

Palmyra Sept. 4th 1839

Dear Brother

Yours of the 22nd August was received on the 1st inst. So much time had passed away after the usual time of writing that I had concluded your letter ^{was} to be lost and as I had no news of importance to send, I had resolved not to write to another. 3 months had passed when I expected your next one would be received. "The writing of a letter seems to be quite a task with you, which appears a little strange in such an industrious and persevering character. I scarce know what to do about answering, for it is so short a time till your next will arrive but have determined to adhere to my rule of doing so on the receipt of all letters and that directly. I call my daughter Sarah also. It is a family name and is the name of my mother-in-law—and I had called my son for my father, and thought it right that the wife should have the privilege of calling the daughter for her mother or for herself. I intend to stick to the old family names and give but one for I think the beauty of a name is the shortness of it and not the length as appears to be the idea of the fashionable when they attack half a dozen of names together and then the most out-landish that can be found. In old times in this neighborhood it was necessary to give nick names to men of the same name in order to distinguish them but now—there is no such necessity for the old names are nearly abandoned and every one has some unheard of name or other. We have all enjoyed good health since I wrote last but the little daughter, who had the summer complaint so bad that I thought she would leave us but she recovered & is in middling health now. There has been little or no sickness in the neighborhood until lately, and now—there is a great many complaining and three have died of Typhus Fever. We have had a great deal of rain this summer, and the crops have all turned out well and the Corn will be an extraordinary crop if the frost stays away a week or so more. Haymaking & Harvest was so wet that I fear too much has been taken in in a bad state. It is now getting dry and cool and I am persuaded that the first rain will be followed by a heavy frost.

The Potatoes are the finest I ever saw raised here. I worked 16 1/2 days in Harvest and earned \$4.50, working by the job and by the day. Wages was 75 cent pr. day. One man gave a \$1.00 for Cradles. In May time I don't do nothing there being little hay to make owing to the drought of last summer. The scarcity of hay will keep up the price of Grain a little notwithstanding its so plenty. James Cleddeman who works John Wolfenberger's old place thrashed eight acres of Oats out of the field and got 70 bushel to the acre. He hauled it home like hay and thrashed it on a machine. A few heavy rains about the time the Oats was ripening threw it nearly all down & \$1.25 was freely offered for the Cradling or Reaping of it, 8th the acre. And much was cut with the grass scythe. Oats was selling for 62 1/2 and now is 31 1/4 cts. Wheat is 1.12 1/2 Rye 65 cts. Beef was lately selling at 10 cts pr. lb. and is now offered at 6 1/4. Butter 14 cts. Eggs 8 cts pr. doz. Flaxseed \$1.25. John Early left here for the west to purchase land. He started with a light wagon and two horses, having another man with him and intending to take a third if he could get one. He is going by land the whole route and intends going through Ohio - Indiana - Illinois - Missouri and from thence to the Territory of Iowa so that he may possibly pass you on his return home. The Orphan's Court decided that father as Administrator of John Sawyer, was indebted to his estate \$1100 and I appealed from that decision and sent it up to the Supreme Court but owing to the number of trials before it, it could not be reached and now will have to lie over to next July. Sawyer's Sawyer asked the Court to Charge me with the balance on father's executor account and interest and on an uncollected note against John Pool and interest in all exceeding \$4000. The Court did not allow me any credit for the Costs in defending the will. Samuel Sawyer has started a store in Powell's valley on Borrowed Capital. Am married a Mr. Reu and moved west. I understand that they are likely to go to war amongst themselves. The boys were to get \$1100 when they were 21 and the girls \$1000 when they were 22 and John, Sam. & Ann have rec'd accordingly and there is two more of age but the executors won't or can't pay, so the tug begins.

up
They had got one or two more releases but they turn to be not properly
acknowledged and their difficulties are still likely to stick to
them. Ruben paid them \$1000 more on their new releases before he
was aware of the defects of them. Every body thinks that
Sam will sink money at storekeeping and if he should
the rest will suffer by him. Perry Hill Bell has also commenced
storekeeping in Unk County. Old Mr. Roge died a few days

ago. He died Mr. P
last this fall. He
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preparing to move
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purpose whatever
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we had no use for
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with me I will purchase the Church if I cannot persuade them
not to sell it. Our relations for four generations on both
sides of the house lie there and if we purchase it we can at a little ex-
pense prevent their bones from being disturbed for another Century,
and we are in duty bound to do so. Our sister, our Mother, Mother's Father,
& Mother's Grandfather, our sister, our Father, Father's Mother, Brothers,
Father's Grandmother, Sarah M. Allen. I was a delegate to the Whig
Convention held at Chambersburg in June last and on my return was
to sister Ann, her mother & Uncle & family. Ann had a son in April &
he is doing well. Uncle was confined to his bed and was not expected
to live long. I have not heard of his death yet.

their candidates. The Harrison men were for holding another Con-
vention in which all the opponents of Van Buren were to participate
and a Union brought about between the Anti's & Whigs. But the
exclusive Whigs having the majority determined to organize a separate
party when the Harrison Whigs entered a protest against their
course which was not received by the majority and we then
left the Convention & appealed to the people and appointed the
day for the meeting of an Union & Harmony Convention, which
from all accounts will be numerously attended.

John Leedes

Wm. Leedes

William Leedes

the enclosed
is a copy of
the proceedings
of the
convention
of the
1839
at
Chambersburg

I ordered your Philadelphia paper to stop but you dont inform me if
he obeyed my orders. It is doubtful what will be the result of our elections
this fall. The Whigs seem inclined to separate from the Antimasons for
the day the Anti's give them no share of the spoils. If that is the case
we will be beaten as bad as the Whigs of Indiana or Tennessee. At
the Convention at Chambersburg the Clay Whigs were 50 to 25 Harrison
The 50 were for organizing an exclusive Whig party to act independent
of their old allies the Anti's unless they would fall in and support