

Birdell June 5 1860

Dear Brother Joseph

I drop you a few lines letting you know that we are all well hoping when this reaches you they will find you and family in the enjoyment of a reasonable portion of health I have written you some three letters but have not received any answer as yet I never have received but one letter from you yet, in all three of the last letters I written I requested you to send me some money if you could collect it I need money very bad at this time I am nearly out of money I have bought a good many cattle than the boys that is William and James have gone to the Chactaw nation to buy them a lot of indian ponies they started yesterday they will be gone some two weeks or more they are in company with three young men from Kentucky whom we live neighbors to here I think they can make it a profitable business to bring ponies from the nation here and sell them people have lent their wheat here, wheat has turned out better than was anticipated for I helped to harvest one day it was the best wheat I ever cut we think there was from 20 to 30 bushels per acre we have cut about 12 acres of oats they are good our corn is very good it is silking and tasting it needs rain very bad if we get one good rain in the course of a few days there will be fine crops of corn made here but I am fearful that rain wont soon enough for the corn, if the corn crop should fail bread stuff will be hard to get here next year there will be plenty of mast to fatten the pork that will be a great help but if corn comes good there will be a plentiful time here next year the farmers are holding their wheat at one dollar and fifty cts per bushel now if corn should fail wheat will sell at 3 dollars per bushel if the corn crop should fail I would advise people to stay a way from here next year or bring their bread stuff with them the reason that grain sells so very high here there is so many people here that dont farm any particular in the Western Country where they have not gotten farms opened yet I have taking a trip out west from here I seen some fine country

Out on the Brasos river the Brasos bottom land is as good land as I ever saw and very cheap can be bought at from one to two dollars per acre corn looks fine in the bottom lands on the Brasos my calculations are to make that country my home I like that country better than I do this On several accounts Range is better water is plentier and better out there than it is here than land is much cheaper out there than here Mat Booth has bought him a farm of 140 acres for which he paid 840 dollars for Mr Boaz a Kentuckian I give 1500 hundred dollars for 230 acres I can buy better lands and a breadeal cheaper but west, then I think it to be a healthier country than this there is some very mountainous country west of the Brasos it is said by those who live out there that it is one of the healthiest portions of the United States they say there is no such thing as chills & fever out there people will here some I want to go out there shortly and procure me a home somewhere about the Brasos River the brasos is a great stream for fish they are very plenty game is plenty out there such as Deer and turkey some pair and panthers occasionally a cougar, Joseph I am highly pleased so far with this country if I see nothing worse than I have already seen I shall be well pleased with my move if I had one of the best farmers in Washington I would sell and come here if for nothing else only the advantages that young men have here any young man can procure him a good home in a very short time I should advise the young men of Washing that have no homes to come to Texas where they can get homes and there good homes if I was a young man and was in Tennessee I should not stay any longer than I could get a way this is the easiest country to make a living in of any place I ever saw land will produce wheat so good then you dont never have to clover or improve it any no manure to haul out no briars to cut out of the fence corners fence rows are perfectly clean of everything but grass when they get their wheat thresed they burn the straw up dont put up any ruffness for the cattle at all some feede their horses a little but there is thousands of horses in this country that never gets a mouthfull of feede

Only as they picket We tended Our crop intirely without
any grain for Our mules Our mules is in very good Order
Will soon get fat this is the best Stock Country in the
United States Some Men here have from ten to fifteen thousand
head of stock cattle Some have hundreds of head of horses
they all do well, cattle is as fat as they can wallow i have near
One hundred head and if i had the means i should buy two or
three hundred more, Stock buisness is very profitable here a man
Make Money faster here in Stock than any other way he may
try farming is a good buisness to follow but it wont pay as
fast as the Stock Buisness Where a Man has got a good deal of
force he can farm and stock raise both at the same time
Wages is good here Most any common hand can get 20 Dollars
for Month Mechanics Wages are good house Carpenters Carpenters
Well Brick Masons get \$2:50 per day if i Was a Carpenter
this is the Country i should want to be in Joseph i Do heartly
wish you could see this Country Once i think if you was to see
it you could not be saticisfied in Tennessee any longer if you
had the Capital investid in land and Stock that you have there it
would pay you much better here than it Dos there after One year
Start here a Man can live much easier here than they can there
i think this a much better farming Country than Tennessee the people
here have to labor under more disadvantages than they do in older
and more improuce Country for instance Groceries sell a great deal
higher here than in Washington Salt Sell at 7 and 8 Dollars per
Sack Milling is not as handy here as there tho we get as good
flower here as any need for fruit there is none there is a few
orchards in the Country i have not seen Only one apple
orchard in this Country tho i think fruit will grow as well here
as in Tennessee after they get the Central Railroad completed
farther up north than Our Groceries will be as cheap here as
they are there all this north western portion reads is Railroads to
make it one of the best Countries in the Union and it wont
be long till the Central Road will reach up here if Ever the
pacific and El Paso Road is built it go through this County

