

Copy.
Mrs Wood's
Letter.
Received Oct. 1851.

Sent away an answer to Mr Woods
Letter on the 27th Oct^r 1851

Copy Mrs Woods Letter

Post Office Texas
America 1st Sept 1851

Dear Mr & Mrs Smith.

No doubt it
will alarm you my writing in
Place of Mrs Parks & your daughter
who died on the 15 June at a Mr
Lambert in Leon County on
their way up the country 30 miles
from that place where I was taken sick
and three of my family. They thought
me dying. Mr Woods stopped
with us in the house of a Mr
Marshall. Christina my fourth
daughter died on the 8 June, aged
14 years, of congestive fever, 5th
day after leaving the com-
pany. I hope that was well.
We went on with the Waggons, indeed
none of mine was free of sickness,
two died afterwards. James
aged 20 months died 13 June
in the Wagon as they went through
a prairie 40 miles long and no
house near, he was buried be-
side a little Creek among a few
trees:— Martha aged 12 and Janet
10 was so sick they could not

follows him to his grave. Martha got to Fort Graine and died on the 14, 24 hours after she got there. About 6 miles from our place beside a good doctor but past his aid. She knew nothing for 3 days. - They were left in a house in a strange country among strangers, they had the greatest of kindness shown them, every thing was brought for their comfort, respectable grave clothes free of all expense. They were weeks from the time they left. - Westward ten weeks in Mr Marshall's and ten days on our way: - Mrs Park wrote you from New Orleans: - We had 3 day voyage to Galveston. The Cabin Boy fell from the upper story of the boat and sunk to rise no more. Mrs Park was washing the children's faces when he passed and lamented. She had nothing to throw in his way to save him, Charles was thrown over but the current from the paddle wheel carried him away: - Then three days at Galveston all in Apr. 1860 at half a dollar a head, 31 in a company. Mrs Park

And we had a large washing of dirty cloths, My two eldest girls took sick with the heat, then I was held on, joking I said, the old wives are better pile than the young girls. We knew nothing of sickness: - Our direction was by Howerton. A boat went two days earlier up the Trinity the Company 31 in Number all agreed to that. We should have 150 miles less land travel. Captain MacKenzie and Dr Bullantyne Managers for the Company came to meet us at Galveston and leaving business at Howerton MacKenzie and Major Holme went to Houston and bought their horses and hired waggon up the country they would get cheaper than we could at Navario where we should land and Bullantyne was with us and stayed till they came. The River had fallen so much we were landed at Moses Bluff 15 miles down. A young man from England died going up River from drinking too much liquor at New Orleans

one of our Company. We Camped beside Mr Moore. They were 10 days before they came we were all so tired stopping the Waggon did not come for 4 days more. We were two weeks drinking Muddy Water from the River in a low place beside the Wood. We had good washing water at a pond. With a pott and tubs we washed every change as it came off. We had only one change out of the Chests they were so blocked up among the Luggage or on Waggon to have good light like yesterday. - The first week the men went a shooting and fishing. St. Park shot a Chowcock. The farmers came to ask them to hoe Cotton and at half a dollar a day their meat and bed. St. Park John Peterson and Mr Barran went to work at two houses four days the English men only stayed 1 day the work was too hard for them. They breakfast at 6. went to 11 then rest in the shade to 3. Stop at 6. St. Park never brought earlier work since he could work, was sorry he did not know of the place sooner. Mr Halleys was sorry at them

leaving so soon. I always say that we got all our sickness stopping there. I And two of my daughters was two days sick before we left, St. Park got sick the night before. Mrs Park said she had as good health as ever only for that finger she would say; it was hurt by a fish bone when helping to clean fish. The finger hurt the little one on the left hand; it kept her from many a nights rest. That and a broken heart was the cause of her illness.

We had some medicine the morning we started. I was much better and remarked to Mrs Park how good in such a hurry and it would be a blessing if God was pleased to spare us all to our journey's end.

There were 5 Waggon 4 with the Luggage and 1 for the Women and Children. The men travelled. St. Park sat on a Wagon he could not walk. There were 4 & 5 got of Oken in some of them and such Oaths at these Oken I never heard. - We all got on till the third day. Mr Moore a stone Builder from London

Stopped at Mr. Lusk's, got work. he had not money to go farther, he drank all he could get. His wife and her sister a little girl died in two weeks only one little boy left with him. - I was taken to Mr. Marshall's that night the family all came just morning to see me some of them lay down with me sick. The Wagon stopped all day expecting some more fit to go next day. Mrs. Park and family stayed with us, next day (Friday) they went away leaving Mr. and Mrs. of my family & Mr. Woods who after got sick. Mrs. Park was in better spirits saying, G. was much better and she was well but the finger. And would make my girls all the help she could with little James who after died. Hoping she would soon see me again. My daughter and both was black and they all died in the Wagon they never expected to see me more. - Then all got on till Monday 9 day to Mr. Lamb's where J. Park and family was left, he could not go farther he was so weak, and died on Thursday 12th. Mr.

