Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society MMN # 99347

Date: March 23, 1839

Description: K.B. Sewall description of Mobile, Alabama

Ravenswood. March 23, 1839 –

My Dearest Wife

I am at My Cousin's Gorham Davenport whom I think you recollect, He is a Merchant in Mobile but lives about 4 miles back on the Spring Hill road – He has about 12 acres of land and a Snug little Cottage, keeps two horses, two cows though unfortunately neither of them gives milk now, & cultivates a fine garden. His wife is a charming woman — they lost their only child, a Son about 3 years old in 1837 of small pox — Her parents were French who fled from St. Domingo during the insurection. – He insisted on my Staying with him while here.

For two days we have had rain – this morning it is clear & cooler, the wind I believe from the north. My health is still improving I think – I want exercise for the last two days the rain has kept me in Doors. I think I shall go next week to Pen= =sacola & to my brothers at Montgomery. –

Mr. D. rides into the city in the mor=
=ning & back at night in a light wagon – He is now
working in his garden as he does every morning before
he goes in – sowing beets & other garden vegetables – His
garden is as forward now, as yours in Portland is in
May – I should think the Season here was full
two months in advance – the potatoes, corn, onions

Cabbages &c. an quite high - & we had this morning fine earlishes for breakfast. in It is sorpe is out helping line has oplant - in a few moments we shall note into, town, I have some tittle business to do there a at I o clock Inole loget a letter from my Deaux Tuerchia - I have heard nothing and I feel very anxions - This is the 23 mark dif you had written me wen on the 13th - fifteen days after I bailed from New hold have it to day -I feet, you are ill , pray do , on receift of this worle me offer - How I wish you were with me - how would ayon this chiefe - I think it would have a port Effect on your bearing - but it is time now togo - I shall take this in with one or herhales fill it ale & Send it by to day's mail - adien my draust linge. Mr Dading hitle Eurin can over talk Isuphore quite well. Kip her for her papa oday I have bresund the wrige Ha flying fish for her - a Ithink Ther very much God blen you both a present as all your row affection to afternoon in the City - I was disaphointed in getting no Letter from the north - norpapers - it makes me houstiely-It has been a charming day - The gentleman that I Law letters to Thave found very pleasant - Too of them Lawyon - one a merchant - Men arkin - Mr. Joues - A Mr. Paylor - there with my consins form my acquainlaine ou far in Mobile - as to Mobile it is rather a bleatant citis - The land wifer gradually

cabbages &c are quite high – & we had this morning fine radishes for breakfast. – His wife is out helping him hoe & plant – in a few moments we shall ride into town. I have some little business to do there & at 1 o clock I hope to get a letter from my Dearest Lucretia – I have heard nothing and I feel very anxious – This is the 23 March & if you had written me even on the 13th – fifteen days after I sailed from New York I should have it to day — I fear, you are ill, pray do on receipt of this write me & often – How I wish you were with me – You would enjoy this climate - I think it would have a good effect on your hearing – but it is time now to go – I shall take this with me & perhaps fill it up & send it in to day's mail – ADieu My Dearest wife – Our Darling little Eunice can now talk I suppose quite well – Kiss her for her papa & say I have preserved the wings of a flying fish for her – & I think of her very much God bless you both & preserve us all – you ever affectionate Sewall

Afternoon in the City — I was disappointed in getting no Letters from the North – nor papers – it makes me homesick – It has been a charming day – the gentleman that I had letters to I have found very pleasant - Two of them Lawyers – one a merchant – Mr. Aikin – Mr. Jones – & Mr. Taylor – There with my cousins form my acquaintances so far in Mobile – As to Mobile it is rather a pleasant city – the land rises gradually

back from the Bay - + then extends in all directions nearly level Covered where it is not cleaned and letter with the long leaves pine (pinus palustris) - it has some to the ap= = heavana of the plains at Boundwith . Many of the buildings are very pretty - The Dwellings are mostly of wood and painted while - He most are one stony Cottages painted white . but there are many very handlowe two story one ! - the Merchant & Planters Bank and the Barton academy are very hand forme mildings The principal letail ofancy trade Streets are Dauphin & Royal . The latter is parallel with the River othe I back In it are the Hotels . Banky - Post * Office - Court House & Lawyer Offices - the finesh Storect for wroth a Extent is Sovern-= ment Street, which news at Right angles to Royal of & duely west . it is wider than Browning for aswide) out long the though the and of houses are few any for between on the modefit - The Barton aladany is on this Street a a hand touse new presty tenan Church . There are Jone delightful, Cottages of gardens on the outskirts Attre city - Spring Hill is about y miles back that is West. There is a broad islawy prot in fromthe of the citis which gives it the abhearant of being built on a River - Spromine that my next letter should be weater - but I fear you can not commend this on that score -

back from the bay - & then extends in all directions nearly level covered where it is not cleared and Settled with the long leaved pine (pinus palustris) - it has some of the ap= =pearance of the plains at Brunswick — Many of the buildings are very pretty – The Dwellings are mostly of wood and painted white – the most are one story Cottages painted white – but there are many very handsome two story ones – The Merchants & Planters Bank and the Barton Academy are very handsome buildings The principal retail fancy trade Streets are Dauphin & Royal – The latter is parallel with the River & the 3^d back on it are the Hotels Banks – Post Office – Court House & Lawyers offices – The finest Street for width & extent is Govern= =ment Street, which runs at Right angles to Royal st & directly west – it is wider than Broadway (or as wide) & as long as through the apperend of it houses are few and far between on the most of it – the Barton Academy is on this Street & a handsome new presbyterian Church – there are some delightful Cottages & gardens on the outskirts of the city – Spring Hill is about 7 miles back that is West – there is a Small island just in front of the city which gives it the appearance of being built on a River – I promise that my next letter should be neater – but I fear you can not commend this on that score. again ADieu my Dearest Wife ever your

K.B.S.

to care of Gorham Davenhort. Mobile. Sive My regard, loall. Is our sear Eumin I can only deud a Kiff for that the will under Hand better than worst . Got bless you worth . Your own dan P. S. She in the paper the news from the from him - or That you have been in Mane much excited - I hope it may leave to a Sheedy Settlement of the Roundry line - with bloodhelm. Do write me - & direct to Care of B. C. Skwall. Montymony on

[continued from bottom]
to care of Gorham Davenport – Mobile – Give
my regards to all. To our Dear Eunice I can only
Send a Kiss for that she will understand better
than words, God bless you both. Your own Dear
Sewall

[address sideways]

Mrs. K. B. Sewall

Care Ezekiel Day Esq

Portland

Maine

P.S. I see in the papers the news from the frontier – & that you have been in Maine much excited – I hope it may lead to Speedy Settlement of the Boundry line & with bloodshed – Do write me – & direct to care of B. C. Sewall - Montgomery or