

This is a letter from Paul Haralson in Yanceyville, N.C. to his wife Leannah in Social Circle, Ga.

Yanceyville 8th Jany, 1843

My Dear Leannah,

On the day before yesterday I received your letter of the 22nd but post marked 27th. And on this morning I _____ the letter of G.W.G (written at your request) of the 31st and you may well imagine the gratification it afforded me in hearing from you and my children, but the unhappy situation and condition of Col. Graves was a source of painful anxiety. I am truly glad & glad from my heart that you have not hesitated to do your part towards his relief. And here let me entreat you by every sacred tie that exists between you and Myself to do all you can towards the relief the comfort & happiness of your Father & Mother. Let it not be Said that he has a child that does more for him than you; He has been truly an afflicted man & he needs all the comfort that you can give. "Honor thy Father & thy Mother that thy days may be long upon the land. Which the Lord thy God giveth thee." - We, ourselves are parents; and if we should withhold our duty, and stand at a distance when it is in our power to help, consulting our own interest instead of our duty. I should be afraid that the Father of us all would Visit our inequities upon our own heads & not only upon us, but upon our children perhaps to the fourth generation - I want you therefore to do all you can. You know that all we are worth nearly _____ there and you can think what is best to be done, and do it. - If in the decision you should draw any Negroes that would not suit you, sell them & raise money. - I think I can raise about \$400 here in a few weeks perhaps days & that is all that I can raise which you can get by giving me 10 days notice, & the balance you must try to raise out there by selling property which you will be the best Judge of. - If the Land is divided and you take part of that, perhaps you could sell that to an advantage & if nothing else will do, perhaps you could sell your carriage & horses & we can buy again when we are more able; or any other way which I leave to your discretion * Judgment. - I think it would not suit us so well to take a part of the land as my wish is to go to Missouri. But I will not object to anything which you may do. You must remember that we are now on the lowest Spoke in the Wheel of fortune. It is now Struggle or die - We have heretofore been blessed. We have lived easy & comfortably. We have & loved together, and had our "good things" but "evil things" have come upon us & we are now "tormented" - And yet, thank Heaven, there is not a great Gulf fixed between us, and better times. And if we will not Stand here, "all the day long idle, we may yet _____ our "_____". - My greatest care is for my children; I can take care of you & I can make you happy & your situation a comfortable one - But that which I have always longed for & which I have prayed for (_____ the education of my children, disturbs me more than any thing else - I know that it is not that which they learn at School that is Knowledge that is true education;- But that is the Key by which the Store House of Knowledge is to be unlocked - It is the Means by which to acquire true Knowledge, and This Thing I desired my children to have More particularly My Daughters, for it would enable them (if they would use it to a good

purpose) to become Ladies, to go fourth into the World with a calm, collected firmness with a heart resolved on Virtue & Disposition to find the good which lies hidden amongst the trash of this life. This much I have done for Mary Graves, and if She will now for a Moment think about it, She will See that all She has learned at School is only the beginning instead of having finished her education. Her first care should be to receive Knowledge her Second, to retain it & her third & last is to bring it fourth when it is needed.- The _____ so far from being Labourious is the most delightful that can be imagined - & I pray God; that She may do it. - In View of this Matter She should lay aside all novels, tales, Romances, & trash of that kind, and fix her mind upon Books worthy of her trifles like Straw upon the Surface flow. He who would Search for pearls, must dive below. She should make the Bible the rule and guide for her faith and practice, and read the Bet authors on History. English History, American History, French History & Ancient History and Byography. The lives of the best and greatest men that have lived in ancient and Modern times, & when She reads she should think, Should Study, and reason upon what She Reads. In fact She should keep her tablet & make her notes upon all She reads, and at the end of every day, before She goes to Sleep, She should bring up before her as "Ruth did before Naomi and beat out that which She hath gleaned" and gather it into the g_____ for future use; - But what must I say about Ann & Leannah; Mary Graves is able & capable of teaching them as well, perhaps better than half the Schools in the country & it will not distract from her Merit or Standing in Society to do it. On the contrary, with every Gentlemen & Lady whose good opinion is worth having it will elevate her in this respect and esteem & endear her to the community in which She may live;- I have got to pay some person to do it & I now feel, that I had rather pay her than any body else. The most perfect Lady that I have ever seen (Mrs. Evelina _ Kerr) was once the School Mistress of a half dozen children in a Smoky hut then poor & penniless. But now the wife of the most gifted man & eminent Lawyer in North Carolina; her amiable Modesty, her benevolent heart, her Christian piety, and her intelligence & her learning, won for her a Character, which will last when She is dead and gone. I hope Mary Graves will take her Sisters under her care, & will love them & teach them & make them what their Parents & She would desire them to be when they come to years of Maturity. - She knows that I have confidence in her & that I love her, & I do hope that She will not disappoint me. ---

