the Female College, looks quite like country, and I am going to try my hand at poultry raising this spring. Houses in the Village are renting very high, we get this very reasonable $200, and do some little repairs, you remember when you were with us that I told you we felt fearful the house would be sold, however as time passed on and no message sent to us (not a word from the time Pickens took the house in the spring when Mr Elford told him the house was for sale) I was in hopes we would have been able to have kept it longer, but it was sold without our knowing any thing about it until the morning after, when Mr Smith walked out after breakfast one of the merchants told him it had been sold the previous afternoon Mr Elford did not inform us until 2 o'clock, & that the purchaser who was then residing in N. Ca. wish to get possession immediately, we left as soon as we could find a shelter for our heads, and have been charged rent for the few days we remained in the house after the 1st of January, and as this place has also been offered for sale, I fear if we are still compelled to remain here we will have the same thing to do over again, but perhaps you will say do not anticipate evil.

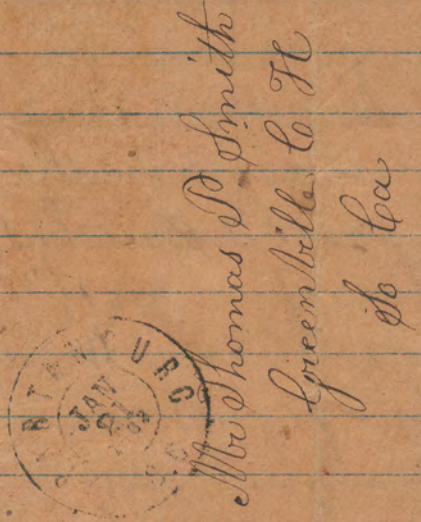
Emma Julia left her brown veil when she returned home, will send it over to her when I can hear of any one going your way.

I must now close as I know of no news that will interest you. My love to all with you and believe me to be as ever your attached Sister

Susan Ann.

Have you had any tidings lately from Brothers William, Archar, & Henry.

Susan Ann Smith
Spartanburg S.C.
Jan'y 19. 63



Mr Thomas P. Smith
Greenville C.H.
do

Susan Ann Smith
Spartanburg C.H.

21st June 1863

Sometime has elapsed my dear Brother since we have had any communication with each other, but it has not been occasioned by forgetfulness or a want of affection for I have several times thought of writing you, but a natural aversion to letter writing, and I find the older I grow, the more it increases so that day after day passes away and no letter yet written but as Fingilla informed me a day or two since that you had requested her through Julie, to let you hear more frequently of the welfare of the family, I have concluded to postpone no longer, but write at once to hold a little plain chit chat with you, which will be at least a relief to me, to open my mind to a brother, for I feel as though we are here amongst strangers, with none to feel interested in our welfare, the boys are still on the Coast, James and Seaton are still in the City, Floire and Julius are near their old station, and are now camping at Meggetts plantation, I was in dread & fear a few weeks ago, that the two latter would have been sent West, but as yet you see they are still near, and I trust will not be compelled to leave. Julius thinks he will be able to pay us a visit

with fresh butter, milk, milk & any thing nice.
Our little Jessie has been very unwell for several weeks but effects of the thing, he has fallen away very much.
Now are you all getting on, and do you still continue to be pleased with your purchase, all unite with me in love to you & your's
I remain your affectionate sister Susan Ann

next month, has not seen his boy since he was 6 months old, Sextus also thinks he will get a furlough the early part of the month, I have not seen him since the day we left Charleston, and anticipate much pleasure in their visits, What do you think of the state of affairs at present, every thing seems very dark to me, my mind is kept in such a constant state of anxiety & suspense, and our way seems so hedged up on every side, that when I take a glance into the future I feel almost ready to give up, and sink down in despair, at our time of life, with impaired health, and nothing to fall back upon, and at present not one in the family have it in their power to do any thing towards our support, if these state of affairs are to continue I do not know what will become of us, It seems the will of our Heavenly Father for some good reason that we should not succeed in any of our efforts, I have ever since I have been married endeavoured to use the strictest economy, Mr Smith has always been willing to work and has done the best he could, but you see how all has turned out, and now Horace & Julius have been trying for sometime to get a detachment from their company to find something to do that would render a little to our assistance, and in two instances when they could have obtained a situation, and applied for a discharge, they were told that not

one of the Artillerist could be spared, it seems so strange to me, when I hear so frequently of others that are getting detachments, you must not my dear Thos. think from what I have said, think that I am murmuring at the dealings of Providence, far from it, for I endeavour to view the hand of God in it and although our lot does seem a hard one to bear, still I desire to be submissive to the will of Him who doeth all things well, and desire your prayers that I may be supported under all the trials and troubles of life. If you can have any influence yourself or have any influential friends that you can take the liberty with, do let me beg you to do all in your power to assist them and I assure you, that the boys as well as myself will ever feel grateful. What prospect have you for a crop, and how does your garden come on, We have endeavoured to make the best of our land in planting corn sweet & irish potatoes, peas, pumpkins &c which I hope will turn out well, I have tried very hard in the poultry line, but do not succeed very well, as the fowls neither lay or sit well, the hawks too are bad so that the few chickens I have out seem to disappear very fast,

We hear from Pickens every week, he gives us very interesting accounts of the state of religion in his regiment and says he had never witnessed any thing of the kind, in fact he says in one of his last

letter, it seems as though the revival had just began, he dates it from the last fast day, has a service prayer meeting, and at inquiry meeting at 10 o'clock, and he says almost hourly someone comes to his tent to enquire what they must do to be saved, his Colnl (Kennedy) has become pious. On the 24th ult they held a communion season in the woods, which he says was a most solemn, and interesting time, he has been suffering much from a sore throat, and mouth, the Dr told him it was scurvy. Both of his brothers were wounded and taken prisoners at Chancellorville Waring was shot in the face, the ball entered one cheek, striking out several of his teeth, and passing through the other, strange to say not a bone was broken, Halsey was wounded just above the knee on the left leg, We were much relieved about them on Thursday last as Thomasine received letters from both informing her that they had been exchanged, and were then at the Hospital in Petersburg. Tell Julie that Fringilla has received the sad tidings of the death of Whitten Frierson who was killed in the same battle, he was killed instantly, was quite a pious young man, I saw a very pretty letter he wrote to F only a short time ago.

