


1808

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

William Dunbar Jr.

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William Dunbar Esq. —

Natches —

in Mississippi

America.

New Orleans 18 June 1799. Received forwarded by,  
James M. O'Neil Secy  
Attorney Morgan

My Dear Parents

Saturday  
New Orleans 14 May 1808

On Wednesday the eleventh we reached this in safety after a voyage of 6 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 any thing look ~~so~~<sup>more</sup> 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.

We payed a visit to Mr & Mrs Dow & Mr & Mrs Carrick they received us very kindly & were very glad to see us, they are all very well except Mr Carrick ~~and~~ he looks so very old that I dont think he will stand it much longer Mr Postlewait delivered Mr Durnford your letter. I have not seen him yet. I have been to see the battle of Lodi I think it is well worth seeing. Every thing ~~here~~ seems to be very forward here, the blumbs are in great abundance ~~here~~ there are some figs ripe already & a great many blackberries, I have seen no strawberries here yet neither have I seen any oysters Mr P. gave my watch to watchmaker & he has cleaned it, & now regulating it. I will thank you if you will tell ~~Mr~~ ~~tell~~ the schoolmaster I delivered his letter, & found none in the post office for him.

Tomorrow we intend going to church. The following is a copy of my Journal, but it is not worth much I am afraid

On the 5th of May 1808 I left the St. Catherine's 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 three Islands one of which was very large called Hootsel's Island; we passed also the mouths of Homachito & Buffalo & at dark landed within sight of Fort Adams we would not venture <sup>to</sup> 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 1 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 Pointcoupe where it is very thickly settled; 9 o'clock passed the church of Pointcoupe & also a small brig that came up with africans for sale. half after 9. passed the ~~the~~ mouth of Bayou Sarah. it is a very handsome bayou with houses situated at the mouth & quite navigable. at 11 o'clock passed the lower end Pointcoupe settlement. It being very thickly settled all the way. half past 11. passed the two mouths of Fore river & Thomson's creek. at 12. passed bluffs on the left side, with eminences on them somewhat like Ellis's cliffs & passed Mount Pleasant which is the handsomest place I have seen ~~of~~ on this river. at 2 o'clock P. M. passed two long islands parallel to each other, called the two sisters at 5 passed Montesano the new city of M<sup>r</sup> Ferris. 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 passed Baton Rouge & at dusk landed at Mr. Fultons where we found Mr. Rowel & Mr. & Mrs. P. supped there, at 11 o'clock put off again & proceeded about 5 miles & had to land again on account of the rain, & the wind blow<sup>ing</sup> very hard here we stay'd all night Sunday 8th 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 small skiff 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 9th This morning was very Foggy & Cloudy. about 5 we put off & in two hours passed Bayou Manchac. about 8 passed the two mouths of Plaquemine. half after 11 passed Manchac 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 Fourche which I think is a very handsome Bayou. I was very unwell all this day. This night was a very fine night until 1 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 rice plantations. The orange trees are in great abundance along this coast. at 8 passed Bonnacare 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 blackberrys. 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 *Digenia* bearing two seed in the pericarpium, but I shall send it to you

in this letter. We stayed here all day & had a very nice Dinner of chickens, & green  
peas, Artichokes & eggs. in the evening we caught a nice little dish of shrimps  
& at dark the musquitos 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 <sup>like</sup> that of the Natcher. this night the musque-  
toes 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 M<sup>r</sup> Kenner's.

It is probable we shall be here two or three weeks & we expect to get M<sup>r</sup>  
& M<sup>rs</sup> Kenner along with us. M<sup>r</sup> Andrews took shipping & went off  
the next day after he arrived here. We expect to go in the ship called the  
Barnalite 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  
W<sup>m</sup> Dunbar Jr.

W<sup>m</sup> Dunbar Esq<sup>r</sup>

Natcher