

SOUTHERN CAROLINIANA

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SOUTHERN CAROLINIANA

Sequitentennial Series

No. 1 *Colonial South Carolina: A Contemporary Description*

Edited by Chapman C. Mailing

No. 2 *The Life of South and West: The Records of a Pioneer  
Migration, 1835*

Edited by Fletcher M. Green

THE  
LIDES GO SOUTH  
AND WEST

*The Record of a Planter Migration*

1790-1850

Edited by

FLETCHER M. GREEN



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA PRESS

Columbia

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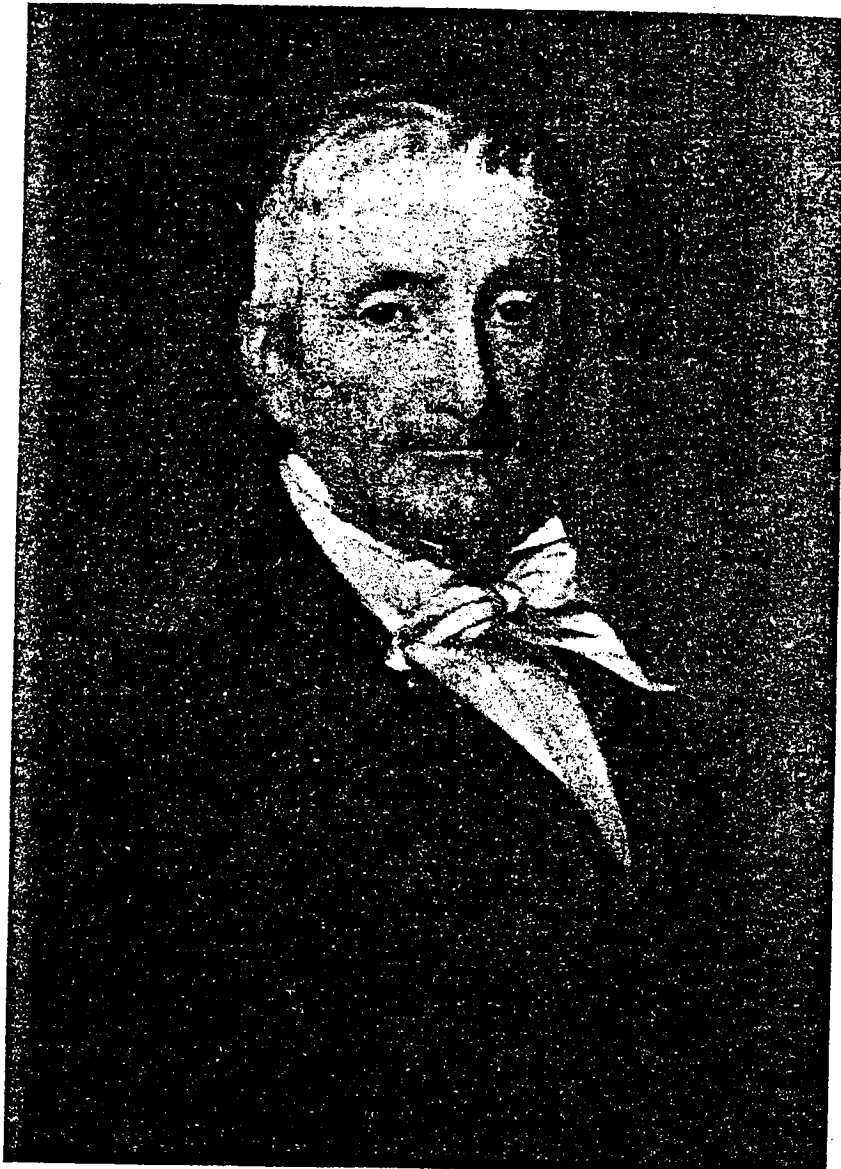
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## INTRODUCTION

One of the characteristic features of American society during the first half of the nineteenth century was the westward migration of peoples from the older eastern states to the new lands of the frontier. Soil exhaustion and erosion, general economic and social unrest, the more fixed and conservative life of the East pushed the more independent, aggressive, and ambitious peoples out. And the rich fertile lands, the more equalitarian and democratic society, and the greater opportunity to get ahead economically in the West pulled these people on. It was this rush of Easterners to the cheap or free lands of the frontier that peopled the continent, and developed a stage of civilization which, according to Frederick Jackson Turner, contributed the dominant forces to American character and history.

There was also a southern as well as a western movement. From the tidewater and piedmont regions of the older South—Maryland, Virginia, the two Carolinas, and Georgia—small farmers and planters, individually and in groups, moved into the fertile cotton and corn lands of the Gulf Coast region. They carried with them their ideas and ideals, habits and social customs, the plantation-slavery agrarian economy. They established churches and schools, erected saw and grist mills, and established new settlements in the wilderness that were southern as well as western in society and character. From the lower South a similar migration took place to the Southwest. Sons migrated from Virginia or South Carolina to Alabama and grandsons moved on to Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas; and, occasionally, some few returned to the old homesteads in the upper South. The family ties were maintained through correspondence, numerous exchange visits, and associations at summer resorts. For instance there were "Alabama," "Mississippi," and "South Carolina" rows at both the White and the Red Sulphur Springs of Virginia, where friends and relatives met.<sup>1</sup> Thus family ties bound the upper and lower South together. When sectional divergence split the Union in 1860 the upper southern states would not permit their offspring to be coerced, and Alabamians and Texans were only going back home when they went to Virginia to engage the northern troops in armed combat.

<sup>1</sup> Percival Reniers, *The Springs of Virginia. Life, Love, and Death at the Waters, 1775-1900* (Chapel Hill, 1941), p. 9 and *passim*; Lawrence Fay Brewster, *Summer Migrations and Resorts of South Carolina Low-Country Planters* (Durham, 1947), pp. 90-100.



From a portrait by William H. Scarborough

JAMES LIDE

*Mr. Lide had this portrait painted just before the family left for Alabama.*

The glamor and pathos of the migration to the Middle and Far West have caught the imagination and interest of the novelist and historian, but the migration to the South has been largely neglected. Only recently have historians begun to write the general history of the Southern frontier.<sup>2</sup> One explanation of this neglect may be the dearth of published primary source materials. Hundreds of immigrants kept journals and diaries of the trek to the West which have been edited and published. Few such documents of migrants to the South have seen the light of day.<sup>3</sup> Yet in family archives are to be found journals, diaries, and correspondence that tell of the heartaches caused by the separation of families, of the hardships encountered in the long journey in horse-drawn carriage or ox-drawn wagon from the upper South to the Gulf Coast region, and of the bitter, as well as happy, experiences of starting life anew in a strange land.

One such family collection is the Lide-Coker Papers given to the South Caroliniana Library of the University of South Carolina by Professor Robert Ervin Coker of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Professor Coker and Professor Robert L. Meriwether, Director of the South Caroliniana Library, have requested me to edit for publication a portion of the Lide-Coker Papers. Included in the following document are a Journal kept by Mrs. Sarah Jane (Lide) Fountain on a trip from Springville<sup>4</sup> in Darlington County, South Carolina, to Pleasant Hill, or Carlowville, about forty miles southwest of Montgomery, Alabama, November 18 to December 26, 1835; some pertinent letters from the Lides of Alabama to the Cokers in South Carolina, 1835 to 1854; and some letters of Eli Hugh Lide, who accompanied his parents and his sister Mrs. Fountain to Alabama in 1835, but who declared that "something within me whispers onward onward and urges me on"; hence he began the long trek from Alabama to Texas in 1854 only to meet his death from cholera upon reaching Woodville, Texas, on May 18, 1854.

The Lide-Coker Papers are a rich store house of interesting materials on the history of the South and Southwest. Modes

<sup>2</sup> See Everett Dick, *The Dixie Frontier: A Social History of the Southern Frontier from the First Transmontane Beginnings to the Civil War* (New York, 1948).  
<sup>3</sup> One of the best of these is William Henry Wills, "A Southern Sulky Ride in 1837, from North Carolina to Alabama," in *Publications of the Southern History Association* (Washington), VI (1902), 471-483, and VII (1903), 7-16, 79-84, and 187-192. Wills was born in Tarboro, North Carolina, August 4, 1809, and died there June 22, 1889. He was a merchant and a preacher of the Methodist Protestant Church. He left Tarboro on April 6, 1837, toured Florida and Alabama seeking a location for a mercantile establishment, and returned on June 10, 1837. He visited and described many of the places mentioned by Mrs. Sarah Lide Fountain in the Journal and letters printed below. Unlike the Lides, Wills traveled alone and stopped at inns and taverns. He, too, met many people on the road whom he had known in the Carolinas.  
<sup>4</sup> See Mrs. Furman Edwards Wilson (nee Jane Lide Coker), *Memories of Society Hill, S. C.* (Hartsville, n. d.), 87 pages.

of travel, social conditions, religion, education, health, the institution of slavery, clearing lands and building new settlements, farming and planting, shipping and merchandising, Indian relations, land speculation and politics—all these and other problems are covered in the papers.

The southern and western "fever" which raged in South Carolina during the hard times of the 1820's and 1830's and foreshadowed the panic of 1837, carried among others members of the Lide, Coker, Calhoun, DuBose, Sanders, Wilson, Kervin, Pugh, Cannon, Temple, McIver, and McCall families to Alabama. James Lide, son of Robert (a major under General Francis Marion) and Sarah (Kolb) Lide, a prosperous and well to do planter who owned a plantation on the Pee Dee River near Mechanicsville and a residence in Springville, at first resisted the "fever" that took relatives, friends, and neighbors away. He had, in fact, before giving permission for his daughter Hannah Anne Frances to marry Caleb Coker, a rising young business man of Society Hill, extracted from the suitor the promise that he would never take Hannah west.<sup>5</sup> Lide's son, Eli Hugh, finally persuaded his father to move to Pleasant Hill, Alabama, where a nephew Robert Pugh Lide had already settled. John Coker, brother of Caleb, removed to Pleasant Hill shortly after the Lides, but was to return to South Carolina after a sojourn in Alabama.

James Lide was sixty-five years of age at the time he removed to Alabama in 1835. He died at Carlowville in 1855. Lide's party included his wife, Jane (Holloway) Lide, fifty-seven years of age; six of his twelve children; a daughter-in-law; six grandchildren; an overseer; and a number of Negro slaves, chiefly house servants. A larger force of field Negroes had been sent ahead under the guidance of an overseer to make preparations for the arrival of their master's family. The six children were: Eli Hugh, thirty-nine years of age and thrice married, who removed to Texas in 1854; Sarah Jane, thirty-seven years of age, the widow of William E. Fountain, and the author of the Journal; Mary Elizabeth, twenty-eight years of age; Samuel Wilds, nineteen years of age, who tired of Alabama and removed to Decatur, Georgia; Maria Frances, sixteen years of age, who returned to South Carolina for two years of schooling at the Misses Ramsay's school in Charleston in 1837-1839, married Josiah E. Poun-

<sup>5</sup> Information supplied by Professor Robert E. Coker. For a capital study of Caleb Coker that tells much of Hannah Lide Coker and others of her connection, see George Lee Simpson, Jr., "Cokers of Carolina: The Social Biography of a Family," unpublished doctoral dissertation University of North Carolina, 1951.



cey in 1847 and after his death returned to Society Hill, South Carolina, where she died in 1901; and Joseph Mark, fourteen years of age, who later moved on to Mississippi where he died in 1909. The daughter-in-law was Martha J. (Blackwell), third wife of Eli Hugh Lide. The grandchildren were Frances Jane, Mary Ann and Caroline, daughters, and Cornelius Mandeville son of Eli Hugh, and James and Lizzie, children of Mrs. Sarah Jane Fountain. Two other sons, Jesse aged twenty-six and David aged thirty, were in a few years to join the Lide family in Alabama. In separate parties, but near enough to be seen and occasionally to camp alongside the Lide party, were the Sanders, the Perkins, and the Bruce families. In a few years they were joined by the Kervins, the Hartwells, the Burks, the Williamsons, and others. A community of nineteen homes in sight of each other was soon a flourishing village, with three churches, two schools, and a saw and a grist mill. Some of these early South Carolina immigrants moved to Florida, some to Mississippi, some to Arkansas, some to Louisiana, and some to Texas.

The Lide entourage included a carriage and a chair or chaise (a light two-wheeled vehicle) in which the ladies rode, and several wagons. The former were drawn by horses the latter by oxen. The wagons carried tents in which the Lides slept at night and were to live in until houses could be erected in Alabama, food for whites and Negroes, feed for horses and oxen, household furniture and kitchen utensils with which to set up house-keeping in the new homes, and axes, plows, hoes, and other farm implements with which to clear the ground and plant crops. As the loads were lightened by consumption of food and feed some of the oxen were sold off. It is interesting to note that the Lides had previously bought lands but also rented and purchased others after their arrival in Alabama.

I wish to acknowledge an especial indebtedness to Professor Robert E. Coker for his invaluable assistance in this work. He made the manuscripts available; made the first selection of papers to be published; wrote an account, based on his intimate and extensive family knowledge, of the Lides and their connections from which I have largely drawn; and he orally supplied information which I could not otherwise have obtained.

