

[Letter to Effie Rector in Alum Creek, Texas, from her husband K.K. Rector in Nolan County, Texas]

In Camp
Sweet Water, Nolan Co. Tex

Dec 8th/81

Mrs E.A.R
Alum Creek

Dear Effie

I have not heard from home since I left Abilene. Here we lay in camp Bro John, Hern & I, waiting for the lumber to come up from Ft Worth. And no telling how long we will be delayed yet. It seems like I have been away from home a long while, and only wish I had brought you and the children along. I have mended up considerably. The country is open and beautiful. I am well pleased so far, but the prettyest [*prettiest*] part I have seen is in Coleman Co. [*County*]

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We will have to wait here for the Lumber & when it comes will be off to Fisher; which is said to be prettyer [*prettier*] than here at Sweet Water. We have for the present concluded to start on the sheep & make it a Sheep Ranch & if it prospers John says it will not like for the money; that he will put into it though he would not agree, to cut me off a home off of it at the wind up; he is fixing to build a good house on it, and if I had you and the children here could soon get the sheep and go to work

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The grass is not as good here as I expected to find it, the soil is a red sandy soil, no sticky mud. The Pararie [*prairie*] dogs litterally [*literally*] infest the earth and have to a large extent eat the grass off and as I write they bark all around me. If E & R were here with Duke they would go wild after the Parrarie [*prairie*] Dogs

I have found some acquaintances here. Aser Hill lives in Sweet Water. The county has nothing but stock; no farming done. I saw Mr. Breedlove yesterday who told me cousin Lizzie H was coming here to look for a home next spring; he saw her about the time I left.

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I want Johnnie to go home Chrix-mast [*Christmas*], & I do not know what to do about getting you all here, I think it would be best by rail if it does not cost too much; Could come to Hempstead then by Waco & on to the Texas Pacific; which would only make one change in the whole route, it is a long long trip over land. You will have to sell off the furniture; the plows & the pork; keep enough [*enough*] meat to do you; it will be a considerable break up, but we cannot freight our furniture to this place without a great cost & I cannot get back by Chrix mast [*Christmas*] I see that now plainly; & I must write to Father about it

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Bro John thinks that you and Ernest could make it through on the trains if you were started from Paige but I do not know what about that

I want Dr. Dunn paid out of the first cotton Ran has sold and if Ran is not at work at it tell Father to have it picked. It has not rained on me to amount to anything since I have been out – have had

a nice dry time & continues so. If you should run out of money I left Two hundred Dollars at H & [Y?] in Bastrop; which you can draw from.

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I have seen no game yet though there is said to be plenty in Fisher Co. Tell E & R to hurry up the cotton all they can & that they can soon be after a nice flock of sheep which will make money faster & I think easier [*easier*] than the plow. The mules stood the trip fine & look as well if not better than when I left. We made it from Austin to Abilene in ten days 230 miles. Cattle are all very fat here

With love to the children. I remain as ever yours

KK Rector

Write soon to

Sweet Water
Nolan Co.
Texas