

From E.F. Slaughter to Eliza Colgan

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Feb[.] 25 1863
Hickmans Mill

Mrs[.] Colgan

I red your kind letter and was glad to hear of your good health[.] We are well as we generally are this time of year. Our winter has been mild and very dry till lately it is making up lost time. it is now snowing, but has been raining a good deal. the roads are bad and not much passing. We now live on Mr[.] Whitsetts place. I thought I could do better here than where I was, as there was plenty of stables and cribs and the fencing better and wood handy, &c. It is a bad place on account of wolves. a wolf come two days ago and killed a lamb. we have 14 old sheep[.] I had to give 5.00 a head[.]

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our sheep are very nice..

I like sheep and would like to have about 75 head, and if I can save them from the wolves I shall soon have a good flock.

We raised a little cotton last year[.] Amanda and sis borrowed a pair of cards and are spinning up the whole crop. they grumble terribly because they aint used to it. they make candle wick and knitting material. they have not enough to make a piece of cloth. Old Mrs[.] More has made above 80 yards of cotton cloth in the last year. that was considerable home manufacture. people will learn after a while. Amanda cant make rolls, but sis has learnt very quick[.]

there is a family living on Hattens place. they are going to patch up the fence and make a sort of crop. your house looks very lonesome without a fence round it. I wish I could see you back again as in old times. our county gets thinner settled all the time. the two Flanagan are gone to Westport[.] [Sawny?] Muir is gone but his family is not gone yet but will go soon[.] Some others talk of going. Mr[.] Whitsett has broken up house keeping as Mrs[.] Whitsett is sick all the time he talks of living about with his children. You know how that will pay[.] he had better hire a cook and live at home. I do not think if you had been here last fall you could have prevailed on William H. to have stayed here and I dont think

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you ought if you could and as to capturing him it was his crowd that captured me and our whole outfit and so you see I have a prisoner in the hands of the rebels. we were paroled and came home while a hard battle was going on[.] cannons were planted in Ed Grays yard and Sanfords yard by opposing armies[.] If you had been here you could have witnessed a battle[.] Our country is in an awful condition. Oh! that the time may come when the word peace may gladden our hearts indeed and in truth[.] good bye till you write[.]

E.F. Slaughter

Mrs[.] Eliza Colgan