Dr. Roan & wife joined the Presbyterian Church today & took the Sacrament. - Nothing now since my last of interest - Old James Mebane had the tract Land sold for Badgetts Debt & Bought it @ \$35 -. Fanny Patillo & Wm Currie (Dr. Shelby's Brother) were married last week - _____ Tho Burton;'s wife died Suddenly last week of appoplisy. She fell at the Door Sill & was dead before any of the family knew it. - I cannot leave here without the Suspicion of avoiding responsibility, which I am unwilling to do until this Guardianship business is in some degree Settled. Allen Gunn has gone Mississippi & will return in the Spring, when I will know better what to do - Be contented, and do the best you can. The time will yet come when we will be in a better condition than we now are - - Kiss my children for me & comfort yourself with this assurance that no man loves a wife better than

Paul A. Haralson

Yanceyville 8th Jan'y 1843.

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You must remember, that we are now on the lowest spoke in
the wheel of fortune. It is now, struggle, or die - We
have hitherto been blessed, we have lived easy & comfortably
We have lived & loved together, and had our "good things"
but "evil things" have ~~now~~ come upon us, & we are now
"tormented" - Alas yet, thank Heaven, there is not a great
Gulf fixed between us, and better times. And if we
will not stand here, all the day long idle, we may
yet receive our "hire" - My greatest care is for my
children: I can take care of you & I think I can make you
happy & your situation a comfortable one - But that which
I have always longed for & which I have prayed for (vizt
the education of my children), disturbs me more than any
thing else - I know that it is not that which they learn
at school, that is knowledge; that is true education; - But
that is the key by which the store house of knowledge is
to be unlocked - It is the means by which to acquire true
knowledge, and this thing I desired my children to have
more particularly my daughter, for it would enable them
(if they would use it to a good purpose) to become Ladies,
to go forth into the world with a calm, collected firmness
with a heart resolved on virtue & a disposition to find the
good, which lies hidden amongst the trash of this life
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for a moment think about it, she will see, that all she has
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pray God; that she may do it. - In view of this matter
she should lay aside all novels, tales, Romances, & trash
of that kind, and fix her mind upon books worthy of her
Trifles like straws upon the surface flow
He who would search for pearls, must dive below
She should make the Bible, the rule and guide for her faith and
practice, and read the Best authors on History, English
History, American History, French History & Ancient History
and Biography. The lives of the best and greatest men

that have lived in ancient or modern times, & whom
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upon what she reads; In fact she should keep her tablets
& make her notes upon all she reads, and at the end
of every day, before she goes to sleep, she should bring
up before her as "Ruth did before Naomi and
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as well, perhaps better than half the schools in the country &
it will not detract from her merit or standing in society
to do it, On the contrary, with every gentleman & lady whose
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benevolent heart, her christian piety, and her intelligence
& her learning, won for her a character, which will last
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her sister under her care, & will love them & teach them & make
them what ~~they~~ their parents & she would desire them to be
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& Wm Currie (Dr. Shelby's Brother) were married last week - Capt.
Tho. Newton's wife died suddenly last week of Apoplexy
she fell at the door sill & was dead before any of the family
knew it, - I cannot leave here without the
suspicion of avoiding responsibility, which I am

no main laws a large better

Paul & H. Grayson

CERTIFICATE

Jan

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A. G.