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

FLETCHER M. GREEN

## JOURNAL OF SARAH JANE (LIDE) FOUNTAIN

*November 18-December 26, 1835*

Nov. 18th. Set off from Springville about 3 o'clock P. M. got to Darlington village about 4, spent the night with brother David.<sup>1</sup>

19th. Dined with brother Jesse today,<sup>2</sup> took leave of our dear friends and set off about 2 o'clock. Oh! how can I describe my feelings, language cannot express them, but I must forbear, traveled about 10 miles, taken up near Mr. McNiece's for the night, very pleasant weather, feel better than I could expect, but very melancholly on account of leaving so many of my dear friends.<sup>3</sup>

20th. Had a comfortable bed last night, but there was so much noise with the negroes and horses that I could not sleep very well but felt considerably refreshed, we rose about 5 o'clock took breakfast and set out about sunrise and are now traveling on very well, now crossing Sparrow-swamp about 11 o'clock, all appear to be enjoying themselves very well, but when I think of my dear friends behind, I feel gloomy and depressed, and my heart bleeds within me, to think of the many tender cords that are now severed forever. A most delightful day so calm and serene, traveled about 13 miles today, and have taken up camp about 1 mile from Lynches-creek, bid a final farwell to dear old Darlington,<sup>4</sup> feel less fatigued tonight than I did last, very pleasant weather.

21st. Slept tolerably comfortable last night, feel somewhat refreshed this morning the waggons just now getting off sun about an hour high, the road moderately good, rather sandy and uneven for the oxen, the country just about here looks very much like Springville. About 10 o'clock, stopped at a little branch for the oxen to drink, a most delightful day, but rather warm for

<sup>1</sup> See Robert Ervin Coker, "Springville: A Summer Village of Old Darlington District" (to be published in Volume LIII [1932] of *The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*) for an interesting study of this dead town of South Carolina. David Robert Lide (January 30, 1805-September 24, 1874) was a merchant in Darlington in 1835, and later became a cotton factor in Charleston as the senior member of Coker and McLauchlin. He moved to Alabama in 1846 and became a factor in Mobile and a cotton planter in Dallas County.

<sup>2</sup> Jesse H. Lide was born in Darlington District South Carolina in 1809 and removed to Carlowville, Alabama, in 1845 where he became a prosperous farmer.

<sup>3</sup> In reproducing the manuscripts superscript letters have been lowered, abbreviations modernized and sentences and paragraphs made where breaks or dashes indicated the writer's intent. Partly illegible words have been supplied in brackets, and the punctuation and capitalization of opening and closing portions of the letters revised for the sake of clarity.

<sup>4</sup> Lynches Creek formed part of the Darlington District boundary.

our animals, met Mr. Julius Dubose just now on his return from the West,<sup>5</sup> says the roads are very good, now about 12 o'clock.

3 o'clock. Now gearing up to start, stopped and dined before Mr. Peoples' gate, Mr. Sanders and company just now getting in sight,<sup>6</sup> traveled about 11 miles today, and have taken up camp at the door of a little Methodist meeting-house, where we expect to remain until Monday morning. All well, and in pretty good spirits, every thing considered. Mr. Sanders and company have passed us, and took up camp just in sight of us. Mr. John F. Ervin of Darlington called on us just now. Mr. S. Wilkins also on his way to Columbia, very pleasant weather.

22nd. Sabbath morning, very comfortably fixed last night, but could not sleep much, for the noise of the negroes and horses, the folks from the other camp have all called on us this morning, preaching at a baptist church about 2 miles from this place today, but none of us went except Brother.<sup>7</sup> We expect to have preaching here this afternoon by a coloured methodist preacher from Chesterfield (Mr. Stephens).<sup>8</sup> Another beautiful day, we are all pretty well, I enjoy myself as well as I expected, but if I only had all my dear friends along, how much better I would feel. Had a very unexpected sermon just now, by a young Methodist preacher from Camden, a Mr. Daniels he preached a very good sermon from these words, Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. John 3rd Chapt., 7 verse. Just heard Mr. Stephens preach a very good sermon from 1st. chapt. of Romans 16th verse, had a very good congregation, rainy evening.

23rd. Monday morning. A very rainy gloomy morning to me. James quite sick all night,<sup>9</sup> consequently slept very little, just getting off, the chair [chaise] upset threw Clander and Lucy out,<sup>10</sup> no serious injury, the [singletree] of the chair very much bent, [and in try?]ing to straiten broke it, draged it on to Camden, and got it mended without any detention, passed

<sup>5</sup> Julius DuBose, a relative of the Lides, had been on a visit to his mother who had removed from South Carolina to Tennessee. He later moved to Alabama.

<sup>6</sup> The Sanders and the Bruce families continued with the Lide party to the end of the journey and settled in Dallas County, Alabama.

<sup>7</sup> This was Eli Hugh Lide, a deeply religious man as indeed were all the Lides. Eli Hugh was instrumental in founding a Baptist church in Carlsville, Alabama, and served as a deacon of the church.

<sup>8</sup> It is interesting to note that the Lides referred to a Negro preacher as Mister. They also treated their slaves with great kindness; they refused to separate families or to hire out slaves without their consent; and they invariably spoke of slaves as servants and as members of the family.

<sup>9</sup> James was Mrs. Fountain's son, a child of about six years of age.

<sup>10</sup> Clander and Lucy were Negro slave girls. Note that they were riding in the chair not the wagon.

through Camden about 1 o'clock, found it larger and better buildings than I expected, got to the river between 2 and 3 o'clock, where we lost sight of Mr. Sanders, all crossed over safely by a little after night, but some of us were very much frightened, found the banks very muddy and unpleasant, a very rainy day, we all got very wet while crossing the river, went out on high land, had large fires built, dried ourselves, and slept more comfortably than we have done, met Messrs. Wm. Kervin and Peter McIver on their return from the West,<sup>11</sup> traveled about 12 miles today.

24th. Tuesday. A cloudy damp morning. [I am] rather better myself, James bet[ter also?]. Pa started Amos back to Darlington this morning, feel very sorry to part with him,<sup>12</sup> now traveling over a very broken, healthy looking country, dined about 12 o'clock by a little branch, crossed a very deep water just now, that ran in the floor of the carriage, find the roads very heavy and hilly today, consequently travel very slowly, took up camp near Mr. Dinkins'. A very rainy evening, several of us complaining tonight, traveled about 17 miles.

25th. Wednesday. All better this morning a very cool drizly morning, every thing wet and disagreeable, very late getting off, passed through Columbia about 4 o'clock, a very pretty town, but the streets very muddy, crossed the Congaree about sunset, the [roar]ing of the river makes me feel [very gloomy?], took up camp about two miles from the river, still hear it roaring very plain, traveled 17 miles today.

26th. Thursday. All tolerably well this morning, weather clear and cold, the tent was frozen over us, crossed a very pretty little branch just now, and round about it were some of the largest rocks I ever saw, a healthy pleasant looking country, but very poor, passed over a very broken lonely looking country today, met Mr. H. Cannon on his return from Alabama,<sup>13</sup> he is very much pleased but says the roads are dreadful bad, overtaken this evening by Mr. Perkins and family, we are camping on one side of a little branch, and they on the other, a very pleasant night, calm, clear, and cool, traveled about 13 miles today. Mr. C. Perkins and his niece Jane Perkins called on us to night.

<sup>11</sup> The Kervin and McIver families were closely associated with and intermarried into the Lide family. Both removed to Carlisle, Alabama, from Darlington District.

<sup>12</sup> Amos was a slave boy.

<sup>13</sup> This was apparently Rasha Cannon, a leading citizen of Springville, South Carolina. He removed to Mississippi and played an important role in that state. See Robert E. Coker, "Springville."

27th. Friday. A horse missing this morning, (Buck) Samuel gone to look for him,<sup>14</sup> a cold rainy day, every thing looks gloomy and melancholly to me, roads very rough and hilly, saw some very large rocks, traveled about 17 miles. Samuel returned without the horse.

28th. Saturday. All pretty well this morning, weather rather more favourable than yesterday, Samuel gone back to look for the horse, crossed a little branch just now on a solid rock, crossed the Edisto river about 2 o'clock found the causeway very bad, took up camp within six miles of Aiken, until Monday morning, travelled about 14 miles today.

[29th. Sa]bbath morning. All well this morning, weather clear and cold, the lost horse found this evening.

30th. Monday clear and cold. Pa sold one yoke of his oxen for \$16. Crossed the railroad and passed in sight of Aiken, traveled about 14 miles today.

Dec. 1st. Tuesday. All well this morning, weather clear and pleasant, taken leave of beloved old South Carolina to-day, passed through Hamburg and Augusta, had a delightful view of Augusta from Hamburg, saw the steamboat and steamcars in operation, saw the circus folks parading about over the town, find Augusta quite a large handsome looking town, streets much more dry than Columbia, took up camp near Augusta feel dreadful bad at meeting so [. . .] waggoners, some of them taken [. . .] by us, don't like the looks of the Georgians at all, not much sleep for me tonight, traveled about 10 miles today.

2nd. Wednesday. Clear and cold, Ma complaining of pain in her face this morning. Ma better this evening, Georgia so far, looks very much like South Carolina, but very hilly and broken, roads very heavy today, traveled about 16 miles.

3rd. Thursday. Cold and windy, rainy this evening, country pretty much as yesterday, roads not quite so heavy, traveled 15 miles.

4th. Friday. A dark rainy morning, a very rainy unpleasant day, roads very hilly and sloppy, crossed the Ogechee river at Fans bridge this evening, took up camp about one mile from the river, two other com[panies] camping near us. Traveled about 17 miles today.

<sup>14</sup> Samuel Lide was then a youth of nineteen. He was never satisfied in Alabama and later removed to Decatur, Georgia.

5th. Saturday. All well this morning, clear and pleasant, passed through Sandersville about 1 o'clock, after which, traveled over a very handsome, healthy looking country, took up camp near a Mr. Doolittle's until Monday morning, a very unpleasant place, traveled about 18 miles today.

6th. Sabbath. A very pleasant day, found our situation rather more pleasant than we expected, all well.

7th. Monday. All well this morning, set out very early, crossed Buffalow creek safe but very much frightened, overtaken this afternoon by Mr. Itley Wilson from Williamsburg,<sup>15</sup> crossed the Ocony river at Scotts ferry about dark, traveled sometime after night to get to a camping place, camped n[ear] Mr. Wilson, who came and spent [the] evening with us, part of the road very rough and hilly today, traveled 20 miles, sister Martha very unwell tonight.

8th. Tuesday. A pleasant morning, set out very early. Sister Martha better this evening, several of the negroes complaining, traveled over a very pleasant, high, and elevated country today, could see plantations on the hills at a great distance, a great many long hills to travel over, crossed Commission creek, at which place saw a great many very large rocks, country very thickly settled traveled 17 miles.

9th. Wednesday. Negroes still sick, crossed the Oakmulgee river, passed through Macon, a pretty considerable town but not so handsome as Augusta, Mr. Wilson left [us to]day, oxen very much worried, [travelled] about 16 miles.

10th. Thursday. A pleasant morning, set out very early, a very hilly road today, traveled about 15 miles.

11th. Friday. A very rainy day, so much so that we can't travel, everything wet and unpleasant, tents leaking very much.

12th. Saturday. A cloudy damp morning, very late getting off, passed through Knoxville, a very poor looking place, crossed Flint river this evening, all safe, without any difficulty, what great cause have we for gratitude to our Heavenly Parent for His kindness in preserving and bringing us safe thus far on our journey, trust He will continue to be with us to the end of it, and to the end of our lives. We have now taken up camp near

<sup>15</sup> Itley Wilson, a Lide relative, was closely associated with the family; he moved to Mississippi.

Col. Crowell's,<sup>16</sup> where we expect to [spend] the Sabbath, after traveling sometime in the night, came about 16 miles.

13th. Sabbath. A very pleasant morning, but our situation not so comfortable as we could wish, a great many movers pass us today.

14th. Monday. Sister Martha quite sick, weather cold but pleasant, make rather a bad start this morning. Sister Martha better to-night, roads very good traveled about 17 miles today.

15th. Tuesday. All well this morning, weather pleasant, traveled 15 miles.

16th. Wednesday. Delightful weather for traveling, passed over some very long hills today, traveled 20 miles, and have now taken up camp in sight of Columbus. [Dread?] the Indian nation very much.

[17th. Thurs]day. Passed through Columbus, not very much pleased with its appearance, tho' a pretty smart little town, saw a good many Indians there, crossed the Chatahoochee river, and entered the Indian nation with gloomy feelings, traveled 10 miles over a dreadful road and have now taken up camp near a grog-shop where the Indians are making a great noise.

18th. Friday. Find the roads very rough and hilly today, oxen failing, getting on rather slowly, traveled only 15 miles. Indians so far more civil than I expected.

19th. Saturday. Warm and cloudy this morning, very much like rain. Got along very badly today, roads rough and muddy, my oxen give out, and little waggon broke down, tied it so as to get al[ong?] but badly, feel very gloomy here in the midst of the Indians, tho' they seem pretty friendly. Now took up camp near the Indian town, where we expect to spend the Sabbath, traveled about 12 miles.

20th. Sabbath. Several of the negroes sick, weather cloudy and gloomy, we all met at 12 o'clock and had prayer meeting. Quite a thunderstorm tonight, rained very hard, tents leaked a good deal.

21st. Monday. A very gloomy morning. Pa sold one team of oxen for a little Indian pony this morning, saw a good many

<sup>16</sup> This was John Crowell, Indian agent in Georgia, during the bitter controversy between the state and federal government over the removal of the Indians.

Indians today, and the most of them drunk, but appeared innocent, roads sloppy and muddy, crossed Caleba swamp, a very bad place, a long [rough?] causeway, and steep bank on [the other side?], and water deep, a dark drizzly day, traveled about 17 miles.

22nd. Tuesday. Still cloudy and gloomy, but not rainy, see a good many Indians, crossed Line creek, now through the Nation, feel very much relieved that we have all got through safe, got to Mount Meggs, and spent the night at Mr. Temple's traveled 16 miles today.<sup>17</sup>

23rd. Wednesday. A very pleasant day, left Mr. Temple's about 8 o'clock passed through Montgomery, quite a splendid looking town, oxen give out feel very much discouraged, traveled about 17 miles.

