

Argyle  
Sept 5<sup>th</sup>

Paid 3<sup>00</sup>

Mr. Archibald McLauchlin  
"Chapel Hill,  
" N.C  
L

Long Street, Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1852

Much esteemed Cousin

I received your very kind & affectionate letter in due time. My dear Cousin. I cannot begin to tell you the pleasure it afforded to me.. I was not only glad to hear from you, but I was glad to have the pleasure of reading such an interesting letter from a Cousin I esteem so much.. You may say I did not seem much like it. Since I delayed so long to answer it. but far from that. I was waiting until after the Sacrement here.. Thinking that by that time I would have something interesting to communicate to you .. but I am afraid that I shall not be able even now to write an interesting letter to you.. The meeting closed yesterday evening. we had but two days meeting & it was so wet Saturday that but very few turned out. There was only two joined the church & they were negroes. I was in hopes there would be more than that.. but there was not.. I saw your father & mother & Brother Will. They were all enjoying good health. Grand Ma is nearly as well as she was before she got sick. which I never expected. hear again

The neighbours about here generally are in common health. Some of us has the Hooping Cough, but none of us are very bad off with it. There has been a few deaths in this neighbourhood since you left. I expect you heard of them before now. Cousin Arch<sup>d</sup> Ray died a few weeks ago, it is hardly known what was the matter with him. he had the Hooping Cough & I expect eat two much fruit & got it throughing up & in this way took the back jaw & never spoke afterwards. he was in this way for nearly two days. & then died without stirring hand or foot. Aunt Margaret's Henry died week before last. he had the Typhoid fever he suffered a great deal. Well Cousin what is all your fine times in College. I should like to know. You have roudy times I expect for no doubt you are among folks of every description, both good & bad. I suppose your Blacking club got into some difficulty. if was a fine thing some of the club was found out. Arch<sup>d</sup> I hardly know what to write next, I have a heap to tell you. but it seems as if I cannot think of any thing when I go to write we are all here at home yet working as hard as we can. John expect to go back to his old stand to teach school in two weeks he would have written to you before this time only he was so buisy. They have got the house raised. they seem to get along very slow with it.

but there is more done than there seems to be.  
There is a pretty good school here now. There is something  
over thirty scholars. We have one boarder here  
Mr. R. B. Martin. His brother Mack was at the sacrament  
he looks just like he used to. I heard from  
Cousin Anna a week or two ago she was right well  
but she still complained of her board. I also  
got a letter from Mary on the same day. She was  
right well, & I reckon enjoying herself well with  
the gentlemen out at Carver's Creek. She was  
at a party out there. & was waited on by some  
of the old bachelors out there. We have no such  
things as weddings or parties about here. I  
reckon if we would you would hear it. It would  
be such a mericle. I think some body will  
have to make a start or there will be a good  
many old maids about here before long. I expect  
some of them would be ashamed to get married  
even if they had the chance. (a weding being  
such an uncommon thing) I thought Mr. Laughlin  
McKellar would be apt try some of the ladies in  
old North Carolina before he would go back to Texas  
but I heard he was going to start the 1<sup>st</sup> of this  
month. Dear Cousin I reckon I must close. You  
told me to write a long letter & it would be my will  
to write you a longer & nicer letter if I could, but  
I have made such a bad out this far I reckon I had better  
stop. Well is looking for a letter from you every mail  
All the family joins me in love to you. Your affectionate  
Cousin Jane  
Please excuse this letter & write soon to me

Longstreet Sept 5th 1853

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there & was waited on by some of the old bachelors out there. We have no such things as weddings or parties about here. I reckon if we could you would hear it. It would be such a miracle. I think some body will have to make a start or there will be a good many old maids about here before long. I expect some of them would be ashamed to get married even if they had the chance. (a wedding being such an uncommon thing) I thought Mr Lauchlin McKellar would be apt try some of the ladies in old North Carolina before he would go back to Texas but I heard he was going to start the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month. Dear Cousin I reckon I must close You told me to write a long letter & it would be my will to write you a longer & nicer letter if I could but I have made such a bad out this for I reckon I had better stop. Neill is looking for a letter from you every mail. All the family joins me in love to you.

Please excuse this letter and write some to me.

Your Affectionate

Cousin Jane

Write a long letter