

Washburn September 5th 1832

Dear Brother I received your letters both on the same day the 25th of August. Our post-
masters have so many deputies that the business is sadly neglected and but little or no
accommodation about them. Robert called on them ten days before: I did: and they said
there was nothing for us. And when I called the Deputy was an age handing them out
he appeared to act as if he was afraid of the pay. The one of latest date he had the impu-
dence to think aloud "double postage" I never saw the fellow before, nor he, me, or I
should have been really provoked at such meanness. For I consider myself as able and
as willing to pay my postage as any man in Epseilanti. And I likewise think that man
who mentions "double postage" too narrow contracted in heart to be an officer of the United States
except in extraordinary cases. I did think I would answer you in a week but cir-
cumstances prevented and I hope it is not yet too late. I thought from a few lines you forward-
ed on the Journal of Health that fathers time on earth would likely be short. (though I had
supposed before that he would live many years yet. And I had supposed I would at no dis-
tant day have paid him and my native home their last visit) And I look with considera-
ble anxiety for some intelligence from you. And when the last Journal of Health arrived
about a month ago I was quite disappointed that there was not information on them from you
not knowing that your first letter must have been written about that time. My newspapers
are taken out of the post Office by a person in the village and handed to me on Sunday
As I have some doubts upon the propriety of professors of Religion calling on the Post Office
on Sunday. And these worthless deputies think it (or say as much) a peculiar hardship to
wait on such, especially Presbyterians. Fathers will I think well of. His favorable notice
of you and Isabel, does honor to the heart of a Goddes. And I rejoice to think, and say that
you are both entitled to it, and that father should not only feel but nobly acknowledge it
I have always thought and hoped that father never would make a will. For I wanted nothing
but my share. But I think he has ^{now} better for us all by making one. As the Executors
can make out a title, which some times is very difficult ^{an} account of the heirs not being
of age you have like wise the privilege of selling the real estate by Public or Private sale
which I consider of some importance. As to how much for acre you ought to take I would
not hazard an opinion, having been so long from home as not to know what the price of
land is: so what ever you are willing to take, I am. I hope though, you will not make so wretched
a sale as was made of Aunt Nolly's farm. I would rather never sell. But do as you will
and I will not find fault. As to the time of sale. I think if it could be sold to advantage
that it ought to be sold this fall: it would be the square way of doing business: you would give
not give up possession before spring if you did sell. you will all quit it then sold, or not
It would make no difference in the dispersion of the family, and each one would receive half
of their share when the left. It appears to me that the spring is not the time to sell land
and if it is not sold this fall it will not be worth while to offer for sale before next fall. This is
my opinion It is likely I am wrong. I wish you to do for the best after hearing all opinions
If you should sell this fall, which is not likely as I would wish you to make much sacrifice
neither do I wish you to think that I wish to urge a sale this fall, not at all if it could be sold
as well ^{not} I think it best. circumstances ought to govern cases. If you should sell this fall
the real, I mean. I think it would be more profitable to sell all the cattle this fall that you can
do without and not trouble your self about making manure. But if the farm is not sold it is
probably best to keep to keep the principal part of the stock until spring. At least I am will-
ing you should do so. I wish you had informed me what you expected to do. Some may
think that I reason on the sale of the farm without much feeling. but I think I have my share
of that kind of sentiment I wish to act for the best the farm, must be sold sooner, or later
and I am as willing to wait as any one. I am really sorry that Isabel McClure has become
and still continues so singular. I am unwilling to make any charge against her for her
keeping, except there should be a disposition on the part of her Mother to take all advantages she
could and haul all to herself that is possible regardless of any other.

than her own interest. But if she is content with or not content with so that she makes no effort to ^{disturb the regular} disposition of the property according to Fathers will. Make no charge against Isabel say nothing about it. But if it should be otherwise do as you will I shall be content. But further I would rather after all, should our step Mother be as contrary as she could be, make no charge I think you might as well have told us how the will was received at home, indisputably. It might have saved me the principal part of the above kind of reasoning. And certainly I have no ill will against any one of them and wish that they might all prosper in the world. I do think now of going home next spring, early in the spring to see you all before you leave the premises and scatter. My plan is to leave this in February a week or ten days before the water rises. I would be willing to buy fathers library if you dont want it, I would take it in toto. I sent word by mail to Jane of Fathers death the day after I received your letters. I believe I have answered all your queries freely and wind up by telling you to do what you think is right. And I will not find fault. I think if there is any charity about a person it ought to be displayed in settling their fathers estate each one ought to be liberal and generous to the other: and yet how often do we see quite the reverse.