24th. Thursday. Crossed Catomac creek this morning, then passed over a prairie which was a dreadful bad road, then crossed the Pint Colly creek, dined near an old gentleman's house who was [very?] kind, invited Pa and Ma to go and take a cup of warm coffee, and gave them some potatoes, met with Mr. DuBose and Mr. Prince,<sup>18</sup> made me feel a little more cheerful to see an acquaintance once more, crossed the Talahassy creek this evening which was a pretty bad place, traveled about 17 miles today.

25th. Friday. A cloudy gloomy morning, with some rain, crossed Big swamp, water pretty deep, but the bottom good, passed through a little village called Church hill, roads very rough and hilly, a drizzly day, traveled about 18 miles.

26th. Saturday. Weather more favourable. Set out about 5 o'clock this morning, crossed Old town creek, passed over [some?] long muddy hills, crossed Mush creek, passed through Pleasant hill, and have at length after a tedious journey of five weeks and two days reached our place of destination, feel worse than I have done since I left home, every thing seems gloomy and

<sup>17</sup> Mt. Meigs was the home of Robert Pugh and Thomas R. Lide who had preceded their relative James to Alabama by several years; the Temples were relatives of the Lides.

<sup>18</sup> The number of South Carolinians encountered on their trip is truly remarkable. William F. DuBose mentioned here became an important land speculator, planter, and banker, of Selma, Alabama.



melancholly to me. Oh! how I would rejoice if I were only back to good old Darlington again, traveled 14 miles today.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Pleasant Hill was at first the post office for the Lides. Shortly an office was established at Carlowville, then taken away and given to Richmond, but later restored. Mrs. Fountain was never to return to her home in South Carolina. Her father, brothers, and sisters visited relatives there but not she. Jane Lide Coker, daughter of Caleb and Hannah (Lide) Coker, recorded her recollections of the preparation for and sad leave-taking of her relatives as follows:

"Our grandfather [James Lide] and his eldest son Eli Hugh Lide, decided to move to Alabama, then in the far West, partly on account of much sickness on their plantations and partly because our uncle was seized with the Western fever which carried off numbers of people to seek richer lands and a new country. Preparations for moving were rapidly made and when we paid our last visit to them they were nearly ready to leave. Grandpa lifted me up to look into the large covered wagon which was to take their baggage, tents, etc., and in which he and the boys would sometimes ride and sleep, but it looked most dark and gloomy and I did not like it. I watched him and the boys, Uncles Samuel and Joseph, making their tent pins and doing other last things. A carriage was to take our sick grandma and our aunts, and other wagons were provided for the servants. I remember the weeping at that sad leavetaking in the early autumn of 1835. It was heart-wagons occupied many weeks. Mails were infrequent and irregular, brought by stage or post-carriers on horseback, taking a week or more to reach us, and postage was then 25c on each letter. The separation in most instances was final."

Mrs. Furman Edwards [Coker] Wilson, *Memories of Society Hill and Some of Its People. Home Life, Written for My Own Children and Brothers and Sisters Alone* (Hartsville, 1910), pp. 3-4.

LETTERS FROM ALABAMA AND THE SOUTHWEST

1835-1854

*Sarah L. Fountain to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Dalas County, Ala., Dec. 27, 1835.

MY VERY DEAR SISTER: We have at length arrived at our place of destination after 5 weeks and 2 days travel we reached this place last evening and took up camp and expect to remain here until we can get a house we are about 3 miles from the place where Mr. Rowel and the Negroes stay,<sup>1</sup> they soon heard of our arrival and came up very quick and such rejoicing and ado I never heard, they all look quite fat and hearty. We are very near Mr. Crumpton's himself and family came immediately to see us and insisted on as many of us as could to go and stay with them until we could get better fixed but we preferred staying at our tents he is building and said he had been making an effort to get his house done that he might accomodate us but was disappointed. Brother has the prospect of a house but Pa has none the house that he calculated on getting is otherwise disposed of. O my sister I can't describe to you my feelings here in this strange country without house or home so far seperated from my dear friends, and as yet I see nothing enticing in the place but I do not wish to condemn it unless I knew more about it.

I feel that we have been most signally blessed in our journey though we have been long on the road we have all reached here safely and in usual health, there has however been considerable sickness among the negroes but they are pretty well at present. Pa sold 3 yoke of his oxen on the way 1 he sold for \$16. the other 2 he gave for a little poney for Joseph and Brother put 2 of his saddle horses in the waggon. One of my oxen gave out entirely so that we had to leave him a gentleman was so good as to let him go in his field about 20 miles from this place, but I never expect to hear of him again. My little waggon broke down with me about the middle of the indian nation we had to travel with it so until we got to mount meggs which was 50 miles but it was with much difficulty, we got to mount meggs about 2 o'clock last tuesday spent the night with Cousin Mary Temples

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Rowell, an overseer, had been sent to Alabama in the spring of 1835 with Negro field hands to clear lands and prepare for the coming of the Lides.

found them all well, cousin Mary had a babe about ten days old which is her tenth child, we passed by old Mrs. McAll's the next day the old Lady looks badly says she had a very sick family this summer.<sup>2</sup>

I felt much safer passing through the Indian nation than I expected saw but few indians and they appeared quite friendly, we entered the nation about 11 O'clock thursday and got out of it about 12 O'clock the tuesday after the road through the nation was better than we expected from what we had heard but it was very rough and hilly generally. . . . your affectionate sister,

SARAH J FOUNTAIN

PS. Direct your letters to pleasant hill Dalas county do rember me to all enquiring friends,<sup>3</sup>

SJF

*Sarah L. Fountain to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Feb. 10, 1836.

. . . . Mr. Wm. Kervin arrived here yesterday and spent the night with us, he has gone out to procure houses for his family by the time they arrive he left them saturday morning about mount meggs, in company with cousin Robert Lide he thinks they will be certain to be here to-day. Mr. John Coker was in company also, they have made much better progress than we did notwithstanding the road and weather have been so much worse they have been only four weeks on the road, but they traveled every Sabbath. It is cheering indeed to see so many of our friends and relatives coming to this country, but there is still a breach and ever will be unless yours our dear brothers and uncles families were here.

We have been living at this place (pa's new purchase) about three weeks the house is far from being comfortable but is much more so than the one we left over the creek, it is a double house with a narrow passage between; the rooms are small and very open, there are cracks where the joists go in almost large enough for a dog to go through but they answer for windows as we have no others, the loft is nothing but some loose boards laid down and no way to get up but to climb up the logs but we can put a good deal of trumpery up there, we have two beds in

<sup>2</sup> Mrs. McCall was another transplanted South Carolinian.

<sup>3</sup> James Lide named his place Pleasant Hill.

one room and three in the other, consequently we have to set our door (for we have no table) in the passage which is very uncomfortable in cold or rainy weather and we have had a good deal of both since we have been here. Pa and Samuel have made us four teaster bedsteads out of little saplins, since we have put our curtains up we find it much more comfortable. We have pretty good out-buildings except negroe-houses and Pa is making preparations to build them, the negroes are still in their tents, we are surrounded by very tall oaks and chesnuts and some pines. Pa and brother are trying very hard to get situations on nubbin-ridge, they are afraid it will be sickly here as it has been for two years past, they are out on that business today: we have well-water and when it rains much we can almost dip the water out, but it is very clear and not well tasted. Pa is very busy clearing land and splitting rails, he has not near enough open for his hands to cultivate and he dreads the idea of giving four or five dollars per acre rent, Ma has [hired?] out all her girls but sophy and [Peggy?]. Cousin Evan Pugh has spent two nights with us since we have been [here] he was quite well and very lively, he has hired Nancy and is to give \$50 for her. Pa has sold one of my horses and both waggons, the horse for \$75 the large waggon \$120 and the small one \$75. My expenses out here were a little more than \$100. Pa got his clock here safe and it is running as well as ever.

Will you not be astonished when I tell you that we have not been to preaching since we have been here? Pa and brother went out last Sabbath to look for [a church?] but it was in vain they found none. There is no school in reach [but?] I hope there will be by the spring. I am trying to teach the children a little at home but find it very difficult. Lizzy begs me every few days to let her write to you but I tell her she must learn to write on the slate first. . . . Your unworthy but affectionate sister,

S. J. FOUNTAIN

Feby. 11th all well this morning cousin Robert arrived at his place last night but we have not seen any of them yet. Amty came to see his wife after their arrival.<sup>4</sup> Mr. John Coker dined with us today and is now here he says his wife is not very well the rest of his family are quite well.

<sup>4</sup> Robert was Robert Lide a cousin. Amty was a slave whose wife belonged to James Lide.

A Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Townsen from Charleston have lately moved to this neighborhood their wives are sisters whose names were Jenkins before their marriage they were scholars of the Miss Ramsay's.<sup>5</sup> I have not seen any of them. Joseph's little pony has runaway and can't be found.

*Maria Lide to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Chesnut Grove, Ala., Feb. 24, 1836.

MY DEAR SISTER: You cannot tell how much we were disappointed we sent to the office and no letters. We have not received a letter from you in two weeks but we heard from you through Mr. Coker's letter to brother.

Sister and myself went to Church last Sunday on nubbin ridge heard two very good sermons from Presbyterian preachers one of them was an Irishman he spoke a little broken.<sup>6</sup> We felt very strange no person at all we knew and every person staring at us. When we came home we found Mr. Coker here he is not at all pleased with the country. Mr. Calvin Kirvin has bought land near us but is very much dissatisfied. Old Mr. Kirvin is still without a place he says he expects he will have to leave the neighbourhood. Pa seems very much pleased with his land and brother is delighted his plantation joins Pa's and he comes over nearly every day to talk about the richness of the soil and the Crops he says he owns two thousand acres of land and a great deal of it worth 50 dollars an acre. . . . I remain yours truly,

MARIA LIDE

*Maria Lide to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Chesnut Grove, Ala., Mar. 7, 1836.

MY DEAR SISTER: It is with pleasure that I now write I propose telling you something of this place but I hope you will not consider it a discription for you know I have no turn to discribe. We live in a very public place a road passes right close by and a great many waggons pass. Some one is passing nearly all the time.<sup>7</sup> We are surrounded by very tall trees mostly oaks and

<sup>5</sup> The school of the Misses Ramsay in Charleston was a noted one. The Lide girls—Hannah, Sarah, Mary, and Maria—attended it.

<sup>6</sup> This was the Reverend William M. Smyth, a native of Ireland, and formerly a minister of the Old School Presbyterian Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

<sup>7</sup> The Lides lived near the main road leading from Montgomery to Mobile.

chesnuts a few pines. It is a right pretty place I think I like it better than any place I have seen. In front of the dwelling are the negro houses and their patches. The front yard is very flat and when it rains holds a great deal of water. In the yard in front is a potatoe house in the back yard is a kitchen and smoke-house and a very small dairy but it is a great deal better than none near the garden is a pen made of rails for the fowl house. Pa has just had the garden enlarged it looks like a field now to what it was but it is not near large enough yet. The cotton field joins the garden next to that is the peach orchard at the end of that is potatoe patch.

I must now tell you something about the house wich you have already heard is a double log house with a very narrow passage and but one chimney which is a great deal larger than the one in Springville but I believe it is smaller than some have them. Our house is considered quite a comfortable one for this country but it has a great many air holes. We have two beds in the sitting room (for I cannot say hall it is more like a bed room than any thing else) a cupboard in one corner all open to every persons view and a mantle piece on wich the clock sits in the other room are three beds and a great many boxes and shelves all around the room it looks more like a lumber room than a bed room. We have no table yet still take the door down to eat off of. We eat in the passage all this rainy and cold weather but we have curtains now which makes it a little more pleasant. The house has no window at all which makes it very dark it is almost impossible to see to sew when it is cloudy the floor is very oppen indeed.

There are a great many persons moving away from this place and going to the Chocktaw purchase and great many coming in which keeps the number pretty much the same.<sup>s</sup> Several families from the neighbourhood of Charlestown have just arived I dont know but they are some of your acquaintances any how they are very ugly looking things to make the best of them. Ma says they look more like animals than human beings they have very large whiskers which covers nearly all of their face one of them doesn't shave his upper lip which you know must look very strange. Pa expects to move out on nubbin ridge this summer and I am very sorry for it I dont like the looks of it at all and

<sup>s</sup> The Choctaws had been induced by the Jackson administration to surrender a large tract of land that was opened to white settlement in 1836.

then we will have another moveing and packing up frolick but I had rather go than risk being sick. We have got acquainted with no person at all except those new comers the Charlestown folks they have called on us but buisness drew them but I must stop and go to dinner. Pa has had some wild strawberys planted in the garden a good large square. Strawberys grow wild here so you may know what a rich country it is. Ma has some seed up and coming on finely cabage and lettuce and Mustard I expect she would have had a great many more if the garden had been laid off. Sister Mary has a very small garden and few flowers have blomed but they have been moved so much that I dont think they will come to much this year flowers I belive are a great rarity here. . . . I met Sister in the passage and She told me She had long letter for me imagine my joy when we receive a letter from home we all take it read it and then all gather around Ma and listen while She reads aloud. . . . Your very affectionat,

MARIA LIDE

*Mary E. Lide to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Mar. 9, 1836.

MY DEAR SISTER: I hope you will excuse my long silence. I have been very much engaged, and I concluded that I was more excusable as Sister and Maria wrote so often but I do really feel ashamed of not answering your letter sooner. I *think* I will be more punctual hereafter. I hardly know what to say to you for I expect sister and Maria has left nothing untold. You said I must send you my journal but it is not fit.<sup>9</sup> . . .

