

February 18, 1884
Orean, Arkansas

“Mr. John Pate,

Sir, I take pen in hand to answer your kind letter that comes to hand a few days back and was glad to hear from you. This leaves my family all well and might be said doing well as could be expected. (Elvis) I was hoping this will come safe to hand and find your family well and doing the same. I haven't any news that would interest you at the present. You wrote to know about hiring to me this season. I have hired all the help that I will need this summer and wanted to know how wages was. A good h and can get 12 ½ dollars per month. Through crop time, but if you was here I think you would be like Wiley and William was last spring. You would be so homesick that you would have to start home. This is going to be a bad year for newcomers, for it is going to be hard times here. This season is very close here. Ain't one out of a hundred that would come from Egypt to this state that would like the country when I first came. But I couldn't getaway and by the time I got so I could get away, I was satisfied and if a man writes to me, I will tell him as near the truth as I can. This is a good place for a man to make a living if he was satisfied. But I wouldn't advise anyone to move to this country this season, for it is going to be the hardest time that has been for some time. Corn is worth 50¢ per bushel; pork from 5¢ to 6¢ per pound. Everything in proportion. So I will come to a close by saying I will answer any of my old friends when they write to me.
From W. W. Fender to John Pate.”

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February 2, 1878
Pottersville, Howell County, Missouri

“Mr. John Pate,

Sir, I take this opportunity of answering of writing you a few lines to let you know that we are all well, hoping they find you all well. We have nothing strange to write. We received a letter from you a few days ago from you. We have a very fine winter. Here there has not bin any snowe that a man could track anything. Corn is selling at 25¢ to 30¢ per bushel. Pork at 2½¢ per pound, and everything else in perportion [sic]. Money is very scarce here. I, J.C. Wilson, has become diseased in my breast and I am not able to work any now. We was proud to hear that your wife is getting well. We don't know whether we will move back there or not. Silas is sorting the mail. You must write often.
J.C. Wilson to John Pate.”

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“Dear Mother and children all. We received your letter a few days ago and found us well as common. You roat to know that baby's name. Its name is Phynetta. You roate that you wanted us to come back there and that if we donte come back to live, we will come and see you all some time if we keep living. The children all wants to see you very bad and talks about you a heape. Howell we think you should come out and see us all and see how we are doing. Tell Samuel Wilson that his wife and children is living in Arkansas and is all well. They are living at William Fenders. Tell all the children they must write to us. So we must closed the male is waiting to starte. We cannot write any more this time. Excuse my letter. I will write more next time.
John C. Wilson”