

State of North Carolina

New Hanover County Aug 7. 1853th

Dear Cousin I received your letter on the 24th July dated the 4th which gave me great pleasure to hear from you and to hear that you and family were well and hope this may find you and family enjoying good health and your Brother James and family enjoying the same great blessing of Almighty God which is the greatest of all blessings, myself and family are all in reasonable health at this time, my Mother Brothers and Sister are all well with slight exceptions, Robert & John Bannerman's ~~and~~ families are all well the girls is all living and doing pretty well save Hester Jane who died about seven years since your Old uncle Robert Bannerman died some twelve months prior to the death of Hetty, Lewis Saunders and family were well when I last heard from them Old Cousin Peggy Saunders ~~has~~ ^{has} ~~been~~ ^{been} dead some five or six years Robert T. Bannerman has nine children six daughters and three sons his oldest daughter was to ^{Mary} C. J. Williams last Spring and lives near her Father, John has eight children seven daughters and one son none married my self or Rebecca has five children three daughters and two sons living, Martha Jones has five children three daughters and two sons when I heard from her last she lives on the north west Bladen County some fifty or sixty miles from her Brothers and Sisters, my Brother Thomas is married and is living in Wilmington keeps a hotel there he has ontly one child a daughter Rebecca A Lumb my ontly sister has two children one son and one daughter my two younger Brothers neither of ^{them} has ever married

both lives with Mother who is getting quite old
and feeble near Cousin I am sorry to hear of
your misfortune in losing your companion in
life I deeply sympathize with you but Gods will
must be done it is his to give and his to take
and we must comply with his demands for as
the Apostle Paul says for to me to live is Christ
and to die is gain, I am glad to hear that you
and your wife were members of Christ Church
also your Father and Mother and Brothers for
the ^{promis} is blessed use they that die in ^{the} Lord
Near Cousin you state that you had written wost
a year for five years or in other words it grieved
you that my Father had bin dead over five years
before you heard of his death not withstanding
you wrote wost every year, I assure you that
we have never received but one letter from
you after my Fathers death and that I am
wost soon after I got it, and ~~I~~ I have ne-
ver heard the first silable from you since
untill you wrote me which I was exceedingly
glad to receive, I hope you will not think it
was negligence in me or any of us for not writing
you sooner for I assure you had we received
your letters they would have bin answered
you must write to me and tell your Brother
James to write to me for it affords me great
pleasure to hear from my relations though I
never saw them and I hope it may be our
happy lot to all meet in Heaven where parting
is no more, direct your letters to Bannermans
Post Office N. C. New Hanover County
Grace be with you mercy and peace from God
the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ is the
Prayer of your affectionate Cousin Sam^l P. P. P.

I forgot to mention Eliza Ann Coffin your
old uncle Robert Bannerman's oldest daughter
she is a widow and has bin for the last twenty
years she has but one child living a daughter
who has bin married some seven or eight
years and is the mother of three children her
mother lives with her and is doing very
well, nothing more save

Yours affectionately

Sam^l Taylor