Dec. 26th. traveled 14 miles, reached at last our place of destination, found the people very kind indeed. Mr. Crumpton and family came over the same evening we arrived and invited us and insisted on the female part of us to go over to his house and stay until we could get a house, but we did not go. They went home and sent us a nice ham and some potatos, which was very acceptable. The next day two gentlemen offered us house's one was too small and the other two far off.<sup>10</sup> Papa and brother looked about they could do no better so they moved to a little house of brother's in the forks of the ceder creeks which is called

<sup>9</sup> There follows a journal which adds some details to that of her sister.

<sup>10</sup> It is interesting to note that while the Lides had purchased lands before they moved to Alabama they waited until their arrival to seek a house in which to live.

by some the penitentiary. So you see what brother done with us brought us out here and put us in the penitentiary,<sup>11</sup> but as there was nothing very criminal we got out in three weeks. We are now living in a tolerable comfortable log cabin papa bought 490 acres of land at \$4.00 [per acre?] very good land, some people say it is worth twenty dollar per acre. Papa is well pleased he is all the time going about attending to his business, he has got his negro houses done about twenty acres of land cleared and a good deal of fence made, he and Samuel is very busy stocking plough. What a pitty it is our place is sickly, we expect to spend the summer at uncle Hugh Lide's place.<sup>12</sup> Papa and brother has bought situations on Nubbin-ridge but it is impossible for them to build this summer,<sup>13</sup> brother lives in sight of us, Cousin Calvin Kirven about a mile Cousin Robert Lide three miles, uncle Kirven has bought land seven eight or nine miles off I dont know exactly what distance. Cousin Enock is teaching school near old Campbell's about three miles from this, it is said he has fallen in love with one of his daughters, but I wont believe it yet.<sup>14</sup> Mr. John Coker is in his employ also.<sup>15</sup> . . . Yours &c.,

MARY E. LIDE

*Eli H. Lide to Caleb Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Mar. 24, 1836.

MY DEAR BROTHER AND SISTER: Yours 9th. Feby. was rec'd. in due time which I delayed to answer thinking I would go and see your Brother John before I wrote, but I have been so much engaged that I have not had time though he has been within two miles of me all the while, and I expect he is *now* living in sight of my place. He oversees for Mr. James Campbell, and gets as I am informed \$250, and he finds his own provisions. I hear that he and his family are in good health although I have not yet seen him.

We are all very busily engaged (as you may judge from what I have just said) in clearing and planting, repairing &c. having

<sup>11</sup> The Lide girls who did not wish to leave South Carolina blamed their brother Eli Hugh for persuading their father to move to Alabama. Hence this jest about the penitentiary.

<sup>12</sup> Hugh Lide had removed from Darlington to Alabama several years before the James Lide family did.

<sup>13</sup> The ridge lands back from the river bottoms, so named because of the less fertile soil, were supposed to be much more healthy than the lowlands.

<sup>14</sup> Uncle Kervin was William, and Enoch was his son.

<sup>15</sup> John Coker was a brother of Caleb who married Hannah Lide. John later became an overseer for the Lides.



not long since gotten thro: with building as many negro houses as will answer present purposes, untill we can steal a little time from other matters, which indeed seems hard to do, for there are so many things pressing upon us and wedging themselves upon every moment of time, that some times I dislike to take the necessary time to eat. Father has a house, but I have one to build for myself or put up with rather a poor chance of a house offered me by Major Lee as a place of refuge in case I shall not find time to build.<sup>16</sup> Indeed I am affraid I shall not be able to get up cabbins sufficient, for I must attend to clearing land for I have but little open, and have not been able to rent more than about from 30 to 35 acres and some of that poor, and have to give \$4 per acre rent for a part and five dollars for a part, which looks like buying land. My man Rowell made but a poor out clearing land last year, that which he pretended to clear he only fell the smallest trees, without cutting up or trimming and deaded but very few acres and a great many trees were cut half round and left.

I had to do all this work over and indeed what he had done was but of little advantage, if he had done his duty I should have been able to have cleared 75 or 80 acres more than I shall under existing circumstances. I expect to get 80 acres under fence this week, forty of which is now ready for the plough, on the remaining forty the logs are yet to roll and burn. I have nearly twenty acres more cut down and am now burning the brush. Tomorrow however I stop to plant potatoes. I have planted about 25 acres of corn on rented land and in a few days shall plant about five acres more, on which last mentioned I hope to make 60 or seventy bushels per acre. I shall be obliged to plant the greater part of my land this year in corn as it is almost all new, and of such growth as will not die the first year say 140 acres corn and about 90 in cotton so you see I can not do much this year. I expect to keep about four or five hands clearing all summer, by doing this I hope to get in as much land as I can cultivate another year.

I have been all this while holding up to your view the dark side of the subject. I will now let you take peep at what I call the bright side, we live in a delightful neighborhood a kind of

<sup>16</sup> Major Lee of Charleston, South Carolina, had removed to Alabama before the Lides did. His family was to pay the first social call on the Lides and the two families were on very close terms. Lide later accepted the offer of the house.

village place something like Society Hill not quite so dense a population but far more numerous which in point of intelligence is inferior to none. As to health from all the information which I can gather it must be equal to the hills of Chesterfield the people here say equal to any in the world, of this however I prefer to be no judge but can see no local cause for sickness. Here is natural scenery which is grand and sublime, entirely superior to any thing I saw on the Blue Ridge, as to the soil it would do your very heart good to look at it.

I am often very much diverted to see Father, he is indeed the most busy man you ever saw, and he lets nothing keep him from his farm he is all the time among his negroes in the field and seems to be as active about his business as he could be at eighteen, he seems to have forgotten that he is old. He has a valuable tract of land and he can get double (as I was told to day) what it cost him. Some days ago I was walking with him over some of his beautiful hammocks and he said it appeared to him that land could not be any better than that was. He also says he has better prospects before him *now*, than he ever had and that a man might live here clear and aboveboard, he is fully as well pleased with the country as I am.

I have between 1800 and two thousand acres of land here which is too much for me. I some times think of selling 480 acres but am afraid to offer it for fear some one will want to purchase it. I put out a negro boy to learn the Blacks[mith] trade for whom I get \$150 dollars a year hire. Corn is worth from 75/100 to 1.00 per bushel and scarce at that price. . . . I remain yours affectionately,

E. H. LIDE

I reckon I must write to the paper maker to make bigger sheets for my paper gives out about the time I get in the way of writing. Tell Cousin Tom howdye. Kiss the children for me and ask Jane if she remembers Uncle Eli. Our little ones grow astonishingly. Mary Ann and Caroline fatten like guinea pigs. Our youngest is the fairest, and best of all.

*Frances Jane Lide to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., May 20, 1836.

MY DEAR AUNT: . . . I am not going to school yet but study at home there are two day schools and a sabbath school and

a singing school right in this neighborhood. This is a great country for fruit strawberries are growing all over the woods and angelid root is plenty. Father has a very large orchard of peaches and plums the people here say that they eat peaches there last year as large their two fist he has some of the nicest kind of plums. I forgot to tell you while I was mentioning about the schools that we have preaching here every sunday. We live almost in sight of several persons and about a half mile from cousin Robert the people are very kind friendly and sociable.

Major Lee has offered half of his garden to us as we have none of our own he is from Charleston we are living in his house he is as kind and friendly as can be have heard his wife play on the piano she plays beautiful. I like the country a great deal better than I expected this is a very hily part of the country the hills are almost like mountains you can stand on the top and look over and every thing looks blue you can see a great way off. Nubbin Ridge is almost a town it is very thickly settled we do not live right in the heart of the town we have delicious water where we are now living and Father says the water on our own place is as good. . . . I have learnt pretty well how to ride on horse back since we have been out here I can ride on a mans saddle and go down a steep hill as well I could on a side saddle in south Carolina I was supprised to see carriages out here I thought there was no such thing as a carriage to be seen but I see a plenty some of the people that have carriages just ride on horse back for amusement. The nights are a great deal cooler than in Carolina and so is the summer it did not snow here at all this winter. I expected to see a great many hard storms when we got out here there has been several gales since we have been out here but not such as we call storms in Carolina the people here call them storms. We have kept fire and slept under a blanket and woolen counterpane ever since we have been out here. . . . I remain yours affectionately,

FRANCES JANE LIDE

*Sarah L. Fountain to Caleb Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Nubbin Ridge, Dallas County, Ala., May 25, 1836.

MY DEAR BROTHER: . . . . We are now living in a bottom in one corner of uncle Hugh's cotton field, in two decaying leaky cabins, (we have a kitchen and smokehouse) which are infested with snakes, lizzards, mice &c, we feel very much confined; with

the cotton field on one side and a very thick woods up to the fence on the other, we have no shade except some peach and apple trees around the houses, (which are loaded with fruit) but they afford very little shade. We have a pretty good spring convenient, but rather a steep hill to rise; (we have to be pretty polite going in and out of our doors or we get many a severe bump,) the place is not near so pleasant or the house so comfortable as the one we left, but if we can only enjoy health we are willing to suffer all these inconveniences.

Oh! you don't know what a treat we had last week. Mr. Hartwell was in our neighborhood and spent three nights, one at Brothers, one at cousin Roberts, and one with us. He preached three days in reach of us, he was on his way to Mr. Dossey's, and expected to go from there to Mr. Sander's neighborhood, he spoke of leaving the state the latter part of June for Charleston, he has had the misfortune to lose his little daughter (Susan) since he left Charleston, he had only been in the State ten or twelve days and had collected \$700. He was very much pleased with the country and particularly with this neighbourhood, said if land was his object he would stop here, he speaks of bringing his wife out next year to spend several months in this neighbourhood and says he don't think he will live much more in South Carolina. He says if brother David and Jesse don't intend moving out here, they ought never to visit us, for he thinks they would like the looks of good land too well not to move.<sup>17</sup>

I am afraid I can never become reconciled to my move unless a considerable change should take place, but I wish to be resigned, and try and content myself as well as possible, hoping that it will turn out for good in the end. I think the neighbourhood is improveing and will be more desirable in a few years. . . .

There is about to be a steam-saw-mill erected near this place, which I think will be a great acquisition to the neighbourhood, and then if old cousin Nancy Lide would help us to some of her cash (as she has it so plenty) we could soon have a good Church.<sup>18</sup>

Pa says tell you he finished planting his crop the 10th. of this month and it is coming on as well as he could expect, but the

<sup>17</sup> The Reverend Doctor Jesse B. Hartwell of South Carolina was persuaded by James Lide, who gave Hartwell a home, to remove to Carlowville in 1836. He became a leading Baptist preacher and school teacher in the community. See B. F. Riley, *A Memorial History of the Baptists of Alabama* (Boston, 1923), pp. 72-74. The Reverend William Dossey was born in North Carolina, removed to Society Hill, South Carolina, where he became a Baptist preacher, and finally settled in Dallas County, Alabama.

<sup>18</sup> Cousin Nancy Lide was the wife of Hugh Lide.

grasshoppers are eating his cotton very much, he has a small patch of corn as high as his head, he says he is very anxious to see [you] all once more. . . . Yours affectionately,

SARAH J. FOUNTAIN

*Mary E. Lide to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Nubbin Ridge, Ala., June 29, 1836.

MY DEAR SISTER: . . . . We have not long since heard that Sarah stood up and took the vow with her husband when their daughter was sprinkled this has grieved us all, and as "brother David says" it is saying to world that sprinkling is baptism and infants the proper subjects." Well I say if she believes this she ought to quit the baptists immediately and join the presbyterians, how very inconsistent her conduct! but I suppose the church will cut her off without delay. . . .

We have a great variety of wild flowers here the woods but the prairies more particular looks like flower gardens. Many flowers that we knew only in the gardens grows wild here, but I will only mention the Saringo and the Hydranger the latter is very different from ours. I wish I could describe it to you, the leaves are large and course and on the end of the stem that bears the flowers a good many little stems comes out about four or five inches on the main stem and the smaller stems are very full of small white flowers and at the end of each of these stems is a flower just like our Hydranger which is very different from the others. This makes quite a large bunch. I have seen one at least ten feet high, but they are generally about waist high. They are turning red now. . . .

Tell brother C I hope he will not think me saucy, I suppose you know Mr. J. Coker is attending to Papa's business now. Papa sends his love to you and brother Coker and the children and all the friends, and says tell you this is a noble irish potato country he has made very fine ones. . . . Yours, M. E. LIDE

*Elizabeth C. Fountain to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Nubbin-Ridge, Ala., Aug. 3, 1836.

MY DEAR AUNT: . . . . I have made so little improvement in my writing I am ashamed for you to see it. I study History,

Geography, reading, writeing, and spelling, but I get on very slowly. I have got through the life of Columbus and am better than half through the history of the United States. I am now going through my little Parleys Geography the second time since I have been here. Brother reads and spells a lesson every day he can spell right well in six and seven-syllables but he has to spell the most of his reading.

Tell cousin Jane I am making a little doll baby quilt for her and if I have an opportunity when I get it done I will send it to her, if not I hope I will have the pleasure of giving it to her myself next summer when you all come out here. Tell cousin Jane Aunt Maria has dressed my doll baby (that poor little cousin William gave me the last night I staid with him) and it looks very pretty. . . . Grand-ma is very busy drying peaches she has found out a new way to dry them she strings them on twine, ties a loup in each end, and has two poles pretty near together with little pegs in them.

Grandma and Mother have made a fine parcel of nice irish potato starch this summer. Mother says she wishes you had some of it. Grand-pa is very busy clearing up his place to build on, he expects to commence puting up his houses in a day or two. Mr. Hartwell is expected in the neighbourhood the last of this week and is to preach in the presbyterian church near here, he wishes to spend a day or two in the neighbourhood that he may look at the crops. . . . Your affectionate niece,

ELIZABETH C FOUNTAIN<sup>19</sup>

*Sarah L. Fountain to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Nubbin-Ridge, Ala., Sept. 30, 1836.

