

Letter to Charles Pickett

Franklin County, August 26, 1826

Dear Uncle Charles,

I have to inform you of the death of my father and your brother who departed this life after a confinement to his chamber and bed of about eighteen days. He was taken off with an inflammatory fever, but for about Eight years last past was at time more or less affected with the rheumatism and Palsy, the latter of which for the last three years became so violent at times that he lost his speach entirely, and appeared to confine its self mostly to the right side and which last mentioned disease continued until his death. He made his will a few days previous to his death and appointed myself and Brother William as his Executors, it consequently became my duty to have the Estate settled as soon as the laws of our stzte will admit of the business of the Estate -

As the Estate is somewhat embarrassed and several heavy law suits pending and no certainty which way some of them will terminate - Our crop very ordinary and there being from present circumstances a probability that we shall obtain but a very low price makes me somewhat uneasy -

I therefore wish to know of you what I may calculate on from the suits which my father in his lifetime was concerned in either in your state or North Carolina - you will please advise me as soon as convenient and let me share the whole situation of the business in as full and clear a light as you well can as I velieve you as well or better enabled to give me the necessary information as any of my uncles. I have addressed Uncle James on the same subject - and further that if there is anything. Uncle Micajah, Junr. is entitled to his part _____ as much or in need of it now than he ever has been, as well as any time hereafter, his being destitute of Property and no friend here that is able to assist him in any way whatever, I would freely do anything even in a situation so _____ I can't find time , had I it in my power - so would, I believe my brothers were they of age, but myself and Brother William are the only two that are of age and we have notheing until the whole concern of my Father's Estate is fully and finally settled we can do nothing for his as executors - he has but a single horse a few cows and calves and some little household furniture - his wife brought him at what he is now at and I am fully convinced(?) had he as much now it would go in the same manner that the first did.

We have _____ times in this county every man is owing more or less (one line illegible) and consequently money very scarce and times hard.

Our Relatives are generally well with the exception of my Brother John's little Daughter and one of Sister Mary's children but am fearful that we shall yet have a very sickly year. I hope these few imperfect lines will find yourself and family as well as as all our relatives enjoying better times, health and Spirits that what Mississippi affords at present - We have been sorely afflicted here with the draugh which set in about the 10th of June and with the exception of a few light showers which done little or no benefit, has continued dry this long in consequence of which

i am fully of opinion from what I can learn that there will not be a full half crop of cotton made this year -

I am dear Uncle
Your nephew,

Rufus K. Pickett