

[Letter from Effie Rector in West Texas to her son Rush Rector in Austin]

At Home Jan 21st [January]

Dear Rush –

We rec'd [received] letters from you & Ernest & Johnnie last Saturday night. You know how glad we were to get them. We have all been sick since you left home – except Clara but all are well now –

Last Wednesday it was very cold but your Pa & Mr Shoap hauled 1 load of rails & concluded it was too cold to go back so he came over & they killed the sow – she was very fat – did not weigh her but she would have gone 200 – made nice meat – will kill some shoats next cold spell – they are hardly fat enough to kill yet –

[Page 2]

Yesterday was a bitter cold day. The sun is shining to day & it is a little warmer – Early & your Pa are making the lot fence. I am glad you are doing well at school – and also that you attend Sunday School – I hope it will do you a great deal of good – Give my love to your Cousin Knight – Is Avery living in Austin?

You must study spelling carefully – I hope you will learn a great deal this session. The children like their teacher very much – but the weather has been so bad they have missed a good many days –

Saturday night sitting around the fire your Pa said he wished you boys could be at home till Monday morning - & he bet Rush would

[Page 3]

give a dollar to see Byrd. Byrd said “ I bet he wouldn't give a nickel” says he bet you'd [you'd] stay away a whole month – he is always saying something about you & Ernest

Will came up Sunday to spend the day with Early & dont [don't] you think they went to Mrs. Shoaps & staid [stayed] all day –

Mr Foster killed his hogs week before last & that large one weighed 520 lbs – They sent us a lot of bones - Pork is 5 cts next year it cant [can't] be sold at any price - Mr. Parsley has sold out to Mr. Jones & moved off. Mr. Chumley rented the old house has not moved – is said to be a good neighbor

[Page 4]

There is no news that I know of in the neighborhood – the boys dont [don't] come around much - Early has been sick & couldn't go any where – Mr Durham has bought out Mr. Rutherford & moved in with Bumgardner – in the Rock store

You all must write often You are improving in writing but take more pains in spelling

All send love to you all

Good bye

With much love

Your Aff

Mother

You must answer Early's & Annie's letters

[Top of Page 4 upside down]

Early will start to school soon – Your Pa dont [don't] have any trouble with the oxen – hauled 5 big loads of rails & 1 small one have over 300