MY VERY DEAR SISTER: . . . . Brother recieved a letter from Mr. Hartwell a few days since, saying that he had got home-sick and consequently declined comeing through this neighbourhood as it would be further, he was anxious to go on that he might get here with his family before cold weather. He requested Brother to have a house put up for him on the lot Pa gave him, now don't you think we are blessed to have the prospect of such a preacher? Oh! that he may be abundantly useful in this place. Octr. 1st. Well my children are going to school

<sup>19</sup> Elizabeth Fountain was only about eight years of age when she wrote this letter.

at last, they commenced last week, but I am thinking they would do as well at home, a stranger came along with such good recommendations from intelligent gentlemen, that some of the neighbors thought it would not do to let him pass, but employed him at once, for three months, and came round to let us know. I was very loth to send to such a stranger, but as Pa sent Joseph, and Lizzy was very anxious to go, I concluded to risk it, in a day or two we heard he was a great drunkard, but if he got drunk was to be dismissed immediately without pay. I don't think he is very competent, from what I hear. He made Lizzy get a grammar first thing and set her to memorizing it, she writes and spells and reads in her geography and History that she has memorized so much, and don't pretend to make her study either. I have had James reading for several months but he only makes him spell (his name is Dunn). James is very well pleased with going to school. I think it is time stop this subject. . . .

I have always my dear sister felt under great obligations to brother Coker and yourself for your kindness to myself and children. I now feel under renewed obligations to you both for your kind offer, but as I have moved every thing here I don't think it would do well to move back again. As much as I would like to be with you I don't feel like I could bear the idea of leaving my parents. I know I could not be satisfied were I to do it, tho' I confess I had much rather live there, than here, and I am confident my children would have a much better chance to get an education, notwithstanding I believe this a much better country to make money, tho' I am none the better of that, but I am not fit to live among civilized people, and were I not so fearful some little hut in a desert would suit me best. . . . Your very unworthy sister,

S. J. F.

*Eli H. Lide to Caleb Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Oct. 25, 1836.

DEAR BROTHER: . . . . Your Brother John has had a sick family ever since the spring and they seem likely to continue sick. I have not heard from them since the day before yesterday, his eldest son was then quite sick. He lives down very near the Creek and the deaded timber is almost at his door. The neighborhood is quite healthy now and has been so all the while, we have had

no cases except colds, tooth ache &c. I think this ridge is far more healthy than Darlington and fully equal to the sand hills of Chesterfield; if your place should prove to be sickly I would advise you to come out here, but as you are so well situated and doing a very profitable business where you are should you enjoy health it might be best to remain there but this is certainly the finest place for a merchant I ever saw. There is here but one store for considerable distance all around, and it is always crowded with people, and when you go there to buy you have to wait untill your turn comes before you can get any thing. There is a continual press of business and the merchant can not supply one half of the wants of the people; everybody here is good for what they purchase is another important consideration. Our Society here is fully equal to yours, with better health and infinitely better water, together with greater facilities of navigation. People buy more here than in Carolina partly from necessity and they make money easier and do not seem to set so high a value on money as the Carolinians do. At least they spend it more freely.  
 ... Yours truly,  
 E. H. LIDE . . . .

*Sarah L. Fountain to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Nubbin Ridge, Ala., Nov. 11, 1836.

MY DEAR SISTER: . . . . We went to the Presbyterian church last Sunday with the expectation of hearing a baptist preach, (a Mr. Tolbert who is said to be quite a smart preacher) but were disappointed, we however heard a very good sermon by a Methodist (a Mr. Freeman) who frequently preaches at that church, he is very wealthy said to be worth half a million of dollars, he lives within a few miles of this place. Mr. Martin a presbyterian preacher who has attended this church regularly twice a month is to preach his farewell sermon next Sunday. I understand he has an idea of going to the Mississippi Valley where I suppose good preachers are greatly needed as the Roman Catholics are trying to get possession of it. O what horrid beings they are, and how much to be dreaded.

When I wrote you last I told you my children were going to school, they did not go another day after that, the teacher got into a scrape and stabbed a man, but fortunately his arm received the wound which was very severe. Dunn was immediately taken prisoner, but by some means made his escape that night.



I have not heard of him since, nor am I sorry for it. I hope the people will be more cautious hereafter how they employ strangers. . . . Pa is almost worn out with hard work, sometimes he is almost sick, and yet they get on very slowly. I expect it will be at least another month before we can move. Pa and Samuel built a rock chimney which was very tedious and fatiguing, just as they had finished it, a hard shower of rain came up, when all the funnel and some of the other part fell, the weather had been very damp for several days before. Pa has worked on it more slowly since that it might dry. I believe he has nearly finished it again. Brother has partly finished one half of his house and moved, they are much more comfortable fixed than they have been, they are all well, cousin Robert's family are well also, sister Mary, Maria and myself have been helping cousin Martha quilt this week. . . . Your very unworthy sister,

S J FOUNTAIN

*Sarah L. Fountain to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Feb. 15, 1838.

MY DEAR SISTER: . . . . I understand Mr. Dupree of Sumpter S. C. has arrived in Marengo cy. Mr. H recieved a letter from him a few days since, inviting him to his wedding, which was to take place to-night, but Mr. H could not attend as he was otherwise engaged. It seems that a great many of the best preachers are leaving Carolina and coming to the west, I don't rejoice in your loss, but as there is such a wide field here, feel glad that they come. From what I see in the papers, think Mr. Manly has met with a very favorable reception in Tuscaloosa, (but how could it be otherwise,) and I hope he will be abundantly useful in these regions.<sup>20</sup> I am afraid he will not visit this neighborhood, as his time will be so much occupied.

Next tuesday is the anniversary meeting of our Temperance society, a Mr. Nosworthy a methodist preacher is to deliver the address, there are about fifty members in the society, and several more expected to join, but yet there is a great deal of intemperance about here, particularly in Warrenton. 16th. . . .

<sup>20</sup> The Reverend Doctor Basil Manly was born in North Carolina in 1798 and died in 1868. He was graduated as valedictorian from South Carolina College in 1819, became a Baptist preacher in Charleston, and served as professor and president of the University of Alabama from 1837 to 1855. He was a frequent visitor at Carlowville. See *Dictionary of American Biography*, XII (1946 edition), 237-238.

Pa has not quite finished gathering his cotton yet, expects to have about 40 bales, thinks he has lost at least one third of his crop, by the storm in Octr, and not being able to get it out earlier in the season. He has just finished paleing the garden, and Ma has planted a good many seed, sister Martha has had peas up sometime.

Mr. Sumpter the gentleman who agreed to teach the male school in this place has disappointed us very much by not coming. The Trustees waited for him until last week, and as they could hear nothing from him, met and elected another, a Mr. Smith, (a Virginian) who, with several others had offered their services, they have not recieved an answer from him yet, but I do hope it will not be long before the school will be in opperation, our boys are losing a great deal for want of it, tho' I try to make James study at home, he learns very little. Miss Saunders' school is still pretty flourishing. I believe she has 28 pupils. Lizzy commenced studying Astromony the first of this year, that, in addition to her other studies, keeps her pretty busy, she has just finished painting her first piece, (a small landscape). I think it looks pretty well for the first.

Samuel's clerk seems to be very study so far, he is quite a nice looking young gentleman. I am very glad for S that he has company, as well as help. I believe they are both kept busy generally. I see no prospect at present, of their getting to this neighborhood.

I am sorry to hear that your cough is still troublesome. Pa says to you, he thinks some of these Botanic Dr's out here, could cure you, as they perform such great cures. I believe he has heard that they do cure coughs and consumptions. I should be very much rejoiced if you could be cured of yours, Ma has been quite unwell for a few days past, from being too much on the wet ground, planting her seed, she is much better today, tho' she kept up all the time, our friends are all in usual health. . . . Your ever affectionate sister,

S J FOUNTAIN

*Eli H. Lide to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Mar. 11, 1838.

MY DEAR BROTHER AND SISTER: . . . Pa is progressing pretty well with his farm, part of his lands are ready for corn he

turned off his overseer for misconduct and is attending to his business himself. Ma has gone to the plantation with him where both calculate to remain untill April, leaving Sister and Sister Mary to take care of the family at home untill they return. Saml. Snipes who was overseeing for me has eloped, and left me without an overseer at that place. I had therefore to get Tho. Williams who oversees at this place to go and fill Snipes' place leaving me in charge of my plantation myself which indeed is no small matter living two miles off, which sinks me almost as deep in business as you are brother C. I assure you my time is completely taken up, when night comes I am completely tired. This was our church meeting day, but few attended and Mr. Hartwell feeling unwell did not preach. He had some time ago had a return of the j[erks?] but lobelia stopped it as soon as it had time to [penetrate?] the sistem. . . . Farewell Affectionately yours,  
E. H. LIDE

*Mary E. Lide to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Sept. 20, 1838.

MY DEAR SISTER: . . . . I suppose you have heard all the particular of our meeting, and it will be useless for me to say any thing about it. Oh it was very interesting indeed no very great excitement at any time, but a great solemnity. I think on Sunday while Mr. Crofford was preaching the falling of a pin might have been distinctly heard, and the congregation was very large too, the largest congregation I have seen in this state. I believe the people were faithfully warned and that the preachers cleaned their skirts of the blood of souls. We had eight or nine preachers, and the most of them very good. Mr. Crofford was very sublime and forceful, he discribed eternity to us on Sunday. . . . 14 joined our church at the meeting and two of them were my sunday school schollars, and another of my schollars was a constant mourner she was one of the first that went up to be prayed, and continued to go up untill the meeting closed but had no hope at that time, her family are Methodist she has been from home ever since the meeting. Oh we had a real Methodist meeting one night a parcel of the Methodist girls went up to be prayed for and their Mothers collected a round them crying, shouting, and groaning, one girl obtained a hope (a siter to the one I have just mentioned) and she shouted and ran through

the congregation shaking hand with her brothers and sisters they became so noisy that several of our members left. I should have done so, if I could have got my company off, but they would not go and I thought it would not do to leave them. Peter was baptised at the meeting, Betty and Mary. . . . the sunday after. . . .  
As ever yours,

MARY E. LIDE

*Sarah L. Fountain to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Dec. 6, 1838.

MY EVER DEAR SISTER: . . . . I am pleased to tell you that Mr. Hartwell has agreed to teach school here next year, he is to have \$1,000 for the school, says he thinks his health is gradually improving, but is almost certain to have a return of his disease, if he takes a long ride, he went to the Convention not long since, near Tuscaloosa, had two pretty severe attacks while he was gone. He visited Mr. Manly, says himself and family were quite well, and that he (Mr. M) is much pleased with his situation, and speaks of visiting us next summer, he heard while he was there, that Mr. Dupree had lost his wife a short time previous, poor man, he seems very unfortunate. Miss Saunders returned the last of Octr., and commenced her school immediately with 26 pupils, expect she will have a good many more next year. Several have been applying for board, a young lady has lately come on from the North to teach music (a Miss Palmer) she has not commenced yet, but expect she will as soon as a Pianno can be procured. I feel at a great loss how to direct Lizzy's studies. I wish my dear sister you would give me your advice, she commenced French a short time before Miss S left last summer, and has been at it since her return, but the tuition for that will be so high next year, that I think she will have to discontinue it, that alone will be \$20 per year, and drawing the same. I tho't perhaps she could study something that would be as useful and cost less tho am extremely anxious for her to have a good education if I can afford it. Mr. H intends taking his daughters from the French, but will teach it to them at home. I feel at a loss whether to stop L from French or drawing, or both, hope you will advise me, I believe she is best pleased with drawing.

I am glad to hear you attended the Association, think it must have been quite gratifying to you, particularly as it was in the midst of old acquaintances and friends, often do I call to mind,

my sister, with mingled emotions of pleasure, pain and sorrow, when I occupied those places, and sometimes almost wish I was there now, frequently dream of being there.

Cousin Robert arrived at home in good health about a week ago, he was here this evening spent an hour or two. I had a great many questions to ask him, notwithstanding pa had so recently seen you all, at affords me so much pleasure to hear particularly from all my friends. Brother was elected deacon, but has not yet been ordained. Mr. Edwards died a few days ago, he had been sick for sometime, with his old complaint (fits). I heard from cousin J Pugh not long since, he had got pretty well, but had frequent attacks of cholic, the family and friends are all in usual health. Lizzy and James send many thanks to you for the presents you sent them. L says tell cousin Jane thank you for the nice cushion she sent her, she is quite delighted with it, and is ashamed that the one she sent was so ugly. . . . Yours affectionately,

S J FOUNTAIN

*Maria Lide to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Sept. 16, 1839.

MY DEAR SISTER: We arrived at *home* yesterday about 2 o'clock after a journey of 13½ days. We had a very pleasant journey except it was so very dry and dusty; some places we could scarcely get water to drink, in Georgia there has been no rain for nearly three months; we generally got to very good places at night, we however spent two or three miserable nights I know you would have pittied us, if you had known how we were situated. Brother Samuel and cousin James were very lively, afforded us a great deal of amusement. I cannot say that I am very much pleased with Miss Catlett, though I cant tell you all of my objections as they are too numerous to write, one thing I can tell you, she is very unrefined, she is here now, expect she will stay until her father comes after her, which will not be very soon as the yellow fever is raging in Mobile and N. Orleans.

When we got home they were sitting at dinner, they all jumped up, and ran out to the gate, did not wait for me to get out of the Barouche, but caught hold of me and kissed and cried, and mashed my bonnet all to pieces, and the very first person I saw after entering the house was a *steam docter*. I found Ma in

bed, sick with . . . a very bad cold. Sister Mary was up when I came, but had to go to bed very soon, has been quite sick since. Pa and Sister are both quite unwell, but are up. This place has changed very much indeed, for the better, they have a great many more comforts than when I left, every thing is wonderfully improved, the people are quite fashionable, nearly as much so, as they are at Society Hill. . . .