Poor Dorothy is still a great sufferer, at times she says the pain in her head and eyes are almost as great as when she was first taken, she is gradually wasting away, Hess Juliette has been in bed for several days

Susan Ann Smith
Spartanburg
2nd Octo 1863

My dear Brother

No doubt you begin to think that I have forgotten I am in your debt, but the case is not so, for I have been intending for sometime to write you, but really my mind seems to be all the time in such a bewildered state I can but old down collect my thoughts sufficiently to take my pen in hand, since I last wrote three of the boys have paid us a visit, Sextus came up in July on a furlough of 10 days, but was so sick had to get a physician to see him, who had his furlough extended 15 days longer, when he seemed better and returned, but had been in camp only two or three weeks when he was again taken sick, and the Dr there then gave him a furlough of 30 days, ~~when~~ he improved very much, before he left us, and had written me saying he was feeling very well and working very hard ever since he returned to camp, but last night I am sorry to say I got another letter from him saying that he was quite indisposed again, having no appetite at all, and a return of his old attack, which is an affection of the bowels attended with much pain, I feel quite uneasy about him for I fear if he is not relieved it may terminate in something serious. James

was also here about the last of July, he was looking very hearty, he was engaged in the last attack upon fort Sumpter, Julius paid us a very unexpected visit on the 19th Aug, for we had no idea of seeing him but are indebted to Mr Hudson Lee who got him detailed to attend to some purchases that he wanted and I believe thought he might meet with success in this neighbourhood. Horace has kept quite well and writes we he longs for his time to come. Pickens has been very sick in Camp with billious fever and inflammatory rheumatism he returned home on the 19th Sept and has been in bed ever since with constant fevers, and suffering much pain. Yesterday & today he appears better, he is very much reduced. Again my brother are we without a home, the farm we ask on was sold about 5 weeks ago, and every where so full I do not know where we are to go, besides the people have no mercy upon the refugees, Mrs Moffett's landlord has sent her word that she must pay $100 per month, or be out of the house by the 1st Jany, it is only a common wooden one. Campbell & Bennett have hired a house together just out of the billage and for which I am informed they pay $1400. It is now hardly than ever to buy provisions there is not a bag of flour, lb of bacon lard, or butter to be bought in the billage, not long since some of the gentlemen had a meeting with a view of putting down the high prices which I am told had provoked the farmers, and they say they will not bring their produce for sale and many refuse taking the confederate bills. It is really a melancholy state of things. We have only 4 or 5 acres of corn but I believe it will yield very well our potatoes are very small having had so much dry weather, What kind of a crop have you made? I have been suffering more or less with asthma for sometime not severe but quite enough to keep me from stirring about. Poor Dorothy is a great sufferer, the tumor is now eating away very fast, and she is in so much pain I suppose it must be approaching some vital part, she is very feeble. Sister Ann also looks very thin, Juliette Rogers and daughter have been spending some weeks in Spartenburg. You must excuse the manner in which I have written my letter, as paper is scarce, thought I would say as much as I could on one sheet, Virginia says she will write Julie soon, all unite with me in love to you and yours, Sister, and believe me to be yours with affection

Susan A Smith

Susan Ann Smith
Spartenburg 25th Novbr 1865

Believing my dear Thomas you would like to hear something of our movements I will hastily pen you a few lines, and no doubt you will be a little surprised when I inform you that we expect to leave Spartenburg as early in the next month as we possibly can for Alabama. Mrs Josiah Smith invited us some time ago to come on and stay with her, and again about three weeks since I received another letter from her giving us a most pressing invitation to make her house our home, and there with her during the war. Hower was with us when her letter was received we all talked and thought it over and have concluded to accept her invite. It is utterly impossible for us to live here, houses almost of any description large enough to accommodate our family are now renting from $1000 to 1250, and provisions cannot be bought, and besides it will only be involving the boys more and more every year. Pickens has been advised by his Physician and several friends to resign his situation

in the army, as they think he [illegible] able to a
return of Rheumatism from exposure, he seems
to regret very much being compelled to leave for he
says it was such a field for labour. The church here
is without a Pastor, and several of the members have
asked him to take charge of it, but the congregation
is very small, and I do not know what arangements
they will be able to make, but should they remain
I will then leave Susan with them.
Cousin Betsy came from Union today week to pay
us a visit, I thought on her arrival she was looking
as well as I had seen her for a long time, but that
night she was taken with a chill, and an attack
of erisipelas, was quite unwell all the time and left
yesterday still much indisposed, saying she would
send for a physician as soon as she got home.
And now my dear Brother I must now say Goodbye
to you and yours, and should we never behold
each others faces in this world, O may it be our happy
lot to meet in that better world above where parting
is unknown. Love to all. I remain as ever
your affectionate Sister Susan Ann

we had to make the best of it, and bundle in true Dickens style for we could get but one room, It was a great relief when I arrived the next morning at Hodock with all of our baggage safe. Everyone was provoked with the Conductor, I did says it was a scene of great confusion, some looking for their baggage, and others calling for members of their families & friends that had been separated. The delay prevented us from reaching Montgomery until Hodock Wednesday night, so that we missed the boat which left that afternoon, and so was compelled to remain until Friday (Christmas) the Hotel was full, the streets alive with people, and filled with carriages and vehicles of every kind, you could scarcely believe that there was war in our very midst, were it not for the wounded soldiers that would every now & then meet the eye,

We went to the boat about 8, but did not leave the wharf until dark, soon after getting fixed a gentleman came into the cabin with a little powder in his hand showing it to some ladies under his care and remarking that there was 7000 lbs on board, which was placed very near the boiler where he had picked it up, You may depend it

