

for breaking hemp, and out door <sup>business</sup> generally, that I have ever  
 experienced - rain, rain, & snow, nearly all the time - My hemp crop  
 is about one half broke out - we can finish in two weeks good  
 weather - we are now repairing all of our fencing & preparing  
 for Spring work - It will be through in a few days -  
 you speak of the price of Mules &c. - the prospect is gloomy

*[Red scribble]*

Wm. Miller

Wm. Miller

Wm. Miller

Wm. Miller

LEXINGTON  
 FEB 8  
 KY.

and discouraging - I have one 3 year old - 3 two year olds, and  
 2 yearlings - of my own raising - large and fine for which I have  
 had no offer - no one wants to buy - stock of my description  
 seems to be depressed, and <sup>no</sup> chance of selling - Spotswood  
 has just come, they are all well at his house - he man-  
 ages his farm well & I think is industrious - and  
 one lacks one belife, to make him happy, an comfortable -

I hope, in charging the price of mules, are looking up & back command  
 to say that he thinks mules are looking up & back command  
 he has been writing to you in a few days, and give you, an account  
 in detail of prices &c.

My dear Brother,

Asht Hill - Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 1844.

I must acknowledge that you are a more ex-  
 cellent and prompt correspondent - your letters by Capt. Devore and of  
 the 6<sup>th</sup> ultimo (by mail), were duly received - I must thank you (not)  
 for my negligence <sup>but</sup> rather for the apology you kindly offered in my behalf  
 Remember, that on yesterday, I was fifty years of age - some nine  
 years older than you are - and I believe it to be a lamentable  
 fact, that as we advance in age, our disposition for letter writing  
 (and indeed I might here say, for the action of the mind on any par-  
 ticular subject, unless absolutely required, begins to relax in its  
 former accustomed energy, in the ratio of our advancing life)

I am yet, pretty much of a Boy, and cannot under any cir-  
 cumstances, plead the least apology on the score of old age -  
 nor do I know, that I have been, more negligent in answering  
 the letters of my friends, than many of them have been towards me -

On yesterday, we spent my birth day with some few of my friends -  
 true we had a large roast turkey - and pleasant company -  
 yet there was something wanting - there were plates at the  
 table, which in former days, may have been occupied by friends near  
 and dear to me - many of whom have gone - I will no longer  
 indulge in this melancholy train of thoughts -

Just as I was about to commence this letter, Mr. Home, (the  
 husband of cousin Sally Wilson) came in, and stayed some time  
 after dinner - he reports cousin Sally's health, not good, but not  
 worse, than for some time past - their little girl was well - As you  
 have understood, cousin Kitty Wilson is married to Alex<sup>r</sup>. Shackelford -