It is sister's business to deal out Composition every night. She is going around now asking if they will have Lobelia or No. 6 in the composition. Although I have been here but a day and a half I have got quite used to hearing about the steam medicines. Sister is the Docteres, they are all pouring down the Composition and Lobelia like any thing they are threatening me with some, but I will take care not to let it be known if I am sick as long as I can help it. . . . Yours affectionately, M. F. L.

*Elizabeth C. Fountain to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Dec. 23, 1839.

MY DEAR AUNT: . . . We had our examination on the 12 and 13th. days of December, the first day we recited, Spelling, History, Grammar, and Geography, The second Philosphy, Chemistry, Astronomy, and Arithmetic, for want of time Miss Saunders excused us from Geology. Miss Palmer had the Piano carried to the school house and between every lesson the girls would play. At the close of the first day Miss Palmer played a very amusing piece to cheer us up, the last day she and Miss Dudley played the Battle of Prague as a Duett, it was a handsome piece. A good many persons attended. I would have been delighted if you could have been among the number, we were mounted up on a kind of stage so that every person looked in our faces, a great many of us had to get up to the Black Board and work out sums before all of the people besides working out some on our slates. We had beautiful days for our examination but better than all I did not miss any. I am very sorry to say Miss Saunders expects to leave she is going to Hayneville to teach school. The Alisons, Hartwells and myself called on Miss Saunders Monday evening last she and Miss Palmer seemed very cheerful. Miss Palmer played several very amusing pieces. Miss S. told us we must get a large carriage and go to see her when she goes to Hayneville. She expects to come down

here in the summer if she does not go home, and says if we do not have a teacher she will teach for us a month or two to make us straight. Mr. Campbell has written to a young lady in Tuskegee whom cousin Corvin McIver recommended very highly, but I do not think they can get one to suit me as well as Miss Saunders.

Mr. Hartwell had his examination on Saturday the day after ours, it rained quite hard so that no person scarcely could attend. Ann, Ellen and myself went and 3 or 4 others. The boys did very well indeed. Brother did not miss any. . . . I have been reading some of Aunt Maria's books, viz. Letters to Young Ladies, Young Ladies Friend, and Daughters own Book all of them are very interesting and instructive, I am now reading Pilgrim's Progress which I like very much, I wish I could go to see you and get some of your pretty books to read.

I have painted one of the engravings Aunt Maria brought with her, but it looks very course I enlarged it. I am very anxious to paint neatly that I might send you some.

I expect you have heard that the school association had dissolved, but they have now formed another with only eight in number, they have bought the female Academy, none of the Lee's have any part in it, they have also bought the male Academy. . . . Your very affectionate niece,  
ELIZABETH C. FOUNTAIN

*Eli H. Lide to Caleb Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Feb. 10, 1840.

DEAR BROTHER: . . . . I find it a very difficult task to find something that may be interesting to you, as there is a great sameness in our affairs at present. The Legislature of this State has passed a law (which creates some excitement among a few) ordering the Banks not to pay specie for their notes and also ordering them to issue five million of Post notes payable July 1st 1841, and that those who are indebted to the Banks have an extension, (whether notes or judgements) of five years, paying twenty per cent per annum.

This law will operate very unequally, as all debts due to individuals must be paid while those alone who are owing the banks are benefitted, and only that part of those who have gone into the Banks beyond all prudence, it is said that our Governor

(Bagby) as well as most of the Legislators are owing the Banks very largely. This law will no doubt injure the credit of the State, and though the planter may get a little more for his cotton, yet he will be compelled to pay it all away in exchanges, and other things in the shape of a depreciated currency. We have had very heavy rains latterly the River it is said has risen thirty feet above low water mark and there are now about forty Steam Boats plying up and down, one, (a new one) it is said will carry three thousand bags cotton. Every little creek and branch looks furious and raging. I am as usual behind hand on my plantation. I have cleared about forty acres of land, have about half broken up and have not done rolling logs nor broke one acre of my corn ground, have in consequence of my backwardness concluded to plant corn without breaking up except to commence laying off one way for corn tomorrow. My crop last year was about thirty three hundred bushels corn and about one hundred and eighty thousand weight of cotton and moulded fifty two thousand brick, and only a few weeks since burnt the brick. I have yet a considerable old corn on hand, enough to last four or five weeks yet. I raised about Eighty head of Hogs.

Pa made about seventy five thousand weight cotton and about two thousand bushels corn and has cleared about ten acres land. Mr. Hartwell has quite a flourishing school and has the prospect of increasing it, it is now worth something more than eleven hundred dollars. We give him \$500 for preaching 3 Sabbaths and he gets \$250 for preaching once a month at Fellowship (Wilcox Cty) all of which gives him a decent sallary. Ma has been quite unwell with a pain in her face but is now better. . . . Most affectionately yours,

E. H. LIDE

*Eli H. Lide to Mrs. Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., July 16, 1840.

MY DEAR SISTER: . . . . We have just had a very interesting protracted meeting which closed yesterday. There were about 25 persons who took the anxious seats among the members were Elizabeth, James, Joseph and Cornelius, only two persons of all that number obtained a hope, the meeting is appointed to commence on Saturday next and to continue untill Sunday night. There were about ten or eleven preachers and some of them the most powerfull I ever heard, there was not a poor sermon preached



during the six days of the meeting but all were pungent lucid and heart searching. De Votee, the former president of the Female Atheneum at Tuscaloosa, and one of Mr. Hartwell's old schollars at the high hills of Santee, is, as a man and preacher of uncommon parts, perhaps he is the most humble man you ever saw. He is now the pastor of the church at Marion Perry County. Jewett (a cousin of the Dr. Jewetts who lived at Mr. John Gregg's (Marion S C) and who attended me in severe spell of fever I had at Wm E Fountains) is also a man of uncommon intelligence and most fascinating in his manners, is a great preacher.<sup>21</sup> He is the principal of the Judson Institute at Marion. When Jane and Anna get old enough to send from home you must let them come to Alabama and go to School with Mary Ann and Caroline to this institution, than which, there can be no superior in the United States, every thing is taught them, that is taught in the best schools. There is so much attention paid to their manners and the girls are never out of the presence of their teacher either night or day.

Elon Galusha one of the vice Presidents of the foreign missionary Board has sent his circulars on abolition to all the Baptist ministers of Alabama, (the paper is Edited by Cyrus P Grosvenor formerly of Geo Town S C) requiring them to use their influence in favor of Abolition and to take their negroes and go to Ohio or some of the non-slave holding States. There is a committee of five who have responded to his fiat in pretty strong terms informing them that they have no fellowship for us neither have we any fellowship for them the committee are J Hartwell Chairman William Kervin Jacob I Alison E. H. Lide and R P Lide which proceedings we intend to have published in four or five papers I am in hopes we shall give the Dictator as good as he sends. The Baptists in this part of the country are determined to contribute nothing through the foreign missionary Board at Boston, nor to take the Magazine any longer, but will make some efforts to Establish a Southern Board to do business for them. . . .

I planted 120 acres corn in Feby which is very inferior but I have 25 acres later planted which is pretty good and 25 acres new ground which was planted the first April which looks very fine and if the rains continue a little longer will yield an abund-

<sup>21</sup> This was Milo P. Jewett, a graduate of Dartmouth College, who was instrumental in founding and served as first president of Judson Institute, now Judson College. See Riley, *A Memorial History of the Baptists of Alabama*, pp. 71-74.

ant crop. I have about 250 acres of pretty fair cotton which with eight acres of potatoes is my whole crop. My cotton is from knee to breast high. . . . Yours,  
E. H. LIDE

*Maria Lide to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Montgomery, Ala., July 5, 1844.

MY DEAR SISTER: As I promised to write you from this place and having a leisure day I feel as though I could not spend my time more pleasantly than by conversing awhile with my dear sister. . . . We arrived here yesterday evening about eight o'clock; after a very pleasant and safe journey of four days; no accident occurred worth mentioning: we are now at Stewarts Hotel in Montgomery a *very* poor place according to my notion, if you ever come to this place I would not advise you to stop here, that is if there is a better house in the place.

We left cousin Ezra's monday morning about 7 o'clock, arrived in Statesburg about 10 o'clock, took the stage there arrived in Gadsden about 3 o'clock and staid until next morning after breakfast. We went from there to Branchville on the Rail Road, we had to wait there three hours for the cars from Charleston; of all nasty dirty houses; *that* far exceeded any thing I ever saw; I have often heard persons speaking of houses being as dirty as hog pen's but I never saw a real one before; actually the hogs came in and seemed to feel as much at home as if they were used to it; they were not all afraid of being driven out. I did not see any white person about the house, thought at first that it was owned by negro's, but I found out afterwards, that the family lived in a small house near that, I suppose they could not afford to live in such a fine house; but what do you think? I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted or rather being introduced to Mr. McLauchlin, Mr. R. Caldwell and Mr. Magee I was quite pleased with them all. Mr. Caldwell, took my hand in both of his and shook it as hard as if we had been old acquaintances. I would have thought very strange of him if I had not heard so much of him from brother David and Lizzy: you would have been amused to see those gentlemen meet brother D—two of them took his hands and Mr. C— beat him on the back just as hard as he could, while the others were shaking his hands with all their might; brother D— complained of feeling sore a good while after. We did not see them more than ten minutes;

they came up purposely to see brother D—. We left Branchville on the cars reached Augusta about 5 o'clock stopped at the United States hotel and took supper, a very fine house, every thing was as white and clean as it possibly could be; we had the honor that day of traveling with judge Richardson and general George McDuffie.<sup>22</sup> I was very much pleased with judge Richardson he is a very pleasant sociable old man, he looks quite old and feeble. I was very disappointed in Mr. McDuffie. I had always entertained a very high opinion of him, but did not like him at all; he is not by any means a fine looking man, and he is so unsociable he didn't have any thing to say, if any one said any thing to him he merely answer yes or no, he seemed to feel too great to speak to any one; he would not even converse with judge Richardson. I suppose however he is a great man and perhaps a very good one; he looks quite feeble, it seems to be with great difficulty that he gets about with a stick. We left Augusta about dark traveled all night reach Madison about daylight. We had a very fine car made purposely for traveling at night had nice berths, made one above the other, but they were cushioned with hair cloth and were so slick and narrow that neither of us could stay on the upper one, so we had to content ourselves and sit up and nod.<sup>23</sup> . . .

We took the stage at Madison traveled two days a[nd] nights to Chinahaw came on the rail road from there here. . . . Sister Hannah you really must come to Ala again just to see how pleasant it is to travel in public conveyance . . . they have the car's fixed for families and nicely too. You really must come sister H, just to try it. . . .

I forgot to tell you that I became acquainted with old Mr. Dearing from Charleston. I was very pleased with him he was very polite and attentive to us: he seems to think there is nobody like the major as he calls brother D—. He lives in Athens Ga. or at [least?] his family stay there. He is a commission mer-

<sup>22</sup> John Smith Richardson, 1777-1852, a judge on the South Carolina bench and presiding judge of both the Court of Appeals and the Court of Errors, was a prominent Unionist during the nullification controversy. See John Belton O'Neal, *Biographical Sketches of the Bench and Bar of South Carolina* (2 vols.: Charleston, 1858), I, 140-42.

George McDuffie was born in Georgia in 1790 and died in 1851. He was graduated from the South Carolina College in 1813 and served as governor of the state and as a representative and senator in Congress. In contrast to Judge Richardson, McDuffie was a leading nullifier. See *D. A. B.*, XII, 34-36.

<sup>23</sup> This is among the earliest known descriptions of a sleeping car. Leading authorities claim that the distinguishing feature of Pullman's invention in 1858 was that his car was the first to have an upper above a lower berth. The car described by Miss Lide in 1844 had this feature. See Slason Thompson, *Short History of American Railways* (New York, 1925), p. 141.

chant in Charleston, he has a plantation in this state, he begged us to wait one day for him, said if we would stop a day in Athens, he [would?] show us every thing that was to be seen there; he came with us from Branchville, is coming here, will be here to-night I expect. I hope he will come would like to see him again very much his son is to be married soon. . . . Your ever affectionate,

MARIA

*Maria Lide to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., July 8, 1844.

MY DEAR SISTER: With very much pleasure I now seat myself to address you. I am happy to inform you that we arrived at home safely yesterday morning at 11 o'clock; we did not leave Montgomery until Saturday morning late; and the river was very low, so that we were obliged to come very slow indeed but we had a very pleasant passage down the river. We got to Centre Port just about day break, brother David borrowed a horse, and came home left Lizzy and myself to wait for the carriage and then we had to wait for three hours, was not that bad to have to wait so long so near home? . . . believe me as ever your affectionate,

MARIA

*Maria Lide to Caleb Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Sept. 16, 1844.

MY DEAR BROTHER: . . . . I am glad to hear you are getting along so finely with your house I wish I could go and help occupy it. I assure you nothing would afford me more pleasure, but it is a privilege I never expect to enjoy again. I expect to spend the remainder of my days in moving about from place to place. I have made up my mind that we will leave this place, and that before a great while Pa is quite in the notion of moving somewhere; he is urging brother Samuel to sell his land, and take the hands and go off and buy land in the cane break or somewhere else; he has a very fine prospect this year thinks he will make 70 bales of cotton if he can gather it, he already has 20 out. His having such a good crop seems to make him more anxious to move. I dont know why it is but none of them are satisfied here. I have no idea that we will stop short of red river; brother has seen that place and was so perfectly delighted

with it that he can find no place equal to it. I have been trying my best to get brother in the notion of going to California; because I think he would be obliged to stop then for he could go no farther, and I think he would be far enough away from society to be satisfied to settle himself permanently. You have no idea how tired I am of hearing about moving; it is the subject of conversation every time pa and brother meet and that is very often. . . . I remain your very affectionate,

MARIA

*Maria Lide to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., July 15, 1845.