there is no doubt but it will be built, the Indians have done
considerable Damages on the frontiers of Texas they have stolen
a vast number of horses also have murdered a good many
People there is an army of rangers on the frontiers now that
will bring them under subjection Or kill them off i want
to take a trip South West as soon as i get my cats up when i
was west before i was in the Indian range where it was dang
erous for Men to travel unless they was in Companies of 10 or 15
the Country i purpoe going to see on the next trip is not in the Indian
range there is two portions of Country i want to see yet Before i
purchase any place One is Wray County on Red river it is said to
be one of the finest Countries in Texas The Brazos, the Trinity and
the Red river all head in this County it is not settled yet Men
tell me that has been there that it is one of the best Stock Countries
in Texas they say the grass grow as high as a horses back, tho i
would rather live in this Or adjoining Countries than
Back in Tennessee,

Amatiza to Ma Well Ma i am
Well also well pleased tho i should be better pleased if We was
settled on a farme of Our own true i hope it wont be long till
We will get us a home, My garden is good We have had beens to
Eat for three weeks My Cabbages look fine Sweet potatoes vines cover
the ground in fact every thing that i have planted look like it will
do well there is four of the children going to school We are all
well saticisfied with Our Exchange of Countries there is none of
the children that wants Back to Washington they say they would
much rather live in this Country i should like to see you all
also all My Old friends and connections but that will hardly
ever be the road is too long to pay visits tho i hope to see some
of My friends and acquaintances home to this Country yet i have
nothing much to write Give My respects to all your children also to
the Connection Yours truly Amatiza Bowman Joseph i want you if you
please to attend to the Collecting and forwarding on My means as they fall
due by looking it will confer a very great favor on your Brother
truly Yours Bowman P.S. Dont forget to write often Give Me
all the news of importance So i shall write often to you

that in i dont want him to fail to pay me
against or before that time if he failes of course
i cant help but fail then i shall loose what
i have all ready paid on the land if i could have
sold my stock i could have paid for the farme but
i could not sell my stock for cash on the account
of the drought the grass in the western country is
burned up the stock pasers is taken a sear at
it so i shall have to keep my stock till next spring
i dont want to sell any stock attall if Mr Deader
ick can forward me all the money that will be
due me by the first of September i then can do
very well, Joseph i dont want you to fail to attend
to this matter for me upon this depends my all
i have paid out money too close that is bought
more stock than i should have bought thinking i would
have gotten some from Tennessee before this time i am all
most out of money nothing but money will buy
wheat or flower and i expect to have to pay 200 for bushel
for wheat so you see that i need money very bad at this
time i want you to strictly attend to this for me if
you cant collect any money for me write the reason
why you cant tell me all about it i am in a country
amongst strangers i cant here as i could there where i
was acquainted give me some news concerning some
money whether you can or cant collect any i am kept
on expences not knowing what to do or how to do i have
never recd but the one letter from you as yet have written
you some 7 or 8 but have yet any answer writes
immediatly on the recpt of this dont fail to write
Direct yours to plans Collin County Texas so i shall
close for the present we all give our respect to you
and through you to your family V Dearain your Brother
truly Benjamin Bowman

