

Fort Sherman W.
August-13. 1854.

~~My dear Sir,~~

I received your letter
some six weeks since but have not
written before, on account my
expectation of getting a leave of absence
I made application in June which
was approved by the command of
the Post, and forwarded to Gen. Garland
St. Louis, it can not be granted on
account of the present state of the
Dept. - The troops are nearly all
in the field against the Indians -
The Indians here have behaved very
well, I have not lost an ox or mule
or horse from the post since it was
established, nor the eight months since
I am in hopes still of getting away
when the officers come out, but don't
expect me before winter - we are
still building the fort, and I may soon
have to go on a scout with my
company - I had got all ready

to start, had bought four large mules
and a wagon at the expense of \$300,00
and also employed a driver to take me
through to Port Lavaca - However I shall
keep the wagon and team and travel
with the stage, if I get any leave of absence
I have a thousand dollars now put
away to add to that which you took
home, for the purpose of purchasing a
place for Hatt and Wotton I shall
keep the money on hand and try and
make arrangements for the purchase as soon
as convenient - I can add another five
hundred to this lot if a suitable place
can be found - They had better buy as
soon as possible and I will pay out the
money as soon as I get home which may
be in the course of the winter I have written
to the Genl. Don that I have business of importance
to attend to, for which reason I wish to get off
as soon as possible - I have \$1700,00 in money
and pay laid by; my wagon and team
will sell in Texas for four hundred; and
I have a draft on Mr. Crokin of Lynn
Texas for money loaned him amounting to \$300,00
he was on the Road to California by this place
with 800 beef cattle and he having
a little of introduction to me and to others
and getting that of money here I loaned

it to him; payable by his son in Legation at
light - I have no plan of this way; Mr. Skinn
is one of the richest men in West India -
So you can go on and purchase a good
place as soon as possible - If I cannot get
away I can send my pay acct, which you
can get the way for in N York - There
no news to give - Remember me to Father Mother
Susan and Maria and all our other relations
and friends

From your affectionate Brother
J. B. Skillman

do not let it be seen