

Washktenaw November 19th 1828

Dear Brother. I expected we would have had our sawmill works before I wrote in greater forwardness than the now are; the progress slowly on our hands, our dam takes much more time than we supposed it would. The principal part of the dam is to plan yet; Two days work with three hands will finish the stone halling for it there is not less than four hundred tons of stone in it. Our dam is frame fill with stone and then to be plank, on the upper side with plank 2 inches thick, and ten feet long. The dam rises 3 1/2 feet above the water; (that is the common height of the water) We calculate raise another foot of head in low water by placing plank, on the curb of the dam which are to be thrown off in high water. The plank extend from the upper, or ridge log on to the sill, or lower log just so far as to admit of being pin, on the sill. Thinking it better to make the upper surface of the dam as flat as possible. We have made a culvert under the head race for Mallets Creek calculating we intend to ~~send~~ the mouth of that creek by the dam. But it is so stagnant now that it is thought most prudent to send it under the head race; when that is done we intend to lower ~~the~~ it a foot lower than it now is at the mouth.

The law relative flowing lands has been altered. The law has been that a person complaining for damage, for his land being overflowed, could recover nothing more than the worth of the land at the time it was flowed. At the last session of Legislative Council this law has been repealed; and another passed making the person that flows land liable to be sued for trespass, once every 24 hours. This late act was passed the beginning of July.

And we think we shall not coming under the provisions of it; as we commenced digging the pit the 28th of April. though we done nothing to the dam before September; except contracting with Botsford for a place to attach the dam to. I mention this as the Rev. Clark a Baptist preacher, has threatened to prosecute if we flow any of his premises. We do not intend to raise more than two feet against his shore; even when the plank is in. This we have an idea will not flow any of his land. We shall go on and raise as much head as we calculated on; and if he attack, we shall endeavor to ~~cancel~~ out this late act an Ex post facto law. I might tell you how we happened to come under the wrath of this pretended minister of the Prince of Peace. It was not owing to any difficulty we had in a dealing way, nor any other way. But the part he acted in his transactions with a Mr Hicks a member of this settlement; and with whom he had considerable connection in the way of deal. The part he the said Clark acted: we conceived to be rascally, unmercifully and unmanly. And we took part against him; not we alone but the whole settlement.

It would be to long a story to tell what the crimes are, there are more of them criminal only catches in law; he is a man very revengefull and savage in his nature; and when once under sail; pays no regard to his profession of Religion, nor the principles of honor.

So Mr Parsons has made an offer of one hundred and seventy five dollars for your lot of eighty acres being the East half of the North east 1/4 section fourteen, Township No 3 Range No 6 east. The offer is this; 175 dollars to be paid on or before the first of June 1840 with interest from the date of the contract for the conveying of the said eighty acres. If you are willing to except of these conditions; I will enter into the contract with him, binding myself to make him a good and sufficient title on or before the first day of June 1840 on condition that he will pay you, or me, the money at said time with interest from the date of the contract; if he does not comply with the contract he is to pay 25 dollars liquidated damages. (liquidated damages it is said can be collected) and he likewise might be kept from taking any timber of said land. He likewise offers 185 dollars with interest if you will wait on him seven months longer. He wishes me (supposing you and him can deal) to bind myself to pay him for his improvements on said land. if I dont fulfill on my part. what three disinterested persons may think they improvements are worth. I think that he offers as much as it is worth; if his manner of paying you will answer. he owns eighty acres adjoining it. which is the principal reason he gives for wanting to purchase said land. There is some excellent land on the premises and some but middling, on the whole it is a good piece of land but there is a want of timber on it. You may reject this proposal because it is not cash. but you may come here one or two years hereafter, and offer for cash, and not be able to sell, for it is not at all times you can find a purchaser. It is my opinion. he will pay when the time he is obligated to do it comes. he wishes immediate possession. as soon as the contract is signed.