Lamb told me he could speak till about 1/4 of an hour before he died. Mrs. Park fell back, fell back and said she was like Ruth in a strange land among a strange people. They carried her to bed she called the children to her and made them repeat some hymns. They buried him on Friday. She spoke a little and of visiting to you but she could not compose her mind. She told them of our kindness to them and of ten sovereigns they got from us at Galveston and of their engagement and said she would go with us and do anything she could. - Saturday Mrs. Lamb went to wash some cloths ~~that~~ were for herself and Mrs. Park that were required upon William and left her sitting singing a hymn to little William to make him sleep. One came calling that Mrs. Park had fallen, they carried her to bed. She never moved till Monday morning. They were ordered to bathe her head with cold water they kept bathing all night in the morning she spoke and.

looked better. Mrs Lamb went to her at Breakfast. Said what do you want to eat? She looked and said she wanted water. She brought water and lifted her head to drink. Mrs Park had told Mrs Lamb to call her Fanny after Mr died and she now looked surprised to hear one day Fanny in a strange place. At evening she appeared worse and never spoke more. She died on Tuesday night.

The children said little at their father's death but they all fell on their Mother and cried wonderfully. Mrs Lamb has seven children of her own. An old servant for 40 years served but blacks and many choose to have none. A Mrs Mr Adam and Mrs Ridgway waited much on them in their sickness, took away the children. Mrs Ridgway got Mr in her arm and carried behind and rode away 5 miles after their Mother's funeral. Mrs Wallage sister of Mrs Lamb got Arch^d and Lilly. They are near neighbours. I expected to take them all when we got up

thinking it my duty to do so coming from one place. I heard of Williams Nurse saying, "if I took you from her I might as well take her life". She would not part with him. - An woman from England who came on the voyage with us and was with us all the time & waited after the deaths came down the country to see us and all the sick folks that was left by the way. He asked Arch^d and Lilly if he might take them with him it would save a little expense by the time we were able to go up. I thought it my duty to take them but so long as we were near them I could look after them and take charge of the chests. They were so dirty with the dust & my daughters I would not let them go away. I expected to bring David with me. I saw them all at Mr Lamb's. She said she was afraid of me taking her, but go to Law I could. I would take him. She got him when he was to look to him and sat with him in sickness. - I expected to take David with us but he

would not go, they would rather keep him a part with him. They have only one little girl such as David. She cried when we had come for the two boys and said we would take her two little Brothers. I told them I would write you, if you were willing to let them stay I should not take them from them. I was to say they should be well used: every one of them enjoyed at last. Lilly cried all day after Mr. Barker came for them. Arch^r kicked and scolded. Mr. McCallum was sorry to see them go away they were so attached to them. He wished them back. Their Luggage is with ours. I intend to keep them also and will look after David and William. I expect he knew me, he came in my arms but held out his little hand to "Ma" and "Pa" as they are taught to call them. I not to trouble them say Mr. and Mrs. Ridgway. The Made Mr & Mrs Parks Coffins and charged nothing for his trouble. I wish you and

the friends to say what you think best to be done with the Children and write us as soon as convenient, And direct "J. W. Woods Near Fort Crane Texas America". We expect to stop here till the season cool before we go to our Land. We are near the Doctor and Market. We have fresh Meat twice a week at 2 1/2 Cents the lb. We have a comfortable Cabin good water, few have the like this summer here. We have not seen any rain to count for. Since we came, the grass is quite burned up and not a vegetable to be seen. The sun has a burning heat it is cool in the morning and evening you will burn your head and feet to go uncovered in the sun. There is not a day but some one is sick or has a chill. And will be so till climated. We have the privilege of killing a few cows which is very useful to us. The County is rich and good, it is a great change. The manners and living are entirely different. We must not look on any thing but difficult is the first year. Had I

Page 12th

been the will of God to spare us
all, but he doeth all things for
good. They are all good from the
evil to come. Let us say with Job.
"He giveth and he taketh away and
blessed be the Name of the Lord".
hoping you are enjoying the blessing
of good health.

Yours truly
Signed, Geo & Mrs Wood

for

Yr

David Smith

With Mrs Rodger

89 Stewarton St

Wishaw