

This letter was written by EA Kelly (Evans Abney) from the Greenville South Carolina area known as Merrittsville SC which is now under water. The letter is assumed to be written to John Miller Kelly of Scottsboro AL who had a young son name Evans Abney Kelly.

Merrittsville, So Ca
December 13 1902

Dear Nephew: -

I will try to answer your kind letter after some delay.

We were all proud of the pictures especially the little curly headed Evans.

Of our ancestry I know but little on the Kelly side. Father has some brothers and on sister and might have others. His sister married an Evans hence the name Father and the rest of them were all quakers and didn't any of them believe in slave holding so they set their negroes free and all went to Ohio except father.

Father was to have gone but concluded to marry and did not go but he always seemed inclined to go until he was old then couldn't go.

They used to correspond but since fathers death I have known but little of them. I suppose some of the young ones were in the war of the states as I saw the name as officers in the Federal army.

Fathers children by his first marriage was three sons and five daughters. Two of the daughters never married. The rest all had some children. The Kellys are of Irish descent.

Mother was an Abney and her name was Mary. Mothers father was named William and he was of English descent. He came from Virginia and settled in Edgefield County as a farmer and stock raiser. He had numbers of children and they are all dead.

Mother first married a Richardson and they had on son and four daughters and all dead but the son David and I suppose he is.

Now for ourselves I married Elizabeth C. Foster. She had two children, both girls Mary Ida and Sallie Rebecca.

Sallie married first and had twelve children. She married Dr. H.P. Goodwin and he has been dead four years. Their oldest daughter died last summer, the oldest son is at the Citadel in Charleston expects to graduate next June. The next two oldest are in North Carolina. Harry the oldest is merchandising and William is going to school and the others are at home going to school.

Sallie's house was burned two years ago at a very heavy loss. She is now living in a store house.

Mary Ida married J. B. Humphreys and they have six living children and three sweet little girls dead. David K. Humphreys is the oldest. He graduated last June at the citadel in Charleston and he is now teaching near home.

Elizabeth is next, she graduated at Saluda North Carolina and is now teaching.

James is a Saluda going to school, the other three is at home.

It has been some time since I have heard from Melissa Aby Hunt and would like to hear but I have lost her address and don't know where to write.

I can see some out of one eye and the eczema still holds on to me but I am well otherwise.

I am fifteen miles up the north prong of Saluda from my old home with Ida. My home is between North and South River. I rent it out and get something for it.

I will close by subscribing my-self

Your Uncle, E A Kelly