In making the two offers he wishes if he can meet the first conveniently, not to comply with the second. But would bind him to one them if I sold. It depends upon your calculations which would answer you best. If you would wish to purchase more land, and we should conclude not to raise a grist mill; I will advance you the money and wait, until Mr Parsons pays you (supposing you should sell) I think you might safely offer to sell them 240 acres if you could get 600 dollars for it; less I would not except of. I propose this plan to you as I have an idea you never calculate to settle down a farmer in Michigan. As for the eighty acres you and me have in partnership I thought that for the timber that is on it, and so would rather pay you your share than that you should sell it to any other person. As for these ideas that I have mentioned to you, relative to your land you will please to give your opinion of them, with the same freedom that I have offered them; as you know I am not backward in giving my opinion in matters of this kind. Samuel Barber is undecided what course to steer next spring; he may do a great deal worse than come to Michigan. Wheat was sold in Ypsalanti this fall for 75 cents bush. (and I was told) in Detroit for one dollar. The price of carriage from this to Detroit is 12½ cents per bu. The price of hauling from ^{Detroit to} Ypsalanti was 37½ cents per bu. The turnpiking of Chicago road between the Rouge and Huron was completed this summer. And there has been sixty bushels of wheat drawn at a load from Ypsalanti to Detroit, by two yoke of cattle; (but minding cattle either) It is an earth turnpike and such loads can't be taken at all seasons of the year.

Corn and Rye are 50 cents per bushel. In your last you set down Rye at 30 cents and corn at 40 cents, if there is no mistake in your prices. At places Washenaw before Hanover is the farming line. That is more money can be raised of an hundred acres here than there. They have fences and barnyard houses on their premises and we have not if they had not these things, it might be taken as an insult; the offer as gift, many of them as the place of their abode. That is home, and this is a western wild. What a state and barren lands there would be.

I expected before I wrote to you to let you know something more about our saw mill than I have; having wrote earlier this time on account Mr Parsons hurrying me than I should have. When our saw mill has fairly started you may expect a letter from me; if the mill don't start I shall; in three months from the date of this. One week after you receive you will please to direct to me your answer to Mr Parsons proposal, you can't expect more from me this time, we have all been well since I last wrote. We calculate to keep four hands beside ourselves to work, on our dam and tail race this week; and three for two or three weeks longer, which I think will complete the dam and tail race; the head race is completed. Our Pa. millwright after bargaining to put in the running gears left the country, pretending he could not receive encouragement enough to warrant he staying here. We have partly contracted with another man who has a number of hands, if he does it I am in hopes yet I will go the first of January yet your Road Tax in three days work I shall attend to it. I am in a hurry so

Farewell

John Geddes

To Wm Geddes

11.

1330
 $\frac{2}{26.60 - 4.43\frac{1}{2} - 31.03\frac{1}{2} / 190}$
~~8.86 $\frac{1}{2}$~~ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{11.40}{2}$
~~35.76~~ 22.80
 3.80
 26.60
 190
 21.40
 8.60
 206
 104
 910
 190
 21.
 221 2.50
 20.10

185
 $\frac{7}{12.95}$
 6.47 $\frac{1}{2}$
 4.31 $\frac{2}{3}$
 1.7 $\frac{3}{4}$

 24.81 $\frac{1}{2}$

Dear

175
 $\frac{6}{10.50}$
 $\frac{4 \frac{1}{2}}{3.50}$

 14.00
 175

 189.00
 6

 1134
 5.67

 94 $\frac{1}{2}$
 6.61 $\frac{1}{2}$

 189.

 195.61 $\frac{1}{2}$

185
 $\frac{6}{11.10}$
 5.55

 92 $\frac{1}{2}$
 17.57 $\frac{1}{2}$

 189.

 202.57 $\frac{1}{2}$
 13.57 $\frac{1}{2}$

185
 $\frac{5.6}{11.10}$ 80/185/2.31 $\frac{1}{4}$
 $\frac{16.0}{2.000}$
 5.55 2401
 3.70 100

 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ 84
 20

 21.27 $\frac{1}{2}$
 185. 300

 206.27 $\frac{1}{2}$
 189.

 17.27 $\frac{1}{2}$

195.61 $\frac{1}{2}$ the worth of the first offer on the first of January 1831
 206.27 $\frac{1}{2}$ calculated from the first of February 1829.
 of the second

200.50
 200000

The Proceeds of the Mill
for one week

Wheat 3.90
Oats 1.50
Corn 18.08
Oye 8.40
31.88
4.12
36.00

5681 8681

8681

~~17/18~~

Mr William Geddes
Mountjoy
Lancaster County Pa

Am Dubois
Dec 19th Nov

128
50
70
128
168
104
546
12
24
43
47
26
19
24
19
24
10

John D. ...

14 Dec