

November 2, 1933

Dear Ben:

I wish I could see you for a bit. During these two or three devastating years I have worked on old history matter. There has been no chance to get out and get business and income in my line. When this world sickness is over there are things to be published. I have tried to get some things financed this year, but impossible.

Moved all my furniture to the old St. Mary's Academy building, College Street, because the mortgagees when they took possession of the Gunter Hotel started to borrow it with the intent apparently of absorbing it. Here at St. Mary's building it is used to "build up" if possible history research work for this South Texas country. My history files, records, maps, many things are here. Quite a few people are cooperating. Important history building plans are in mind, but in these times I am in this way holding things together.

Have been elected (without solicitation on my part) a corresponding member of the A.C. Historical Commission, through Dr. Folk's initiative.

Now, for several reasons, I am going home...to New Jersey. Mother is 87 and failing. Our estate matters, like such interests everywhere, are in bad condition. I am down to the dregs. It seems best for me to get up there, for a time anyhow, until these business storms are over. There are things I would like to leave in your care, or have your advice concerning them. Will phone you sometime tomorrow afternoon (Friday) and will meet you here preferably so you can see the set-up; or will see you anywhere any time, as your convenience dictates. I hope I may have this pleasure.

Sincerely,

Harral Ayres