

Letter from  
Charlotte "Lottie" Labadie  
at Galveston, Texas  
to  
Babe  
[Sarah Dunman Mayes]

Date: Jan. 4, 1857

This original letter is in the possession of  
Marsha Mayes Willcox  
Wallisville, Texas

Transcribed for the Wallisville Heritage Park

By Kevin Ladd on April 4, 2003

Galveston      Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> 1857

My dear Babe:

As this has been the first opportunity that has presented itself of writing to you, since your sad affliction, and it being an unpleasant task to harrow the feelings by reminiscences of the past, it is not my intention to open a fresh wound, but to close it by offering my sympathy and consolation as far as I am capable of doing. I regretted much to hear of sweet Mollie's death, and the blow must have fallen heavily upon you both, but, dear friend, if you reflect upon it awhile you will see that the hand of God has sent the affliction upon you both in order to draw your hearts to Him, for He chasteneth those whom He loveth He wills such things to detach ourselves from worldly, transitory pleasures, and look to Him for happiness, such as the world is incapable of offering. Be perfectly resigned to God, for resignation can alleviate the distress of this life, act as a balm upon a wounded spirit, comfort and enliven the few toilsome, weary days upon earth, and you will receive many blessings in this life, and an abundant reward hereafter. Neither you, or I, or any human being knew what misfortune and troubles was to be Mollie's lot, had her life been spared to you, or what heart rending anguish was to be hers, for remember this world is not a Paradise; all have to drink of the bitter dregs from the cup, and God has seen proper to take his little angel child home to his bosom and so freed her from this wicked world. Seek consolation from Him and he will not deny it to you, and may your life be such, that you will meet your little darling in Heaven.

Time passes rapidly; old '56 has just left us, and to many, will be ever remembered with pleasure and regret. A New Year has now dawned upon us, and as none are permitted to look into futurity, we do not know what fate is awaiting us this year, but I most sincerely hope and pray, that none but choice blessings may rest upon us all. I have often wished to be in dear in dear [sic] old Wallisville with my friends, for it was with them that I really enjoyed myself, and memory often brings to view pleasures that are past and gone, and regret that those joys were so fleeting.

I met with many sincere, warm-hearted persons during my stay among you last Summer, and as you all do not make yourselves perfect slaves to fashion, as they do in Galveston, but on the contrary are more plain and retiring in your ways. I still prefer you to the hollow hearted, deceitful friends that

surround me. I hope I may be able to visit my sister [Sarah Labadie Wallis] this summer, but do not expect to, as I fear it will take much persuasion to obtain my Parents permission, though if Sarah sends a very pressing invitation I may do so. I feel completely exhausted to-day, and fatigue affects me considerably rather having a tendency to make me feel depressed in spirits and exceedingly dull. I am entirely alone this long afternoon, as all the family has gone up to Mrs. Hurlbut to see her sister, who arrived this morning from Columbia, so I am indulging my low spirited feelings. I attended church this morning and the sermon, I believe, causes this feeling. Please remember me kindly to your dear husband, kiss Pop for me, and love to Sister and family [Sarah Labadie Wallis and her family], respects to your mother and all enquiring friends, hoping to hear from you soon, and that God may support you under your sad bereavement, and that this year may be fraught with Heaven's choicest blessings upon you and yours, is the prayer and sincere wish of your

Friend,

Lottie Labadie