. . . MY DEAR SISTER: . . . . I had the pleasure yesterday of receiving a letter from brother David with a large bundle of magazines. I was very glad to get them, for any thing to read these days is a treat. I think from looking over them they are very interesting.

The citizens of Carlowville celebrated the fourth of this month; and it was really a very pleasant day. Col. Dawson delivered the oration in the baptist church which was a well written piece and would have sounded well from a more fluent speaker, but he delivered it very badly indeed. . . Mr. McIver read the Declaration of Independence and Mr. Lee prayed. Lizzy myself and a few of the young ladies sat in the galery opposite the pulpit, and sang "Hail Columbia" "The Star Spangled Banner" and "America" very suitable pieces but very badly sung. I was so much mortified at our performance that it curtailed my enjoyment somewhat. After the oration was over we all repaired to the grove between the two academies, where there was a very long table spread with all kinds of nice things very neatly arranged; but we had no Ice cream or lemonade; the ice was ordered but the boat got aground and staid until the ice melted and the lemons were spoiled. After we had dined, some musicians from Cahawba, entertained us with some delightful vocal and instrumental music. They had two violins and a flute. We staid until five oclock, when we all dispersed, some quietly to our homes, while others still disposed to frolic, repaired to the Female Academy and danced until sundown, and then went to Mr. Bernard Reynolds house, and danced until 12 oclock at night.

I had the pleasure that day of seeing the Hon. Dixon H. Lewis, one of the largest men in the country.<sup>24</sup> I expect he is really a "monster" he seems to be a burden to himself. I think it worth going there just to see him he is such a curiosity. His face looks a little like Col. Williams! . . . .

Mr. High a blind baptist minister preached for us Sunday night, he is a very interesting gentlemen. He called here yesterday; he is very lively in conversation. Oh! what an affliction to be blind! He is traveling as an agent to collect money to build an asylum for the blind in Tuscaloosa. He lives in Arkansas. . . .

I attended a very pleasant party a Col. Dawson's last week every body old and young were invited. It seems as if there is a party every week nearly. I never like to go to them but I never can have any excuse, not even a headache, I do have a headache sometimes, but when I am invited to a party I always feel uncommonly well so that I am obliged to go; aint you glad? but I am not. . . . Yours,  
MARIA

The Dr. has been trying the Homopathic medicine on Mr. Kirven, and he has mended very much since the Dr. thinks he may live several years yet. I have a great deal more to say but havn't time now.

*Elizabeth C. Fountain to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Aug. 25, 1845.

. . . MY DEAREST AUNT: . . . . It seems that every body will get away from Carlowville ere long; I presume you heard that about sixty persons left for Pensacola a few weeks since; and several others, about the same time for the Butler Springs, (Cousin Robert, Uncle Joseph Mr. Rumph and some others).<sup>25</sup> Well, to-morrow Grandma Aunt Mary and Uncle Eli will leave for the Springs to be [absent] about a month or two. Grandpa had made up his mind to go, but he concluded to day to wait until after the Protracted Meeting. Don't you think we shall be quite lonely after they all leave? Uncle Joseph came up on

<sup>24</sup> Dixon Hall Lewis was born in Virginia in 1802 and died in 1848. He was graduated from South Carolina College in 1820 and served in the two houses of Congress (1829-1848). He was noted for his weight which was 450 pounds. See D. A. B., XI, 209-210.

<sup>25</sup> Butler Springs in Butler County, Alabama, was a noted resort where the Lides often spent their vacations.

Saturday to stay a few days. He says there are about 150 persons there, and others constantly coming in—says it is a very pleasant place—every one seems to be happy he enjoyed it very much. Uncle Eli has been trying to persuade Mother to go, but I believe, as Grandpa says “We might as well try to move this house down there, as to move her.” I should think a change might be beneficial to her health and a little respite from her sewing. . . . Your affectionate niece,  
LIZZY

*Mary E. Lide to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Oct. 6, 1845.

MY DEAR SISTER: . . . . No improvement is made at the Springs except a grogshop and a floor to dance on, it is really amusing to see them dancing (I mean the inhabitants) I never saw such awkwardness and such confusion before, though they do not consider it so, the ladies or rather women dressed up in dark calico suitable only for winter and gauze shalls that comes down to their waists or a quantity of very gay ribbon twisted twirled about their necks, and the gayest and largest kind of cotton handkerchief in their hands, others again were dressed very well, a good many of them are rich but they have no improvement and don't know how to use their property. Hannah I thought if you had only been there you could have had so much sport. 8 or 10 families were tenting while we were there but they were coming and going all the while. I did not mingle in society much, became acquainted with a very few, with some I was very much pleased, but must confess that I live in total darkness of the ways of the world, never heard of such wickedness and blasphemy before, did not know that man was capable of such. The water has not been analized yet but is thought to be mostly sulphur. It tasts like parched eggshells, a very disagreeable staste to me, but some are very fond of it. Pa and Ma have been wishing hard for some. Our water is so good I don't want any better. We camped just by the side of steep hill, and just on top is a great many rock which are literally filled with shells of different kinds. I brought a specimen with me, if I have an opportunity I will send some to brother Coker. A Mr. Coker and his daughter camped just by us, we could stand in each others tents and talk together, they are in comfortable circumstances to judge from appearance indeed I know from what Mr.

Coker told Pa he has considerable propperty. He is a widower and some where a bout 50 his daughter a bout 25, to see her you would think they were rich, I believe she put on a new dress almost every day.

Yesterday was our quarterly meeting it was expected the Misses Bennett would joined the church, but their father prevented them, 4 or 5 were expected but I presume the inclemency of the weather prevented them from coming, no white person offered except Richard Hatcher, he was received. I rejoice with him and his mother poor woman she has suffered a great deal on his account.

Maria requested me to tell you how to make the red potato starch grate a tub one third ful of potatoes, fill it with water stir it well and let it stad untill morning then strain it through a sive and then through a corse towel, then let it settle and pour off the water and add fresh water and stir it up, continue this process untill it is white and sweet and then dry it, it generally needs straining through a towel the second time.

Cornelius expects to set off wednesday for Noxville Tennessee to college.<sup>26</sup> Joseph expects to set off the same day to attend the association at the Cubahatchee church near Line Creek. . . .  
Yours affectionately,  
MARY E. LIDE

*David R. Lide to Caleb Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Ala., Dec. 16, 1848.

DEAR BRO C.: . . . . We were greatly alarmed about a week ago for Pa's health, he was taken with hemorrhage of the lungs, and became weak and very pale. His looks indicated great debility but since then he has kept up and looks himself again. Hope his health may continue to improve. Ma is about as usual very busy and active in her habits.

Bro has bought out Mr McKenneys store in Warrenton, gave *Six* negroes for it as it stood. He afterwards "*took stock*" and found there was some \$3600 worth of goods or more so his negroes were sold for about \$600 each. Pouncy is concerned with him but how this deponent sayeth not as they keep their councils to themselves.<sup>27</sup> . . .

<sup>26</sup> Cornelius was Eli Hugh Lide's son.

<sup>27</sup> Samuel Lide bought the store; Josiah Pouncey was his brother-in-law having married Maria Lide.



We have had warm and wet weather for six or eight days, which is ruinous to pork. Bro Jesse has lost his first killing and I fear his second also. I have killed only 6 hogs and I fear I shall loose the joints. About twelve of mine died while in the pen (supposed from *eating peas*) I let them run in the field where there was peas. I bough nine Tennessee Hogs at \$5.50 each they will average about 166 lbs. nett. I am waiting for suitable weather to kill.

Last Sunday week we were surprised and delighted to see Mrs. Blackwell Jno. Dargan and Andrew Charles. They arrived Saturday night Sunday John preached and although not his best was the best sermon I have heard in Ala. I wish the Carlowville church could secure his services, he is to preach next Sunday.

I expect I shall be obliged to leave this place it is too inconvenient to church and school. Some of the proprietors of the *new* female Academy have expressed a wish that I would go there and take boarders—which I would do—but am not able to build again. Some suggest the propriety of moveing my house there, but even that will cost some two or three hundred dollars, which I neither have nor can get. . . . Very Truly and Affectionately Yours,

D. R LIDE

*Maria Lide Pouncey to Hannah L. Coker, Society Hill, S. C.*

Carlowville, Alabama, Aug. 7, 1850.

MY DEAR SISTER: . . . . Sister Hannah what do you think? We have sulphur springs in Carlowville: they are in the branch just behind Pa's house; there are four or five of them, one is sulphur and iron and another is magnesia (tastes exactly like calcined magnesia) it is not known yet what the properties are as they have not been analized, but a gentleman will here in a few weeks to analize them. They have already performed some cures and are very much resorted to. You had better come and visit them and I think they will cure you of chills entirely. . . . Your affectionate,

MARIA

*Eli H. Lide to Mr. and Mrs. James Lide, Carlouville, Ala.*<sup>28</sup>

Lower Peach Tree, Ala., Apr. 14, 1854.

HONORED AND DEAR PARENTS: We arrived here yesterday 20 minutes before 11 o'clock my company was before and it took me till near sundown to get across. Mr. Estes came over about 9 o'clock at night. 2 of my mules jumped out of the flat the first load and the last load Asa and Snip was pushed out by the other horses with the gear on I thought I should loose Asa in the quick (sand) but he scuffled out at last on wednesday we traveled about 27 miles and would have gone as far on Friday but for the river. The night before last Martha had sick head ach and Binah was unwell but were willing to eat their allowance at breakfast time Dafna is quite hoarse otherwise we are all well. Yours truly and affectionately,

E H LIDE<sup>29</sup>

*Eli H. Lide to Mr. and Mrs. James Lide, Carlouville, Ala.*

Coffeeville, Ala., Apr. 15, 1854.

HONORED AND VERY DEAR PARENTS: Through a merciful and kind Providence we have been permitted to arrive at this place camped on the east bank of the Bigby river after a travel of 23 miles by 5 o'clock where we expect to remain until some time on Monday for the purpose of shipping our negroes clothing for I find it difficult to travel over the bogs and red clay hills with such loads as we have and carry as many negroes as ought to ride, with the necessary provisions. I wrote to you from the Lower Peach tree, since which nothing of peculiar interest has occurred except the indisposition of Maggie, she had two Chills to day and some little fever but I am in hopes she will soon get better as I suppose her disease is only the effect of slight cold which she took on yesterday which was a rainy day. The negroes are in good health and fine spirits with the exception of big Joe who is a little hoarse but he does not appear the less

<sup>28</sup>After considering removal to Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and California, Eli H. Lide determined on Texas and on April 11, 1854, accompanied by members of his family and his slaves, he led a party of more than one hundred persons from Dallas County. James Lide (May 19, 1770-November 5, 1855) was born in Darlington District, South Carolina. An Ardent Baptist and a deacon in the church for thirty years, he took the lead in organizing a church at Carlouville, Alabama, in 1836. He gave the first building to the church, secured the first pastor and gave him a home, and served as senior deacon of the Church until his death in 1855. See obituary in *The South Western Baptist* (Tuskegee, Alabama), December 20, 1855.

<sup>29</sup>The river was the Alabama; Martha was Lide's wife; Binah and Dafna were slave women.

lively. Henrietta and her children are quite well which I suppose Sambo would be glad to hear. Dilly's health improves and we often get milk for her children (the twins) both of whom are quite well. I am well pleased with Bro Estes and family so far I think he is not only a gentleman but a Christian I am satisfied he has been slandered. He proposes to ride with me in Texas to look for a home he and his wife are very desirous of settling near us which I very much desire also. This day I am 58 years old and 58 years has my kind and affectionate Parents nourished strengthend and advised me in every good thing and that at last I should have pained them by my ingratitude in leaving them in their old age is a thought that almost breaks my heart. But I hope my dear Father and Mother I am not ungrateful to you for all your kindness to me tears of gratitude can now flow in unrestrained silence when there is none to criticise my sincerity or impugne my motive. I often think how can I do without my Father and Mother. I cannot I cannot do without them yet something within me whispers onward onward and urges me on like a prisoner who has been 58 years and idles in his Lords vineyard and lived on his bounty and made no returns for the favors received. Yet his kind Providence sustains me and he is daily bestowing on me his unmerited mercies and protection. Oh that I knew more of my Saviour and could feel more of the blessed influence of his spirit. Abrahams case is often applied to me as I travel along the wearisom road, and often does the desire arise in my heart to know what the Lord intends to do with me. . . . It is now 11 oclock at night and the family have retired long since and nothing to break the silence of the night but the wind rustling in the trees and the rain pattering upon the tent give my kindest regards to all my friends and relations. Tell Bro Sturgis that Maggie wrote to him yesterday affectionately yours,  
 E H LIDE<sup>30</sup>

Sunday half past three oclock Maggie is much better just returned from the river to see a boat the Sally Span has just started and the Empress just arrived.

<sup>30</sup> The river was the Tombigbee; Maggie was Lidr's daughter; Sturges was pastor of Centre Ridge Baptist Church in Carlowville. He wrote Eli Hugh Lide's obituary for the press.

*Margaret Lide to James Lide, Carlowville, Ala.*

Woodville, Texas, May 21, 1854.

