

Thonotosassa Fla - 7-28-89

Dear Dwight:-

We are in receipt of yours of June 20th which reached us some time since, but owing to "press of business" have delayed answering until now. We were very glad indeed to "catch on" to your whereabouts again, and would be "powerfull" pleased if we could hold on, and not let you get away for so long a time again.

The last time I wrote you - which was many months ago. I addressed you at Colby I think, but presume you never got the letter, and we had about given up ever hearing from you again. It certainly is not my wish to be so estranged from my children as we have been for many years past. I have this to say for myself - I have been just as good a Father to my two Boys as my Nature and Circumstances would admit of. I think that I have an endearing Attachment for my children and Grand children. yet I may have a very poor way of showing it. but I cant help that. for that is just as I was made and as I didn't have anything to say about the organiz

-ation of my faculties I am not accountable for any defects
there may be in the same. Now of my two sons I think
you manifest more attachment and kind regard for your
Parents than Frank. I will relate a circumstance to show
how queer Frank is: Since you have heard from
me. I have obtained a Pension, also have petitioned
for, and been appointed Postmaster. now all this
is known to Frank, but not a word from him since
or for sometime before. he has no congratulations. or care
as much as express any joy or gladness for my good fortune
in obtaining a little aid from "Uncle Samuel" to help
support us in our declining years. I am about to think
that he has lost all interest. all regard for his Parents.
Well Dwight I hardly know where to begin to tell you about
"worms". If I was to go back a year. it would be the
same thing all along road. As to the new house Aaron
spoke of. he was mistaken. we are not building a
house. But last June one year ago. we moved into
a building up town. The building was one that had
been used for a store and dwelling. it made a good
shop and ware room for me. and plenty of house
room. we still occupy the same building. but now
call it our own. having bargained for it last Nov.

The lot is 99 feet by 300 ft - $\frac{1}{2}$ of it is set with Orange - Sines
Bananas - Grape fruit - Figs &c. The other $\frac{1}{2}$ is not yet fenced
The building main part - is 20 x 60 - with lean to's on both sides
it is built of lumber in the rough - is one story -
has been built 6 years - there are 25 bearing Orange
trees - and they made us all the Oranges we wanted
last season - they are not as full of fruit ^{as} is great -
Our young Grove of 100 trees have a good many
oranges on them - So we will have all we will want
for home use - Am going to fence - break and set
to trees the balance of lot, this fall - shall reserve
a small spot for garden - Our location is a good
one - will be right in town - when the town is built -
We pay \$700 - for the property - 6 hundred Cash 100 in
furniture - have it about $\frac{1}{2}$ paid -

The Post office is in the building, so I can at-
tend to the office and my shop work with little trou-
ble - The P.O. is a small affair at the present time - paying
some \$200 - a year - but it dont take much of my
time to run it, and it will help out amazingly -
am expecting a "Boom" for our place this winter which
will help the Office - I took the office the 1st of present
month - and have hardly got the "run of it" yet - There are

a few d-d fools that are Boycotting the Office they mail all their letters - buy all their Stamps at the nearest office from this - which is 6 miles South of this office - They have been running the oposition since I started. There are some 10 families of the Boycotter - they are all Democrats, but one - there is one Sore head Republican, or Mugwump - They say they will stare me out - or break up this mail route. Most of them receive their mail at this Office - thus make me receive and deliver their mail - but wont mail a single letter here, and thereby give me a Stamp to cancel to pay me for handling their mail.

How long they will ~~they will~~ continue the nefarious business is hard to tell. I think we can stand it as long as they can.

My health is very good now. Ma is not very well any of the time. Lizzie is in Cleveland at her old place with Baldwin Hatch & Co. expect he here this winter - Goal is having a house built on his place, some 2 miles west of here, and himself, wife, and possibly Elton's wife will winter here. he has a 5 acre Issac out. &c. You ask for the family record of the Norris's, which I can give you as far back as that of my father's family.

