

Letter from Clarissa (Palmer) Fentem to her brother, John Henry Palmer  
6 March 1883

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Col Mrch 6<sup>th</sup> '83  
Hills Ferry Stanishlus Co  
Mr J H Palmer

Dear Brother I resume my pen once more to inform of my where abouts and am by the blessing of our kind and Heavenly Father still in the land of the living, and enjoying good health am with Burton<sup>i</sup> he is living on San Joacan valley he and family are well has 2 boys 7 & 9 years old, the prospect is good for another dry year we have had cold dry winter, had six inch snow first jan very little rain since grain is growing some

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but cannot live much longer without rain our time is passes for rain, suppos you are aware there was no grain raised here last year west of the Canal. I have several letters from Mo the connection well, no deaths in our family, Pas old Negroes are dead Sintha<sup>ii</sup> Died in jan last Teen died two years since. Frank Clare<sup>iii</sup> owns Pa old place the old neighbours are all dead but Aunt Sally

Trail<sup>iv</sup>

had letter from Sister Patsy<sup>v</sup> her husband died last winter she has three children the two oldest are married John is living with her Richard and Clara have settled near her

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Sina<sup>vi</sup> has been to Mo on visit this winter she has her third husband her children are all dead but Mary. I never hear from Brother Tine<sup>vii</sup> Georges<sup>viii</sup> two girls are married Brother I wrote to you twice some three or four years since did not receive any reply had concluded you had gone off until last week heard you were still living there concluded to write again Rev G C Lattie is one of my nabours he says he has been to your house, he got letter from your neighbourhood telling of his accuainte amongst others spoke of you

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I would be so pleased to see you all, you family

must be grown why cannot  
you and Sister pay us a visit  
what a treat it would be  
for us to meet and have  
social confab, if it is not  
convenient for us to meet I think we  
ought to corispond

occasionally  
will close with love to all hoping to  
hear from you soon  
remaining as eve your affectionate  
Sister  
C Fentem

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<sup>i</sup> Burton is Richard Burton Fentem, b 1848 in Missouri, d 1932 in California. The two boys, 7 and 9, are Warner B, b 1876, and Roy Albro, b 1878.

<sup>ii</sup> Sinthia Palmer is found on the 1880 census, born in Virginia, widow, age 73.

There is a Tena Palmer, b ca 1825, living in Montgomery County with the Philips family.

<sup>iii</sup> Frank Clare was probably Francis Beatty Clare who married Mary Pauline Gray. They are the only Frank Clare family in Millwood in 1880. A search of the deed records would probably verify this, or not.

<sup>iv</sup> Aunt Sallie Trail would be Sarah Trail, 85, in the Millwood, Lincoln County, 1880 census.

<sup>v</sup> Patsy is Patsy (Palmer) Graves Bruce, Clarissa and John Henry's sister. She first married Payton Graves, apparently divorced, then married her cousin Horatio Gates Bruce and moved to Texas. Horatio died 11 Jan 1882.

<sup>vi</sup> Sina/Cina (Hammonds) Palmer, who married first Nixon Palmer (Clarissa and John Henry's brother), then upon his death, married someone named Cocke. Her children with Nixon were Mary R, b ca 1844, and James J, b ca 1846. No idea who the third husband, nor additional children, were.

<sup>vii</sup> Tine is Constantine Basil/Bruce Palmer, again a brother to JH and Clarissa. He m first Almaretta McCollums, then Mary Martha Campbell, then, Mary Leona Hayden. He lived in Texas.

<sup>viii</sup> George is George Alexander, who married Margaret Beattie Gilmore. The two girls who were married by 1883 would have been, probably Mary Rebecca, who married James Henry Powell, and Martha, who married Albert Bailey Hensley.