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Fort Washitta C. M.
July 20th 1860

Dear Uncle,

It grieves me much to inform you that a flying rumor has reached me that your son Peter killed an man by the name of Harris or Harrison in the State of Arkansas, he is an uncle in law I am told, and that his aunt Harris or Harrison wife had afforded \$1000.00 reward for his apprehension, this seems to be an authentic news, and again this morning I have been informed that Peter has since been killed by the Lights-Horse, how true the last news is I am not able to say.

It seems that our Nation is destined to go through some awful distress - the long continued drought has cut off our present crop of corn so much that bids for furnishing corn at Fort Arbuckle run up as high as \$3.50 per Bushel, the lowest was I am told \$1.99 cent per bushel, and our ~~own~~ most promising young men are killing up each other, it is distressing to think about it and that a man has been killed since I came home and several

cut to pieces, Slack and his son has
been killed which I presume you have
heard of, it is nothing but shooting, killing,
and cutting and slashing one another up
I have in haste written this letter to you
all the news I can write at present, Tell
all inquiring friends that I am well
tell the Land Lady I send her my best
respects —

I am yours truly
James Gamble

To Col P P Patchley