JEFFERSON DAVIS
1808-1899
President of the Confederate States of America

Jefferson Davis was born in Kentucky on June 3, 1808. At 16, he entered the U.S. Military Academy, graduating in 1828. Davis served in the army for seven years. He fought in campaigns against Indians, and took charge of the Indian removal after the Black Hawk War. In 1835, Davis married Sarah Taylor. They moved to Mississippi to manage his cotton plantation. When his wife died, Davis traveled for a year and studied the U.S. Constitution. He continued to manage his plantation and become wealthy.

Davis became a W.S. Congressman in 1845. That same year, he married Varina Howell. He resigned from Congress in 1846 to become a colonel in a regiment of Mississippi volunteers in the Mexican War. In 1847, the governor of Mississippi appointed Davis to fill out the term of a U.S. senator who had died. In 1850, Davis resigned from the senate to run for governor. He lost the election and retired to his plantation. In 1853, President Pierce appointed him Secretary of War. After his term expired, Davis was reelected to the Senate and served as a spokesman for the South. He believed strongly in states’ rights and demanded that Congress protect slavery.

After Abraham Lincoln was elected president, the state of Mississippi seceded from the Union. Davis resigned from the Senate again, and was named President of the Confederate States of America. He ran the government from its capital in Richmond, Virginia. He was a good administrator, but a poor planner. He had difficulties with his Congress and was considered inflexible. As president, he insisted on a strategy of defending all Southern territory equally, which was too expensive. This strategy also allowed Union forces to hit hard invulnerable areas such as New Orleans and Atlanta. When the South lost the war, Davis was taken prisoner. A grand jury indicted him for treason, and he was held in prison for two years, awaiting trial. A Northerner paid his bail, and Davis was released. He was never tried. Davis spent his last years writing about his war experiences.
16th May 1865

Mrs JS Marble

Dear Madam

Your favor of the 1st [?] came duly to hand and found us all Enjoying our usual Share of good Health and very glad to have that you and your family were all Enjoying a full Share of the Same Great Blessings hope it will long continue.

You may well say we have had exciting times the Murder of Mr Lincoln cast a gloom over our town more so that I ever seen before even the Rebbels among us felt it very much many spoke out and said it was the worst thing that could have happened for the South.

Did you ever see any thing cave in as fast as the Rebellion has since the taking of Richmond I have always thought that Gen Lee was an honerable man but that state pride had led him astray. the way of Transgressess is hard

Jeff Davis has been captured and will arive in Washington in about a week there is no Honour in him he must have been very much Scared when he tried to disguise himself in his wife’s cloack he forgot the Boots well he did. how true that the way of Transgresors is hard. he is a bad man dear knows what they will do with him they must have had Some Strong Proof against him to offer So large a Reward

There will be Some hanging about Washington before they are done with those they are trying now. You See in the papers all about them nearly as Soon as we do…….

……..Give my Best Respects to M Marble and all Enquiring friends

With much respect and maney good wishes for your future health & happiness I Remain Yours

Sam Elder
Your favor of the 1st. Last came duly to hand and found us all enjoying ourselves than I good health and very glad to hear that you and your family were all enjoying such shares of the same. I hope you will long continue so. I may some day we have had repeating times the murder of Mr. Lincoln cast a gloom over our once town. But so than Lebanon before some of the Rebels among us feel it very much many. Spoke out and said it was the worst thing that could have happened for the South. Did you ever see any thing come in as just as this rebellion has since the taking of Richmond. I have always thought that President was an incomparable man but that South must has lost him. I trust the way of Transgressors is hard. Jeff Davis has been captured and were coming in Washington in about a week. There is no honor in him he must have been very much pleased when he tried to disguise himself in his wife clothes. He forgot the boots were the idea of Transgressors is hard. She is a bad man. She knows what she wise.
As to what Mr. King has done, he must have had some strong
proof against him to offer & charge a reward.
There were some hanging about Washington
before they came here. They are trying
now, you see in the paper & about them. Nearly as
soon as we do
I am glad to hear that Mr. Stein has
made up his last time and is employed
in a store part of the time nothing like trying
to keep this; they were always here, I am sure
when they need them. I am glad to hear that
he always finds time to read his Bible, that
is the Book of all others to which anyone
who does so will be sure to esteem Church,
Give my love to him and tell him that
his Yankee Cousin that is in the Navy called
to see us last week on the way from home;
to join in Boston after a short leave of absence.
They say they will write to him some of these
times. His home is in Marion, New.
Margaret White, Emma & Lotta, May Beck
who is now with us all send much love
to yourself, Mr. Stein and the little fellow.
Ellen sends her best respects to you all.
Give my best respects to Mr. Marble
and allinquiring friends.
With much respect and
Many good wishes for your future
heart health. I remain your
Sinc. Edna.
Who wrote this letter and what was the occupation?
__________________________________________________________

What side of the Civil War did the writer support? Provide evidence.
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__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

What was the purpose of the letter?
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What important details are provided in this letter?
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What is the mental state of the writer? (ex: anger, despair, empathy, joy, sympathy)
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