I hope every one concerned will think that you and James will do the best you can, and I am sure that is my opinion. Robert and John have been in good health this summer so far. Jane I have been told has been unwell some, but not seriously, was in good health about three weeks ago. Maria brought Robert a son on the 13th of August she has not recovered yet from her confinement is getting better slowly. Her Brother Daniel who is here sick with the Consumption is now confined to his bed and is very feeble, this day, getting worse: it is thought he will not live a week he has gave up hopes himself of ever recovering though it is not a week ago since he was determined to go to New Orleans, he was able then to get up and dress himself: To walk an hundred yards on level ground without resting he could not have done. He was 23 years of age the 26th of August last. The Consumption I consider a worse disorder than the Malignant Cholera. We have had no cases of Cholera in Washtenaw. When the Cholera made its appearance in Detroit it carried consternation through the country. The Villages of Ypsilanti, and Ann Arbor sent out an armed guard on the leading highways to keep back the people coming from Detroit. And kept up the guard about ten days when the indignation of the people raised to such a pitch as to call a meeting of this Township and the Guard party was found to be a trifling minority. The Guard was then called in. The Guard party still pretend that they were the means of saving many lives. I had nothing to do with it. But I was opposed to having the Guard, thinking that remedy was worse than the evil. Whether it is Indians, or Cholera, it matters not to me. I am still to be found on the Sawmill. We have had a very dry summer. Just the corn is very poor, the Oats was tolerable. The Wheat was good. We had a frost on the morning of the 24th of August. The thermometer was 34°. It hurt the corn, and vines, Robert's corn was so much injured that he cut it up. We had a great rain on the night of the 29th of August. The Huron raised eighteen inches in twelve hours. The Indians and Cholera has prevented, it has stoppt the emigrations in July, and August. It has started again lately. The few last Boats have consideredly many passengers. Business has been greatly checked. But Sawmillers still find enough to do, though money is scarce and we credit considerable. Robert talks of selling his share in the sawmill, the reason he gives is that he has too much business to attend to and he pretends he makes nothing by it. I console myself that I cannot get a worse partner. He will neither keep the dam from breaking, nor attend the mill. I would willingly do either. Another thing Maria is decidedly and firmly opposed to waterworks of any kind, and when any thing goes wrong and some assistance is wanted, she does not for get to improve the opportunity. A continual dropping will wear stone. And after all is said and done if Robert would just come and help me on the sawmill, and leave Maria the Farm with all the stock. I am fully persuaded he would clear at the end of the year two dollars to her one, and I might as well say ten to her one. For do not believe that the year would meet on the farm, that is the profits, income would no more than the outgo. A saw mill is easy counted there is not a day I run the mill, but he has a dollar in something, clear from the expense of attending. The dam wants about 100 dollars worth of work this fall (it must have it) and I then think it will stand with but little expense for ten years. Let that answer on this subject. There is to be an election this fall in Michigan the question is State, or, no state, I am in favor of a State. Governor Pepler is like to be more unpopular than our boy. The Council rejected his ~~own~~ ^{own} nominations in Macon's Co. when the Council rose he appointed the same officers, he having power to fill vacancies.

He turned out of Office, seven Officers who were in favor of the Guard plan in ypo-
lante without regard to Masonry or Antimasonry. He certainly acted very hastily and im-
prudently. And the Guard, or Cholera Party, not being known by any name but their own
took great exceptions to his conduct, and were not sparing in their invectives against the
Governor. It was pretended his Brandy bottle had too much to do in his deliberations. He
was in fact too late in the removal of the Officers as they had withdrawn the Guard before
he acted, and that they were conscientious in establishing the Guard in the first place,
no one pretends to deny.

I dont know that I have any thing more of much importance. Waphtenaw is healthy
this season our settlement quite so. Robert's son, has no name yet

Farewell. John Geddes

To William Geddes



1832

Sept. 25

Mr William Geddes
Campbellstown
Lebanon County
Pa.

1832



MM