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Letter from Origen Sibley to George Sibley, January 20, 1840

Origen Sibley

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Blakeley Ala. 20th May 1840

Dear Cousin,

Having availed myself of a visit from your brother Rufus, to obtain your address, I embrace an early moment to make use of it. Having remained strangers to each other with a tolerably advanced period of life, I trust I shall not be thought otherwise in commencing a correspondence, which although it may be met and preserved with the vivacity of youth, may still be productive of some satisfaction to you, as I assure you it will be of very great pleasure to me. We were agreeably surprised last spring with a visit from your sister Helena- and a few weeks ago still more so, from a second one, accompanied by her sister Henrietta (Mrs. Chapenaw) & her brother Rufus. They are two amiable & excellent women, & Rufus seems to be a young man of much promise. They leave Mobile to day for N Orleans where Henrietta will proceed to Natchitoches & Rufus wither accompany her, or proceed directly to Missouri, where he may arrive as soon as this letter.

I have resided in Alabama since 1821, & about that time met your father in N Orleans, & spent some time with him, during his attendance as a senator in the Louisiana legislature. He often spoke of you, & also of your other brothers & sisters, but I never learned your address until the present time, or if I did have long since forgotten it. My brother Cyrus resides here also, having been my pioneer by some 12 or 15 years. His age is about 56 & mine 40 years. We have accumulated a comfortable competency, & are both married; he has 5 children & I have two.

These little details are always interesting to me. & judging from the usual tenor of your brothers letters to me, & the somewhat hereditary transmission of temperament from father to son, they be so to you. If they be not, this part of my letter has at least the merit of brevity.

There is another matter one of a __ nature, which I wish to introduce, ad regard to which, you will oblige by favoring me with an early answer. I allude to the growth of the ___ or a choice mulberry tree, which although you may know but little of west of the river, still you cannot but ___ my brother Cyrus & myself together with some of our neighbors, have some 50 or 60,000 trees which a dew more ago promise to yield us a handsome speculation but from present appearances, unless we can find a market at the west, bid fair to turn out like the gable of the miller maid; for although we had not fully determined on the ___ of the grown, we had not failed to estimate the effect of a good price on the state of our finances. Or such cost no but little consequently we shall lose nothing if we do not sell at all, as we are confident a fair business may be done in feeding the worm & making silk; still as we have made more tress than we want for that purpose at present, we do not feel disposed to pretermitt any exertions to turn them to the last account. Ou will therefore greatly oblige me by saying what prospect there may be of disposing of them in Missouri, or another of the western states, as for as your own information extends. I will send an agent with them if 30 cents or upwards per tree can be obtained. They are from 3 to 10 ft. high & well branched. Pay a best respects to your family & between me.

Respectfully & truly y

Origen Sibley