



Curtis Clark to Arks
February 24th 1880

Dear Carr,

Your letter containing the photos was rec'd some time ago, & I can assure you were highly appreciated, I think "time has dealt gently with your fair lady," as she does not have the appearance of being the mother of ^{the} youngsters accompanying. Your picture does not look natural, I would never have recognized it, "Not on a ack of the "your" appearance that you allude to, but it seems to represent a fleshy man, both in face & body - whereas my remembrance pictures you as exactly the contrary in both respects - & then your huge whiskers are an innovation since University days. If the merits of the boys are commensurate with their looks, you may justly be proud of them - It would be

doing the clean thing, if I would
about this point give my excuse for^{not}
acknowledging their receipt sooner,

The next day after getting them I
was summoned to Arkadelphia to
attend Court. After spending some
time there, I was taken away on a
surveying expedition & only reached
home last Sunday morning, with the
hope that "your honor" will judge me
with mercy, I will proceed to other
matters. We are plugging away at
mother earth now, trying to harrow
up her feelings that she may in
due time, hand us up the staff of
life. I have got all my land rented
out, & will have very little to do or look
after this year unless something turns
up that is not now looked for.
The winter has been fine on farming
interests, - most too much so - as one
extreme generally follows another. I

am afraid that the wet weather will
come on us when it is not needed.

There has been considerable emigration to
our County during the last few months.
There is a Welsh Colony settling around
me, they seem to be a clever sort of
people, but don't represent much money.
There has been a considerable influx
of negroes into this neighborhood from
Alabama. They are the kind of
laborers to have in this country, and
far superior to any that I have
tried. It is fair to suppose that
any one who has worked all his life
for himself, & made nothing, is not
now going to pitch in & make a fortune
for you. I have more patience with the
"Cullud man" than I do with the white
man. I know the nature of the negro,
& knew that he had to be watched, in
order to make him work, to take care
of what was entrusted to him, & to keep

him from meddling with that that was
not entrusted to him. So when he comes up
wrong occasionally I look at it as
a natural consequence, & dont get
out of gear, like I do when my
white brother dont come to time.

Theres werr fine Crops made in this County
last year, - Thers was almost an average
of a bale to the Acre, - & as it was
sold for a remunerating price, things
are getting easy with us, & we will con-
tinue to improve financially, unless
our King Grant gets into the pre-
sidential chair, if such happens, the
End is not yet -

I do not know when I will have a
chance to get the family pictures taken,
When, we do have a chance I will
send them to you, with kindest regards
to yourself & family - I am as ever
Yr friend
Thos McEwing