

Dec<sup>r</sup> - the 8<sup>th</sup> 1869

Dear Ell

I received your letter a few days ago  
was glad to hear from you hope Sarah  
has recovered by this time you said you had  
not received a letter from me since you left  
I answered your letter very soon after receiving  
yours but I guess I directed it wrong you might  
be told me how to direct it I see your Post office  
is Sparta I directed my letter to Fairbrough  
I guess you have received it by this time  
I am now at Hartsville Betty expects to leave  
between this and Christmas the place will be rented  
out the 18<sup>th</sup> of this month I have no idea who  
will rent it Jerry is now at White Oak Ferry and  
Molly left this morning I hope all is right now  
I don't know what she intends doing whether she  
will stay up here or go home it makes me feel  
rather lonely seeing them fixing to leave the old  
place have you heard from Jerry I also I hope  
you will not be disappointed in getting a teacher  
from what I can learn I think Mr Jones will have  
a full school next session I understand the Music  
Teacher will rent Joe Aringtons lot and take down  
Mr Rowers family will live over the Back Stone  
Joe kind has bought Sumbully lot Maria has rented  
the place Betty has left, Maria and Ellen Parker



went home with Paddy Battle I reckon they will  
try and get down to see you How is Sarah  
getting on I was in hopes she would make her  
self useful and not a trouble you must try  
and make her ~~the~~ the trees were so small I thought  
it best to set them in the garden they would grow  
so much faster and then you can have them planted  
in the yard keep the children for me and take  
them they must write to me I would like very much  
to see them all my love to Sarah tell her she must  
try to learn to sew and make her clothes I understand  
Delee was getting her some clothes she had her some  
flannel worn ~~the~~ trouble some time of the  
year I guess the Farmers will be glad to her they  
get settled down to work I am glad you feel  
you carried down suits you I hope you will get a  
long with your book better than you expect we  
cant have every thing like we wish to have now  
we must try and be satisfied and get along as  
well as we can I understand Mr Harp is pleased  
with his purchase I hope it will turn out well  
Polly sends her love I think they hate leaving the  
old place very much they be the sence attached  
to the place well I will close as I have nothing  
more to write at present write often I am always  
glad to hear from you my love to Lias and the children  
May the Lord bless you all in the prayer of your devoted  
Mother  
Mar A Kearney