

Campbelltown Oct. 20th 1830.

Dear Brother. I am still at home and at present out of any kind of employment, after the harvesting was over I rested a week or ten days; when I was obliged to take hold of the plough; James having left to go; not being well overcome I thought of the hardship of the work as he is but a weak boy and will never be a stout man. The ground was harder to plough this season in general than I ever saw it. A great many of the farmers were obliged to let their grass fields lie untill it would rain; which it did not do till the 1st of Oct. and then not sufficiently; but still they made out to plough. The 18th 19th and 20th at present is raining powerfully. The weather was dry and warm in excess since I wrote. The day I wrote my former slowly not benefiting the Corn and potatoes any thing scarcely. Our own and potatoe crop is but half a one. The farmers have all ceased to plough follows before harvest; the other plan being equally as good, especially in Clover fields. I ploughed all the tough ground but two acres and a good deal of the other ground. Present prices are Wheat 1.00. Rye 45 cents Corn 45 Cents 25 Flour in the City 5.25 Pork 5 1/2 cents per lb. Beef 4 1/2. Whiskey 28 cents per gallon. I would have been much better pleased with your barn if you had built it with a forebay and think it would have appeared more wonderful to the Yankees, and am not a little surprised that you should adopt the Chester County plan in preference to our own. The convenience of a forebay in rainy and snowy weather would have convinced the people of the superiority of Pennsylvania barns. but now you are in that respect no better of than others. you will please to let me know the cost of Robert's barn in your next. We have at present our Union County relations of the Bell family with us. Matilda and her husband and Eliza & Sarah. with our step mother Misses Simonton & Sawyer who were yesterday all six at once here. As ill looking at present as they were handsome when unmarried; in fact I was astonished at the alteration on them. Women who ought to be in the prime of life so far beyond it. If I had met Sarah in particular in a strange place I verily believe I would not have known her. They seem all to inherit the evil disposition: ill humour of our step dame; a jealousy of the and a fretting at the well being of others. The Geddes' of Union County are all in good health and the rising generation all unmarried. Our Cousins the Miss. Boals are all married but Margaret and are all weak and sickly women. Sophia and her husband removed to Ohio where she has since died. Samuel Barnett was in to see his friends since harvest; three of his Brothers are in Louisville Kentucky and are doing well they are all married. They work at the copper smithing all three. William is dead. The Allens are living in the Miami country and Margaret I think it is, is married to a cousin of hers Mr. Brown. I don't recollect but I think wrote you this in my last. of our other relations I have nothing to write. And your acquaintances are as they were except Miss Margaret Carls, Peggy

I mean who got married the day before yesterday to one of the young
Loudermilk's of Swatara; and some say it is a forced match but
that is nothing among the dutch. Peggy is thirty. We have had a sharp
electioneering campaign this fall; rather more so than last owing
to two Causes; Jacksonism and unfit men. The popularity of old
hickory is still great and I am afraid will overturn antismasonry.
The Anti's were too confident from their success last year and
were not politic enough in selecting a ticket: they thought that
all the Jackson anti's would be firm in the cause though Jackson
and his friends were neglected, in which they have been
sadly mistaken; which I told some of them would be the case
had they put Jacksonmen on the ticket or even one for Congress
who was of that party and a popular Adamesman for Senate.
I am certain the Anti's would have carried but as it was it
appeared too plain that all that was wanted by the Anti's
was to defeat the friends of the Administration of the general
Government: they Anti's being mostly Adamesmen or rather more
properly speaking all the Adamesmen were Antismasons.
Mr Hummel the saddler and Associate judge of Dauphin and who
was the Adams Candidate two years ago for Congress was the
Anti Candidate in Opposition to John C. Bucher of the same
place who is much better qualified and a Jacksonman to boot.
And Philip Wolfersberger ^{sen} the Anti candidate for senate who
never was popular or in the least qualified for such a post and
was a fence rider in the bargain. his Opponent was Stover the
German printer of Lebanon his capacity for Office is yet
to be tried. The whole ticket was defeated save two directors of
the poor who run better than any on both tickets which shows
the truth of what I have said. In Dauphin the Anti's carried one
of the Assemblymen by 200 and yet some of them rest fell as
much behind. He was an old member and of course a Jacksonian.
If I can get the Dauphin return and has room I will insert it in full.
We are going to erect a poor house in this County next summer.
Isabel McClure is in her old way sound in body but not
in mind but not very troublesome except when angry
and then only in words. John Wolfersberger was offered
75 dollars per acre for the land that lies on our side of the
road and the meadow before the door & 15 Acres of wood that
formerly belonged to Peters place but would not take it because
the purchaser wanted to have the the last payments easy; I think
he will never get another such an offer at least he should not for the
land is not worth more than 60.

