1808

10: 1808 May 14: [William] Dunbar Jr. (New Orleans) to William Dunbar "Dear Parents" (Natchez)

William Dunbar Jr.

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/dunbar

Part of the Archival Science Commons, and the United States History Commons

Recommended Citation

William Dunbar Collection. 38.
https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/dunbar/38

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Special Collections at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in William Dunbar Collection by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.
278
William Dunbar Esq.
Natchez
on Mississippi
America.
New Orleans, 18 June 1797. Transmitted with the
Yours very truly,
John Mason.
My Dear Parents

On Wednesday the eleventh we reached this in safety after a voyage of 8 days; I would have written you from Baton-Rouge if I had had a chance but we did not stop there when we came within sight of this town. I never beheld anything look so beautiful than the ships I dare say there was better than an hundred, the rigging was so thick that I could not see through it. The town I think is very large but not handsome; we went to the play, and although it was called an astonishing one, I thought very little of it. I visited the church but the doors were shut & I did not see the inside but I think it is very large I suppose it is 6 or 8 times as large as the Watcher church.

I paid a visit to Mr. & Mrs. Dow & Mr. & Mrs. Carriick. They received very kind ly & were very glad to see us, they are all very well except Mr. Carriick to he looks so very old that I dont think he will stand it much longer. Mr. Postlethwait delivered Mr. Dunnford your letter, I have not seen him yet. I have been to see the battle of Lodis. I think it is well worth seeing. Everything seems to be very forward here, the plums are in great abundance here, there are some figs ripe already & a great many blackberry's.

I have seen no strawberies here yet neither have I seen any oysters Mr. P. gave my watch to watchmaker & he has cleaned it & now regulate it. I will thank you if you will tell Mr. & tell the schoolmaster I delivered his letter, I found none in the post office for him.

Tomorrow we intend going to church. The following is a copy of my Journal, but it not worth much I am afraid
On the 5th of May 1808 I left the St. Catherines landing and felt very melancholy at the thoughts of being parted from you & so many dear friends for so long a time. During this day we passed 2 or 3 islands one of which was very large called Hootsels Island; we passed also the mouths of Homachito & Buffalo & at dark landed within sight of Fort Adams we would not venture, land there at night as it was a dangerous landing.

Friday 6th. This was a very cool morning. At day light we set out again about sunrise reached Fort Adams & took in 39 bales of Cotton, we observed a flock of Pelicans. The soldiers of this place were reviewed at 8 o'clock this morning & they went through their exercise very handsomely. At 12 o'clock we got off again after being detained fully 3 hours by the wind. About 10 o'clock we passed Clark's Bayou & several other small Bayous. About the middle of this afternoon we passed the Red River which I think is as wide as the Mississippi; and we also passed Bayou Chafalia & a small island below it. We floated all this night & about 12 passed Bayou Junica.

Saturday 7th. This morning was very mild & pleasant about 7 o'clock we came to a part of Pointe-Coupe where it is very thickly settled. 9 o'clock passed the church of Pointe-Coupe & also a small brig that came up with Africans for sale. Half after 9 we passed the Bo-mouth of Bayou Sarah, it is a very handsomely formed bayou with houses situated at the mouth & quite navigable. At 11 o'clock passed the lower end Pointe-Coupe settlement, it being very thickly settled all the way. Half past 11 we passed the two mouths of Forrester & Thomson's creeks. At 12 passed bluffs on the left side, with eminences on them somewhat like Elliscliffs & passed Mount Pleasant which is the handsomest place I have seen on this river. At 1 o'clock P.M. passed two long islands parallel to each other, called the two sisters. At 5 passed Montesano, the new city of Mr. Harris. Half after 5 we passed our own
place just above Baton Rouge, but it was so thickly grown up with trees that I could see nothing like a clearing. about 6 p.m. we landed at Mr. Follows, where we found Mr. Rowe & Mr. & Mrs. Stupper there, at 11 o'clock put off again & proceeded about 8 a.m. had to land again an account of the rain, & the wind blew very hard here we sat all night Sunday 3d. This morning was rainy with a strong breeze from S.E. but nevertheless we put off & forgot Charles P. on shore & had to send the smallest ship for him, about 8 the wind became so strong that we were obliged to land here we stayed all day & had a very nice dinner.

Monday 4th. This morning was very foggy & cloudy, about 5 we put off & in two hours passed Bayou Marchac about 8 passed the two mouths of Plaquemine half after 11 passed Marchac Church. There is a very thick settlement here on both sides P.M. at 2 o'clock passed a small island covered with willows, about 4 we passed several sugar plantations & observed some large orange trees for the first time at 5 o'clock we passed the La Touche which I think is a very handsome bayou. I was very unwell all this day. This night was a very fine night until 12 o'clock when it became cloudy & we landed about 12 this night the moon was in an eclipse, but I was asleep & did not see it, I was told that it was nearly total. I suppose Papa you did not see it, as you had no Journal & therefore was not prepared for it.

Tuesday 10th. at 5 o'clock this morning we put off again & passed a great many nice plantations. The orange trees were in great abundance along this coast. at 8 passed Bonnecaire church, at 9 the wind blew so strong from the W. that we were obliged to land for fear of being dashed against the shore. here we gathered some fine blackberries. I found a handsome plant with a flower but it was so minute that I could not ascertain what it was but I made it out to be pentandria Regenia bearing two seeds in the pericarpium, but shall send it to you.
in this letter. We stayed here all day & had a very nice Dinner of chicken, green peas, artichokes & eggs. In the evening we caught a nice little dish of shrimps & dark the mosquitoes became more troublesome than I had ever seen them. About 9 o'clock the wind abated & we put off. At 10 o'clock it became quite mild. We had a fine clear night. About 12 we passed Red Church, all those Churches that we have passed are exactly that of the Natchez. This night the mosquitoes disturbed us in such a manner that scarcely one of us got a wink of sleep.

Wednesday 11th This morning was Foggy & Cloudy. About sun rise we reached this Town.

We now reside at Mr. Kenner's.

It is probable we shall be here two or three weeks & we expect to get up to Mr. Kenner along with us. Mr. Andrews took shipping & went off the next day after he arrived here. We expect to go in the ship called the Baronet which is a large ship having very elegant accommodations. The Cabin is as large & as elegant as your Hall.

I hope you remain all well, give all the children a kiss for me if you please. how does Robert come on at school now. I suppose he begins to have some battles by this time.

I Remain as ever

Your affectionate Son

Dunbar Jr.

W Dunbar Esq.

Natchez