

Campbelltown July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1842

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. was rec<sup>d</sup>. on the 19<sup>th</sup> and as we finished the wheat and Rye harvest, hauling in and all yesterday I concluded to answer yours to day as tomorrow I must attend in Millerstown to some law business and on Monday to cutting oats. There is heavy crops of wheat in all directions around us but it is very full of smut, the like was never known in this section of country. There is scarcely a field to be found that has it not more or less and some fields are quarter smut. This smut has been increasing here so much of late years that we have smut machines in almost every Grist mill and some have their wind mills made to take it out. This years crop of that nasty grain has very much alarmed our farmers as to what may be the consequence of this curse on the wheat crops. Rye is not so much raised here as used to be. Only half as much is sowed and that has been very poor for 8 years, this year there is a heavy crop of straw everywhere but in many fields our May frosts has destroyed the grain. Rye straw sold as high as 12 cents a bundle this spring and it was not been less than 8 then many years. There was a fine crop of Rye & the oats is an extraordinary crop. Some have their cut and away some will not be fit to cut to the middle of next week. Both the early and late sowing is good. Our weather has been since spring nearly like yours, but the frosts never made ice. We had a good many frost in May and I think we had one in the beginning of June. But none hard enough to injure the fruit. Peaches will be very plenty and apples there are some, and in fact all kinds of fruit is very abundant. People have been using new potatoes then 3 weeks and they are very fine. Corn looks bad under our cold weather but our rainy weather has brought it on and it looks very well and if the frost dont attack it in the fall then will be a heavy crop. The hay and grain so far has been housed in good condition. There is great deal of grain to take in yet. I have made 20 days in hay time and harvest so far and expect to make at least four more. Wages are from 50 to 75 pr. day. Work never went easier

with me and I am considered one of the best. I done however like you  
declined Cradling naked and bound. I followed a Cradle very  
often myself and done it easy as often times the hands were so few  
that there was no other way. I have kept Roberts old Cradle  
in Motion all along except this harvest and she is so much bloom  
and patched that it is no longer fit to stand it. It has been  
in Motion 24 years and I have cut a good deal of Clover seed  
with it and that is very hard on a scythe. I take it mostly by the  
acm. - 25 cts. pr acre I and another cut one year 40 - a crop for one  
man. I dont believe there could be a better scythe, it is worn to a shadow.  
Raking & binding is much easier work than cradling, at least to me  
it only requires one to <sup>be</sup> quick in the motion. I sent the Shipplaster dollar  
that was in your letter and 3 others to the Proprietors of the North  
American and they are now paid one year in advance. There is still 3 years  
subscription paid. Our Relief notes pass well except those on the Erie  
Towanda and Berks county Banks. Money matters are daily improv-  
ing and none of our Banks are more than 5 pr. cent under par. John  
Kettering was in from Chicago and collected his wifes money and  
took it to Philadelphia and had it exchanged for gold pay-  
ing 5 1/4 pr. Cent premium. He is married to Peter Wolensberg's only  
daughter, her that was married to Jacob Early's son. She  
was a widow for a number of years. He went by the way of the  
lakes. Him and his father farms there, it went hard with old  
Adam to stand the change of climate, but he stuck it out and  
now enjoys good health and is satisfied with his new home.  
Our legislature has passed a law staying Executions for one year and  
abolishing imprisonment for debt in toto. I will send a Sebanon  
paper with this letter. All that can be will be done to get you  
your money next spring. I believe I will succeed. I paid 1.25  
for wheat that I bought the other day. Rye is 62 pr. Corn 62 pr.  
Oats 45 cts. Hay by the ton \$10. and \$8. I am much pestered with  
Candidates for our county offices, there is great electioneer-  
ing for them. I dont want to sell my land but if I could  
have some of it put in grain on the halbes or any other way  
I would like to do it in order to pay taxes. I would be willing

to pay for making the rails 75 cents per hundred, the person furnishing himself  
and the rails to be made maddling heavy. The rest of the work, hauling  
the rails and making fence the tenant ought to do at his own expense  
I would rather give him  $2/3$  or  $3/4$  of the crop than pay that. My  
part of the grain to be delivered a certain distance to any place where  
it might be sold. 3000 rails would fence in 20 Acres, seven rails  
high. I want to be at as little expense as possible, but still I would like the  
expense to be so ballanced that I would at the least <sup>get</sup> the  $1/3$  of the grain.  
I am willing the man who does it shall have a very good bargain so as to  
stimulate to extra exertions. Men work generally according to their  
prospects of reward. It may be that I will visit Michigan directly  
after the election. I am determined that my land must be put to pro-  
ducing something. The thermometer stood  $94$  Fahrenheit on Tuesday  
last, but we have not a hot summer so far. I keep two Cows and  
I make  $2 1/2$  tons of hay for my share on the halves, which cost me  $3.00$   
beside my own work. I pay  $1.00$  per month for pasture. You must excuse  
scribbling as I am almost too lazy to write and have a number of little things  
to attend to. My little daughter is teething and goes hard with her. She  
has been rather unwell these two weeks. The wife is also complaining  
a little, the rest are well. It is quite healthy generally. I am  
opposed to the sale of our state works and am in favor of heavy  
taxes to sustain the credit of Pennsylvania. Which doctrine I  
hold by set forth and I always silence every one who opposes  
me. I don't seek popularity I look to the honor of our country.  
But sir it requires great moral courage to speak the truth  
these times, when it bears so hard on mens pockets. Our law requires  
all assessments to made at cash price, and yet men will so strain consci-  
ences as to value at half price. The assessments throughout the state  
are very unequal. Lebanon County has been praised all <sup>our</sup> the state by the papers  
for their honest valuation. I manage our township matters pretty much  
as we have very few who are capable and I attend all assessments  
and what I say passes and so I keep sound under by the hard duty.  
People generally are satisfied that I show no favors and that is the main  
point to secure obedience. Farewell

To Mr. John Seades

William Seades

Camp M. T. W. W.  
July 21<sup>st</sup>

(25)

1842

Mr. John Seades

Ann Arbor

Michigan