

Written by  
De his Children

Ben C. Conger  
after Luce broke

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Emelyn, Lucille  
Margaret & Ben

My dear sweet children:

How are you all getting along?  
I am mighty lonesome. I want to see you all awfully bad. I miss all of you. You are so good and sweet. I didn't get to go to Sunday school Sunday as I had to work at Deeson. There are about 3000 negroes there. My job was to do everything but especially to make the negroes pass in single file past the table to be feed. It was a pitiful sight to see them. Some old, some babies all passed, women first. I made the men wait until all the women and children had been feed then I let the men pass one at a time. They were all given plates (tin, and a cup) as they passed. And told to wash them and keep them for next meal. We feed them on soup made of beef, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, corn, pepper and salt. Two pieces of bread and some prunes. When the soup gave out we gave them a piece of garlic or cheese and two slices of bread. I carried every tent a water bucket and a candle. When they didn't thank me I'd say "Much oblige" they'd say "You are welcome". If we were to try to feed out here on the farm that way they'd all get mad and leave. But they are glad to get anything. Negroes that have always made a good living and had horses cars etc are glad to fall in line with those that are of the lowest type. No word or murmur as to whether they liked the fare or not. Had to harden your heart and tell them to go on fast and get what there was for them and make room for more. Stayed there till nearly twelve Sunday night and same Sat night.

The most of them have tents to stay in and one blanket. Two little babies came since they have been here. Their beds are of hay in sacks where we had the hay to give them. On planks for floors. Fairly comfortable. One man went back to his ~~house~~ house after the water had come and found his milk cow standing in water up to her stomach on his back porch. He knew that the water was coming high enough to drown her and he hugged her neck and said "Goodby old cow, God bless you".

People on house would see mules swimming along and would call to them and say Come on poor old mule I wish I could help you. The mule seemed to know and understand and would swim up close to the side of the house and try to get in and then swim on away. Perhaps if we were better God would not visit us with such calamities. We have not had to undergo such hardship yet but yet we are no less guilty than they. When you are all grown you will hear of the flood of 1927. Lets pray that we won't have to endure such hardship. If we do right maybe we won't.

I want you all to come home mighty bad but I am afraid that we might yet have the same thing to face. If we do I'll stay and do my best I think it my duty. But still I'll take good care of my self so that we can be together again. You wouldn't have me turn my back and run just cause there was trouble would you. If papa was here he'd tell me stay. I know all of you would to, even tho it would grieve you.

Do you have a good time playing. Don't fight the other children or they won't like you. Be good and sweet to them and help mother and grandma. Watch buddy cause he don't realize that anything can hurt him. I hope you can all soon come home.

I enjoyed the sweet letters very much. Write me again when mother and I get lonesome by myself. I read at night and talk to Reed awhile and then we go to bed. I worked till 11 last night but I won't tell you what doing till you come home I want to surprise you. Make a guess so that I can see if you can guess. Write me your guess. Tell mother to guess to.

You all say your prayers at night and kiss me goodnight,  
dady