Susan Ann Smith

15th Janry 1864

In compliance with your request my dear Thos to write you on our arrival in Alabama, I will now take pen in hand and hold a little chit, chat with you, will not promise you a lengthy epistle as the pen of a ready writer does not belong to me, but will only give a few plain matter of facts relative to our journey, We did not leave Spartanburg on the 15th Ulto as I believe I stated to you in my last, we had so many trunks and packages I knew it would be quite an undertaking for Mr Smith to attend to us, and see to the baggage so I concluded to write to Headquarters and request a furlough for fifteen or 20 days to move us out but not hearing any thing about it for more than a week I concluded that my request would not be granted, Pickens was to have accompanied us as far as Augusta, but it was necessary for him if possible to be back by christmas so we then made up our minds to leave on

21st so you can well imagine what a relief it was to us the evening previous about sunset when we saw Jule approaching the house, soon after he arrived we left our house to spend the night with Sister Ann in order to be nearer the depot, We had hired a wagon to take our baggage down between 2 & 3 in the morning, We left Spartanburg with quite a full car, Mr Smith was very much indisposed, and before we arrived at Allstons he looked so pale, and appeared so weak I thought he would faint, (he had been complaining for a day or two previously) there was not a drop of water to be had in the cars, I had a small phial of brandy given me to put in my basket when Julius begged him to take a mouthful just as it was, soon after doing so he vomited which appeared to relieve him, but he continued so unwell all day it kept one very anxious, from Allstons the cars were crowded, a perfect jam, I feel no desire to be in such a crowd again, many could not obtain seats, and it often appeared at stopping places that where one went out 2 days would come in, We arrived at Columbia a little behind time which I suppose must have put the Conductor in an ill humour for he did not wait for all of the passengers to exchange cars before he blew the whistle and the train was in motion, Jule had no time after taking us to the car to return and see to the baggage, I do not know what we would have done (I suppose we would have lost almost every thing) were it not that Edward Mikell was with us, he had been in Spartanburg on a sick furlough and concluded to accompany us out, not a piece of our baggage had been taken from the Greenville train, so Ed called to Jule saying he would remain with our boy Abram and attend to it, it was really kind in him, for he could then find no place to lock it up, it was very cold and he left at the depot until 4 in the morning, Mr Smith, Julius, Fringilla, and the baby all seemed so unwell, and I really felt worn out, so we thought it best to stop at Branchville and wait for Edward but such accommodations

it marred my pleasure not a little, and I felt no little relief when I heard it had all been taken out at Selma where we arrived at 4 Saturday morn. We had rain all day and did not reach Elm Bluff until after dark, had to remain until Sunday when we left after breakfast in a hard rain and did not reach Ellens until 12 o'clock, having been nearly a week on the road, Our friends all appear glad to see us, and I desire to thank God for his mercies in providing us a comfortable home, and protecting us safely through our journey. We have had dreadful weather ever since our arrival, had a very severe sleet down the last week, Our poor soldiers how must they suffer, & when will this unholy war come to a close, what do you think of the state of affairs now, We are about 250 miles by water from Mobile, 9 miles from where we landed, every thing is very quiet here, a few days after we arrived two Yankee prisoners escaped from Cahaba, and were arrested in the Neighbourhood, Ellen says a year ago every body seemed to be much excited, but now no

one appears to apprehend any danger.
Have you heard any thing lately from David Henry
I have not heard from him in an age. Have you had
any tidings from Brother Stephen and how are they.
I have you see spun you out after all quite a
lengthy epistle, but felt I was writing to a Brother
who would be interested in our welfare, and to
have given you quite a minute account of our
journey. Frangilla found her Mother quite sick
she has been in bed three months, looks very badly
has a cough and often complains of her side. her two
youngest brothers have also been very ill, but are about.
When you favor me with a letter, tell me all the
news, for we hear very little of what is going on.
Send me word that Matt had received a letter
from Emma Julia, How are you all getting on.
With much love to one & all I remain your
attached Sister
S A Smith
(Happy new year to you all)
Direct Richmond P. O.
Dallas County, Ala

Susan Ann Smith
Abab^a
5th July 1864

Your affectionate letter my dear Thos dated 25th May has been duly received and to be candid I must confess I had long looked for a letter from you, and often wondered what could be the cause of your silence, but you see I am not disposed to retaliate and pay you in your own coin, but to let you see that your letter was appreciated by me, I will send you a much earlier reply and it was my intention to have done so a fortnight ago, but was called from home on a visit of charity, so that I had no time for writing, I have been staying with Virgilla (Jack the Nurse) went over on the 19th and on the 21st she again passed through another hour of peril, and made the living Mother of another fine boy, which they call Horace Waring I returned to Ellens last Saturday and left them both doing well, we reside about five miles apart and as every one is now very busy with the crops, and no one having a spare horse we at present only see each other occasionally.

Since I have last written to you my dear Brother we have indeed been made to drink deep of the cup of affliction and although it is upwards of 4 months I cannot realize it, it yet seems like a dream for I sometimes for a moment find myself looking forward to a visit again, and then the dread reality forces itself upon me that he is no more, that I am never again to behold him in the flesh, or hear the sound of his dear familiar voice, O Thos my heart bleeds afresh when I attempt to address you, but I desire not to murmur, God has seen fit to afflict, and knows what is best for us, I hope we have been enabled to look to him for comfort and consolation, and to say not my will, but thine O God be done, when our dear Horace paid us a visit in May he was then looking remarkably well, but truly we know not what a few days will bring forth, for we had scarcely reached Ala when he was sent to the Hospital, for 6 weeks his sufferings must have been most intense, but not a murmuring word escaped his lips, he never once alluded to the loss of his thumb, so different from his naturally sensitive disposition, I cannot but think our heavenly father had been preparing him for sometime for his final issue, for when with us in Spartanburg he seemed so very thoughtful, in fact his whole manner seemed changed to calm, subdued, several times I found him alone reading his testament, and we have every reason to hope that his sufferings were sanctified to him, Pickens writes me that he questioned him very closely as to his spiritual condition, and his answers were always prompt & satisfactory, with his dying breath he sent his love to us, that he could say more but felt too weak, and that we must meet him in a better world, how that precious message soothes the pain of separation, may it be the happy lot of each