This is what D.E. Norris said from
his father M.D. Norris

Record of my Father's
Brothers & Sisters or
my Uncles & Aunts

1. Deborah Norris. Born Oct 15th 1790
Married to Orin Grover Aug. 10. 1814. - Dead
2. Benjamin Norris. Born Oct. 15th 1792
Married. Dec. 27th 1815. Dead
3. Samuel Norris. Born Feb. 12th 1795 - my father -
Married. Abigail Grover. Nov 1821
Died - 1865 - aged 70 years
4. Betsey Norris. Born March 5th 1797
Died 1806
5. Sally Norris. Born. Oct 25th 1799
Married. Samuel Slater 1820. - Dead
6. Increase Norris Born. Apr. 2nd 1801. Died Apr 4th 1802.
7. Martin Norris Born. Apr. 8th 1803. - now living
8. Increase Norris Born June 4th 1805 " "
9. Betsey Norris. Born May 15 1808 - Dead
10. Greenleaf, R. Norris Born July 10. 1810 - Dead

D.E. Norris' uncles & aunts

Your Uncles and Aunts.

- 1 Isaac S Norris. Born Oct 2^d 1822. Married 1850.
- 2 Martin D Norris Born Aug. 25. 1824. Married Nov 9th 1849
- 3 Elvira Norris Born Oct. 23. 1826. Married Nov 14. 1849.
Died Feb 20th 1850.
- 4 George G. Norris Born Oct 5th 1829. Dead
- 5 Elizabeth P Norris. Born Nov 27. 1831. Married Oct 17. 1852
- 6 Roxana M. Norris Born Dec 9th 1833. Died Dec 4. 1834.
- 7 Lucy M Norris Born Sept 5th 1835
- 8 Norman S Norris Born Jan. 21st 1838. Wounded at the
Battle of Rich Mountain Aug. 9th 1862. Died in Hosp
ital at Alexandria Va Sept 1862
- 9 Sherman R. Norris Born Sept 22. 1840. Now living in
Duluth Minn.

The above were all born at the old homestead in
Windsor, Ashtabula Co, Ohio.

My Father was a farmer. owned 120 acres. I remained
at home until 1845. Had made up my mind to learn
the cabinet making trade. In Spring of 1845 went to
Warren, Trumbull Co to look for situation as apprentice
in some cabinet shop. did not succeed in finding any
place there. I then went to Kingsville, Ashtabula Co,
where I had an Uncle living - my mother's brother - there
I found an opening - with a man by name of X

x
Seth Sinsley. Think I stayed with him about one year
when I thought I had enough insight into the
Mysteries of Cabinet Making to enable me to start bus-
iness on my own hook. Came back to my Native
Town, and opened a shop in 1846 at Windsor Corners
worked there about one year. In the fall of 1847
concluded to go South. Packed my trip satch-
and lit out on foot. Think I tramped about one
week, when I made a halt at the village of Ashland
in Ashland Co. O, found work in a Cabinet Shop
staid there until March 1848, when I concluded to
go and see my Ma. Settled up, - said good by to
Potter Peabody. took the Stage Coach for Cleveland,
when I arrived in good order - got breakfast at the
old American House. Sup. St. and struck out for
Windsor. a distance of 40 odd miles foot and alone.
Mud about 4 inches deep. I got there - if my memory
serves me that evening. Every body seemed glad to see
me. you see I had been away some 4 or 5 months, and
then so far away too - about 100 miles - a big adventure
all the neighbors was anxious to see the Boy traveler -
One John Cole - your Aunt Laura knew him - was then
running a Cabinet Shop in Mesopotamia, and I
hired to him sometime during that Spring

During the summer of '48 became acquainted
with your Ma-Ma- done some vigorous
courtship- the result of which was our marriage
as noted in family Record. Staid at Father Milles
that winter. In Spring of '50. My Father bot house and
lot at Windsor Corners, for us, and we moved in. I think
in April- and thus began our first house keeping-

In August following I pulled up stakes. moved wife
and house hold goods back to her Pa Pa and on
the 26th day of August 1850 I started for West Point
N.Y. I have a "Diary" of the time spent at W-Point
which I will send you sometime. Ellen came
down in the fall of '50. we staid there two years
Came back to Mesopotamia in fall of '52. in the
fall of '54 moved to Michigan. where you were
born- havent the date of your birth at hand-
nor the death of your mother- In '57 Frank
and I returned to Mesopotamia. where I
was at the commencement of the war.

Thus you have an outline of my Career
from '45 to '61. and you doubtless can
now understand why it is that I am not a "Mill
ionaire". I have worked the "Rolling Stone" adage
all my days- and dont you think that you are a "Chip
of the old Block?"

yours M.D.N

Set us hear from you soon