The
Birdville Texas July 24 1860
Dear Brother Joseph
I seat my self to drop you a few lines in order
to let you know how we are, we are all well at
this time when the summer comes is hard i hope
they may find you and family in the enjoyment of
good health i just got home to day from taking
my stock of cattle and horses to better range than
is in this country where i have taken them the range
is fine stock will do well in that section Joseph
there is a great excitement in this country on
the account of negros rebellion abolition Emmissary
are going through this country instigating negros to
burne the towns and kill there Masters there has all
ready been some 12 or fourteen town burnt Dallasville
is burnt intirly up and many others ^{towns} that i could
name the people of Dallasville have sustained over
a half Million of losses they caught one of the
abolitionist last make and hung him up to a limb
without fug or fury tho they had proof sufficient
to justify there course it is dangros for a stranger
to travel through this country at this time in Dallas
country they are whipping about thirty negros per
day the negros are confessing all about the plot they
say that the abolitionists have promised them there
freedom if they would burne all the towns down
in the state also they was to breake out on the
sixth day of August when the men was all gone
to the Election than kill all the Minniam and child
men that they could all the likely young ladies they
they was to save for wives for themselves these
secret Emmissaries promised them that they would
be here with an army from Hancey about the
time they negros was to breake out this they have proof

of from hundreds of negroes. What will be the
Result of the strife God Only knows now for the
Crops Our Crops in this Country is very short on
the account of the severe Drought. Such a Drought
it is said is unusual in this Country the Corn in this
Country is burned up if there was fire put to it this
Evening it would burn up we are not making any
Corn at all scarcely there is plenty of Cornfields in
this Country that will not make 3 bushels for acre
also all the Countys West of this Starvation is staring
them inevitable the people will have to suffer if
they dont leave for some Country where bread stuff
can be had i have been West in a good many Countys
there is nothing scarcely a making at all in Parker
County they have made a little wheat they are selling
it at 2 Dollars for bushels, there is the Countys
of Parker Palo Pinto Erath Young Lack Wise and
Buchanan that there nothing scarcely at all made
this i know to be so for i have traveled through
those Countys, also in Estlin Texas i am told
that the Crops have failed measurably they
have not made enough grain to do them there is
enough grain made in this Country for Bread and
Seed if properly Divided in Dallas and Collin Countys
there is a surplus of grain they can spare a good deal
of Bread stuff the they will sell very high wheat
sells at one Dollar and Seventy five to 2 Dollars for
bushels flour at this time sells at the Mills at
for six Dollar for hundred and so telling how much
higher it will get by spring, Oat Crop is very
good in several Countys around here Oats is selling
for fifty cents for bushel if must hit porke will
be plenty if must should fail there will not be
any porke scarcely at all fattened Because there

to fatten porke with cattle is fine and fat
horses also is fat, the weather has been excessively
warm for about four weeks the thermometer stood
at one hundred and twelve for three days at the
heat of the day, the heat was extremely oppressive
it is said by old settlers that last winter was the
coldest they ever saw in this Country also this summer
is the warmest they ever experienced in this Country
Joseph i have bought a farm in Collin County
some fifty miles East of here that is the best part
of Texas i have found yet in all my traveling round
in the region where i have bought the land is fine
and rich as rich lands as any lands crops is good
on the farm i bought extremely good for the season
also in all that section around there is fine crops of
Oats also plenty of Corn made i have bought a fine
and desirable farm with good water on it, in a section
of the best range i have found in Texas also in a section
of the best timber i ever saw in the State i have
taken a good deal of pains in looking around to find
a Country the best adapted for farming also good
water good range timber and all conveniences combined
Mills or plenty and good in fact summing every thing up
together it is ~~the~~ decidedly the best Country i have found
yet in Texas i desire moving next week to it if
nothing happens to prevent me Joseph i have got
Corn and Oats enough thrown in when i bought to
do me the house that is on it is not sufficient to do
me i will have to build a house tho i got lumber ready
enough thrown in to build a good house i shall go to
building shortly Joseph i owe one thousand and fifty
Dollars yet on the place which i inform you to
see Mr. Deadrick and get him to forward the money
on i have until the first of next March to pay