

Ballinger Sep 23rd 186

My dear Son's Daughter

I received your letters quite some time ago, but have not answered them because I wanted to wait until about time to go back to Austin, and so we will leave the ranch on the 25th of this month. It rained today and the weather here has been very dry and warm -

has to move his cattle to where there is grass - it will take about three weeks and so we go back to Austin while they are gone.

I am glad to hear that you have put Willie to a trade, I hope he will be a good boy and learn his trade good, and I hope Will will be making more time than when I last heard from you. I have been sending him the "Republic" a paper that we all like - I hope he will like it if he does you must write and let me know and I will take it by the year for

him, as I can get it cheaper by the year than buying it by the copy. it is one dollar a year - there are no pessey papers in this country. You say that you are a member of the corporative store - I would like to know how much interest you get on the pound by being a member? The reason I ask you is because I would like to know the best way to invest money in England. I may sell my house in Austin some time and come to England, and if I do I want to put my money some place where I will get

hard. Is the land you live on free hold land or how is it - and if it is, is there any more land of that kind near you. What is the price of lots near you - say 50 feet front and 100 back. Times are very hard in this country now and I suppose perhaps they are in England - you say that Will has been on short time - why is he on short time? tell me when you write.

You said that Will was making the childrens clothes on the sewing machine and I was glad to hear it. I received the picture

of you and your family - was sorry that you had so much trouble in getting it taken but think it is a very nice picture - Will is a fine looking man, and you are a fine looking woman, and your children are all nice pretty and well kept looking children. I would love to see you all very much - if Will's mother has hers and the babies taken I would like for you to send me one.

Now I want to write Willie a letter so will close with much love to all of you from your affectionate Mother.

My dear grandson.

I received your nice long letter a long time ago - and was so glad to hear that you had been having such a good time taking trips around. You said that you went to see "Buffalo Bill" - he is in America now and has a big show at the "Worlds Fair" in Chicago. You spoke of the horses and the men riding them - we have wild horses here on the ranch and the men ride them and they pitch all over the place and follow like cows - the other

day one jumped and pitched so hard
that when he ran as far as the rope would
let him he fell and broke his neck and
died right on the spot. I tell you we have
big times here and I wish you could be
here to see how things are done in this country
on a big ranch. There are so many cattle
here and they brand them with hot irons
and mark their ears by cutting them in
certain ways with sharp knives so that a
man will know his cattle and no one
will take them away. Every man has
a brand of his own - this is Mr Smith's

and it is put on one cow's side with a
hot iron and always remains there.

You must give my love to Minnie - George
and Albert and tell them to write to me
no matter what they write about I will be
glad to get the letters. Give my love to your
Grandma and kiss your Papa and Mama
for me. Be a good smart boy and learn
a good trade so that you can make plenty
of money when you are a man. Send your
next letter to Austin in care of V. H. -

Your affectionate Grandmother
B. A. Appleby