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12/31/54

M. N. B. Richards

Dec 31 - 1854

Middlesex Co, Va, Dec 31 1854

Dear Brother Almon

It being a long time since I wrote you a letter, I have concluded to occupy some of my leisure time, to day, in doing so; but it has been so long since I have seen you, that I hardly know how to address myself to you; or what to write, for I can hardly realize that I have a Brother so far away; but dear Brother I often think of you, and of the time, when, in the days of my youth, we were in each others company, and enjoyed the pleasure of seeing each other often; Alas how long it has been since that period; and how many changes have transpired; you, my Brother, have grown to be a stranger to your Fathers family, and I have grown from the age of eight years, to that of manhood.

Well, Almon, perhaps you would like to know how I am getting along, and what I have been doing for so many years; well I will tell you as well as I can; I have worked at poising (shred out by the month) most of the time until within the two last years; this is the second winter that I have been in Old Virginia; last summer and the summer before I worked in the town of Thomaston at house joinery.

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I like joinering very well indeed, and think it will be my principle employment for the future. I came out here last winter and liked so well that I came again this. I came out about the 10th of October and shall probably stay till May next. My health is very good, and I am doing as well as I can expect. This is a very good place for a labouring man, in the winter season, the weather is moderate most of the time.

Our crew, and beam, consists of 23 men, and five yoke of oxen: we are getting along well, and expect to get 3 1/2 ships' frames of about 1200 tons each, and two schooners frames of 150 tons each.

Last fall I bought me a small place in Comden, on the outer shore, there is 50 acres of land and an old house and barn, for all of which I have to pay seven hundred dollars, perhaps you know the place it is the old ^{Josh} Dillingham place. I payed \$200 down and have 4 years to pay the remainder; I have not concluded whether to settle there or not, I intend to work at my trade (joinering) summer, until I pay for my place and build a house, i.e. if life, health, and prosperity be mine.

I received a letter from ~~father~~ last week he said he had rec'd a letter from you, and that your health was poor, I regret to hear that you do not enjoy good health, hope this will find you and yours all well. No more on this page.

Now Almon I want you to write me, and tell me if you expect to make us a visit soon, I need not say that your ^{long} absence is ^{much} talked of by your friends, and much regretted by all your Brothers and sisters, Oh! how happy I should be to see you I hope the time is not far distant when you will be able to make a visit at your native home.

Please tell me if you intend to spend your days in the woods; how are your prosperings, and what business do you follow at the present time, and what are your prospects for the future. &c. &c.

There are many things that I should like to say to you, but I posted at present, hoping that you will receive a ~~very~~ answer this. I will now draw to a close; if you write to me any time before April (and I hope you will before half that time has passed) please direct ~~to~~ as follows; { Locutt Hill
Middlesex Co
Va }

Don't fail to write me on the reception of this. I am, dear Brother,

Almon S. Richards

Yours most Affectionately
Martin W. B. Richards