Census of 1830

	White	Free Blacks	Slaves	1820	White	Free Blacks	Slaves	White	Free Blacks	Slaves	White	Free Blacks	Slaves	White	Free Blacks	Slaves
Lebanon Borough	920	584	2	774	706	9	181	77	173	6.6	169	86				
Lebanon Township	1796	1758	7	1579	1450	15	263	116	255	120	264	111				
Jackson	1045	1065	3	908	870	8	212	49	202	58	212	51				
Heidleburg	1503	1444	8	1265	1186	1	173	50	128	112	162	90				
Anville	1383	1325	4	1252	1078	17	81	170	83	159	79	172				
East Hanover	1287	1192	42	973	889	44	49	90	57	78	51	86				
Londonderry	963	909	4	858	798	6	46	121	47	108	30	139				
Swatara	784	724	46				44	138	39	128	48	135				
Bethel	776	826	22	1321	1265	7	115	27	105	38	113	28				
The two last were on in 1829	10455	10089	132	896	824	107	1164	865	1089	267	1128	898				

The first named candidates are the Jackson and Wolf men the others are the Antimasons

In Dauphin County Bucher had 1613 and Hummel 1467 & Hoover 1528 & Wolfersberger 1415. For assembly Christian Spayd & Henry R. Schetterly were the Jackson & Wolf men & Wm. Rutherford & Jacob Hoffman were the antimasons. Spayd had 1481. Schetterly 767. Rutherford 1607 & Hoffman 1438. And William Reed on the Working mens ticket had 934. There will be 30 Anti in the lower house & in the upper 7. Father is strongly opposed to Antimasonry and was obliged to split the ticket owing to Mr Hummel. Wolfersberger being put on it & it is probable next year if the Anti's place themselves in open array to General Jackson I may vote against them. I feel myself very easy on politics I expect nothing and I will act in concert with those that I think will save the Country best. I am just as well satisfied that that man has gained his bargain; for I am not the least afraid but it will sell in two or three years to as much advantage; but I think you were rather easy with him - but do as you please I will be satisfied. I wish you had informed me what he got for his own lot and who his purchaser was. I cannot see what advantage a man can derive from moving further westward and further from market; the soil must be greatly superior if it can overbalance the convenience to market. Where lands are of an equal price, surely the land nearest to trading places must rise in value much faster and appeal to speculators the greatest profits; and residents such things as they must purchase much cheaper bargains. I had determined on going to Pottsville a town in Schuylkill County and a place of great business, to see if I could get employment and see the wonder of the place. It has attracted the men of all descriptions. Our neighbours find a better market for

a most any kind of produce than at Philadelphia which is owing
to it being more convenient and also ^{to} the Country round about it being
very poor for raising the necessaries of life and affording nothing that
is merchantable, saleable but Stone Coal which alone has made
it a place trade. I had set three days to go and every morning
it rained and now the roads are almost impassable. I would go
to New York if I was certain that work could be had at a rate
a man could live by; but if I should fail to get work as I have
done in this Country it would be at a double expense. Nothing runs
at present but that we are all well and have been so since my last.

To John Geddes



Wm. Geddes

Campbells town 25
October 21st 1830

Mr. John Geddes
Ann Arbor
Michigan Territory

