

[Letter from H.L. Lee in Alabama to K.K. Rector in Texas]

Milton Ala Feb 26/84

K.K. Rector Esqs

Dear Sir, Yours of recent date just recieved [*received*] & I hasten to reply. When I wrote to L.C.C. I had no idea that there was so many families in his condition. The editor of Courier Journal make him such an indifferent answer to his inquiry. I thought I would help him a little in fact the editor know nothing about the matter any & will be surprised when I say to you that yours is the 29<sup>th</sup> letter I have recieved [*received*] on account of it but all right we ought to do all the good we can for each other so I cheerfully reply to. First get a wire about the size of telegraph or a little larger, fasten it sturdy at the spring bring it the top of the hill & make a collar [*collar*] & fasten it to the wire put it in posts or trees so that you can turn it to tighten the wire with for you must keep the wire starched [*stretched*] tight. Then set some posts to the left of the wire some 15 or 20 ft [*feet*] apart slightly leaning to the wire. Get a  $\frac{3}{4}$  bar of iron cut a piece for every post about 13 inch long draw one end out to drive in the posts, draw the other end tapering similar to the iron wedge & with a cold chisel split it so the wire will ly [*lay*] in

[Page 2]

it & turn the end about 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches square up this [*drawing to illustrate*] put these hooks in the posts & put your in the grooves smoothly so the wheel will over them well. Got [*go*] to a foundary [*foundry*] & have a wheel cast 1  $\frac{1}{8}$  by 4 inc [*inches*] across with a V groove  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep to run on the wire with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  hole in the center. Get your  $\frac{3}{4}$  bar of iron and have one end made round for the wheel to run on with a key as Lynch Pin in the end about the end then the end about 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  right square so the other end about 4 inches from the crook the same way so that when you put your wheel in the wire the bucket will hang on a ballance [*balance*] place in under the wheel [*drawing to illustrate*] with a hook for the bucket to hang on. Get a small can about the size of the wire tie it to the axel [*axle*] and let your bucket go the spring but not too fast have something to stop your bucket under the spout. Fix a windlass to turn up the [*unclear*] & you have water without much fatigue. it will be a little awkward to you at first but you will like and improve on as you get used to it

We have used it for several years. I got the plan from one my neighbors who saw in Tennessee during the war. I have sent my plan to Courier Journal so every body that wants it may get it. I think will out this if it [*unclear*] I will send it again  
Yours respectfully H.L. Lee

[Upside down at top of the page]

I hope you understand this & be benefited by it.

[Top of Page 1]

If your cord is too heavy & your hill not verry [*very*] steep the bucket sometimes parties have to build a platform to get the fall so the bucket will go down hill

[On right side at top of Page 1]

A common well bucket is the best. I recon [*reckon*] you will want to go sleep when you get done reading my epistle  
So good night my friend