one of us to meet an unbroken family around the throne of God, The night before he left he slept at his Aunts to be near the Depot, they say his manner was uncommonly affectionate and they were struck with several of his remarks, once he remarked how I hate that word goodbye, there may be so much meaning in it, he took a part of Ellikell's bed, who has since written to his Mother that he seemed uncommonly dull, and observed to him that he had never felt so much at parting with his parents and the family as he then did for he had a presentiment that he would never see us again oh, how soon was that presentiment fulfilled. It would have been a great comfort to us, could we have been permitted to surround his sick & dying bed, and to have taken the last long farewel, but God saw fit to order it otherwise, and was merciful even in our affliction, for near & dear ones were permitted to nurse him, and he had every comfort that he could desire, and it is some consolation to know that every thing was done, that man could do, strangers administered to his wants, even flowers were sent to him, I have often thought how few of our poor soldiers have been similarly situated, One was heard to remark that he never saw a man, who had so many friends, God put it in the heart of friends, and strangers, to act near to care for him, O that I had a heart to feel more thankful for all his mercies, and now my brother I will now return you my thanks for your kindness to my dear child, may God reward you for it.

I saw by the Charleston papers sent to Ellen by a neighbour, that James had been wounded, so you can very well imagine our state of anxiety & suspense as they did not mention the nature of his wound, and a few days after we were much relieved by receiving a letter from him, written at the hospital in Petersburg, saying that it was a flesh wound, just below the right hip, he had fever from it, and was in bed nearly three weeks, when he was transferred to Charleston, on the 10th Ult he went before the Medical Board, when they gave him a 60 days furlough, and I am pleased to inform you that he is now paying us a visit, he looks thinner than when I last saw him, and still complains occasionally of his wound. He paid Thomasine a visit, and Susan accompanied him to Ala, she has been very much indisposed for sometime, and thought the change would benefit her, Pickens & Thomasine were well when they left. ~~The~~ last I heard from Julius last week, he was on Johns Island near Church Flats, and quite well. Sextus is again in the Hospital, he has had the camp itch for sometime past, and now he says his whole body is covered with boils or sores, that he can scarcely use his left hand, or lie down

years, and I only hope she will have rain in due season but at present the weather is extremely warm and dry. How are you getting on, Have you raised much poultry, and how has your wheat turned out.

Direct your letters, Richmond P O, Care Mr G H Smith, Dallas County Ala.
Do you find any difficulty about letter stamps, I do not know how we will manage, for they cannot be bought at Mobile, Selma, Cahaba and several of the smaller villages where we have sent. Ellen begs to be remembered to yourself & family. Mr Smith and the girls unites with me in love to you and yours.

Your attached Sister

Susan Ann

there is now no regular P O where we can have them charged for our papers & letters are now brought daily from Cahaba by private individuals, or I do not know what we would do.

in any comfort. The physician of the hospital is a Brother of Dr Hodge Mrs Lincoln says he seems very kind and attentive to his patients. We hear from Josiah very often, in one of his last letters he mentioned that Mr Wilson had removed from Marietta to Columbus Geo. O this dreadful war, when will it end what a sacrifice of lives within the past few weeks.

Mr Smith's health has improved very much, I have had to enlarge all of his clothes, I have also been feeling much better the two last months. The last month we had a great deal of rain and as it commenced just about the time the planters began to harvest their wheat, every one felt apprehensive that a great deal would have been destroyed, but I believe it has turned out much better than was generally expected. The corn crops are now looking very well, but beginning to need rain, Ellens prospect thus far, I am told is better than it has been for several

Mrs Thomas Blythe
Cousins
Oct 1 1874

My dear Brother, your truly welcomed and very affectionate letter
dated 19th Septr, was handed me on the 11th, It is indeed
a long, long time since we have had any communication with each
other, and I fully agree with you that it ought not to be, no doubt you
think I am disposed to be ceremonious with you, but I do not think it
is in my nature to stand upon ceremony with my friends, although I
know we are such poor erring creatures we are sometimes apt to think
our letters not appreciated when they do not receive a prompt reply, some
time since while you were the subject of my thoughts I did then think
I would soon take my pen in hand, and hold a little chat with you but
day after day was allowed to pass away, and yet it was not done, and really
Thomas I have never felt such a repugnance to letter writing as I now do
even to the children it seems at times a task for me to write and
I keep putting it off as long as I can, the fact is, I have been going so much
from place to place, feeling settled nowhere, no fixed residence to call home
that it seems to me it has destroyed all my writing faculties, but I would
be doing injustice to my feelings my dear Brother did I not now send
you an early reply, and as you have requested give you some account
of our movements these many months past. You have been already informed
that during the latter part of the War we resided at Mayor Bowie's plan-
tation, after Pickens came out, and his Brothers were there also, Juliette
& myself had to make other arrangements, Susie remained with Pickens
until very shortly before his death, he was not strong for
this summer and I have
my dear Thomas I have
to beg a little indulgence
with you upon account
of your movements, I hope to
long a time will not elapse
before you hear from me
whenever this may find you
Cousins Blythe
has told her Blythe place
house of her attention
bought at the dwelling in
Carlyon St Edmonds is at
last marked, Mrs Scott of
Commerville is dead John
James, Hyde & Boyle &
Bien is a great sufferer
cancer in the tongue and
last accounts the cancer
last long. With much
love to your & yours &
a
attached & sister
Susan
1874
Where Thomas & Juliette
dell forgiving that
Hathy & Smith was
making inspector
last of his sheets a
fine woman.

