Letter from O. G. Hertzog to B. R. Colston [sic]

O. G. Hertzog
B. R. Menefee
Gainesville, Tex.

Dear B. R.,

I returned Monday evening from Pensacola, where I went to try to close out a deal in some coal land in which my sister Mrs. Meek had some interest. The property is fairly good and we can on our side meet almost all the conditions required. It will require time for surveys, rights of way, etc. I still feel very hopeful that the matter will be a go and I shall be especially grateful to my sister and her county, we have carried the property nearly years paying heavy taxes. But a new obstacle has arisen, another job or tax that has become necessary. It had been my purpose to purchase the property at Gainesville and carry it for my sister until such time as they could pay off some debts held against them in the coal. Some ten days ago a big flood struck us on the Santa Fe River west of theatre, where I have large holdings in Union and other land the entire march of 7,000 acres was all flooded and my tenants were driven out of their homes and more than $1 million dollars worth of crops destroyed. I lost forty acres of fine onions, fifty acres of corn beside potatoes and other things. I paid a thousand dollars in seed and fertilizer, etc., and that with the crop is all gone. My loss is between three and four thousand dollars and the tenants have lost fully as much in crop. This makes it impossible for me to carry the property for the weeks as I have heavy special taxes on producing any ditches and many interest that demand my attention. I deeply regret this misfortune for the sake of others, we had a similar misfortune nineteen years ago when I lost about four thousand dollars. This means that the river...
will be widened and deepened and some of the water at the head of the stream turned into the Anguage River; this movement was started two years ago involving the drainage of some thirty square miles but it required time to complete these legal-technicalities but I leave the enforcement until now go forward. This is like locking the horse after the horse has been stolen, I had spent a good deal of time looking over Florida and taking everything into account I decided on Gainesville, connected with, after many years with Hiram College the State I was so many years with Hiram College the State University there was attractive and I was delighted with the church and its simplicity and the city and community all looked good to me and I felt sure it would please both my sister and husband, Mrs. Margaret. But God discooned I held back about taking the property there because the onion crop is hazardous and I never feel sure till we harvest the crop and know the market I have a fine lot of tenants and they are dependable our crop would have been harvested the latter part of any but we will not get a thing from the farm everyone is a total loss and I will not doubt have to help some of my tenants before we can raise another crop. It is very doubtful about our going to Florida this winter still we can determine that better when winter comes, "Insufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." I am sure we are very grateful to you for all your kindness and respect deeply the circumstances that have changed our plans kindly remember me to all the brethren.
Chrially yours O. G. Hezgor
B.R. Colston Hiram O. July 28/15
Gainesville Fla
Dear Bro. Colston
I returned Monday evening from Penns. where I went to try to close out a deal in some coal land in which my sister Mrs. West has some interest. The prospect is fairly good as we can on our side meet about all the conditions required. It will require time for surveys, rights of way Still I feel very hopeful that the matter will be a go and I shall be especially grateful on my sisters account. We have carried the property many years paying heavy taxes. But a new obstacle has arisen unlooked for. It had been my purpose to purchase the property at Gainesville and carry it for my sister until such time as they could pay off some debts held against their interest in the coal. Some ten days ago a big flood struck us on the Scioto Marsh west of Kenton where I have large holdings in onion and corn land the entire marsh of 17000 acres was all flooded and my tenants were driven upstairs and more than a million dollars worth of crops destroyed. I lost forty acres of fine onions, fifty acres of corn bedside potatoes and other things. I had a thousand dollars in seed and fertilize to and that with the crop is all gone. My loss is between three and four thousand dollars and the tenants have lost fully as much in crop. This makes it impossible for me to carry the property for the Wests as I have heavy special taxes on paving and ditches and many interests that demand my attention. I deeply regret this misfortune for the sake of others. We had a similar misfortune eleven years ago where I lost about four thought dollars. This means that the river
will be widened and deepened and source of the water at the head of the stream turned into the Auglaize River. This movement was started two years ago involving the drainage of some thirty square miles. But it required time to remove some legal technicalities. But I learn the improvement will now go forward. This is like locking the barn after the horse had been stolen. I had spent a good deal of time looking over Florida and taking everything into account. I decided on Gainesville, connected as I was so many years with Hiram College the State University. There was attractive and I was delighted with the church and its Simplicity and the city and community all looked good to me and I felt sure it would please both my sister and husband. Man professes, But God disposes - I held back about taking the property there because the onion crop is hazardous and I never feel sure till we harvest the crop and know the market. I have a fine lot of tenants and they are dependable. Our crop would have been harvested the latter part of Aug. But we will not get a thing from the farm. Everything is a total loss, and I will no doubt have to help some of my tenants before we can raise another crop. It is very doubtful about our going to Florida this winter. Still we can determine that better when winter comes, “Sufficient with the day is the evil thereof,” I am sure we are very grateful to you for all your kindness and regret deeply the circumstances that have changed our plans. Kindly remember me to all the brethren.

Cordially Yours O.G. Hertzog