

10
Sensacota 17th April 1847.

Dear Johnston,

I had the pleasure to receive a few days ago, your kind letter of the 8th instant. Indeed I had almost lost hopes of ever hearing from you again, for, for a long long time had I been trying to trace your whereabouts, and yet was never able to ascertain it, but a short week ago, and this from young Anderson, who had received a letter from you.

Should your friend Col A. S. Dickell visit Sensacota, I will do all in my power to aid him in the accomplishment of his laudable undertaking. (I regret however to state, that in my opinion our town cannot furnish any information, unless indeed it be oral, and yet even this, will be difficult to be had, for but few, very few, of our old inhabitants remain to tell the tales of old. As to the character of the papers remaining in the archives in the possession of Mr Jos. E. Caro, they all relate (as you correctly expressed the opinion to your friend) to land claims. Have you ever read the history of Florida by Joseph M. White or John Lee William, I hardly recollect in whose name the book was published

but know that both had a hand in getting it up.
This book I think would furnish Col. DeKell
with all the information he may desire to obtain
as to the history of Florida. In fact what
Col. White could achieve in that way, I doubt
(with due deference to your opinion) whether any
other man can do it.

I will as you request advise your friends,
and yet, dear Johnston, as you know that I am
a poor letter writer, I am almost sorry that you
have given him encouragement that I would.

If I recollect right my eldest child
John, was born before you left Tusculum,
since then Mr. De la Stua has honored me
with two births, both girls, & the first of which
named Margaret Josephine, we had the misfor-
tune to lose when a year old, the other named
Stephanie is about 18 months old and doing well,
I am in daily expectation of having an increase
of one or two more, for Henrietta is very
large, and here I would exclaim with you
that when children comes before dollars, figures
have a double potency.

Last October a year ago I was elected
Clerk of the Circuit Court for the term of two
years - I will again run for the office; it pays
about \$500 a year, which together with the
Mayorship, to which office, by a majority of 69 votes

over Charles Evans, I was elected on the 5th
instant, - makes my income worth about \$740.

Business of all kinds is dull very dull
Mr. Giestra does nothing worth mentioning, so
much so that he had to hire Jacob at the
Yards. Arthur has been in New Orleans for
these four months, he is learning the trade
of watchmaker and promises to do well, I
saw him there about a month ago, for strange
to say, for a poor man, I took it in my
head to visit New Orleans and my trip made me
minus \$100.

During my Clerkship I have issued more
marriage licenses than had ever been issued
in this County during four years, I think
the number exceeds forty and among them
was one for Georgianna, Franc. Bourne's
daughter, Miss Clois M^{rs} Rivie, widow Collins & Co.
Recieve the kind regards of Henrietta, M^{rs} & M^{rs}
Giestra and all your friends. I believe me very
truly yours

A. C. de la Siga

from a gentleman
from Pensacola



25 April

J

Pearson's Post Office

~~St. James~~

~~St. James~~ County

Montgomery Alabama

from a gentleman
from Pensacola

17 Apr 1847

Pensacola 17th April 1847

Dear Johnston,

I had the pleasure to receive a few days ago, your kind letter of the 8th instant. Indeed I had almost lost hopes of ever hearing from you again, for, for a long long time had I been trying to trace your whereabouts, and yet was never able to ascertain it, but a short week ago, and this from young Anderson, who had received a letter from you.

Should your friend Col. A. J. Pickett visit Pensacola, I will do all in my power to aid him the accomplishment of his laudable undertaking. I regret however to state, that in my opinion, our town cannot furnish any information unless it indeed be oral, and yet even this, will be difficult to be had, for but few, very few, of our old inhabitants remain to tell tales of old. As to the character of the papers remaining in the archives and in the possession of M^r. Jos. E. Caro, they all relate (as you correctly expressed the opinion to your friend) to land claims. Have you ever read the history of Florida by Joseph M. White or John Lee Williams,² I hardly recollect in whose name the book was published but know that both had a hand in getting it up. This book I think would furnish Col. Pickett with all the information he may desire to obtain as to the history of Florida. In fact what Col. White could achieve in that way, I doubt (with due deference to your opinion) whether another man can do it.

I will as you request address your friend and yet, dear Johnston, as you know that I am a poor letter write, I am almost sorry that you have given him

¹ From looking at a genealogical website by Cathy Manly Sockol, I believe F. E. de la Rúa of Pensacola to be Filomeno de la Rúa (1813-1891), son of Col. Juan de la Rúa, who married Henrietta Yniestra. (<http://freepages.cultures.rootsweb.com/~chatsol/dat4.html>). Col. Juan de la Rúa was one of thirteen citizens on the legislative council that initiated civil government after Florida was ceded to the United States. The governor and legislative council met at Col. de la Rúa's house in 1822 to construct the framework of the territorial government.

² Williams, John Lee. *The Territory of Florida: or, Sketches of the Topography, Civil and Natural History, of the Country, the Climate, and the Indian Tribes*. New York: A.T. Goodrich, 1837.

encouragement that I would.

If recollect right my oldest child John, was born before you left Pensacola, since then M^{rs} De la Rua has honored me with two births, both girls, & the first of which named Margaret Josephine, we had the misfortune to lose when a year old, the other named Stephanie is about 18 months old, and doing well. I am in daily expectation of having an increase of one or not two more, for Henrietta is very large, and here I would exclaim with you that when children come before dollars, figures have a double potency.

Last October a year ago I was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court for the term of two years – I will again run for the office; it pays about \$500 a year, which together with the Mayorship, to which office by a majority of 69 votes over Charles Evans, I was elected on the 5th instant, makes my income worth about \$740.

Business of all kinds is dull very dull. M^r. Ynistra does nothing worth mentioning, so much that he had to hire Jacob at the Yard. Arthur has been in New Orleans for these four months, he is learning the trade of watchmaker and promises to do well, I saw him there about a month ago, for strange to say, for a poor man, I took it in my head to visit New Orleans and my trip made me minus \$100.

During my Clerkship I have issued more marriage licenses than had ever been issued in this County during four years, I think the number exceeds forty and among them was one for Georgianna, Franc^o Cournys daughter, Miss Eliza McKenzie, widow Collier &c, &c. Receive the kind regards of Henrietta, M^r. & M^{rs}. Ynistra and all your friends & believe me very truly yours

F. E. de la Rua

[*Postmark*]

[*hand postage*]

PENSACOLA Flor. Apr 17 5

[*Second postmark by hand*] [*postage*]

Church Hill / 25 April 5 [*written over the first "5"*]

[*Address*]

Pearsall Johnston Esq^r. / ~~Church Hill~~ / Lowndes County / Montgomery Alabama

[*"Montgomery" is written in the same hand as the second postmark*]

[*Endorsement*]

from a gentleman / from Pensacola