Seatus remained at his Uncle Wm's) Julius brought us over to Carlonville in July 1866 when I spent some weeks at Cousin Frank Lee's, visiting as I use to Tuscaloosa. then Mr Theodore Lee, and his Sister Eliza invited me to visit them, of course I expected to stay but a short time ~~for I had no claim upon them~~ after spending 3 weeks, I spoke of leaving (for Jule was trying to find some place for me to board, although he would have had to borrow the money) when they kindly pressed me to remain sometime longer, At any rate they said until after Julius went to Mobile, and see if he could in any way manage to take his family down, as soon as he found it would be utterly impossible for him to do so, every thing so very extravagant (even in good times Mobile always had the reputation of being an expensive place to live in) small houses renting from 1000 to 1200 dolls, and no funds in hand to purchase provisions, furniture &c he more to say so, and even then they said I must not be in a hurry to leave so it was the 1st of Apl before I left their hospitable abode, having spent a little more than 7 months with them, it was too a great help to the boys for it enabled them to get fixed in Mobile, and to pay off some little debts before my board commenced, My time was spent most pleasantly, for I was treated just like one of the family, my washing done with theirs and I went in & out of pantry, kitchen &c at pleasure, in fact every member of the family both old & young were kind & attentive, I shall ever feel grateful for their kindness, for I had no claim upon them, even the servants seem so willing to do any little thing for me, for you know these days they expect to be paid extra, for every little errand they may attend to, I am now boarding at Mr Thos Dills, (who is a son of Dr Dill formerly of Edisto) teacher of the Male academy at Carlonville, and here again I desire to feel thankful that my lot has been cast among friends who are kind & attentive to my wants, they are plain, pious, Baptists folks, and like the rest of us these days

find it very hard to get on with a family of 6 children, all quite you
Mr D said it was not his desire to take any one to board, but know
our situation, he consented to accommodate me, that it was not his obje
to make money by it, but would merely charge enough to cover all o
he is in all his transactions one of the most conscientious men I ha
ever met with. I assist Mrs D sometimes in house & needlework, for
have but one small girl about, attend to my own chamber, which is q
a nice large one, and so situated that I can see every one that pass
through the billage, and like all country places, at times it is quite
Mrs D was a Miss Alison, her Mother a Miss Youngblood, and tells me sh
was bought up by old Mrs Benjn Allston of Georgetown, although
have no recollection of her, but says she knew our family, they were
sisters and both married the same gentleman, ~~at the~~ Mrs Allston stood o
Godmother for their first daughter, and I believe named for her, they
then Episcopalians, and at Mrs Allston's death she left her a legacy I think of $
which she has recently received, she is now a Mrs Lide and of course a grea
help to a Mother of 10 children, and do you not say worth being a God
for, And now my dear Brother does it not seem hard now in my old days to
separated from every child, not one near enough to call upon at an unexpe
moment, but I desire not to murmur for it is God will it should be so, and I h
for some good purpose, when I first came to Mrs Dills I thought I would ha
felt lonely indeed, especially at night, but our Heavenly Father has supp
me and I now go to my lonely chamber at night, without one feeling
fear, It is true the last three nights I have had a slight attack of asth
and I could not but think how much more pleasant it would be to
some one to call upon for as Mrs Dills chamber is at the opposite end of t
house, I would have to make a pretty loud call for her to hear, should I requ
her services at any time, My health however is better at present, than it h

been for years, for the past two years I have had but few, and very light attacks of asthma and seldom feel any of the pain in my side, the change of climate I hope has benefitted me, for the folks all tell me I have improved very much within the few last months.
Juliette lived the last year with a family, for her board only and taught their 4 daughters, she also had 3 other children which yielded her a small compensation, but as the gentleman is in no business, in fact it is a wonder to all his friends how he manages to support a Wife and 5 children, for he owns no property does not gamble, for he is a member of the church, but at the close of the last session, he told Juliette they would not require her services any longer as they could not afford to pay her any thing. during the vacation she staid with Joseph's family, and as there is no opening at all in this neighbourhood for a school, those who sent to the resident teachers heretofore, say they will not be able to send this year, she has accepted a situation about 6 miles distant to teach two daughters, gets her board, washing & $5 a month at first it may seem but a small compensation, but when board & washing are considered, it comes to something in the end but much better so than to be dependant upon friends for a home every thing is so changed now, to what it used to be, if we are even fixed in the city she will then try and get a situation there, for she will be obliged to do something to help herself, she appears pleased with the family, they are very plain folks and try to make her feel at home I expect to see her but seldom, but can hear from her every week. It is a very retired place seldom seeing visitors, but says she tries hard not to give way to the blues.
Julius got a situation last Fall in one of the oldest establishments in Mobile, and thought he was nicely fixed, but his prospects

were very soon blasted. He had been there but two or three months when he seemed to gain the entire confidence of Mr Elder (the other partner was a lady) so much so that when he left the City he called Jule into his counting room, gave him in charge the safe key, told him if letters came to the firm to open them, and reply if necessary, in fact left every thing to him, It was certainly paying him a great compliment, when they were older men & older clerks in the Store, In July they were entirely burnt out, but still retained him, discharging the others, he remained selling out what little stock they had on hand, as they did not decide until June whether they would continue the business or not, he then came up to his family, and I never saw him looking so thin, although he said he felt well, but it was separation from his dear ones and anxiety of mind about his future plans, I am glad to say however that before leaving he secured another situation in a large house (Hurxthal, Bruce & Co) and expected to have left on the 1st Inst, but his Employers have written to say on account of the yellow fever he must not come down until they write for him, I fear in the present state of the country and cotton at so low a price, that the merchants will be able to give their clerks but poor salaries, I understand in Mobile many of the merchants engage their clerks for the busy season as they term it, say from Septr to June, and at the end of that time, either dismiss some of them, or engage their services for the next season if they are pleased. Jule came up just a fortnight before the death of their youngest, he was a noble looking child, and a severe blow to them, it was so unexpected Dr Lee says one of the most rapid cases of dysentery he has ever

