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Letter, 24 March 1873, written from Anderson County by Richard Williamson Grubbs (1817–1891) to his brother-in-law William Clement (1804–1887) in Benton County, Arkansas updates Clement on family news, weather, planting activities, and Reconstruction politics in South Carolina.

Grubbs began by thanking Clement for his recent letter as they had not “hearn from none of you since the war closed,” and did not know “whether you escapt the yanks or not.” Grubbs informed that he and Clement’s sister Elizabeth (1814–1912) had four living children—two girls and two boys—but had “lost our oldest son in the war he died at richmond virginia.” His family were all in good health, except for Elizabeth, who had suffered from “reumatism and other complains” for the past twelve months. In a postscript, Grubbs also informed that he had been blinded in one eye four years earlier while “brakeing cotton land” when a “cotton bole flew of[f] [and] struck in my eye.”

Turning his attention to politics in “old South Carolina,” Grubbs described the government as “mitily turned about.” Elections following the ratification of the new state constitution in 1868 had resulted in a Black majority in the state legislature, and the disruption of what Grubbs declared was “a good government and a white mans government.” However, many of the counties in the Upcountry, including Anderson, continued to have white representation in the state legislature due to the population being majority white, and Grubbs felt that because of this “our district is not so mutch put upon as the lower districts.” Grubbs was also concerned about the government “advocating social equality” and wanting the “whites to mix in schools with the blacks,” though he did seem to support the idea of government-funded public education as “there is plenty of money appropriated to school all children between the age of six and sixteen.” He ended his commentary on politics by lamenting that “we can’t get them [Black citizens] to work as we once could,” and expressing worry over the fact that “they like to walk about with their guns on their shoulders.”

Grubbs concluded his letter by urging Clement to write again soon and update them on his family and to include “all of your pictures to put in our album [so] we could look at them when we choose.”

Richard Williamson Grubbs was the youngest son of Richard Williamson Grubbs (1772–1819) and Elizabeth Mitchell (1776–1854). In 1841 he married Elizabeth Clement, the daughter of Hugh Clement (1775–1853) and Mary Keatts (1780–1856). He is listed as a farmer in Honea Path Township on the 1870 United States census. He and Elizabeth are buried in the Barkers Creek Baptist Church cemetery in Honea Path. **Acquired for the Library by the University South Caroliniana Society.**