MY DEAR GRANDPA: It is with much sadness that I now seat myself to write of the death of our dear papa he died last Thursday morning. Emmie was quite sick and Ma told Pa he had better send for the Dr. He told her she was just frightened but he sent for the Dr. and when he came Pa needed him worst than Emmie did. He was up when the Dr. came and said he felt stronger than he had for two or three days. He died of the Cholera, and we have some sick negroes now but none very sick only complaining but we have to commence just as soon as they feel the least unwell. The first that was taken sick was Joe he was sick from Monday to Thursday he died about ten O'clock in the morning. Then one of Mr. Estes negroes was taken sick but he got well, Mr. Estes lost two negroes only and we have lost five and our Pa. Old Grannie Sarah died yesterday morning. She held out as long as Pa lived but as soon as he died she gave up, the morning after Pa died she came and told Ma she was sick. Ma gave her some physic but it did not do her any good. Mr. Estes is as kind as he can be to us. He has three negroes very sick indeed, two the Drs. said could not live but are getting better and we had to stop in woodville on their account. At least Mas family are in town. Mr. Estes and his family and his and our negroes are two miles from town. We are staying with a widow lady, she sent us word to come and stay just as long as we wanted to. Emmie has been quite sick but she is getting better. Old Tom died the Saturday before Pa died. Tell Momma Dinah Kate died last Friday and Henrietta's baby Saturday. . . .

Love to all. Yours truly,

MAGGIE LIDE<sup>31</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Grannie Sarah the Lide nurse maid who had been with the family when it removed from South Carolina to Alabama in 1835.

Eli Hugh Lide (April 15, 1796-May 18, 1854) was born in Darlington District, South Carolina. He was graduated from the South Carolina College in 1818 and removed to Alabama in 1835. He was a founder of and a deacon in the Centre Ridge Baptist Church of Carlowville. He was survived by his wife, ten children, and several grandchildren. See obituary in *The South Western Baptist* (Tuskegee, Alabama), July 27, 1854.

## APPENDIX\*

There are 176 letters, 1827-1880, in the Lide-Coker Papers not published in this volume.

Maria Frances Lide wrote 57 of these letters to her sister Hannah and Hannah's husband, Caleb Coker, and their children. 5 were from Charleston where she was attending the school of the Misses Ramsay: 2 Dec. 1837; 13 Jan. 1838—"The school has increased a great deal; there are 17 boarders and several more are expected"; 27 Jan. 1838—" . . . there [are] 5 girls from Edisto . . . they are very rude all they seem to think of is sugar candy and laughing and talking and dancing"; 17 and 30 Mar. 1838—"The people seem to have determined on improving the city; they have paved all the streets anew". 35 of her letters, written from Carlowville and vicinity, relate the social and religious activities of the family and community: 11 Nov., 3 Dec. 1839; 1 Jan. 1840; 5 Apr., 30 Aug., 15 Nov., 20 Dec. 1841; 24 Jan., 4 May, 27 July, 21 Sept. 1842—"Religion is at a very low ebb with us here . . . five churches of different denominations"; 19 Aug., 9 Sept., 4 Nov., 2 Dec. 1844; 3 May, 9 June, 1845; 6 Apr., 11 May 1846—"I have been . . . a zealous Episcopalian for the last three or four days . . . The Episcopalian convention met here"; 21 Sept., 2 Nov., 1 Dec. 1846; 22 July, 14 Sept. 1847; 27 Mar., 5 July 1848; 28 Mar., 1 Aug. 1849; 28 Mar. 1850; 26 June 1862; and 5 undated.

12 letters from Carlowville deal mainly with schools, teachers and the "westward urge": 14 June 1836; 7 Apr. 1840—Mr Hartwell's "very large school . . . it is constantly increasing"; 25 Jan. 1841—"Miss Bright has left the neighborhood, she was such a strong abolitionist that the people would not engage her another year"; 27 Feb. 1843—"There are 7 schools in 6 miles"; 11 Aug. 1845—"Sister . . . does not expect James to go to S. C. College . . . the advantages [at Marion, Ala.] are not as great . . . the temptations would be fewer"; 17 Nov. 1845; 17 Aug. 1846; 31 Mar. 1847—"Papa was violently opposed to his [Joseph's] studying medicine and . . . he finally concluded to quit, has gone to farming this year"; 29 Apr. 1837—"I believe rich as the land is we are poorer than when we left [S. C.] . . . I expect that there will be as great a cry about Texas as there was about Alabama"; 5 Aug., 16 Sept. 1844; 25 May 1846—"I was very much opposed to leaving this place, but . . . I can *never* return to Carolina so it makes but little difference . . . where I go"; and 1 undated.

5 letters from Carlowville comment on the Civil War and family affairs following Reconstruction: 11 Dec. 1861—" . . . war is such a terrible thing . . . if I were old Abe I would stop it for humanity's sake"; 12 Feb., 17 Nov. 1862—"Mr. Pouncey . . . is engaged in making salt in Clarke County . . . Brother David has hired a Yankee teacher again, but with Southern principles, I suppose"; 29 Nov. 1876—"Brother Samuel is very busy grinding sugar cane and boiling molasses . . . Carrie had a small school . . . but some

\*Unpublished portions of collections in the *South Caroliniana* series are calendared in appendices to the volumes, and photostatic copies are available on inter-library loan. This calendar of unpublished Lide-Coker papers has been made by Mrs. Clara Mae Jacobs of the South Caroliniana Library staff.

one opened a free school . . . so she lost most of her scholars . . . I hope you will have better times now that you have Gen. Hampton for governor"; 25 Feb. 1880—"Mr. Pouncy is in business . . . James Fountain . . . is assistant in a large male school in Bryant . . . James (his son) . . . is a dentist . . . Carrie is teaching . . . Joseph has not commenced his school yet, is waiting for the negroes to get ready . . . Brother S— expected to teach a negro school . . . Mary is teaching in a private family."

Mary Elizabeth Lide's 20 letters were written from Carlowville or the vicinity; 1 letter was written to Maria while the latter was on a visit to her sister Hannah: 6 June 1844—"Brother and Joseph set off . . . if he was pleased and should purchase lands it would be several years before he will move . . . Mr. Dargan has declined coming to Ala. . . . Mr. Furman . . . Mr. Stout is . . . a most excellent fireside preacher". The remaining 19 letters were all addressed to Hannah: 14 Oct. 1836, 21 Apr. 1837—Mr. Hartwell has agreed to superintend the male and female schools for a thousand dollars . . . a Sabbath School [organized and I am teased] to take a class . . . Enoch is teaching school over the river"; 16 May—"the female academy will not be built before fall . . . for want of lumber"; 29 July 1837; 2 Mar. 1838; 8 Jan., 29 Apr 1840—"A writing Master has recently come to this neighborhood . . . all the young people . . . married men and women are going . . . the young men and boys have a debating society"; 1 Mar., 13 Sept. 1841; 2 Aug. 1842; 10 Apr. 1843; 6 June 1844; 5 Oct. 1846—"Brother D[avid] is anxious to go to Mobile to do business but Pa . . . [is] teasing him to . . . go to farming . . . the ladies have formed a prayer meeting"; 9 May, 4 Oct. 1848—efforts to establish "a large female seminary in this neighborhood . . . have four teachers engaged"; 26 Feb. 1849—"Cousin Robert Lide's nice house was burnt yesterday . . . most of his books were burnt"; 24 June 1854; 8 Dec. 1855; 16 Mar. 1857.

David R. Lide wrote 26 letters which were addressed to Hannah and Caleb Coker; 1 letter, 13 Aug. 1835, was written from "Potomac River" to his sister, Hannah, at White Sulphur Springs, Virginia. 13 were written from Society Hill, Darlington and Charleston, 2 of them under the firm name of Lide & McLaughlin; 21 Dec. 1843 and 13 Feb. 1844. The remaining 11 are chiefly business letters and news of the family in Alabama: 27 Jan. 1826; 11 Sept. 1827; 16 Mar. 1841—"Cotton would be better if money was not so tight"; 18 July, 12 Aug. 1843; 4 Feb., 26 and 30 Aug., 5 Sept. 1845, and 1 sometime during 1845; 2 Mar. 1846. In 1846 David joined the family in Alabama and 12 of his letters are written from Carlowville or the neighborhood: 28 Sept. 1846—"My Desire is to plant . . . and quit the Commission Business . . . there is quite a spirit here for home industry in the way of Domestic Manufactory. Bro. has a woman that weaves 8 yds. per day and only works *one third* of her time"; 4 and 25 Aug., 7 Dec. 1847—"Dr. MacLean . . . and Cousin Ezra . . . very busy making arrangements to be off with their Negroes . . . cotton . . . at the present prices will prove a ruinous business"; 9 Feb. 1848—"Money matters are as tight as wax"; 7 May 1849; 24 June, 6 and 26 July 1854; 1, 8, and 9 Nov. 1855.

Sarah J. Lide Fountain wrote 24 letters which are all addressed to her sister Hannah and Caleb Coker. 4 of this group were written from the

Darlington area before the family moved west and are directed to Hannah at Charleston, where she was in school, and Society Hill, where she lived after her marriage to Caleb Coker; they relate family and community happenings: 23 Mar. 1830; 22 June 1833; 21 July 1834; 22 Aug. 1835. The remaining 20 letters were written from Carlowville: 9 May, 19 Dec. 1836; 19 Jan. 1837—"We expect to be constituted a church . . . in Feb. . . . The presbyterians have kindly offered the use of their House . . . Pa was agreeably disappointed in Mobile"; 10 and 30 May, 23 June 1837; 23 Mar. 1838—"Pa says he did not . . . wish you to apply to any of those ignorant steam Drs. . . . [but] to regular bred physicians . . . [who] had relinquished their *mineral* practice, and taken up the *Botanic* . . . There is great Campbellite preacher about here recently . . . [who] is an *abolitionist* also"; 15 June, 17 Aug., 5 Oct. 1838—"The Alabama Association [Baptist] is to meet . . . application . . . [for our] church to be received"; 18 Jan. 1839—the great Alexander Campbell preached here last Sunday night"; 25 Feb., 21 May—plans for Baptist, Methodist and Episcopal churches; 9 July, 21 Oct., 9 Dec. 1839; 7 Nov. 1840—"The institution [Judson Institute at Marion, Ala.] is said to be superior to the one in Tuscaloosa"; 22 Feb., 10 Sept. 1841—"Music has become so common of late I expect it makes L[izzie] more anxious"; 13 Dec. 1841.

Elizabeth (Lizzie) C. Fountain, young daughter of Sarah J. Fountain, wrote 27 letters to her aunt and uncle, Hannah and Caleb Coker, and members of their family. 18 of her letters are from Carlowville: 18 Oct. 1837—"Brother . . . is not going to school now . . . no male teacher in the neighborhood . . . I was examined on Philosophy" etc.; 27 Mar. 1838—"I am very much pleased with" Astronomy and painting; "Sunday School . . . will commence again next Sunday"; 14 Sept. 1838, 23 Dec. 1839; 19 July 1841; 3 July 1843—"I am waiting now very patiently for my piano"; 12 Aug. 1843; 26 Aug., 23 Sept., 25 Nov. 1844—"I have concluded to teach his [Eli's] little girls next year"; 19 Dec. 1844; 22 Feb. 15 Mar., 19 Apr., 23 June, 20 Oct., 8 Dec. 1845; 10 Jan., 17 Nov. 1846; and 1 undated. 5 letters were written from Marion, Alabama, where she was attending Judson Institute: 10 Apr. 1841—[My studies] "are Philosophy, French, Astronomy, Grammar, Arithmetic, Botany . . . Geography, Elocution, and writing. [There are 120] scholars . . . new ones are constantly coming . . . I will tell you how the days are spent [here]"; 30 Oct., 18 Dec. 1841; 21 May 1842; 4 Mar. 1843—" . . . I am trying to get the valedictory . . . if I fail . . . I have done my duty". 2 of her letters were written from Charleston where she spent a few months in school: 21 Mar., 5 Apr. 1844—"Well, tomorrow is the day for the great Henry Clay to arrive into the city".

James A. Fountain, young son of Sarah Jane Fountain, wrote his Aunt Hannah 5 letters, 3 of them from Marion, Alabama, where he was attending Howard College: 11 May 1844—"The destruction of the Howard College by fire' . . . the Masons have . . . offer[ed] their lodge"; 10 Jan. 1845—"Our examinations . . . refer you for a more glowing and accurate description to the *Alabama Baptist* . . . Marion has become truly noted for the number of Ventriloquists, Necromancers, and various other kinds of money gleaners . . . 'Christ healing the sick' painted by West . . . exhibited"; 10 Feb. 1845—

written on letter-head paper of Judson Female Institute with picture of the institute. The other 2 letters were written from the University of Alabama: 20 May 1846—"I have assumed the honorable and dignified title of a Junior"; 1 Apr. 1847—" . . . the Senior Class [dismissed] six weeks before their graduation . . . for writing their graduating speeches."

Mary Ann B. Lide, young daughter of Eli Hugh Lide, wrote 7 letters from Carlowville to her cousins, Jane L. and Anna M. Coker: 1 Dec. 1845; 14 Feb., 8 June, 1846—"I have commenced to make a herbauium"; 18 Nov. 1846; 5 June, 15 Sept. 1847—" . . . some of the ladies ride on horse back a good deal, but most of them have carriages . . . eleven negroes . . . sick . . . the Dr's will get rich . . . the Drugest too . . . have to give five dollars for one bottle of quinine"; 27 May 1848.

Other members of the family wrote 10 letters to Hannah or members of the family: Eli Hugh Lide—2 letters from Darlington to Hannah at Charleston, 30 Dec. 1829 and 6 Apr. 1830, and 2 letters enroute to Texas describing the journey, 20 Apr. and 1 May 1854; M. J. F. Lide, a cousin, from Barhamville, 19 Mar. 1831; F. I. Rumph, a niece, from Carlowville, 26 Jan. 1840; Jesse H. Lide, a brother, from Darlington, 31 Mar. 1840; Joseph Lide, a brother, from Carlowville, 7 Aug. 1843; Emma C. Lide, a niece, from Sumter, Texas, 26 June, 1854; John W. Lide, 18 Dec. 1843.



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