The two other boys are hearty looking chaps. Frangilla is also looking very thin. Scotus has remained in Mobile all summer and I am glad to say has been fortunate in getting with very clever men, (Saunders, Garner, & Co) and are much pleased with them and it is very gratifying to learn from different sources that he has given them satisfaction, and he informs me they have engaged him for the present year, in June they told him as there was so little doing, he could go among his friends, and recruit but they would require his services in the fall, but he candidly told them he had no other Home, as he expected to live in Mobile, and would be willing to remain, just for his expenses, both of the gentlemen have been away most of the ~~summer~~ (Mr S left early for the North) so Scotus with the bookkeeper have had entire charge, and I hope on their return will find every done to their satisfaction, before Mr Garner left, he told him if the yellow fever should visit the city he must not remain at night, but go ~~over~~ to the Bay, which he is now doing, coming over every morning. He was very sick about 2 months ago with neuralgia of the stomach, suffered intensely for a fortnight and was much reduced, but says he is feeling quite well again. Boarding last winter was so very high, the boys eat but two regular meals, hired a small room which they got at a bargain $10 a month, and having a bedstead & matthras ~~they~~ found it much cheaper. Recd a letter from James a few days ago poor fellow I feel so much for him, he seems so sad & depressed about his situation. I do hope he may be able ere long to get out here with his brothers, says since the Vessel he was engaged with

was burnt last spring, he has tried every where to find some permanent employment, but has not been able to succeed, that the morning he wrote me he had a few bills to collect, but was fearful he would not get any thing, for no one seemed to have any money, says the times are very gloomy in poor old Charleston, I presume it must have been after you saw him in June that he got a situation in a country store, across the Ashly ferry, and was only there a few weeks, when he was taken down with fever and so sick he had to return to the City, and for sometime after had chills every other day, in his last said he was feeling much better but so worried he did not know what to do, O my brother what a change in our once happy family, Now, so broken, and scattered. Pickens received a call from the church in Aberdeen Miss, and moved there in January seems quite pleased, the church had been much broken up during the war but many have now returned, and a few additions since he has been there, Thomasine says the people in & out of the church have been very attentive and on their arrival met with several little attentions which were very gratifying to them going among entire strangers. Susie is still with them, and now I must tell you she is engaged, and Decr is the time now fixed for the wedding, It is to a Mr George Walker, I have seen him often when we lived at Major Bonds, as he is next Neighbour to brother Wm family, I had no reason then to enquire particularly into his character, he is of a highly respectable, they have known him from his childhood, and say he is a moral, steady & industrious young man, so I hope Susie will do well, he has none of this worlds goods, and will have to depend upon his own efforts. I am sorry

to find from yours that Emma Julia's health still continues delicate and that poor Amy is still a sufferer. I had heard through Matt Lee of Jonathan's intention to study for the ministry. May his life be spared to be a good & useful minister of the gospel. I heard some time ago that your sister was engaged to a young Baptist minister, and so was quite surprised when I found she is still a school girl. Did you ever hear that Lexius old flame (Miss Fuller) had broken her engagement just at the close of the war, and soon after married Andrew Moreland. Well it is all for the best. Thank you for the information about brothers Richard & Henry. I never hear from them now. I had heard of sister Mary's death through Edith, but was not prepared for brother Wm's. We are indeed fast passing away, and O may it be our happy lot to meet an unbroken family, where there will be no more parting. The accounts from sister Ann are very sad, poor Dorothy still a sufferer, the cancer eaten deeply, & suffering from other complaints. Sophia's health miserable, in a low the bed most of the time, and sister A writes me she is herself just following Dorothy that her left bosom has broken out and the whole arm painful and yet she has so much to attend to, helps with ironing &c and not a cent, entirely dependant upon their friends even for their daily bread & frequently comes from unknown sources. Sarah Davis heart has been opened ~~many~~ and she has recently been sending them a little money which has enabled them to pay their rent. James informs me in his last that he understands she has offered to pay their expenses to the city & some friends are trying to get a room for them. I hope it may be so, for they may be able to get help from some of the society, how mysterious is the ways of Providence, that in their old & suffering days, they should be so reduced, and no relative able to help them. The Baptist association has just closed, not as many they say as usual in attendance, many prevented by sickness there is so much throughout the country. The church is just a pleasant walk from Mr Dills, they have service every Sabbath Dr Talbird the pastor is a native of Beaufort S.C. but many years a resident of Ala. also a prayer meeting on Wednesdays. The Episcopal church is within walking distance service twice a month. We have at present no preaching in the Presbyterian church, but that is six miles from the village. Ellen abides

she told I, that she had heard her Husband say, that he had been keeping store for 30 yrs, and had never had a clerk that they were so much pleased with. he has been working pretty hard lately, going to the Store by ½ past 6, (but he says with all his work and disturbed at night with the children, the baby teething and very fretful) he has gained flesh since his family have been down, I think now weighs about 138 lbs. Seatus is here with us, he too is still with his first employers, Sanders Garner & Co. he is much pleased with them, and I hear from different persons that they are equally so with him, speak of him as being very steady & attentive to his business, Have not heard from James for sometime, poor fellow I think of him night & day, his last letter said Mr Carroll had made a failure with his potatoe crop and he was then helping his hands in picking cotton, I do wish he was out here, had we been able to have gone to housekeeping this year, the boys would have tried to get him here, but as we are now

1869
Susan Ann Smith
Mobile 28. January
ans — 27 March.

28th Janry 1869

I expect my dear Brother, you will be ready to exclaim, wonders will never cease, here comes a letter from Sister Ann, to you see I am not disposed to be ceremonious, or pay you in your own coin, for no doubt you remember that you are in my debt, and I think too it is a shame, for those so closely related to stand upon etiquette with each other, but we are such poor selfish creatures, we are too apt to think that we are forgotten, or our letters not valued if we do not receive letter for letter, is it not too much the case, & as it is never too late to reform, so we must endeavour for the future to turn over a new leaf, and hear more frequently from each other, I have been for sometime past thinking of writing you, but somehow it seems as though the reluctance for writing seems to increase as I grow older, and frequently when I feel the disposition to write, I keep postponing from day, to day, until a much longer time elapses than I intended should

