
Correspondence: Mrs. John P. Varnum
(Josephine L. Dyer "Josie"), 1871 - 1888

John P. Varnum Family Papers

6-28-1885

Letter: Mrs. Josephine L. Dyer Varnum to Marnie, June 28, 1885

Josephine L. Dyer Varnum

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Jacksonville June 28th 1885

Dear Harrie:

I got your letter Thursday afternoon and visited with you that I could enjoy Gankers coolness. The thermometer (here in my parlor) hasnt been lower than 90° for ten days or more I usually look at it about nine in the morning. The children's school closed last week and I went over to hear them recite their poems Archie did splendidly he is perfectly self-possessed and doesn't mind an audience a bit. We asked him how he felt - if he wasnt afraid - "No" he said "I felt big" and I guess he did Grace did nicely too though not quite so well as at home she was a little inclined to be nervous &

laugh at first but by the time
she had got through a verse or two
she went on very nicely. She
reads wonderfully well consider-
ing that she didn't know anything
a year ago she is reading Pussy-
licker now she reads in a low
tone to her self and I think she
knows the words well enough to
understand all that she reads
Archie has gone to Sunday school
he sure misses a pleasant Sunday
but Grace doesn't care to go when
it is hot and I let her do as she
chooses. Yesterday I had to go
down town twice, to draw a check
in the morning and in the after-
noon to go to Market. In the
evening I gave the children their baths (all three)
after dinner and took Archie &
Grace down town with me
when I went after going to mar-
ket I took them to Simpkins
and treated them to ice cream

they had a regular picnic.
Speaking of picnics reminds
me that Archie's band of Hope
has a picnic this week to which he
expects to go. Edie is cooking a
chicken in the dining-room and
singing boo-boo-baa ba-boo-ba-
ba. She misses her papa and tells
me every little while "Want my
papa come home - come now
"till my papa" - The dear little
thing - when I began that sentence
she was singing with all her
heart and I had just finished
the last word when Grace told
me that she was fast asleep and
so she is with her head in the
chair isn't she a jewel?

I have just put her fire her out
and she is sleeping ably nicely.
When John went off Grace told
him in that queer way of hers - "if
the house gets on fire will send
for you Papa -"

The children talk a great deal
about going North Archie particu-
larly he wishes "most" that Edie
would get just a little sick so we
could all go. I wish we could
go and yet I don't want to you
understand I suppose how that
is. I hate to leave John alone for
so long and then it is a great
undertaking everything has to be
packed up and all the while the
house keeping has to go on and
then too I dread the trip awfully.
John is in "Tenth ~~collis~~ collis"
as Edie says. Gen. Vainum is
still in Gainesville.

With much love to all
Josie