

17 West le Rue St
Pensacola
Fla

January 30-96

Dear Elias Dear,

Son,

I know you will be surprised upon opening this letter to find the name of one of your best friends of the long ago, but I have wanted to write and congratulate you ever since your election. Then too, I was anxious for you to see my "baby" who is at St Marys and will graduate this June.

Pardon my rambling in thinking you care to know her; I judge you by myself. I should certainly desire to see, and know one of your children - Do you ever ride by our old

home? if so I expect to bring
back the many happy
hours spent with Dick Badger
when he was so in love with,
and devoted to my sister
Florida; both have "crossed the
river and penetrated The Great
Unknown" -

How is your wife? I hear she
looks so young, she was such a
pretty girl I remember her
distinctly, met her at Chapel
Hill dear glorious old Chapel
Hill and also at Shesapeake -

Being the wife of a public man
I know they have little time for
visiting, but if possible I would be
so glad to have you and your
wife know "our" Florida, she is (I do
say it) a sweet child and I hope
you may find time if only for
a short call -

Please excuse my lengthy
note. how I wish I could
see you and have a real "old
times" chat -

Your old friend Jim Baker died
last year, was three times
married, leaving his third wife -
My kind regards to your wife -
 Hoping you may find time to
reply. I am sincerely

Your old friend
Mrs W. D. Barnes
via Arabella letter -