before I can make up my mind to put my pen to paper. As you requested in your last that I would sometimes write, and give you some account of our movements, so I will now endeavour to give you some little account that may be interesting to you, no doubt ere this you have heard through Matt Lee to Julia, that I have again changed my home and we are now in Mobile, who ever thought a few years ago, that this place would be my home, but the good Lord has ordered it all, & I can truly say he has led me in a way I knew not of, in all my troubles, I have much to be thankful for, I have been blessed with kind & affectionate children, & although they find times hard, are willing to do all they can for my comfort. Jule says he could stand the separation from his family no longer, especially after Fringilla's illness in the Fall it kept him so anxious & in such a constant state of anxiety & suspense, that it rendered him at times unfit for business. We are now boarding with Mrs Lockwood, (Widow of one of old Mrs Lockwood's sons, who resided in Broad St, she too has a large family & struggling for a living) he was very anxious to keep house, but could only get a house very high up the city so it would interfere too much with his business hours, so he consulted some of his friends, who advised him for the present to board, for the expenses of renting, buying furniture, &c would amount to pretty much the same, so for the present as things are still unsettled he thought it advisable to do so, & then should the fever break out in the summer, & his family be compelled to leave, he would then have a rented house on hand, any how his family may spend a part of the summer in Carlowville, so I hope if our lives are spared another year, we may then be firmly settled, Jule is still with his old employers, Hunt Thal. Bruce & Co. and I am glad to say from all accounts gives entire satisfaction he is now principal salesman, & in fact a great deal is left to his care, so I will tell you a compliment paid him by Mrs Bruce who called to see us, just after we came down,

them on their return, and has charge of the primary department, says she tries to be quite firm & dignified, and at the same time to make the children fond of her, she is fond of teaching & gave satisfaction to the Coleman's family she taught the last year, but he was anxious to get one who could teach his daughters music, and the want of that, is a great drawback to her, it really seemed as though a way in an unexpected moment was opened for her. I am glad to find she seems much pleased with her new home. I spent about 6 weeks with Susie in the Fall, went to be with her when sick, she became a Mother on the 5th Oct, has a daughter, which they call Thomasine, Melvira after a Sister of the Father, I have recently heard through a friend that her babe is a very fine & pretty child, they seem happily married, and he is certainly a very industrious & energetic young man. And now dear Thomas it is time for me to stop this subject, methinks you will smile and say why all of Sister Ann's letter is taken up in talking & extolling her children, but you know you requested me to tell you all about them, what they were doing &c. and so I feel confidant I am writing to a Brother who will make every allowance for a Mothers feelings.

We arrived at Mobile on the 5th Decr and have had terrible weather ever since we have been down, scarcely two days fair weather, We have all had bad colds & I still suffer more or less with my old attacks, but feel very thankful it has not been severe this winter, the children have been threatened with croup, the week after we came down, Screven was very sick indeed, the Dr visited him 3 times one day, says he felt very uneasy about him, having every symptom of pneumonia, after getting better, he was then taken with several attacks of regular shaking ague, he has missed them the last few days & hope he will soon get well. Have not heard from Charleston for a very long time, the last accounts both Sister Ann & Dorothy were still suffering, it seems a little strange that Brother Wms present wife is suffering from the same cause you

Reading marks his sister's letter as a young person

know his first wife died from the same) the Drs say nothing can be done for her.

When you again favor me with a letter, do tell me all you can about our Carolina friends, do you ever hear any thing of Cousin Betsys family, where is Aunt Eliza & family. Have you tidings from Brothers Archer & Henry every thing will be interesting to me. I see by the Columbia Presbyterian sent me last week by Thomasine the marriage of our Niece Edith to the Revd W. W. Mills. I truly hope she has done well for herself.

What kind of a crop did you make the last year, what prospects and arrangements for the present year, can you realize that nearly a month in 1869 has already passed away, O how rapidly time flies & what little improvement do we make of the passing hours. Our trials & troubles have made no impression upon us, gaiety, fashions & making money seems to be the all prevailing topic of conversation O that our heavenly father would have mercy upon us & revive his work throughout our

situate. It is impossible to do so, O that some way may ere long be opened for him. Pickens still in Aberdeen, & continues to be pleased, & has taken charge of one of the academies that the former President gave so much dissatisfaction that the school had pretty nearly fallen through, the Trustees spoke to him about taking it and without saying any thing more to him they held a meeting, and unanimously elected him President, and as the community generally seemed anxious for him to accept it, said he felt it his duty to do so, he was told that many of the children have already been sent to other schools, so he opened late in Octr with only 7 scholars, and when I heard from them last week, they had increased to 40, & one told he would have a good many more the next session. I paid a visit to his father in Sept, bringing Tom with him, he looks well, weighing near 200 lbs. I have never seen Thomasine looking better, she expected to teach some of the branches also, Matt I believe has informed Julia, that Juliette accompanied

1871
Susan Ann Smith
Mobile
July 1st

July 1st 1871

It was with much pleasure my dear Brother that I perused your affectionate letter of the 21st June, and now send you many, many thanks for it, and the pleasure was much enhanced by the consciousness that I was not deserving of it, knowing that you were not in my debt, it afforded me pleasure to see that you have not stood upon ceremony with me, for I feel guilty, and must crave my brothers pardon for my seeming neglect, I assure you it is not because you are forgotten by your absent Sister, for it was only a few days ago that I made the remark, I was ashamed of myself, as I had never replyed to your last letter, and thought I would write soon, but somehow it seems as though the aversion to letter writing increases with my age, and at times I find it almost an effort to take my pen in hand, often feeling the disposition, but thinking that perhaps I will feel more in the humor for writing the next day, and so keep postponing from day to day, until as you see I have allowed a very long time to slip away without writing. but I will endeavour to do better, and hope in future we will hear more frequently from each other, your letters I assure you are read with much pleasure and interest. I hope you will meet with success in your new line of business, but as you say if a man can only make a living

now in these times, he ought to be satisfied. but it so often seems that those who are the most conscientious & attentive, find it the hardest to get on, we can only look to God, and pray for his blessings on our efforts. I sympathize with E, and all with you in the death of Miss Susan, you must miss her much indeed, almost every account we have from Carolina, conveys to us the tidings that some relative, or old acquaintance have been called to their eternal home, & that it could make a deeper impression, for our time too is fast hastening away and may we so live that when the summons come, we may not be found unprepared, and O my dear Brother as we may never again meet in this world, may it be our happy lot each one of us, to meet in that better land, where parting will be known no more,

