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

John P. Varnum Family Papers

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5-16-1887

## Letter: Mrs. Josephine L. Dyer Varnum to Marnie, May 16, 1887

Josephine L. Dyer Varnum

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Jacksonville May 16<sup>th</sup>

Mamie my dear -

It is 9 o'clock in the morning my babies have eaten breakfast and are quietly employed Archie is making arrows and Gracie is looking at the pictures in the Little Folks Reader, which came this a.m. she sings a little song or tells a story about each picture as she comes to it. She looks very cunning this morning in her little blue chamberg with blue & white stockings and her long yellow locks. Last night when she said her own I lay me she said afterward "God bless Aunt Helen & Aunt Cherie" - she talks a great deal about "my Aunt Helen" - just now she came to me and said "Mamma I chucked a shell, I did" Perit that pure cracker Archie is very much pleased with his arithmetic. I shall try to have him learn a good deal this summer, I have so much more time now -

My boarder hasn't been to breakfast this am. he went out to sit up with a sick friend last night and hasn't got back yet. There is a real nice

man, he is very quiet and easily satisfied -  
Old Aunty has lived with them for three  
years so of course she is of great help to Mrs  
New only fault is lack of neatness, she is  
honest and not wasteful at all and there isn't  
one in ten of them that you can say as  
much of - It is very cool this morning  
the Thermometer is down to 68. and during the  
night I was glad to pull a comforter up over  
me though I had my window up only two or  
three inches for ventilation and for a week  
or two past I have been sleeping with both  
windows wide open and only sheet and  
spread on the bed I enjoy the change very  
much I assure you, the summer will  
soon be much the shorter.

Have you made your gingham and your  
morning glory calico yet? I haven't done any-  
thing about a summer hat, I don't know as I  
shall get one one at any rate I think I will  
wait till quite late in the season, the summer  
is so long here one gets tired of a hat before it  
is over - and I am undecided for another  
season I should like a black hat because

by putting on a little heavier trimmings in  
the fall it would look nicely all winter  
at the same time I should like a light  
hat to wear with my white-suit - I can't  
tell yet what I shall do - I think I  
will go to church this morning as I will  
say an avoird - I may add a postscript  
bye and bye -

Tuesday K. M. - I didn't get to my "P. S."  
Sunday and Monday is always a busy day  
with us; yesterday I crashed one of the Parlor  
windows - Auntie did the other - and the  
doors & mantel-piece - In the afternoon I had  
to go down town and of course the babies had  
to be washed and draped and go too and after  
Johnnie had gone from supper you may  
be sure I was glad to get to bed. Archie and  
Grace got their primers yesterday and were  
very much pleased the little arithmetic too is  
a great source of pleasure to them, I have  
a book slate and give Archie a lesson every  
morning, he prints a little spells and this  
morning he had a reading-lesson from

his primer - He hasn't forgotten how to read  
the "Baby's primer" and quite astonished some  
little girls this morning - It has been real  
cold here for two nights past, I can tell you I  
enjoy it if it would only stay so I should be  
very glad - I saw a real pretty hat at  
church Sunday - it was Mrs Archibald's - it  
was cream colored straw trimmed with lace,  
tips and moire ribbon - it was a broad brim lined  
with the lace and at the back it was fancifully  
bent I think it was straw it was as fine  
though as these nice hats that were near

I feel as though there was something more  
to tell you but I can't think what it was  
so it will have to wait over - Don't it about  
time for Apple Blossoms? I should like to  
see them - With ever so much love to  
you all  
J  
Josie -