

This document contains a letter that has been folded up inside a bible that once belonged to Robert Carley, who was born in Ireland and died in Seguin, Texas, where he was Rector of St. Andrews Episcopal Church.

The letter is addressed to "Alice," who was probably his daughter, Margaret Alice Carley. If I am deciphering the handwriting correctly, Robert is writing to Alice on her birthday. About half way down the first page, he writes "you will want to be very good now as you have grown so old—now eight years—what a great girl." If only I knew when Alice was born, this would date the letter. Robert died in 1872 at the age of 38.

Margaret Alice married Robert Glass. My grandmother, Mary Glass Chamberlain, was one of their many children.

Here is my best effort at a transcription:

My dearest Alice,

I have just [thought?] that this is your birth day, so as I cannot be with you to congratulate, I must do what is next best, that is, write you a line. You will want to be very good now as you have grown so old—now eight years—what a great girl. You will be able now to get such perfect lessons, while [or which?] your [indecipherable] so big, that your teacher will be very glad indeed. And [we?] will all be very glad to [missing] you get on nicely, and then [indecipherable] you will go into the common school, and that will be something [grand?].

What fine sunny weather we have. I often wish that I could ask you and [Frankie?] [out here?] to enjoy the pleasant sunshine.

I send you best love and many birth day Kisses.

Do not forget to be [missing word]. I hope you get along nicely with the [indecipherable] and help all you can. [It?] pleases everyone to see a little girl [industrious?].

Give my love to the baby, and give him a Kiss for me.

It is beautiful to hear the birds sing out here in the woods.

Your loving father

Robert Carley.

I would welcome corrections or additions to this transcription

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"My dearest Alice.

I have just the  
that this is your last a.  
~~so a. I cannot be last~~ you  
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with you a lie. You will want  
to be very good now as you have  
grown so old - now eight years -  
~~that a great girl.~~ You will  
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~~a~~ and you get on  
nicely, and then you  
or you will go into the  
common School, and  
that will be something  
I and.

What fine sunny  
weather we have. I often  
wish that I could ask you  
and Frankie all here to  
enjoy the pleasant  
sunshine.

Send you best love  
and many birthday  
kisses.

I hope you get along  
nicely with the housekeeper  
and help all you can  
Please very much to see a  
little girl ~~now~~ <sup>now</sup>  
Give my love to the  
baby, and give him a  
kiss for me.

It is beautiful to hear  
the birds sing out here  
in the woods.

You loving Father  
Robert Bailey.