

Blakely Ala 20th Jan'y 1840

Dear Cousin

Having waited 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 until a tolerably advanced period of life, I trust I shall not be thought obtrusive in now commencing a correspondence, which, although it may not be met and persevered in 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 Helen - and a few weeks ago still more so, from a second one, accompanied by her sister Henrietta (Mrs Chapman) & 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, whence Henrietta will proceed to Natchitoches, & Rufus either 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 Father's letters to me, & the somewhat hereditary transmission of temperament from Father to Son, they may 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 pecuniary nature, which I wish to introduce, and in regard to which you will oblige us by favoring me with an early answer. I allude to the growth of the Morns, Mullicaulis or Chinese mulberry tree, which although you may know but little of west of the River, still you cannot but have heard of it. My Brother Cyrus & myself, together with some of our neighbors, have some 50 or 60,000 trees, which, a few months ago promised 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 fable of the milkmaid; for although we had not fully determined on the cost of the gown, we had not failed to estimate the effect of a good price on the state of our finances. Our stock costs 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 more trees than we want for that purpose at present, we are well disposed to pretermitt any exertions to turn them to the best account. You will therefore greatly oblige me by saying what prospect there may be of disposing of them in Missouri, or in other of the western States, as far as your 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. Make best respects to your family, & believe me —

G. C. Sibley Esq
St Charles Mo

Respectfully & Truly yr
Origen Sibley