And now as I feel confident you would like to hear something of us all, I will endeavour to give you some account, and will commence with self, the folks all tell me I am looking well for one of my age (for on the 4th Sept I will have completed my 62nd year) my health has been better this last winter, as I have suffered but little from my old complaint, having had but slight attacks, but I have to be careful with every change of the weather, especially in the early part of the Fall, I have much to be thankful for, for I have been blessed with affectionate children, but at times I feel sad and broken up, and a feeling of loneliness comes over me, and one cannot help feeling sad, to feel you are entirely dependant. Julius is still at the same House, it has however made a change some few months ago, Mr Hunsthal having retired from business, so you must

now direct your letters to the care of Bruce, Anderson, & Tray, they still think highly of, and confide a great deal in him, but has never been so fortunate as to have his salary increased, so that with all the economy he exercises, find it very hard to get on. he is looking thin at present, and has been kept very closely employed for some weeks past in taking stock, says he would like so much to visit old Charleston once more. He has now three boys, Screven, Horace, and a babe 4 months old, called James Martin, I do not know if you ever heard that he lost his little boy, called after himself last year. Tringilla's health is not the best complaining frequently of headaches, & feeling debilitated. James was fortunate in getting a situation soon after he came here, in a Saddlery store with a Mr Ayers, I believe he has given satisfaction, but he complains of being kept so closely confined, especially during the hot weather, as he opens the store about 6, merely comes to his meals, & then does not come home until about dusk, but says he would not complain if they were doing business to keep him there, he is now looking very well indeed, and I hope being with Julius will have a good effect upon him. Sexton is also with the same employers Saunders, Garner & Co. he looks quite thin, but has been kept in such a constant state of anxiety & suspense for some months past on account of his Wifes health that I do not wonder at it, to be candid with you I will say he has been unfortunate in his selection of a Wife, her health was very delicate, but he seemed as though he was perfectly blinded about it, the last of March she was confined, had a fine son, but who died when 26 days old. She was very ill

~~than~~ since then has scarcely been out of her room, having fevers every few days, and she seems to have little use of her limbs, and he lifts her as a child, but the Drs tell her they think she will now soon get well. Thomasine & Juliette are in Aberdeen, Pickens is still President of the Seminary. and I believe has given much satisfaction in his plan of teaching, and were it not for the free schools, would have had a large school but as they are taxed very high to support them, many cannot send their children to the College, & pay their taxes. Juliette is very fond of teaching and the girls all seem very fond of her. Thomasine suffers a good deal from Neuralgia. I spent the last summer again with them, went up when the yellow fever broke out here (it was very fatal, not even the natives were exempt) the climate is delightful. Susie has two little girls, and poor child I am sorry for her, as she has written begging me to be with her in Sept. she has really her hands full, as she has also charge of an orphan Niece of Mr Mitchells about 8 years old, but she is one of those dispositions that seem to take things as they come, without fretting about it. she seems happily married. I suppose your little grandson is a great pet, and does it make you feel older to be called Grandpapa. I hope Susie will pass safely through her troubles. has Townsend a family. Jule begs me to ask when you write again to tell him candidly about the Mitchells, what they are doing, & how getting on, that he feels interested in them, and whatever you may say will be confidential. also ask if you can tell him any thing about the Browns. Where are the Steadman's & Aunt Elijas family. Have you any tidings from Brothers Archar & Henry. The Friersons have all returned from Honduras, and are now residing in Pensacola, passed through Mobile about a month since, and spent a fortnight with us, say they regretted having to leave that country they enjoyed such excellent health, climate so delightful, nothing would have made them do so but the want of schools, society (as many of those who went out about the time they died, have

returned,) and the want of religious privileges they have not been in a protestant church since they went out, all are Catholics, no respect paid to the Sabbath, the bible neglected, and they say it is astonishing how soon those who go out there fall into the habits of the country, so much so that some of the Natives have said they believed the English, and Americans, had no religion. the morals of the country too are much demoralized, so I presume they were anxious about their children, and so thought it best to return. They had fruit in abundance and say we do not know what a nice pine apple is, ought to be eaten just from the tree. We had a visit not long since from Elizabeth Wilson's eldest son, Stephen, and were much pleased with him, they reside in Greenville Ala, Mr W, & his two sons have charge of the R. R. Depot. And now my dear Thos it is time for me to say adieu, for I have sent you

quite a journal, which I hope will in some measure make amends for my long silence. The boys & Fringel unite with me in much love to you and each member of your family. Should you see my Sisters, do give much love to them, and say we are pretty well at present, excepting Sicks Wife. Write soon, and just as often as you can, and I assure you your letters will be appreciated by your ever attached

Sister

P. A. Smith

July 19th 1871

I wrote you my dear Brother quite a long letter ~~too~~ about a fortnight ago, which I hope you have rec'd, and you will no doubt readily conclude that some unusual occurrence has called forth another letter so soon, but from the contents of my last you will not be surprised to hear that death has been in our midst, and Sister has been called to pass through the waters of affliction, his Wife died on the 8th, she sunk very rapidly the few last days, and suffered a great deal, She was a member of the Baptist church & had been for several years, and I hope she is now safely housed above where pain & sorrow will be no more felt. poor Seth has indeed been afflicted, pray my brother that it may be sanctified to him, and bring him to the Saviour, who alone can give him true comfort in this his hour of affliction.
I have taken the liberty of enclosing a letter, which you will oblige me by sending to my Sister, as I thought it would be the safest and most direct way of their getting it.
Fringilla says tell Emma Julia to send her, her address, as she would like again one of these days to renew their correspondence also says she must send her, her & Mr Mauldin's photograph with their little boy as we would all like to see them, and you must send with them as many of you & all yours as you can,

for we would like much to be in possession of them.
Are the Miss Taylors still alive, and do they live in Charleston.
We are all pretty much the same as when I last wrote you, the
baby still continues healthy, but the weather is exceedingly warm.
As I have no news to communicate will say adieu, with
much love from your absent Sister

Susan

1871.
Susan Ann Smith
Mobile
July 16